Proactively Managing the Early Stages of an IS Academic Career

by

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Abstract: I will not offer a script for your journey through the early stages of an IS academic career, but rather will offer tips to serve as travel-aids for the journey. A key initial step is assessing the alignment of your aspirations to create value with the expectations of different universities. While universities typically specify outcome expectations for faculty activities, you are likely to have significant autonomy in how to achieve these outcomes. This makes it important to conceive effective strategies for research, teaching, and service that are informed by the trajectory of the IS discipline and strategic opportunities at a university and that leverage your competencies while fulfilling your aspirations. The execution of these strategies can be supported by practices related to setting goals, organizing work, and engaging stakeholders.

Bio: Arun Rai is Regents’ Professor of the University System of Georgia and holds the Robinson and Harkins Chairs at Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *MIS Quarterly*, a Fellow of the Association for Information Systems, and a Distinguished Fellow of the INFORMS Information Systems Society. His research has examined how organizations can leverage information technologies in their strategies, relationships, and processes, and how digital innovations can address business and societal problems. Co-founder of RCB’s Center for Process Innovation, which leverages industry-university partnerships for research, he has collaborated with corporations and government agencies in the United States, Asia, and Europe. His former Ph.D. students hold leadership positions at major journals, universities, and professional organizations. He serves on the Board of Directors of Apollo Indraprastha Medical Corporation and Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited.