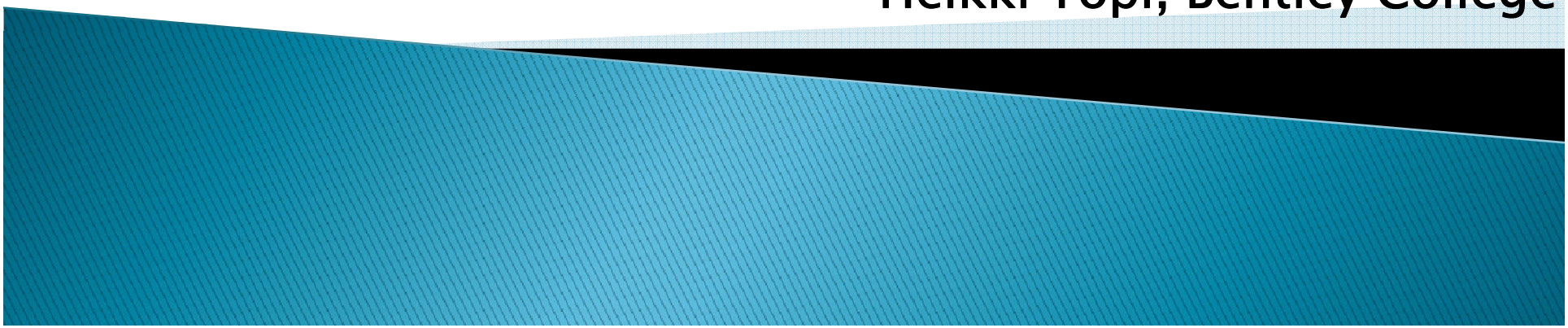
Creating a Global IS Curriculum

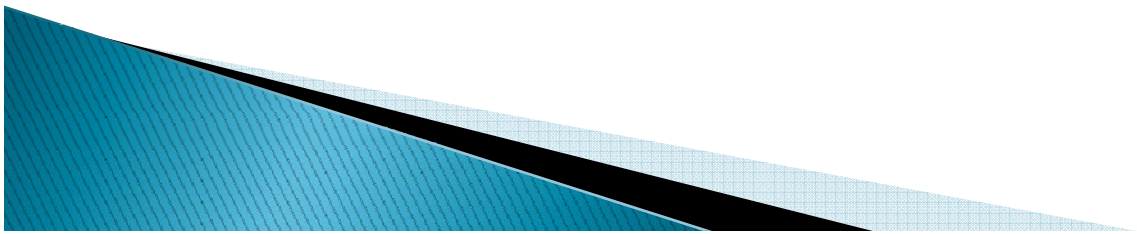
Panel at ECIS 2008 (6/9/2008)

Panelists:
Brian Donnellan, NUI Galway
Markus Helfert, Dublin City University
Roy Johnson, University of Pretoria
Heikki Topi, Bentley College



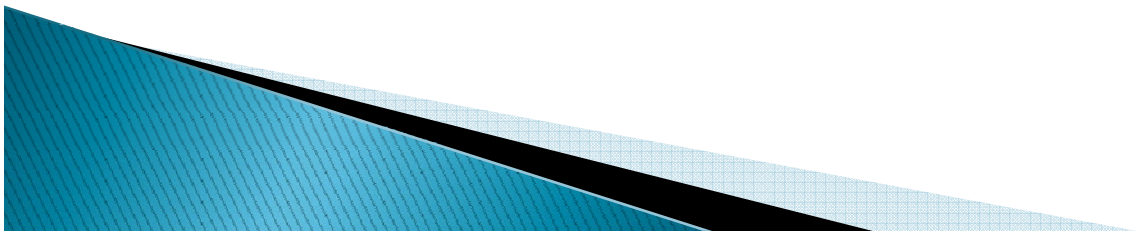
Agenda

- Introductions
- Status update and curriculum foundations
- What does it mean to have a global curriculum?
- How do we get global participation?
- What processes will allow us to stay current, flexible, and relevant?
- Conclusions and call to participate



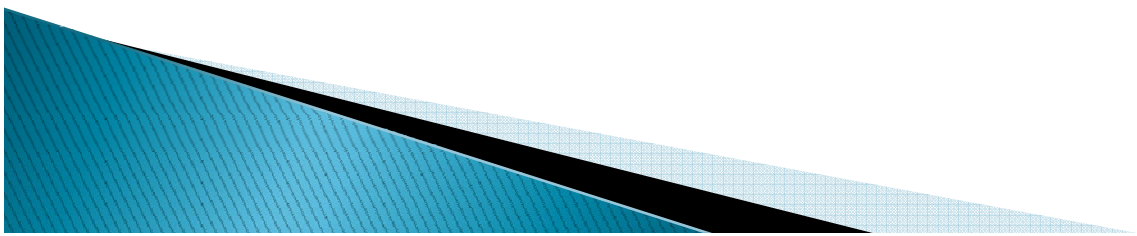
Project History

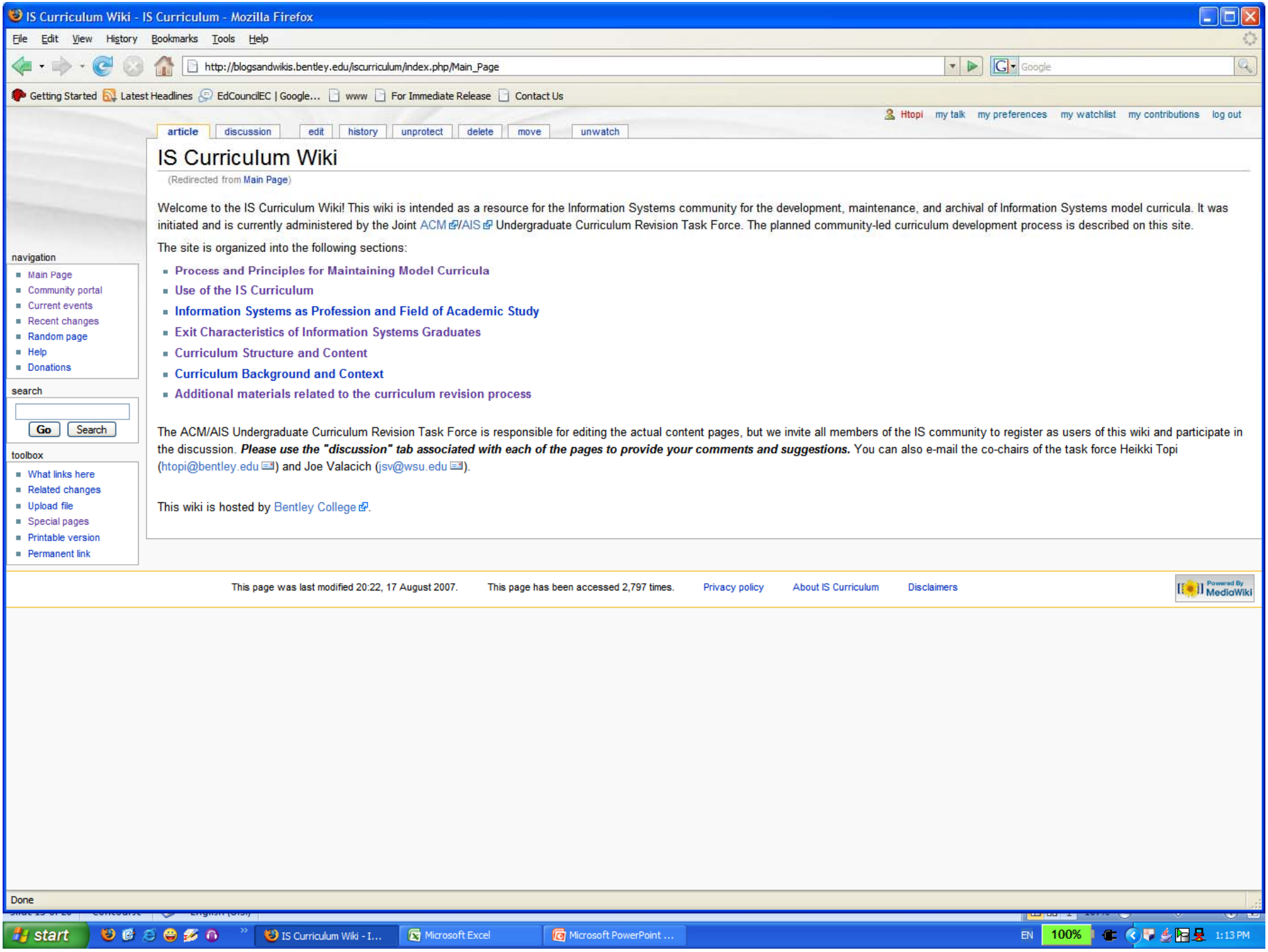
- Joint ACM/AIS project
- Task Force members: Kate Kaiser, Jay Nunamaker, Janice Sipior, Heikki Topi (co-chair), Joe Valacich (co-chair), GJ de Vreede, Ryan Wright
- Launch: Spring 2007
- Realization: broad community involvement is highly desirable and technically possible
- Development: Wiki environment
- Presentations: AMCIS and AIS-SIGED 2007
- Report: Fall 2007 in CAIS



Key Elements of the Revision

- Reaching beyond business schools
- Curriculum structure: core vs. career track electives
- Using Web 2.0 technologies for curriculum work; community-driven curriculum development (IS Curriculum Wiki)
- Encompassing the global perspective and encouraging global participation

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IS Curriculum Wiki
(Redirected from Main Page)
Welcome to the IS Curriculum Wiki! This wiki is intended as a resource for the Information Systems community for the development, maintenance, and archival of Information Systems model curricula. It was initiated and is currently administered by the Joint ACM/AIS Undergraduate Curriculum Revision Task Force. The planned community-led curriculum development process is described on this site.
The site is organized into the following sections:
Process and Principles for Maintaining Model Curricula
Use of the IS Curriculum
Information Systems as Profession and Field of Academic Study
Exit Characteristics of Information Systems Graduates
Curriculum Structure and Content
Curriculum Background and Context
Additional materials related to the curriculum revision process
The ACM/AIS Undergraduate Curriculum Revision Task Force is responsible for editing the actual content pages, but we invite all members of the IS community to register as users of this wiki and participate in the discussion. Please use the "discussion" tab associated with each of the pages to provide your comments and suggestions. You can also e-mail the co-chairs of the task force Heikki Topi (htopi@bentley.edu) and Joe Valacich (jsv@wsu.edu).
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Proposed Curriculum Structure

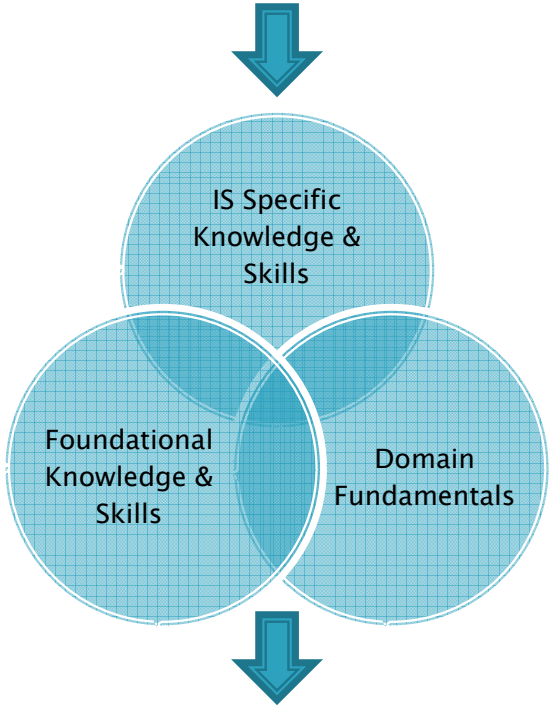
Structure of the IS Model Curriculum [edit]

Career Track:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
Core Topics:																	
Foundations and Role of IS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Data & Information	●	●	○	●	●	○	○	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Systems Analysis & Design	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●
IT Infrastructure	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	●	●	○	○	●	●	○	○	○
Project Management	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●
Application Development	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●
Elective Topics:																	
Business Process Management			●			○	○	○		○	●				○		
Collaborative Computing						○								○			○
Data Mining / Business Intelligence		●		●	●	○	○	○	●		○	○	○	○	○		○
Enterprise Architecture				○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○		○	○	○		○
Enterprise Systems			●	○	○	○	●	●	○		●	●	○	○			
Human-Computer Interaction	●	○					○					○				●	
Information Search and Retrieval		○		○	●								○				●
IT Audit and Controls	○		●	○	○	○	○	●		●	○		○	○	○		○
IT Security and Risk Management	○			○	○	○	○	●	●	○	○		●	●	○		○
IS Management and Strategy	○		○			○	○		●		●				○		
Knowledge Management		●		○		○	○			○							
Social Informatics													○		○		

A = Application Developer	
B = Business Intelligence Manager	
C = Business Process Analyst	
D = Database Administrator	
E = Database Analyst	
F = e-Business Manager	
G = ERP Specialist	
H = Information Auditing and Compliance Specialist	
I = IT Architect	
J = IT Asset Manager	
K = IT Consultant	
L = IT Operations Manager	
M = IT Security and Risk Manager	
N = Network Administrator	
O = Project Manager	
P = User Interface Designer	
Q = Web Content Manager	

Overall Structure of the Basic Concepts

High-level IS Capabilities



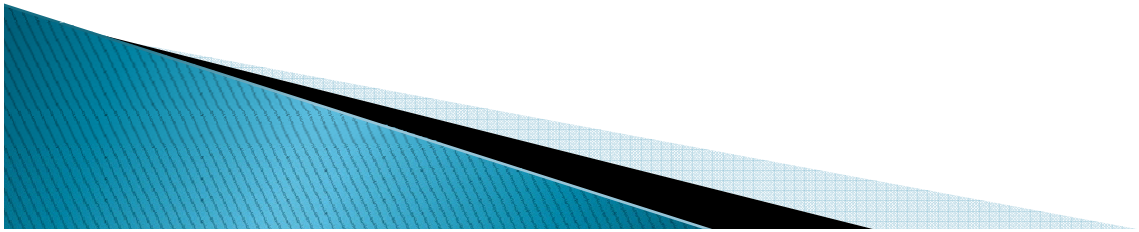
Curriculum topics selected from a body of knowledge and delivered through courses

Knowledge and Skills of IS Graduates

- Information Systems specific knowledge and skills
  - Identifying and designing opportunities for organizational improvement
  - Analyzing trade-offs
  - Designing and implementing information systems solutions
  - Managing ongoing information technology operations
- Foundational skills
  - Leadership and collaboration
  - Communication
  - Analytical and critical thinking
- Domain fundamentals
  - Depends on the domain context chosen for a program
  - Could be general business, a business specialty (such as finance), health care, government, non-profits

Discussion Questions

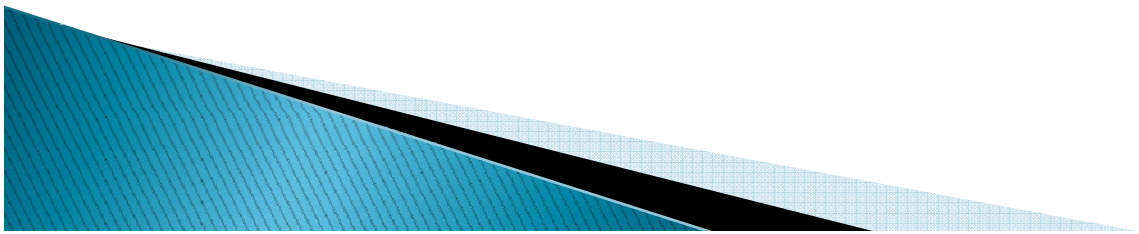
- Do the new outcome expectations adequately reflect your understanding of the needs of businesses?
- This structure, in practice, suggests that Information Systems as a discipline is not inherently associated with business.
  - Do you agree with this approach?
- Are these expectations globally valid?



NUI Galway B.IS Advisory Board

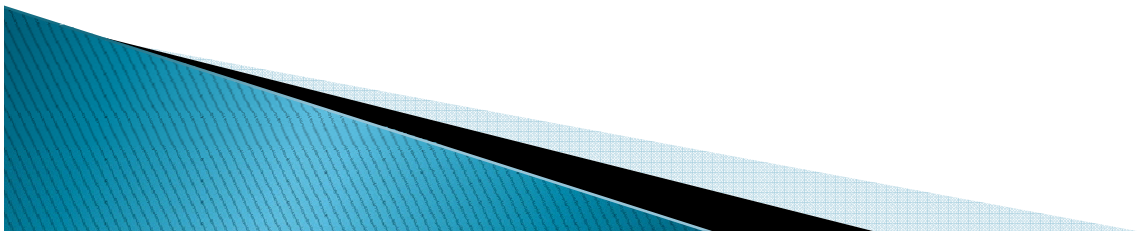
- Board Members
  - Global Director of IT Innovation, Intel Corp
  - HR Director, European Operations, Dell Computers
  - Strategic Planning & ECommerce Manager, HP
  - Academic Liaison Manager, Microsoft (Ireland)
  - Director of IS Strategy, Bank of Ireland

- Asked to review BIS course design/content and make recommendations



Advisory Board Recommendations

Recommendations for Course Content	Why?
Work Experience	On-The-Job skills, mentorship
Globally Distributed Teams	Many MNC subsidiaries
Program Management	Entire Product/Service Lifecycle
Teamwork and Presentation Skills	Be ready to work in a team
Emerging Technologies	Social Nets, Virtual Worlds,…etc.



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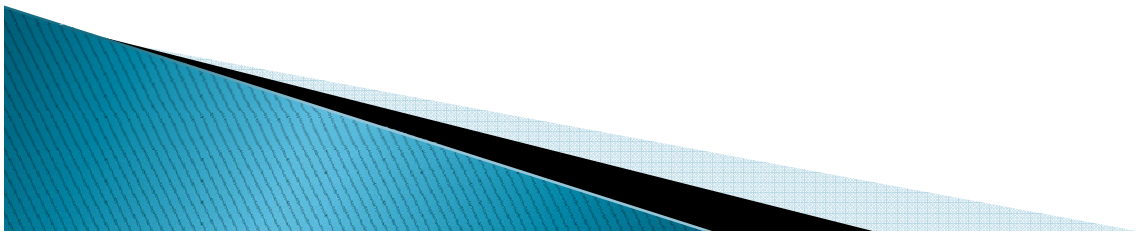
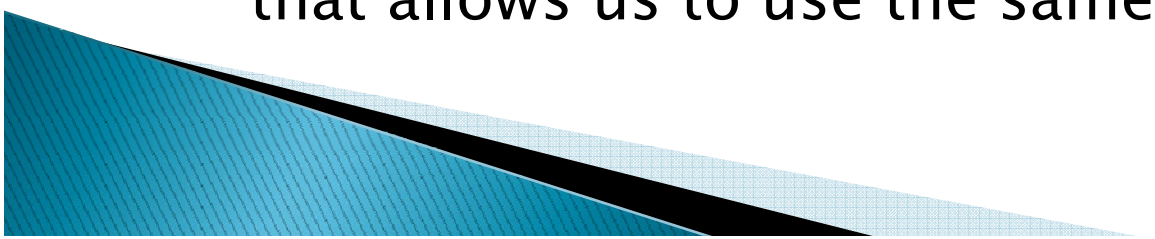


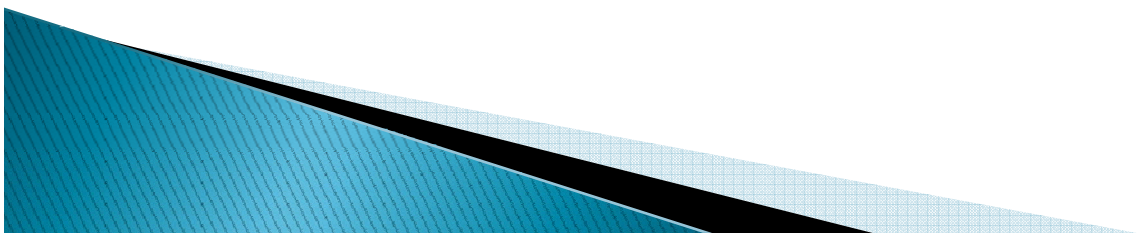
Need for a Global Curriculum

- Need to recognize the **global nature** of the IS discipline and the wide variety of contexts in which IS curricula are offered
- Addressing the needs of multiple regional systems
- Challenges:
  - National and regional systems around the world vary significantly. Can a single curriculum address a significant variety of needs?
  - Can we achieve a level of consistency in vocabulary that allows us to use the same language?



Discussion Questions

- Have you been able to benefit from IS 2002, which has a very strongly North American perspective?
- What special needs does your national / regional context create?
- Is a global curriculum a feasible idea?
- How can we create a curriculum that encourages local innovation but provides a global structure?

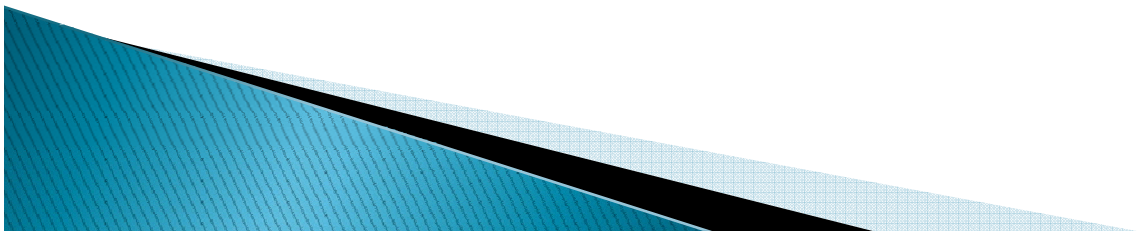


Global Participation

- Benefits:
  - Wider range of individual perspectives
  - Curriculum that represents a broader range of regional and national interests
- Challenges:
  - Possible incompatibility of expectations
  - Cultural differences in working styles
  - Language (both specialized terminology and general communication)
  - Cost of participation
  - Coordination costs of a larger group

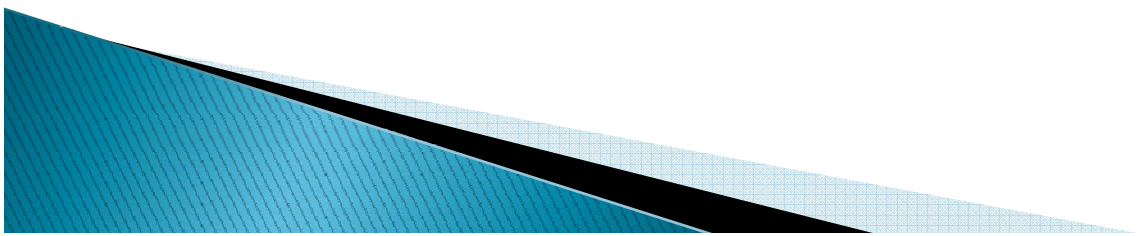
Discussion Questions

- What would be a sufficient incentive for you personally to participate in a global curriculum development effort?
- Do you agree with the benefits and disadvantages discussed above?
- What mechanisms can we put in place to encourage global participation?



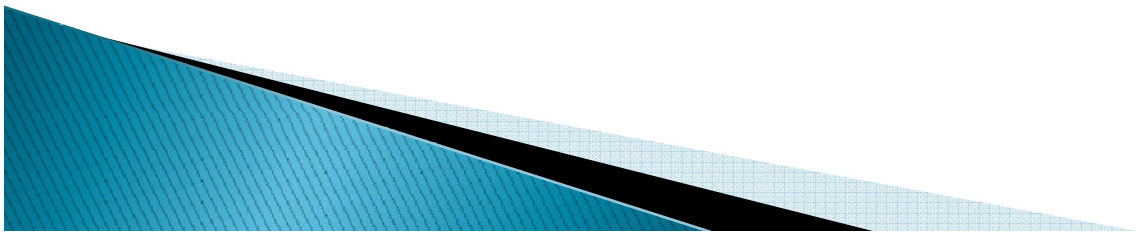
Staying Flexible, Current, and Relevant

- The era of infrequent, very large scale curriculum development efforts seems to be over
- The need to maintain a strong, relatively constant conceptual foundation while respond quickly to needs that emerge
- Ongoing dilemma in our field: does staying current and relevant mean jumping from one technology to another?
- Maintaining research expertise vs. currency and relevancy in teaching subjects



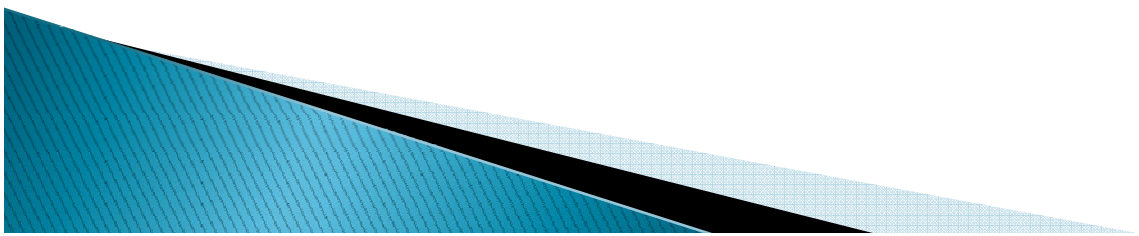
Discussion Questions

- What could be the mechanisms within our discipline that would encourage the best experts to contribute to ongoing curriculum development efforts?
- How do we engage industry representatives for an ongoing dialogue?
- Does it matter which technologies we teach?



How Can You Contribute?

- All members of the IS community are encouraged to participate actively in the discussion on the wiki
- You are able to review and comment on any aspect of the revised curriculum recommendation
- You can also contact the curriculum task force co-chairs Heikki Topi (htopi@bentley.edu) and Joe Valacich (jsv@wsu.edu) directly and give your feedback to them
- http://blogsandwikis.bentley.edu/iscurriculum
- Respond to specific calls for action
- Tell about the project to as many colleagues of yours as possible



Thank you!!