

MLS Program Minutes
September 8, 2021
1-3 PM via WebEx

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

Dr. Marson reviewed the Plan for Self-Study (due October 3, 2021) which she will post in Teams. She identified key dates. There was some discussion about providing a draft to the MLS Advisory Committee, but it was determined that presenting an overview for discussion would be a better use of their time.

Last year's list of MLS Advisory Board members is posted in Teams. Dr. Marson has asked for suggestions for new recruits. The program would prefer a two-year term for renewal. Some members are no longer available. Dr. Hands asked if we have outlined expectations. There is not a formal plan of expectations, but the program would prefer representation for all three concentrations. Members are currently sent a letter of invitation. Suggestion from Dr. Soulen to add expectations for the Board to our future strategic planning process. Question from Dr. Marson regarding employers on the Board and suggested that other professionals in the field may be included. The goal is to try to balance the three concentration areas.

Course schedules for Spring 2022 rotation and possible electives are posted in Teams. Mrs. Tucker requests that these be submitted by 9/24/21. Mrs. Mangum has reviewed and updated Degree Works plans for all current MLS students. Dr. Hands suggested that we survey the students to determine which electives students would be interested in taking. Survey to include LIBS 6820 The Art of Storytelling, LIBS 6828 Seminar on Intellectual Freedom, LIBS 6853 Library Services to Diverse and Special Populations, LIBS 6903 Special Topics in Library Studies: Archives.

A list of Virtual Recruitment Sessions is in Teams. Dr. Bright suggested the need to clarify which are job fairs and which are for students seeking educational opportunities. Handshake lists individual registration costs. Dr. Crowe will get clarification on the cost. The plan is to choose one or two recruitment fairs to attend. A face-to-face Graduate Admissions Fair is scheduled October 19 at which Dr. Soulen will represent the MLS program at the IDP table. There is an ECU Graduate School Fair on November 3 which will have an IDP table with a representative from each program to participate. Dr. Bright reminded us of the need to recruit underrepresented populations.

Dr. Marson reviewed the results of the Alumni Survey, which are posted in Teams. Survey questions are aligned to program objectives. Comparisons to the last 2018 (in red) Alumni Survey are provided. The sample who chose to complete the survey responded in a similar way to those who completed the 2018 survey. The results demonstrate little deviation over time. Dr. Bright suggested that restructuring and development of the survey may improve the validity of the results. The survey data will be posted on the MLS website.

Dr. Bright provided an ALA Student Chapter update. She met with the chapter president to discuss a series of guest lectures for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 highlighting the importance of professional development in the field, young adult literature, children's literature, and graphic novels. They are planning to create a student advisory team and discuss the process of calling for participation in elections. They defined a need to create a landing page for the ALA Student Chapter on our website in an effort to formalize chapter activities. Plans are also in place to make available guest speakers in courses to include all students in the MLS program.

The Search Committee met and will be working with Human Resources to post two positions.

The Curriculum Committee is moving forward with the removal of prerequisites for various courses. The committee continues to work on removal of LIBS 6133/6135/or 6137 as a requirement for the public library concentration. This curriculum change was approved by the MLS faculty but needs to also be approved by the IDP faculty at the next department meeting. The committee continued to discuss holding a health sciences information webinar. Dr. Hands will follow up with the ALA Student Chapter.

The Assessment Committee will meet in September to review the portfolio survey results in addition to suggestions and examples provided at the Spring 2021 MLS Curriculum workshop.

Faculty will be attending upcoming conferences including ALISE, AASL, NCSLMA, and NCLA. Dr. Bright will participate as an instructor in the ALISE Academy and present as part of a SIG panel. She also will be presenting at NCLA/SELA. Dr. Hands will participate on a panel at ALISE and is co-chair the ALISE Academy. Dr. Soulen will be presenting at NCSLMA and AASL. Dr. Marson will be attending ALISE, attending a Deans & Directors meeting. Dr. Dotson will be presenting at NCLA and NCSLMA and attending ALISE and School Library Journal Summit.

Adjourned 2:20 pm.