Southern Connecticut State University

College of Education

Department of Information and Library Science

Information and Library Science Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, October 29, 2021

Virtual

1 P.M. – 3 P.M.

UNAPPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Antonucci, Mr. Farara, Mr. Jessen, Ms. Keohane, Dr. Kim, Ms. Knapp, Dean Langley, Ms. Minichiello, Dr. Ogbaa, Mr. Piezzo, Ms. Raymond, Ms. Rockenbach, Dr. Schander, Dr. Shaw, Mr. St. Germain

FACULTY MEMBER

Dr. Real

RECORDER

Ms. Opalenik

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

1:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Dean Langley

Motion second by Mr. St. Germain

Motion: to approve the minutes from February 19, 2021

Vote: all in favor 12; opposed 0; abstained 3

BUSINESS

* Introduction - one new member;

Emily Raymond, Graduate Student Representative, SCSU

Brief introductions were made.

* Election of New Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Board;

Motion made by Mr. Piezzo

Motion second by Ms. Keohane

Motion: to elect Dean Langley as Chair of the ILS Advisory Board and Dr. Schander as Vice Chair of the ILS Advisory Board.

Vote: all in favor 15; opposed 0; abstained 0

* Updates of the Fall 2021 enrollment;

The MLIS program’s fall 2021 semester enrollment has increase 20% compared to a year ago. There are 105 graduate students (including 9 SLMS only students) registered for the fall 2021 semester. Out of the 105 students, 37 students are newly admitted students.

There are four general trends:

1. An increase in male enrollment
2. An increase in minority enrollment
3. An increase in full-time students
4. An increase in younger students

Gender

80% female

20% male

Race/Ethnicity

5% Hispanic

18% Minority

77% White

Enrollment Status

30% full-time

70% part-time

Age Groups

52% of students are in the 20-29 range

25% of students are in the 30-39 range

12% of students are in the 40-49 range

10% of students are in the 50 or older range

Only 2 students are from out of state (there is potential to recruit more out of state students). There are no international students.

Program started with 5 students in 2016. Today there are over 100. The goal is to reach 200 students.

A new faculty member line will be approved once student enrollment reaches 150. The department faculty members are in the planning stages of identifying the type of expertise needed to fill this spot. It is estimated that this will be achieved in the next academic cycle.

The department has rolling admissions and applicants are now applying for the spring semester.

The School of Graduate and Professional Studies Admissions has implemented a new admissions platform called Slate. It is being used now for spring semester applicants. The old platform Target X has expired.

There is a strong emphasis from Board Members to have an outreach group that can go into high schools, community colleges, undergraduate library science programs, and school libraries to be a visible and audible positive example of what a professional librarian represents. All levels need to be addressed.

Some of the opportunities for our graduates include SCSU Scholarships, grants, and research collaboration leading to publication. Two graduate assistants are hired each semester.

There are plans for expanding the graduate program through the development of new courses and concentrations.

Most applicants are admitted. Some applicants that fall below a 3.0 GPA and above a 2.5 GPA are admitted conditionally. Occasionally, some applicants are rejected.

Those who are rejected can have another chance to be admitted fully. It is called an “alternative rout”, which is requiring the student to receive a B or better in their first three courses. If they are successful, they are matriculated in; if they are not, they are dismissed.

Some graduates are offered jobs before they graduate. Our former graduate assistant and ILS Advisory Board Student Representative, Brian Quigley, and current graduate assistant and ILS Advisory Board Student Representative, Emily Raymond have both found librarianship appointments prior to graduation.

Ms. Minichiello, SLMS field supervisor for student teaching, has overseen many of our students who are offered school library positions prior to completing their field work over the past two years. She too, encourages us to start early and talk to students about the profession in high school, community colleges, and other levels.

Dr. Kim notes that we are in the beginning stages of developing a four plus one (B.S. + MLIS) program. This project does not have a timeline at the moment.

* Newly hired SLMS Coordinator, Dr. Helene Murtha

Tenure-track Assistant Professor

Dr. Murtha was unavailable to attend today and will be invited to the next meeting.

* TK20 Data Collection and Summary (Fall 2020);

A TK20 Data Collection and Summary is completed every semester. It is an assessment using MLIS student learning outcomes in a rubric for each MLIS core course and electives offered that semester. At the end of each semester, a TK20 data spreadsheet is generated and the instructor for each course does an assessment. At a retreat prior to the next semester, each faculty member presents their data analysis and writes up a report (observations: strengths/weaknesses, action plan, and cumulative observations). The program coordinator then summarizes the reports and presents it to the faculty members. Therefore, closing the loop. This process takes time, energy, and effort. By continually assessing each course every semester, makes the MLIS program stronger. Right now we are in the process of assessing the spring 2021 data.

* Review of a Library Employer Survey Questionnaire;

The Library Employer Survey Questionnaire is currently under review and is part of the triangulation of assessments which is an important piece from employers. We are looking for your feedback. The plan is to send out the survey before Thanksgiving. It will be administered to Connecticut library community listservs.

Questions

1. Please indicate the nature of your library.

No changes.

1. About how many Southern graduates have you employed in the last five years?

No changes.

1. What are the skill sets you are looking for in new librarians? [Please select your top five choices.]

Add collaboration.

1. What types of jobs are libraries looking to fill (now and within the next five years)? [Please select your top five choices.]

Observation -Teen and YA are interchangeable.

1. From experience, what are the proficiencies/competencies that are important at your institution? [Please select your top five choices.]

Add:

data analysis

leadership skills

instructional technology

1. In order to provide the best trained employees for my library, the MLIS program should provide . . . [Please select your top five choices.]

Add design programs and services.

1. As libraries become centers of technology, what specific technical skills are you looking for in a new librarian? [Please select your top five choices.]

Add:

research computing

artificial intelligence

information ethics and issues

Observation - 3D printing is out of date

1. As you look to fill management positions, what basic skills are you seeking? [Please select your top five choices.]

Add: leadership, teamwork, interpersonal skills, skills in working with a diverse workforce, Soft Skills (empathy, patience)

1. Out of the six required courses, which courses are most important for the MLIS degree program? [Please select your top three choices.]

Note: the six required core courses make up half the program. Do we still need all six? No more required courses can be added because the students need the remaining six elective courses to focus on their specialty areas.

1. What kinds of courses should be required courses for the MLIS program?

Note: the top 20 schools have been surveyed and the MLIS program aligns well with them.

1. What kinds of elective courses should be part of the MLIS program?

Observation – offer continuing education courses for librarians in the profession

Observation – put in links to the MLIS curriculum

1. What kinds of concentrations should be part of the MLIS program?

Note: currently there are two options, SLMS Cross and SLMS Initial. DIM (Digital Information Management) is scheduled to be released in the fall 2022 semester. Two more are in the works; Community Librarianship and Cultural Heritage Stewardship. Note: a student’s transcript does not identify a concentration, except SLMS certifications.

Dr. Real has been working on developing new courses for Community Librarianship and Cultural Heritage Stewardship concentrations. He recognizes the need for leadership advocacy and the importance of public history archival retention. The Introduction to Archival and Museum course is successful and he is working on an Advance Archival and Museum course. He is also collaborating with the SCSU and CCSU History departments to develop these concentrations or dual degrees in specialty areas.

1. Please use the space below to elaborate on any of the questions above and/or to comment on any other aspect of job skills and/or technical skills for new librarians not covered in this questionnaire.

No changes.

Additional and separate general questions by Dr. Kim:

1. Are the graduates you hired performing as you expect?
2. What do you think will make a better graduate?
3. What are the weaknesses in our graduates?

All the answers to the first question were very positive.

Mr. Jessen offers the possibility of having more technology courses and partnering with the Computer Science department or other departments.

Please email Dr. Kim any suggestions.

* Other
* Dr. Kim tells the Board that ILS Faculty is dealing with multiple major projects:

1. Undergraduate Program Review, due on February 2023,
2. ALA Biennial Progress Report for the MLIS Program, due on February 2022,
3. A new start of a self-study full cycle of the MLIS Program Review including an employer survey, an alumni survey.

* The overall sentiment of the Board is to keep recruiting for the profession for diversity by starting early in high school and across the spectrum at all levels – undergraduates, student employees in libraries, and among library staff. Talk of forming a subcommittee is on the table. It will take everyone to come together to make a change. The following seven members volunteered to serve on a sub-committee on this topic: Barbara Rockenbach, Carl Antonucci, Clara Ogbaa, Joseph Farara, Mary Ellen Minichiello, Alice Knapp, and John Jessen.

* Dr. Kim praised Ms. Knapp for her wonderful service as the Chair of the Advisory Board over the last seven years. Ms. Knapp is one of the founding members. And he welcomes Dean Langley and Dr. Schander to their new appointments.

NEXT MEETING

Tentatively set for March 2022 on SCSU campus

MEETING ADJOURNED

3 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Opalenik, Recorder

Department of Information and Library Science