MINUTES
SCHOOL COUNCIL
23 October 2020, 2:00-4:00 PM, Virtual Meeting


Regrets: G. DeVos, S. Farnel, B. Flanagan, B. Reyes Ayala, A. Samek, A. Schrader

Secretary: C. Mosimann

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file. Votes were conducted via poll function in the Zoom teleconference platform.

Call to Order and Roundtable Introductions

1.0 Approval of Agenda dated 23 October 2020

It was requested that the University Library update be moved to later in the agenda.

**Motion:** It was moved by P. Martinez, seconded by D. Zhao, that the agenda be approved with changes.

**CARRIED**

2.0 Introduction of Chair and Associate Chair

SLIS Interim Chair K. De Long, and Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator D. Rathi introduced themselves to council members.

3.0 Statement on the Passing of Ernie Ingles

K. De Long delivered a statement on the passing of Ernie Ingles, SLIS Chair from 2010-2013. It was noted that Mr. Ingles was instrumental in the creation of the Online MLIS program. K. De Long also noted the recent passing of Charles H. Davis, Director from 1976-1979. D. Askey stated that University Library are in the process of naming something in Mr. Ingles’ honour.
4.0 Administrative Update

I. Martyniak delivered an administrative update. The past few years have been concentrated on the administrative merge and re-accreditation process. A brief overview of administrative staff roles was given. It was noted that we do not yet know what impacts the university restructuring process will have on SLIS.

5.0 Curriculum Committee Motions

T. Oliphant introduced herself as Committee Chair for 2020-2021 and delivered an overview of the committee’s composition and current goals. T. Oliphant invited D. Rathi, Committee Chair for 2019-2020, to speak on the proposed changes as they were passed during his tenure.

5.1 Changes to LIS 590 (Practicum)

D. Rathi overviewed the rationale behind the proposed changes. It was asked why the prerequisite elective must be an IT-designated course. D. Rathi responded indicating that IT skills are often important for a practicum, and the instructor retains the option to give consent if all prerequisites are not met. T. Oliphant noted that many practicum site supervisors require more technological competencies, which was also a factor in the proposed change.

Motion: It was moved by D. Rathi, seconded by D. Allard, that the prerequisites for LIS 590 Practicum eligibility be reduced officially from ★6 to ★3 in LIS electives, that is, from two 3-credit electives to one 3-credit IT-designated LIS elective. CARRIED

56.2 Permanent Course Number to LIS 598 “Indigenous Library and Information Studies in a Canadian Context”

D. Rathi invited course instructors T. Ball and K. Lar-Son to speak on the creation of the course and how it has evolved during piloting. The course has been run four times and has received positive feedback from students. A technical question was asked inquiring why the Curriculum Committee Recommendation Form had no information under the “Current” column. D. Rathi and T. Oliphant clarified that LIS 598 is a special topics course for piloting new courses; as a permanent course number is being assigned there is no current course that is being changed.

Motion: It was moved by M. McNally, seconded by A. Worrall, that a permanent course number be given to an existing LIS 598 course titled “Indigenous
5.0 University Library Update

K. Frail delivered an update from University Library including information on the closure of the Coutts Library and relocating the materials from Education South to the Rutherford Library. It was noted that timeframes in her submitted report are subject to change because of COVID-19 impacts.

7.0 Updates to Terms of Reference

C. Mosimann overviewed the proposed updates to the School Council and Academic Council Terms of Reference, and noted that these updates primarily focus on virtual meetings and the terminology changes. A comprehensive review of all SLIS Terms of Reference will be required in the future after the University’s restructuring process is complete.

Motion: It was moved by T. Oliphant, seconded by P. Martinez, that the Academic Council Terms of Reference be approved.

CARRIED

It was noted that there has been a process change within the Faculty of Education where the faculty representative on School Council is now elected; the proposed update still refers to the representative being appointed by the Dean. It was moved by K. MacLeod, seconded by D. Askey, to approve the School Council terms of reference after the language is confirmed. An updated version will be distributed to members via email for approval via electronic vote.

8.0 Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator's Report

D. Rathi delivered the Associate Chair’s report. During discussion it was asked if there is a way to connect online students who are co-located in the same city; in previous years a Google Map showing where students are based has been made. It was suggested that a dynamic interactive map may be useful for connecting students, though concern was raised regarding privacy requirements and sharing of location data. It was commented that SLIS students have established their own group eClass section (not administered by SLIS) and this could be used to run forums, polls, etc., as a way for students to voluntarily connect with and support each other.
9.0 **Chair’s Report**

K. De Long delivered the Chair’s Report with information on several topics.

At the end of June 2020 SLIS received MLIS program re-accreditation from the American Library Association (ALA), and offered congratulations to T. Samek and the entire team for their work. The ALA has indicated SLIS has a very strong MLIS program. Accreditation standards will be examined and possibly revised over the next few years.

The University as a whole continues to be engaged in academic and administrative restructuring with changes coming over the next several months. We do not yet know what impacts this will have on SLIS though it is possible that some administrative functions will be centralized. SLIS is in a position of strength, though this does not mean the SLIS will not be impacted by restructuring. It was asked if there is any thought on the McKinsey & Company review of postsecondary education in Alberta and how that may impact LIS studies here. D. Askey responded, indicating that it seems to be a sectoral review that will likely examine similar programs offered by multiple universities. As SLIS is the only ALA-accredited program in Alberta the review may not directly impact SLIS.

K. De Long has met with S. Key in the Faculty of Education Professional Learning Unit (PLU) regarding collaboration with SLIS. S. Key will be invited to a future Academic Council meeting to speak and answer questions about the PLU offering professional learning. SLIS will consider reaching out to our alumni and the larger community about potential professional learning needs.

K. De Long has also met with Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) Director E. Steinhauer to explore ways of encouraging ATEP students to look towards libraries as a profession. Along with SLIS, colleagues from the University Library will present at an ATEP Professional Development day and promote librarianship as a career. Support was voiced for this.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion:** It was moved by I. Martyniak, seconded by K. MacLeod, that the meeting be adjourned.

*CARRIED*

*Meeting Adjourned.*