Committee Name: Curriculum Committee

Date/Time of Meeting: November 19, 2012 at 12:30 pm

Location of Meeting: SLIS Conference Room (Norman), Room 1J10 (Tulsa)

Members Present: Dr. Abbas, Ms. Zemke, Erin McLean, Marcia Friedman, Melissa Kuntz, Dr. White, Dr. Kim

Members Apologies: Jessie Hopper

Guests: Dr. Brown

Approval of Agenda: There were no additions and the agenda was approved.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: There were no changes, edits, or additions and the minutes were approved.

Continued review of Curriculum Committee Charge for 2012-2013

Charge #2: Explore advantages and disadvantages of replacing “type of library courses” (i.e., Public Library Administration”) currently in the Organizational Dynamics and Management Category with functional courses (i.e. Community Relations and Advocacy). Brown has collected feedback from the SLIS External Advisory Board concerning this charge.

Discussion: Dr. Abbas reported on Erin’s chart of other schools’ management offerings. It appears that most schools offer a mix of functional and type of library courses, but a lot of schools have School Library Administration separate. Questions, such as whether we would be able to fill functional courses, were brought up. It was determined that the committee will come back to the advantages and disadvantages later, and will begin by just examining the data.

Action: Everyone will take a closer look at the chart of other schools’ management courses and send questions or inquiries for further research to Dr. Abbas. Committee members are encouraged to find exemplars on the list and work to define “functional courses.” Dr. Abbas will renew a request for information from the management professors.
**Charge #5:** Review all prerequisites for MLIS and slashlisted courses to reflect new curriculum structure (assuming approval of proposal at College level). An email from Associate Dean Sankowski, dated 6/16/12, indicates the changes to 4523/5523 have been approved.

**Discussion:** The new curriculum structure has been formally approved. Government Publications has been approved to be slashlisted, as has Competitive Intelligence.

**Charge #6:** Work with Brown to explore the use of specialty tracks within SLIS for Health Library & Information Centers; Library & information Services for Indigenous Peoples; Archival Services for Indigenous Peoples.

**Discussion:** Dr. Brown discussed some of the rationale behind creating these specialty tracks, such as attracting students who wish to specialize, bringing in more students for classes from other programs, and increasing variety and diversity of students. She explained that there is no certificate with these programs, but it does change the coursework.

With a specialty in Health, the school will work with the Bird Library. Courses LIS 5133 (formerly Biomedical Bibliography and Reference Materials) and LIS 5163 (Biomedical Databases) are through Bird Library. This arrangement broadens coursework and draws students. Bird Library likes to do this as a pipeline for them. They get to shape our curriculum and their field. Dr. Brown discussed remodeling Biomedical Bibliography into Health Information Environment, which will be face-to-face with video to Tulsa. Dr. Kim indicated she thinks students need to have an overview of Health Information before getting into more specialized courses, and it was determined that this would be one of the purposes of the Health Information Environment course. Dr. Brown indicated that LIS 5990 (Data Curation) will hopefully be taught by the new faculty member and COMM 5264 (Health Communication) will be taught by Communications faculty. Dr. Kim discussed the issues of offering electives in which Tulsa students would be excluded due to format, as some of these electives are only face-to-face in Norman. It was determined that all required courses would be available in some format for Tulsa students, but electives taught by other departments are out of SLIS’s control. These issues will be taken up by the sub-committee. The option to use the Organization Dynamics program for alternative electives was discussed, and Dr. Kim indicated she will talk to Brigitte Steinheider about this possibility. The issue of whether the school should provide Health courses that include aspects such as health vocabulary was discussed. It was suggested that these skills could either
fall outside of the realm of MLIS or work as continuing education courses. Ms. Zemke suggested providing undergraduate students with a list of skills they might need to acquire on their own in order to work in a field like Health Librarianship. The program does not want to make these tracks too specialized. If they are too specialized, we have shrunk the pool of students again when the goal is to broaden the base. In order to encourage lifelong learning, it was suggested that the school might want to advise students to take classes like that after they graduate.

Dr. Brown indicated the Native American Studies program is excited and willing to have reciprocity among students with the Archival Services for Indigenous People and the Library and Information Services for Indigenous People specialty tracks. Dr. Brown discussed the rationale behind some of the course choices, such as courses involving sovereignty.

Logistics issues, such as number of hours a student can bring into the program and program planning, were discussed. It was noted that students and advisors must be very careful to make sure that they do not take extra courses that would not apply to graduation requirements. The internship requirement was briefly discussed as it could pose a problem in either of the Indigenous People tracks. There might be an issue with available tribal libraries, museums, or archive locations as well as finding qualified supervisors within these institutions.

Action: Dr. White will present his findings in January or February. Dr. Kim will talk to Brigitte Steinheider concerning Organizational Dynamics. Marcia will email her feedback concerning skillsets for health librarians to Dr. White. The committee will decide what the next steps for this charge item will be in February.

Charge #7: Work with Undergraduate Studies Committee and Director to explore the options and market for a post-baccalaureate in an area related to Library and Information Studies.

Discussion: Ms. Zemke reported adding a post-baccalaureate or any type of certificate program would be a program addition, which is an elaborate process. A program proposal would have to be written and the new program would have its own grade code. It was also indicated that students coming just for a certificate program would be unlikely to get financial aid. Some examples that Ms. Zemke found show that certificate classes applied to the MLIS degree. There was a myriad of questions posed to the committee to consider: What certificate would pull students from other departments? Would we market within the university or outside the university? In the library population, what certificate would be beneficial to them? What are the
benefits of a certification versus a Master’s? Could the new program be more of a post-Master’s certificate rather than a post-baccalaureate? Are there enough people for this to be worth it? Would students have to take the related core courses? It was discussed whether this certificate could work as an update for professionals or para-professionals (depending on the population targeted). Examples of professional organizations creating continuing education courses were discussed. The option to work with the Department of Continuing Education was determined to be unbenevolent to SLIS.

**Action:** Erin will create a more comprehensive list of certificate or accelerated programs. In the future, we might ask other schools their opinions on their certificate programs. Ms. Zemke will report again in December.

**Other Business:** Dr. Brown mentioned wanting to change the name of the School Library Media Administration course to School Library Administration. She wanted to know the protocol to change the name for courses if no content is to be changed. Dr. Brown will send email with name change and rationale. It will go to the faculty for the December faculty meeting.

**Next Meeting:** December 17, 2012 at 12:30-1:30

**Minutes Prepared by Erin McLean**