

MLS Program Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022

In Attendance: Dr. Bright, Dr. Dotson, Dr. Hands, Dr. Jones, Mrs. Mangum, Dr. Marson, Dr. Soulen

I. Approval of minutes

Marson noted one correction for the name of a potential guest speaker. No other changes noted. Motion to approve by Hands. Seconded by Bright. Minutes were approved.

II. Current enrollment & registration

- a. Spring 2022 enrollment = 201 (Fall 2021 = 208 students enrolled)
- b. Graduated 35 students in Fall 2021
- c. Admitted 38 students for Spring 2022,
 - i. 6 are readmits (= 32 newly admitted students)
 - ii. 4 haven't registered – 2 are readmits and 2 students had a change of plans

Mangum has reached out to the two readmits who have not registered. They have until Friday to register for the spring semester. We have a steady flow of Fall 2022 applications coming in. Discussion of decreasing enrollment. Marson noted the decline in enrollment since spring 2018. Dotson suggested it was due to other NC programs now going online – which was an advantage we used to have. Mangum noted we are still the only asynchronous online program. Soulen stated that faculty to student ratio was more important and that we should be focused on quality over quantity. Dotson expressed concern that we are seen as a marketplace and that we should consider having a specialty to set us apart. Marson noted that the ALA committee on accreditation does look at enrollment numbers, trends, and attrition.

Marson reminded us that later this spring we'll start looking at recruitment opportunities. Dotson shared information about booth sponsorship at the Delta Kappa Gamma state convention. We are co-sponsoring a booth for \$100 with Dr. Broughton. This is a non-LIS venue but one that is looking for educators. Hands asked about attendance and Dotson indicated she would investigate that. Hands commented on the value of participating in non-library conferences as a recruitment tool

Marson noted that NCCCLA meeting would be online in March. We have an opportunity to do a speaker sponsorship for \$100 that would be for diversity, equity, and inclusion and professional development. Bright reminded faculty that she was a keynote at the conference in 2021 and that there were students in attendance.

Marson asked for additional suggestions for where we could recruit more broadly with sponsorships and tables in the future.

III. ALA Self-Study Planning

Marson felt the feedback from the consultant was good. Her plan for moving us forward is to use a developed timeline for updating the standards based on the feedback:

I. Standard I (February 15th)

II. Standard II (March 15th)

III. Standards III & IV (April 15th)

IV. Standard V (1st week of May)

The draft is due on June 5th. The COA conference call is scheduled for July 3rd to go over the draft. The final version is due August 22nd. Marson will check in with Dr. Crowe about a copy editor. Marson will work with each standard owner on updates. Bright indicated she would work on updates based on feedback for Standard III in preparation for working with Marson on the updates. Marson will also go through and look for areas that need data. It was determined that one document that includes consultant's comments would be the best place for making updates, utilizing tracked changes in One Drive.

IV. Electives for Summer & Fall 2022

Marson shared that we cannot use adjuncts to teach in the summer if they are current full-time ECU employees. Part-time employees from outside ECU can teach in the summer. Marson noted that no electives were offered in the Fall. Soulen reminded that this was because 6133 was offered but did not make. Suggested advertising courses outside of just the program, including to College of Ed, Pitt County and Wake County Schools. Bright noted issue with survey was that it only collected interest in a course and not intent to enroll. Suggested adding a question to the survey to ask students if they were currently planning to take an elective in the summer and/or fall semesters. Marson asked Dotson about her perspective on the Intellectual Freedom course as an elective, as it seems to have fallen out of favor. Dotson indicated dropping interest, but Hands noted that with the increased book challenges, it would be timely to offer the course again. Four courses will be included in the survey: Digital Libraries, Archives, Intellectual Freedom, and Genealogy. Storytelling was considered but since being taught this spring, it was removed from consideration. Mangum asked who would teach the Intellectual Freedom course and Marson indicated that John Harer, who developed it, would likely teach if available.

V. Balancing Summer Session Courses (1st vs 2nd) – Kawanna.

Bright brought up a conversation with students trying to balance out their summer and fall schedules. They were interested in taking both LIBS 6031 and LIBS 6026 in

the summer as both are on the summer rotation. But in past summers, the courses appeared in the same summer session, making it difficult for students to take both. Bright suggested, if possible, having one of the courses taught in the first summer session and the other in the second summer, to hopefully maximize students' ability to complete both courses in the summer. Marson noted the suggestion and would keep an eye on that possibility based on instructor availability.

VI. Local book challenges – Rita

Soulen noted the local book challenges taking place in Pitt County for *All American Boys* and two books by Sharon Draper: *Forged by Fire* and *Darkness Before Dawn*. While the first challenge was for a required reading in English, the other two were more from the library perspective. Soulen expressed concern at the suggestion to lock certain books in the library and only allow access with parental permission and removing selection responsibility from librarians and giving it to someone else. Soulen penned a letter adapted from the ALA press release that she, Marson, Dotson, and Jones signed. Letter was sent to the Pitt County School Board – no response has been received yet. There will be a working meeting on January 24th that Mangum noted would be open to the public. The meeting will be looking at the policies and potentially making changes. It is unclear if the public will be allowed to speak at this meeting. Soulen intends to write a letter to the board of education.

Hands suggested reaching out to alumni in Pitt County and letting them know what is going on and encouraging them to get involved. Also asked how involved NCSLAMA was. Soulen noted that people in NCSLAMA including April Dawkins have been heavily involved in the challenges.

Committee Reports

- Search Committee – upcoming visit by Lindsay Mattock:

Hands updated everyone on the upcoming candidate visit. Mangum will WebEx Marson into their afternoon meeting with Dr. Mattock. There is a WebEx link for the presentation. Al Barnhill will be there to help Dr. Mattock get set up. Dr. Lin will be there to help with other aspects.

Second position updates: working on scheduling two virtual visits for the tenure track position for the last full week of January (25th and 27th). All virtual visits. The remaining 3 candidates will likely be in February. Bright reminded everyone that the on-campus visits will likely still be very hybrid in nature.

- Feedback on student orientation – Laura.

Mangum wanted to know thoughts on the small group breakout and the share out of the

fun facts. Hands let it went well, but only had 1 student in their group. Would like some way to make the breakout sessions better matched. Liked the sprinkling of the facts throughout the meeting. Including the questions from previous orientations was a positive inclusion. Soulen was surprised at the breakout at the beginning and wasn't prepared but just chatted with students. There was a suggestion to have breakouts at the beginning of the session. Should the breakout groups be by advisor? Bright liked this feature but understood the imbalance that caused issues. The decision was to do a random division of students into breakout rooms and keep the formal introduction at the beginning.

- BB&T Leadership cohort. Mangum talked about her experience in the program. Met 4 times (2 in person and 2 virtual). There were people from all over campus. The goal is to help instructors get more active learning and leadership components in their courses. Done through readings. When you meet there is a lot of sharing out. You bring the course you want to focus on and what you are hoping to do. The sharing piece was very valuable. By the end of the semester, you had to change your course in 4 ways. Because of the timing, Mangum made her changes extra credit. But now they are required pieces. Changed reflection at the end of one project to ask students how they could use what they learned to be a leader and make change and what changes they would make. Added a discussion board for policies and had students talk to others about timeline for change. Marson reminded Mangum to document this in the self-study.
- Marson shared information about a challenge at a small public library where her daughter is employed. Parent refused to return book, citing that the library shouldn't have the book in its collection.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23pm.