

School of Library & Information Studies

School Council Meeting

Minutes – October 5, 2012

1:00 – 2:30 p.m., SLIS Room 1-17B

Present: Ernie Ingles, Brianna Erban, Aman Powar-Grewal, Margaret Mackey, Dinesh Rathi, Toni Samek, Ali Shiri, Tami Oliphant, Jennifer Branch, Michael McNally, Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Fern Snart, Laura Lemmens, Anne Carr-Wiggin, Leslie Latta Guthrie, Trish Chatterley, Gail de Vos, Jessica Thorlakson, Christine Brown, Hanne Pearce, Dale Storie, Joanne De Groot

Minutes: Sophia Sherman

1. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve: Jennifer Branch, seconded by: Michael McNally
 - b. Carried.
2. Approval of minutes from December 1, 2011 (Attached)
 - a. Motion to approve: Margaret Mackey, seconded by: Dinesh Rathi
 - b. Carried.
3. Report from the Director (Ernie Ingles)
 - a. Accreditation preparation is underway; two 3rd floor classroom have been significantly upgraded - thank you to the Dean for upgrades. 1-17B will be upgraded next with video conferencing capability.
 - b. Toni Samek is a 3M award winner this year, congratulations on this prestigious teaching award. Ali Shiri has a book coming out Oct 22, 2012.
4. Business Arising
 - a. Introduction of New Faculty.
Three new colleagues: Tami Oliphant, Michael McNally both from UWO. Jennifer Branch will be coordinating the online MLIS program.
5. New Business
 - a. MLIS/MBA Program (Ernie Ingles)
 - 1) Motion to approve the MBA/MLIS program proposal as stated in the attached Template. Gail de Vos moves, Mary-Jo Romaniuk seconds, all in favour.
 - b. Director Search (Fern Snart)
 - 1) General faculties council mandates the processes, faculty can make small changes but by in large it's set through existing policies. Fern Snart will chair the committee as Dean, there will be one representative from FGSR, one from



provost or VP academic, three elected SLIS faculty members, one GFC member, one full time support staff, one graduate student. Election for the 3 representatives are done through the Dean's office. Selection process occurs over 3-6 weeks - each applicant gives a presentation, committee interviews the applicants, we all get asked for input. Confidential materials can be sent to Fern Snart for anonymity. The Dean can accept or reject the committee's decision.

Toni Samek: Internal search or external search, what does that mean?

Fern Snart: Internal search at this time. Ad is worded that the successful applicant will be from a relevant department from the UofA with required experience and credentials.

Ernie Ingles: For the sake of SLIS, 2 interims in a row would not be good for the school.

Aman Powar-Grewal: What's the timeline for this selection process?

Fern Snart: Selection will hopefully be completed by end of January.

Margaret Mackey: Who writes the advertisement?

Fern Snart: Fay Sylvester and the Chair, and we can revise the old ad.

6. Report from the Curriculum Committee (Ali Shiri)

a. Motion for new course – LIS 541: LIS Services in Culturally Diverse Society (formerly LIS 598: Library and Information Services for Special Populations)

1) This course is needed because there's a gap in our curriculum that this course bridges. Successfully offered already twice. Academic council approved already.

2) Motion to approve: Ali Shiri, seconded: Margaret Mackey.
Carried.

b. Motion for inclusion of pre and co requisite courses in University of Alberta Calendar

1) Moved by: Ali Shiri, seconded: Michael McNally.
Carried.

7. Report from the Graduate Coordinator (Margaret Mackey)

a) Fall 2012 incoming students - 110, 98 course based, 4 thesis, 7 MA/MLIS HUCO, 1 visiting. 25 part timers, 85 full timers. Average GPA is 3.52 for incoming, highest GPA 3.97, lowest GPA 2.9 but with life experience. 31 different universities degrees, 13 men, 72 women, ages 21-50, average age overall is 28. 54 from Alberta, 7 international. Dynamic and collaborative students.

8. Reports from Representatives/Liaisons

a) Hanne Pearce, LISAA

i. Celebration Brunch was well attended, 50 people. Newsletter will be out in winter.

- b) Jessica Thorlakson, LISSA President
 - i. Working on LISSA manual which includes history and development. New students are happy.
 - c) Christine Brown, UofA library liaison.
 - i. Contact her for purchases. Faculty members each get \$1000 for purchasing for the collection and one new journal.
 - d) Leslie Latta Guthrie, Provincial Archives.
 - i. Two SLIS practicum students right now. They are always happy to hire SLIS grads.
9. Accreditation of MLIS Program (Ernie Ingles and Brianna Erban)
- a) Background – Progress to date

Brianna Erban: Scheduled every 7 years, process of self-evaluation, structured around the 6 ALA standards. We're judged against the outcomes and measures we set for ourselves, not judged against other schools. April 2010 we received first notification to review, 2 year process. March-July, 6 panelists will perform a site visit. We also have a CLA observer. Site visit is scheduled for March 2013. Program Presentation has a working committee; we divided the sections to Faculty/staff and also collaborated. Formatting is compliant with the COA standards. Constituent groups have to participate, focus groups are needed, there will be student, alumni, practitioner, and employer surveys to gather opinions of SLIS graduates. Two brown bags with SLIS students letting them know about the processes and what may be expected of them. We welcome any feedback about the program presentation before the final draft is written.
 - b) Fern Smart: The report is very well written. The mission, goals, and objectives, incorporating the UofA's concepts are very compelling and captures the reader; it's meaningful. Dynamic and collegial school is outlined well. This School with our areas of expertise has its rightful place in a research university. Standard 1 with student input is good. To evince awareness doesn't necessarily mean go away with it. We may want to think about this.
 - c) Program Presentation Development
 - i. Mission, Goals, and Objectives, may be the most important section. Highlights new and revised statements mission, values, goals. Revised program learning outcomes and course learning outcomes. SLIS administrative 5 year plan is on the website, and it's a work in progress
 - ii. Curriculum - 19 one credit courses, 27 sections. New online MLIS program coming, and combined MBA/MLIS program coming, and new courses we've added in technology.
 - iii. Faculty - 34 different sessionals, 5 adjunct. \$9 million research funding.



- iv. Students, 314 students recruited, average GPA 3.48, 57 graduate degrees, speak more than 14 languages including Latin. Lauren attending conferences to try to recruit. 48 QEI scholarships, 14 SSHRC, 4 ALA Spectrum Scholarship, 7 Smithsonian Internships.
 - v. Administration and Financial Support, Ernie Ingles has reinvigorated the culture at SLIS, he is instrumental in obtaining \$500 000 in funding from FGSR.
 - vi. Physical Resources and Facilities, 12 new Apple computers in lab, 2 new smart classrooms, video conferencing suite coming, smart board will be installed in Henderson Hall.
 - vii. Synthesis and overview
 - viii. Nov 5 the draft presentation will be submitted, final version due January 21.
- d) What's Next
- i. Council Approval: everyone approves.
 - ii. External Review Panel site visit, March 4-5, 2012. They create a web based questionnaire for us. They will be meeting with students. There will be an evening reception with alumni, sessionals, adjuncts, faculty. Dean and Chief Librarian will be meeting with the panel. Panel members will attend classes and online classes. We find out the outcome next June.
 - iii. Margaret Mackey: The building is now beautiful and functional. This is a huge improvement.

10. Meeting adjourned 2:40pm.