Southern Connecticut State University

College of Education

Department of Information and Library Science

Information and Library Science Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, March 10, 2023

1 P.M – 3 P.M.

Virtual

UNAPPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. DeMilia, Mr. Farara, Dr. Kim, Ms. Knapp, Dean Langley (Chair), Mr. Piezzo, Dr. Schander, Dr. Shaw, Mr. St. Germain, Mr. Tiu

RECORDER

Ms. Opalenik

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

1:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

 Motion to approve previous minutes:

 Motion made by Mr. DeMilia

Motion second by Dean Langley

Motion: to approve the minutes from October 14, 2022

Vote: all in favor 8; opposed 0; abstained 2

BUSINESS

* Undergraduate IMS Program -- sunset date at the end of the Fall 2024 semester;

Enrollment has been dropping over the last ten years and there are sixteen undergraduate students currently in the Information Management Service (IMS) program. All students are on track to complete their IMS requirements.

* Update of the Spring 2023 MLIS enrollment;

SCSU’s spring 2023 enrollment has dropped 4% compared to spring 2022 enrollment.

The ILS Department’s spring 2023 enrollment (115 students) has increased 19.5% compared to spring 2022 enrollment (97 students). On average, the ILS Department has had a 20% increase in the number of students every semester. We are currently accepting students for the fall 2023 semester.

* TK20 Data Collection and Summary (Spring 2022);
* TK20 ($130) a Blackboard (Free) from Spring 2023

The TK20 assessment system has been phased out. The Blackboard Learn Nine (BB9) platform has replaced it.

A test run of BB9 was completed last fall 2022 semester on five ILS courses. There is a delay in receiving the data because of some challenges that were encountered and a lack of training. All spring 2023 semester assessment data will be from BB9.

This assessment data is based on the department’s Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Each course has a rubric that identifies the applicable SLOs. At the end of the semester, the instructor assesses the data and forms a plan of action to improve the course. The data is cumulative, and trends are also analyzed.

* Two Accelerated 4 + 1 Pathways;

With the IMS program closing in the fall 2024 semester, it was the ILS Department’s faculty decision to reach out to the Chairs of the B.A. History Department and B.A. English Department to pursue an Accelerated (4+1) Pathway Program with them. Statistics show (over the last three years) that the most common undergraduate majors that are pursuing an MLIS degree with Southern have an English or History background.

* B.A. History – MLIS [final stage]

The B.A. History Department Chair and faculty members were in favor of pursuing an Accelerated Pathway with the ILS Department’s MLIS program. Both departments worked together with the support of the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs to move forward with this program. Currently, the BOR will meet later this month to review the application and make a decision.

Short Overview

An undergraduate B.A. History major student would apply to the MLIS program in their junior year. Once admitted, the student can choose up to two courses from a predetermined list to take each semester in their senior year. After completing their B.A. in History, the student would continue their graduate studies and complete their MLIS the following year.

Plans to implement this program are targeted for the 2024-2025 academic year.

* B.A. English – MLIS [early stage]

The B.A. English faculty members continue to have questions about how the B.A. English program and MLIS program would correlate with the Accelerated Pathway program. At this point, no final decisions have been made.

Developing an Accelerated (4+1) Pathway Program is included in the ALA Self Study for Accreditation as part of the department's efforts to increase enrollment. It was also suggested to tap into the College of Education’s specialty areas of Elementary Education, General Education, and Special Education as possible pathways.

* Review of the results of a Graduate December Exit Survey

The Graduate Exit Survey is administered at the end of the fall and spring semesters. There were seven participants in the fall 2022 survey. Overall, the results were good. One of the weaknesses students identified was the lack of electives offered in the MLIS program. Faculty members have been working on this, and two new courses were approved last semester and will be offered in the 2023-2024 academic year. 1.) ILS 536: Academic Libraries and 2.) ILS 610: Grant Writing and Fundraising for Libraries and Non-Profits.

* Review of the results of an Alumni Survey

The Alumni Survey was sent out last January. Thirty-three people responded. The results were good with one participant unhappy with their experience with the MLIS program. On average, it takes a student two and a half years to complete the program. More than 90% find a job in the library science field within a year of graduation.

After the survey is reviewed by faculty members, they meet to discuss how to improve the program.

An observation was made that 1.) some alums were listed as support staff; and it correlates to 2.) alums who were making $30,000 or less; and 3.) could relate to not being actively involved in professional organizations.

Many paraprofessionals come to the program to become professional librarians. There is no guarantee they will land a professional placement in the library science field unless they apply for professional librarian positions after they earn their MLIS degrees.

* Tenure-Track Faculty Search is underway

A posting for an Assistant/Associate Professor with specialties in Internships opened last October. There were 15 applicants. Three were invited to SCSU campus for an interview which was completed last week. There was one outstanding candidate, and the search committee agreed to make an offer to this person. Once everything is finalized, an announcement will be made.

* Development of a new “Academic Library” concentration;
* ILS 525: Collection Development and Management
* ILS 536: Academic Libraries (new course)
* ILS 575: Instructional Design Principles
* ILS 590: Research in Library and Information Science

The Academic Library concentration is composed of the four required courses listed above. This concentration is not recognized on a students’ transcript. The Academic Library concentration will be listed in next year's catalog 2024-2025. The recently approved ILS 536 Academic Libraries course will be offered this fall 2023 semester. This is the third concentration offered since the inception of the MLIS programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

* There was no other business

NEXT MEETING

TBA

MEETING ADJOURNED

2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Opalenik, Recorder

Department of Information and Library Science