Admissions and Scholarships Committee  
School of Library and Information Studies  
University of Oklahoma  

Committee Actions 2011-2012 Academic Year  

May 2, 2012  

Membership: 2 SLIS faculty members (3 fall 2011), SLIS Coordinator of Student Services, 1 SLIS graduate student  

Standing Charges:  

Oversight of the School’s policies and procedures related to admission of students to the graduate programs of the School of Library and Information Studies  

Reviewed admissions policies with no new recommendations for 2011/12 student admissions; however, the committee recommends a review of policies and procedures for calendar year 2012/13 that includes:  

- Assessment, understanding, and use/usefulness of the new GRE scoring system; and  
- Discuss OU’s graduate college policy of accepting the last six months undergraduate GPA average OR the cumulative undergraduate GPA for admittance to the SLIS program  

The committee also conducted ongoing reviews of potential student application files.  

Oversight of the School’s policies and procedures related to financial awards  

The committee reviewed financial awards policies and procedures and determined that the review of applications and the identification and notification of financial award recipients should occur as early as possible in the process. The committee met the Monday following the Friday availability of the awards list to review and select award recipients.  

Additional Charges:  

1. Explore methods for recruitment of students at both sites by looking at how other LIS Schools recruit students, investigating a “grown your own” or “librarian for a day” program for high school and undergraduate students, compiling lists of innovative and interesting careers of MLIS graduates.  

This charge is partially addressed. The committee created a Norman campus SLIS flier to promote our graduate program. OLISSA volunteers planned to post the fliers on bulletin boards around the OU campus; however, there were not enough volunteers to complete the process. The committee recommends that we continue with this process and post the
fliers around the Norman campus in the fall. Marty Thompson did have his students post the flyers around the Health Sciences Center spring 2012.

The committee also updated the contact list for recruitment materials created in 2010/11 to include state library association functions. The committee provided recommendations that the front office mail fliers to Oklahoma libraries and colleges and to neighboring state libraries and colleges with a focus on Arkansas, Colorado, and New Mexico (no accredited library schools in these states). The committee also recommended that the school distribute the fliers when convenient at state library association and other library events, particularly when the school has a booth at an event.

2. Continue to explore methods to encourage and increase enrollment of accepted diverse and exceptional applicants. For example: telephoning about acceptance (work with Director); expediting acceptance; personalized acceptance letters that include details about scholarship opportunities (eg. ALA’s Spectrum); graduate assistantships, and financial aid; telephone calls and emails from current students and alumni, the director, and faculty members.

This charge is still in the discussion phase as a number of suggestions and issues need to be considered before recommendations can be formulated for faculty discussion.

3. Continue to explore methods to retain students. For example: promote scholarship opportunities, graduate assistantships, and financial aid; telephone calls; and emails from the director and faculty members.

This charge is partially addressed. The committee discussed this charge and identified that our department already does a good job of promoting scholarship opportunities and graduate assistantships through notifying current students of scholarship and GA opportunities.

The committee also recognized that selecting and announcing scholarship awards and GA positions as early in a semester as possible has the potential to increase student retention rates. In response to this discussion, the committee moved the spring 2012 discussion and award meeting for scholarship review and awards to the earliest day possible following the release of the scholarship list and applicants.