

MLS Program Minutes
December 8, 2021
1:00 via WebEx

Present: Bright, Hands, Jones, Soulen

Absent: Dotson, Mangum

After corrections, the minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Dr. Marson reported that the program has 183 students registered for spring, down slightly from the previous year. However, both she stated that students are still registering. Marson reported that for the 2020-21 academic year, approximately 54% of the students are in the school concentration with 26% in the public and the remaining 20% in the academic concentration. This breakdown represents a change from previous years, with the public and academic concentrations showing growth. One area of concern is retention which was noted in the last ALA Statistical Trends report. It was reported that at this point, 35 students are graduating, and 28 students have been admitted to date; however, applications are still being processed.

Dr. Bright asked if there is a list of graduating students. Dr. Marson replied that Ms. Mangum has the list since she does the portfolio reviews. It was suggested that the list be made available to all faculty for general information and to assist in faculty in keeping advisee files up to date. Dr. Marson also mentioned that she will contact upcoming graduates to be highlighted in the Graduate Spotlight on the program Facebook page.

A discussion followed regarding the MLS Facebook page and that it is currently tied to Dr. Marson's personal FB account. Dr. Marson has spoken to Kristen Martin about this situation and will follow up with her to change this alignment. Dr. Hands and others suggested that postings to this account could be done by a Graduate Assistant. Dr. Soulen indicated that it would be preferable to have an MLS GA and to recruit for that.

Dr. Marson reported on enrollments and indicated that all eight sections of LIBS 4950 are maxed out and that she will try to add another section if an adjunct is available. She reported that the program received approval to run LIBS 6853 Library Services to Diverse and Special Populations, which now stands at 7 registered.

The consultant feedback from the self-study hasn't been received yet.

Dr. Marson reported that the program will need to submit schedules for summer and fall in early February. It is time to consider what electives to offer and perhaps conduct another student survey as done previously. Dr. Bright stated that she can launch the survey once the faculty decide what courses to include. At the January meeting, Dr. Marson will provide information on what electives have been offered in the past 2-3 years to assist with selection.

Dr. Marson reminded the faculty the MLS Advisory Board meeting will be held December 9th. She mentioned that she has received no feedback from the questions that were sent to the board and that we will cover them live in the session.

The faculty discussed the format for the new student orientation on January 5, 2022 and the idea of having breakout sessions with smaller groups. It was decided to make a final decision on this in early January.

Dr. Marson reported that she has hired a new adjunct, who will teach a section of LIBS 6026. She is Ms. Patricia Dragon, a cataloger with Special Collections at Joyner Library.

Dr. Marson announced that she will be retiring, effective August 31, 2022 and will be involved with submitting the final version of the ALA Self-Study, which is due August 22. She reminded the faculty that the site will take place in the fall and that all files can be accessible electronically.

The Assessment Committee brought forth a proposal to change the procedures for evaluating the artifacts within the portfolio that would not allow a portfolio to pass without a student reaching at least a Proficient level. Before a vote was considered, Dr. Hands expressed concerns over the reflection template and that some of the questions seemed to be focused on specific courses. She suggested that the Assessment Committee review these templates to be more succinct and universal. Providing examples was also suggested. Dr. Marson agreed that the Assessment Committee will review and revise the reflection templates and bring the portfolio procedural changes and reflection revisions back to the faculty for a vote. Any changes would be effective fall 2022.

Dr. Soulen reported for the Curriculum Committee that the changes in pre and co-requisites were approved with minor changes by the Graduate Curriculum Committee, along with the catalog description for LIBS 6137. In January, Dr. Bright will work in Curriculum on two other changes: 1) Removing LIBS 6135 and LIBS 6137 as required courses for the public library concentration; and 2) Proposing that the Archives course which has been offered as a special topics course be a part of the permanent MLS curriculum. In addition, the committee is working on a health sciences information webinar that will be held on February 9, 2022 at 7 PM. The guest speaker is Dr. Amanda _____. The Curriculum Committee has also discussed LIBS 6989, the Early Internship course and cases where EDTC 6001 has been allowed as a substitution. The committee reviewed EDTC 6001 and believes it is not an appropriate substitution. The committee recommends that LIBS 6989 be examined and perhaps revised to meet student needs for those who cannot complete 110 internship hours. The committee recommends that the lead instructor investigate this suggestion. It was also recommended that any substitutions for required courses be clearly documented.

Dr. Hands reported for the Search Committee that a candidate for the Program Coordinator/Director's position is being scheduled for January 2022. For the second position, there have been first-round interviews and possibly three candidates.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Marson

