

MLS Program Minutes
February 25, 2021
Virtual via WebEx
1:00-2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Drs. Kawanna Bright, Monica Colon-Aguirre, Africa Hands, Al Jones, Barbara Marson, Rita Soulen, and Ms. Laura Mangum. Absent: Dr. Kaye Dotson.

The meeting followed the agenda provided by Barbara.

The minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting were discussed. There was a motion by Al and seconded by Africa to approve the meetings with corrections received from Rita.

A discussion of recruitment activities revealed that the 17th annual Recruitment Fair was attended by four MLS faculty and staff, but with little attendance. Laura will represent use as the Wake County Paraprofessional Conference later in March. Laura mentioned that UNCG holds monthly forums for recruitment purposes for its MLS program.

Kawanna will be the guest speaker at the Community College Conference on March 11, 2021.

Barbara announced that she has gotten IRB approval to send out an Alumni Survey to update the last which was distributed in 2018. An Employer Survey is also in the works. The program is on a two-year rotation with these surveys. Kawanna is working together with Barbara on these surveys.

A discussion on the use and wording of prerequisites and corequisites. The suggestions were: LIBS 6010 & 6014; six hours; & the provision of adding the phrase “or (rather than, and) permission of the instructor.” There was consensus but not a motion to use six hours or the permission of the instructor.

Barbara reminded us of advising week (March 15-19). Laura is working on a much-needed Advising Handbook.

Laura announced that there are 7 definite admits for fall 2021.

Updates from the Curriculum Committee were given by Rita and Africa. Minutes for the committee are also available on Teams. Rita also requested time to discuss curricular changes at the Curriculum Workshop, date to be finalized. Africa made a motion, seconded by Laura, to remove the requirement that only public concentration students could take LIBS 6123, 6133, and 6137. This would provide opportunities for students from all concentrations. Kawanna will take care of the Curriculog process although she the change would not be official until Fall 2022. In a similar vein, the description for LIBS 6855 Advocacy will be worded to welcome students from not only the public library concentration but also the academic and school concentrations. Rita announced that due to new standards promulgated by ALA YALSA would require that LIBS 6137 would be updated to include young adults 13 years old. Africa announced that one of our students, Carrie Watson, has published an article on leadership in *Public Library Services Quarterly*.

Monica gave us an overview of what's happening with the APA Student Chapter. Our first-elected ALA Chapter President Debra Trogdon-Livingston has been an exemplary leader. She is interested in putting together a program on library services in the health sciences. She was able to get Dr. Noah Lenstra of UNCG to present a virtual program on library wellness on March 9, 2021 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monica was instrumental in recommending Debra for a BB&T leadership award. Monica will be calling upon us to submit names, including self-nominations, for President of the ALA Student Chapter. Debra will be eligible to attend all virtual sessions of the ALA Annual this summer.

Barbara gave a brief update on the work of the Assessment Committee, which will meet virtually later in March. Previous for SACS, we have been working with six outcome measures over a two-year period. SACS has approved a schedule for working with five outcomes annually. The Twenty-First Century Skills outcome will be dropped.

Barbara and Al gave an update on Beta Phi Mu. A list of 35% of 2020 graduates with GPAs of 3.75 or higher has been posted in Teams. Faculty are requested to vote for 21 graduates for the 2020 calendar year. Rita raised the question about why Beta Phi Mu membership is important. Al and Barbara mentioned the honor that membership in Beta Phi Mu carries for helping students to advance in leadership positions in librarianship. Barbara answered Africa's question about the need for a Beta Phi Mu chapter when we already have an ALA chapter. Barbara answered the question by pointing out that the two had different missions. Laura suggested that we educate our students about this honor in the Student Handbook, which Barbara is now revising. There was brief discussion about graduation and a student's question about honor cords. Laura announced that there are no honors cords for graduate students. It is assumed that graduation will be virtual again this year. Barbara reiterated her desire to establish a way to recognize Beta Phi Mu membership virtually if not physically.

The meeting concluded around 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Jones