Southern Connecticut State University

College of Education

Department of Information and Library Science

Information and Library Science Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, February 19, 2021

10 – 12 P.M.

Virtual

UNAPPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Ashton-Pritting, Ms. Burke, Mr. DeMilia, Mr. Farara, Dean Hegedus, Mr. Jessen, Ms. Keohane, Dr. Kim, Ms. Knapp (Chair), Dean Langley, Ms. Minichiello, Dr. Ogbaa, Mr. Piezzo, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Rockenbach, Dr. Schander, Dr. Shaw

RECORDER

Ms. Opalenik

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

12:05 P.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

Four new members:

* Barbara Rockenbach, University Librarian, Yale University Library
* Deborah Schander, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library
* Tom Piezzo, President, Connecticut Library Association
* Brian Quigley, Graduate Student Representative, SCSU

Brief introductions were made.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Kim graciously thanked everyone for their support and hard work over the past several years that resulted in successfully being accredited by ALA.

BUSINESS

* Election of the Vice Chair of the Board;

Ms. Knapp praised recently retired, Ken Wiggin, for all the support he provided over the years. He served on the ILS Advisory Board as Vice Chair since the first meeting in September 2014. Ms. Knapp is asking if anyone would like to volunteer for the Vice Chair position to email Dr. Kim or her. A vote will be initiated via email and the result will be announced.

* Updates of the Spring 2021 enrollment;

Enrollment has increased the past two semesters since the department received ALA accreditation last June 2020. Universities across the board has seen a decrease in enrollment of 8%, whereas the ILS Department had a 50% increase in terms of headcount. There is an increase of 70% based on credit hours. Currently, there are approximately 90 students in the graduate program.

Dr. Ashton-Pritting suggests the Advisory Board write a thank you letter to those students who stayed in the program to receive an ALA accredited degree. Everyone was in agreement. Ms. Knapp will draft a letter.

* Newly hiring a tenure-track faculty for the position of the SLMS Coordinator;

The department is in the process of hiring a full time tenure track position for a SLMS Coordinator. Currently there is a temporary one year hire in place that will expire at the end of the spring semester 2021.

* TK20 Data Collection and Summary (Spring 2020);

Dr. Kim presented the Overall Summary Analysis of Student Learning Outcomes in core and elective courses from the spring 2020 semester. TK20 assessment platform is based on a rubric for each course. Faculty members meet at the beginning of the next semester to discuss and evaluate each course from the previous semester’s data to make improvements. Faculty members then submit a TK20 Data Analysis for each of their courses. This form includes strengths/weaknesses, an action plan, and cumulative observations. The Program Review Coordinator will write the final overall summary report. Learning outcomes can be found on the department website - <https://www.southernct.edu/academics/information-library-science/learning-outcomes>. This ensures continuous curriculum evaluation of all courses.

* Review of the ALA Accreditation Letter;

The ALA Committee on Accreditation sent an official letter granting Initial accreditation status in June 2020. The next site visit is scheduled for spring 2028. The Annual Statistical Report Part I and II have been submitted. The Biennial Narrative Report is due February 15, 2022. This report will address each standard along with an update on the following three conditional items: 1. Continued progress on curriculum planning and development; 2. Continued progress on faculty recruitment and research productivity; 3. Resolution of facility and space needs.

Dr. Kim notes that two offices in our suite in Buley Library will be made available to us by the end of the semester. Ms. Knapp suggests writing a letter of support from the Advisory Board.

* The COVID Pandemic impact on the CT Library job market;

Many Advisory Board members have had to make sacrifices and adjustments through the pandemic; laying off people, retirements, and hiring freezes. Many members are optimistic about job growth in the coming months. Newly hired staff members are working virtually. Recently, Dean Langley has been able to virtually hire four new staff members and has streamlined the hiring process. Advisory Board members are looking to hire people with transferable skills. Some libraries have had an abundance of part time applicants while the New Haven Free Public Library has a hard time keeping part time librarians. Dr. Kim notes that our recent graduates in the SLMS program are finding jobs because of the shortage in SLMS area and as the MLIS students graduate, they may have a tougher time finding full time employment.

* Newly developing concentrations in the MLIS Program – currently only School Library Media Specialist (SLMS) concentration;
* Digital Information Management
* Community Librarianship
* Cultural Heritage Stewardship

Dr. Kim presented three new concentrations under development. All three concentrations will have a four course requirement. Digital Information Management is in its final stage with its fourth course proposal under minor revisions. Community Librarianship and Cultural Heritage Stewardship concentrations are in the early stages of development. The process of new proposed courses and concentrations include the approvals of ILS DCC, CoE CC, and SGPS CC. Also, concentrations are not listed on a student’s transcript.

All three concentrations were well received by Advisory Board members and they expressed a need for these specialties in the job market. Other suggestions included:

* Law librarians, medical librarians and communications; and providing internships in these areas.
* Cross disciplines or dual master programs.
* Providing post master certificates or a Sixth Year certificate.
* Bringing interdisciplinary skills sets through the expertise of other SCSU faculty members in different disciplines
* Preparing students to work in academic libraries with dual master degrees. Or archives and museums that require a second language.
* Do we really need ‘Recommendation Letters’ as one of the admission requirements for the MLIS program;
* Can we replace these letters with references (which can be contacted later if necessary)?

Dr. Kim explained how the ILS admission process currently requires two letters of recommendation for the MLIS and SLMS programs. The College of Education controls the gateway into the SLMS program and Information and Library Science Admissions committee controls the gateway into MLIS program. CoE recently eliminated the requirement of two letters of recommendation for all educators because it delays the admission process. The ILS faculty members are divided on eliminated these letters.

The Advisory Board members are in favor of changing the policy to eliminating the requirement of two letters of reference and changing it to two references in order to streamline the process.

OTHER BUSINESS

There is no other business.

NEXT MEETING

TBA

MEETING ADJOURNED

11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Opalenik, Recorder

Department of Information and Library Science