

MLS Advisory Board Minutes
December 2, 2020 7:00 PM via WebEx

The meeting started at 7pm. Barbara introduced Dr. Steven Schimdt. Dr. Schimdt addresses the board.

- I. Introductions – Barbara had each attendee introduce themselves.
- II. ALA Update - Because of COVID, ALA pushed every program's schedule back a year. We have to submit a solid draft by 2022. The ERP committee will visit in the Fall of 2022. The decision for reaccreditation will come in early spring of 2023.
- III. Enrollment Update – Laura shared the enrollment spreadsheet from the Grad school which shows an increase in enrollment from Spring 2019- 20 admitted, 9 enrolled compared to Spring 2021- 32 admitted, 26 enrolled. Laura asked if there were questions. There were none.
- IV. Recruitment Efforts – Barbara reported that the faculty has attended a number of virtual recruitments with mixed results.
- V. Global affairs – has been put on hold because of COVID. The Global affairs office is planning for 2021 initiatives. Barbara reported the American Library in Paris is open to taking interns.American science education.
- VI. Curriculum Update – Rita gave an overview of the committee's work. Recent items – looking at LIBS 6828 – getting it from a 2 credit to 3 credit course.
 - a. Been doing a review of the portfolio process.
 - b. Looking at the number of required vs elective course per concentrations.
 - c. Making a minor adjustment to two course titles – the internship seminars. Changing to "School Library internship" and "Academic and Public internship.
 - d. Looking at building a better relationship with Lupis library. Looking at running programming related to Health Science.
 - e. Looking at offering a children's material course for Pre-School children.
 - f. Taking the advocacy course to include academic and school librarianship, rather than just public librarianship.
 - g. Barbara opened the discussion for questions from the board – Hugh asked what is the timeline for offering the new courses. Rita said the children's lit course is not a new course, but one that we are bringing back to the forefront. Kawanna added that a new course the process is longer. A new course submitted now wouldn't be approved until 2022.
- VII. Africa asked Debra to share what she has done with the ALA student chapter. The chapter hosted an internship panel, with a good turn out and the recording was watched a lot. Recently hosted a discussion on pathways to justice. A professor from California did the main presentation.
- VIII. Input and questions from board members

- a. What do you think are the most important skills to succeed as a librarian or a professional? Africa led the discussion with the opening question. Jan suggested emotional intelligence, read an audience, to determine what an individual needs. Debra said the networking. Africa asked Debra to expand what the students deficiencies are in the area. Jennifer, added that the virtual conferences are nice but the opportunity to connect in person is missing. Especially to be involved in the organizations. Jennifer added that presentation skills is something. Jan added to prepare for an interview. That they need to do some research and before the interview. She stated there's nothing worse than an interviewee who has no questions. Kawanna added in the chat "We can add that to the Academic Librarianship course - they have an assignment to prep for an interview in terms of cover letter, etc. And they are required to research a library. Having them create questions for an interview would be a great addition!" Hugh added this should a part of the public and school concentration, too, is it in any of the courses for the other concentrations. Rita added in the chat "That would be a good topic for the school library professors to discuss for aligning our courses." Debra added that she sees project management as a skill that is lacking. Laura asked was the main need seeing a project to the end. Debra added that it is getting a laser focus on the goal and leading people through it. David Miller added, keeping students up to date on tech trends especially in information, what's not trustworthy. Being able to adapt especially during 2020. Being willing to try new programs that are innovative to involve the community. Meredith added that if we could partner with the Instructional Tech program that would benefit the school concentration students.
- b. For those who have worked with our students/graduates - what are the skills they are missing that you feel our program should provide? Africa stated that the answers from the board covered the two questions on the agenda.
- c. Barbara asked if the board members had any questions.
- i. Alan asked if we have seen an increase in the number of students in the academic concentration. Laura said just from seeing applications coming in it does seem that more students are applying for the academic concentrations, but school concentration is still the majority. Then Laura added in the chat some hard numbers The break down by concentration for our current fall students is 45 academic concentration, 40 public concentration, 117 school concentration.
- d. Monica asked what do they think was lacking from their MLS program.
- i. Alan said class management in a school library setting. Jan said that instruction was a weakness.
 - ii. Jennifer added that she wasn't prepared for the social issues that she faced in the reference desk at a public libraries.

-Ann added to the chat - I graduated from ECU in the dark ages when you attended evening classes on campus to earn and MLS degree. I concentrated on school libraries but took the public library classes as electives and got my public librarian certificate too. I switched from school to public and was not well prepared for budgeting.

-Meredith added in the chat - Equity, diversity, and inclusion is such a necessary topic that I feel was somewhat lacking in my program ten years ago.

- Jan added in the chat - Not to get too political, but there is the concern with whether/when to call police and what might then happen. Africa added It's all political, you can't avoid these issues. Yes, I shared notes from a presentation on library security that talked about when and when not to call police. Kawanna added that we have to have the difficult conversations and integrated equity, diversity and inclusion throughout our curriculum. Include it not just as a side topic.

-Kaye – Added that the program needs to address the issues the public library is facing and try to integrate and address it in several courses. This could be a grant idea with us and the school of social work.

-Jennifer – wanted to add a plug for Alan's presentation on diversity and children's literature.