

Southern Connecticut State University
College of Education
Department of Information and Library Science

Information and Library Science Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, October 18, 2024
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.
Virtual

UNAPPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Antonucci, Ms. Bernhey, Dr. Beth, Ms. Casiello, Mr. Farara, Dr. Kim, Ms. Knapp,
Dean Langley (Chair), Ms. Minichiello, Ms. Paul, Mr. Piezzo, Mr. Pittman, Dr.
Rockenbach, Dr. Schander, Interim Dean Trombly

RECORDER

Ms. Opalenik

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

1:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION

New ILS Board Members:
SCSU College of Education Interim Dean Trombly
Executive Director of Bibliomation Ms. Casiello

New ILS Faculty Member:
Dr. Gabriel Salubi, Assistant Professor

WELCOME

Dean Langley welcomed everyone back.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Knapp
Motion second by Mr. Farara
Motion: to approve the minutes from March 22, 2024
Vote: all in favor 12; opposed 0; abstained 3

BUSINESS

- Fall 2024 MLIS enrollment;
 - Enrollment has continuously increased over the last eight years.
 - There is an increase of seven new students this fall 2024 semester compared with the previous 2023 fall semester.

- The Undergraduate IMS program closes at the end of the fall 2024 semester. There are two students finishing up the program.
- There are 35 male students, which is 25% of all MLIS students.
- 47% of students attend full-time and 53% part-time.
- 89% of students are in-state, 11% are out-of-state

The Accelerated Pathway Program currently has one undergraduate history student. She applied and was accepted into the program in her junior year. She is currently taking two MLIS graduate courses this fall and is planning to take two MLIS courses in the spring. Thus, completing a third of the MLIS program in her senior year. In the fall of 2025, she will be a MLIS graduate student and will be counted in the fall 2025 enrollment statistics.

The B.A. History program plus the MLIS program (4+1) was approved last spring as an Accelerated Pathway Program and initiated this fall 2024 semester.

- Results of the Spring/Summer 2024 Exit Survey;
Dr. Kim reviewed the results of the Spring/Summer 2024 Exit Survey. Overall, the results were good. He noted that the availability of courses was a concern and that courses with low enrollment were canceled. Another area of concern was the Capstone Project Comprehensive Examination and students using AI. The ILS faculty members agreed to change to the department's policy on the Comprehensive Exam. It is revised to include that a verbal follow-up can be deemed necessary by the faculty member. Lastly, he noted that many of our graduates would recommend the program to others.
- Results of the 2024 Employer Survey;
Dr. Kim presented the results of the 2024 Employer Survey. Seventy-five employees replied to the survey, 69% were from public libraries, and many of these employers have hired our graduates.

Top three skills sought for new librarians:

1. Interpersonal Communication
2. Ability to work as a team member
3. Willingness to continue to learn/to strengthen skills

Within the next five years what kind of positions are you seeking to fill:

1. Administrative/Management
2. Reference Information Librarian
3. Community Engagement Librarian

What proficiencies or competencies are valued at your institution:

1. Technological Proficiency
2. Readers Advisory
3. Project Management

As libraries continue to be centers of technology, what technical skills are you looking for in a new librarian:

1. Understanding of how changing technologies may be used to enhance access, expand ...
2. Proficiency in using social media
3. Web design

Out of the six core courses, which courses are most important:

1. Fundamentals of Library and Information Science
2. User Services
3. Library Science Internship
4. Management of Library and Information Agencies
5. Information Resources Organization and Management
6. Information Science and Technology

Note: Overall, everyone was in agreement to keep ILS 507 Information Science and Technology as a core course.

This survey goes out every 3-4 years. Reaccreditation is scheduled for the Spring 2028. The department is in the process of reviewing all aspects of the program. As the working committee updates and revises documents they will be asking the ILS Advisory Board members for their input. A Self-Study Working Committee will be presenting a report in the fall 2027.

- Developing 1-credit courses for a 5-week schedule;
 - “Juvenile Literature,” “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” “Social Justice,” “Research,” and “AI Tools for Library Services”

Dr. Kim gave an overview of the department’s plans to develop several one-credit five-week courses.

The plans were well received, as it appeals to both students as well as librarians in the field looking for professional development. Dr. Shaw has contributed several topics that would enhance the school library media profession.

- Developing new concentrations and programs;
 - “Public Libraries” Concentration
 - “Health Informatics” Certificate Program

Digital Information Management and Academic Libraries are the concentrations currently being offered to MLIS students. The Public Libraries concentration is in development stage with a release date for the fall 2025 semester. The Health Informatics certificate program is still in the early stages of development and analysis. More details will be forthcoming on both.

- Is our 36-credit MLIS program appropriate and sufficient;
 - For an ALA-accredited master's program in Library and Information Science (MLIS or similar), the typical credit requirement is 36 to 42 semester credits.

Currently, students are required to take six core courses, six electives, and a Capstone Experience for the 36-credit MLIS program. The student has three options for their Capstone Experience: A Comprehensive Examination, or a Thesis, or a Special Project. The Comprehensive Exam carries no credits; therefore, a student has six electives to pursue their professional interests. The Thesis has one prerequisite ILS 590 Research in Library and Information Science, thus giving the student five electives. The Special Project, which is a 3-credit course, requires the completion of 15 credits as a prerequisite in Library and Information Science, gives the student five electives. Note: financial aid does not cover courses outside of the program. Any additional courses taken outside of the program is at the student's expense.

Other alternatives to promoting educational growth include revitalizing the Sixth Year Certificate or offering a double master's program.

- Other.
Ms. Bernhey is looking for ways to support staff (aides) and promote within the New Haven Free Public Library. Fundraising has been part of her efforts and is looking to partner with others who can support staff following the path to librarianship.

There were many suggestions: transferring up to 12 credits from other institutions like CUNY branches, using the ConneCT listserv, offering reimbursements per semester based on a B or better, having equivalent field experience as a substitution.

NEXT MEETING

TBA

MEETING ADJOURNED

2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Opalenik, Recorder
Department of Information and Library Science