

MLS Faculty Meeting
March 23, 2021 2 PM via WebEx

Present: Bright, Hands, Jones, Mangum, Marson, Soulen

Absent: Colon-Aguirre, Dotson

Dr. Marson called the meeting to order. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Dr. Marson reported that the Graduate School may provide a Pass/Fail option for students for spring semester. We will know by the end of the month. Dr. Jones asked what grade was considered a Pass. Dr. Marson agreed to investigate that.

The recent ECU job fair was discussed. Dr. Hands had indicated that she had seen four students registered, but Dr. Marson said that she talked at length with one prospective student. Ms. Mangum didn't have a sign-up either. One cancelled and no one else showed up. Dr. Soulen stated that it is important to mark yourself as busy if not available.

The upcoming virtual recruitment sessions were discussed. Dr. Soulen said that last our numbers were good. Dr. Marson noted that on a recent application, the student specified that she learned about the program through one of last year's sessions. Ms. Mangum briefly reviewed the contacts she made last year. Dr. Marson also mentioned that we utilized social media last year to advertise. Dr. Soulen and Ms. Mangum agreed to work on the details for the recruitment sessions for this year. Dates will be determined. Since the curriculum workshop has been scheduled for May 13th, we can move forward with setting a date.

Ms. Mangum reported that at this point, we have 14 admitted for fall. Dr. Hands asked if we know how those applicants heard about the program. Ms. Mangum said no, but would like to determine how to collect that information. Dr. Marson will ask about where to find the data.

Dr. Soulen asked about the procedures for planning the curriculum workshop and stated that the curriculum committee would begin working on this. Ms. Mangum reminded the faculty that we emailed the questions to the participants and received their responses before the workshop, which she found helpful.

Dr. Marson reported that Brittany Harrell from the Graduate School had emailed her about a new image for the website. She is working with Creative Services and sent an image suggestion which was not appropriate. The final image will be sent for approval. Ms. Mangum asked if the photo will be on the Graduate School website or the program website. Dr. Marson said she would contact Brittany and clarify.

Dr. Marson reported that IRB approval for the alumni survey is still pending. She is working on obtaining contact information for another survey, the employer survey, which will include school principals, public library directors, and directors of academic libraries in the state.

Ms. Mangum discussed Taskstream and mentioned that one student had replied that the Taskstream point system was unclear. In addition, the student mentioned that the reflection directions were difficult and that the standards are difficult to obtain. There was a general discussion of the proper standards. Dr. Hands mentioned that getting changes completed can be cumbersome. Dr. Marson mentioned that the prompts for the reflections were revised about five years ago and that we could revisit them. Dr. Soulen thinks that the reflection questions are artificial and not authentic. Ms. Mangum reviewed the reflection and standards available. Dr. Hands and Ms. Mangum said that they thought the reflection questions were good, but that students aren't fully engaged with full answers. Ms. Mangum mentioned that one student requested more time for the reflection, which she allowed. Dr. Bright asked about the meaning of the process and pointed out that a student can score very low and still pass the course and complete the program. Dr. Hands feels that the process is a time-waster and that the portfolio is a checkbox. Ms. Mangum asked what we would need to do to require that the artifact and reflection meet a 2.0 level before a portfolio passes. Dr. Marson was not sure and said she would investigate. Ms. Mangum asked if we could begin with fall 2021 to require that all postings in Taskstream to be at least at the Proficient level. Dr. Bright stated that she has students post the artifact a week prior to the final deadline to be able to revise and improve. Ms. Mangum is breaking up her artifact assignment into individual parts, having each portion build to the final. She asked what the current wording is for the portfolio requirement and whether we would need outside approval for changes. Dr. Bright stated that the portfolio isn't mentioned in the catalog and that the decision is internal and wouldn't require a Curriculog package. Dr. Marson suggested that we put together a list of suggestions and discuss at the next meeting. Dr. Soulen asked if the Assessment Committee had reviewed the portfolio process. Dr. Marson said no, and that the Assessment Committee had left that to the Curriculum Committee to handle from as indicated in during previous faculty meetings. Dr. Hands said that they would share examples at the Curriculum Workshop. Ms. Mangum asked if individual instructors can require that students meet a 2.0 level of proficiency in the artifact and reflection before posting to Taskstream. Dr. Marson said that this is an individual instructor decision. It was agreed that the Assessment Committee would meet to discuss the portfolio process as well.

Dr. Jones asked if Taskstream is a requirement. Dr. Hands and Ms. Mangum said that they thought Taskstream was a College of Education requirement. Dr. Marson doesn't think it's a requirement and will investigate this question.

Dr. Bright discussed the recent program decisions regarding revised prerequisites for courses. We need an official vote for Curriculog and need to put this vote on the agenda for the next IDP meeting. Dr. Soulen also mentioned that it would be expedient to include the revised course description for LIBS 6137 in the vote to include in Curriculog as one package. Dr. Bright will create a Qualtrics survey and include the proposed revised prerequisites and the new course description for LIBS 6137.

Dr. Colon-Aguirre sent a report on the previous ALA Student Chapter session. She needs to identify students to serve as ALA Student Chapter president for the next academic year. The student must be able to serve the 2021-22 year, with a planned graduation date no sooner than May 2022. Dr. Colon-Aguirre will send an email soon. Dr. Bright mentioned that current president Debra Trogdon-Livingston, who was nominated for the ALA Student Chapter President of the Year, did not win the award but received a letter from ALA regarding her nomination.

Dr. Marson stated that we are caught up with the Beta Phi Mu nominations and thanked the faculty for their participation.

Dr. Marson congratulated Dr. Jones on his ECU Servire Award.

The next faculty meeting will be on April 20, 2021. Dr. Marson will send a poll regarding a preferred time. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20.