Southern Connecticut State University

College of Education

Department of Information and Library Science

Information and Library Science Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, October 14, 2022

12 – 2 P.M.

Virtual

UNAPPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Burke, Mr. DeMilia, Mr. Farara, Dean Hegedus, Dr. Kim, Dean Langley (Chair), Ms. Paul, Dr. Schander, Dr. Shaw, Mr. St. Germain, Mr. Tiu

RECORDER

Ms. Opalenik

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

12:07 P.M.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Ariss Tiu was introduced as the new ILS Graduate Representative, SCSU.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion to approve previous minutes:

Motion made by Dr. Shaw

Motion second by Mr. DeMilia

Motion: to approve the minutes from March 25, 2022

Vote: all in favor 9; opposed 0; abstained 2

BUSINESS

* Review of the results of the Graduate Spring/Summer Exit Survey;

The Graduate Exit Survey is administered twice a year (spring/summer and fall semesters). The overall results were positive. Fifty percent of students responded (7 out of 14). Questions 1-6 are focused on faculty advising; questions 7-10 are focused on faculty effectiveness; and questions 11-24 are focused on details of the program. The remaining five questions are open-ended questions, to give the student an opportunity to elaborate on an issue or comment on their overall program experience.

Student progress reports are completed every fall and spring semester. It is a two-part report. It is an opportunity for faculty to contact their students and review their program progress. The student fills out the first part and returns it to their advisor. Their advisor fills out the second part, gives feedback, and returns it to the student. A copy of these reports are included in office records.

Faculty are assigned to a student once the student has been accepted into the program. Faculty will advise their assigned students throughout the entire program. If a faculty advisor retires or leaves the department, a new faculty advisor will be assigned. Faculty advising is a critical part of the program that promotes student success.

* TK20 Data Collection and Summary (Fall 2021);

TK20 software platform is being phased out and replaced by Blackboard Nine.

Currently, data is being collected from both platforms.

TK20 Data Collection and Summary is processed every fall and spring semester. This data identifies the success of learning outcomes for each course. A rubric is used to identify course strengths and weaknesses. The instructor of each course analyzes the data and develops an action plan to improve the course. Cumulative observations are included. It is a continuous process to improve courses and the program. This data is also used for accreditation purposes in closing the loop.

* Updates of the Fall 2022 enrollment;

Since the inception of the new MLIS program, enrollment has increased from 38 students (fall semester 2016) to 127 students (fall semester 2022). On average, the program has increased 20% yearly. The current SLMS program represents 35% of the student population (45 out of 127). The number of out-of-state students has increased from zero to nine. The number of minority students has slowly and steadily increased over the last several years. Over the last several years, younger students and more full-time students have been admitted to the MLIS program. This would be considered another positive development for the program.

There is a university-wide effort to increase diversity. Funding has been provided to increase numbers through programs aimed at recruitment and retention. Dean Hegedus supports this initiative and is providing funds ($500,000) for this effort. It was agreed that more can be done to promote diversity in the librarianship profession and the need to keep the conversation going.

* Application for Discontinuation of our undergraduate Information Management Service (IMS) Program;

Three years ago, the Associate VP for Academic Affairs suggested discontinuing the IMS Program and having faculty focus on the new MLIS program. The undergraduate IMS program has had about 10 to 12 students in any given year over the past ten years. It has been a challenge to fill ILS courses with only four or five students registering, and to justify not canceling a course for low enrollment every semester. The ILS faculty decided to sunset the IMS Program. The Application for Discontinuation of the IMS Undergraduate Program was submitted and approved by all parties. The program is targeted to be terminated at the end of the fall 2024 semester. No more students will be accepted into the program. The current IMS program has 20 students, and all are on track to complete the program.

* New Tenure-Track Faculty Search;

Dean Hegedus announced that the tenure track position for the department will be advertised soon. This position is only one of two tenure track positions approved by SCSU administrators for the next academic year. There will also be seven Southern faculty fellows (short term) positions filled.

This tenure-track faculty search is to replace a position that became vacant last summer. A one-year temporary faculty hire for this academic year is in place.

* Development of a new “Academic Library” concentration – 4 ILS courses needed;

ILS 525: Collection Development and Management

ILS 575: Instructional Design Principles

ILS 590: Research in Library and Information Science

ILS XXX: College and University Libraries??? (New course)

Dr. Kim proposed a new Academic Library concentration for the MLIS program and asked for the committee’s input.

Many emphasized that more skill sets in management, project managers, presentations, and supervising staff were important. Also, more prevalent subject areas included scholarly communication, licensing, copyright, collection development, digital information, statistics, and budgets. There was an inquiry about offering post-degree opportunities for those ready to take the next step in their career.

Dr. Kim thanked everyone for their valuable input and will continue the discussion at the next faculty meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

* There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

TBA

MEETING ADJOURNED

1:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Opalenik, Recorder

Department of Information and Library Science