The ad hoc Ph.D. Committee is a standing committee of the School of Library and Information Studies. The ad hoc Ph.D. Committee serves in an advisory capacity for matters pertaining to the development of an OU SLIS Ph.D. program and makes recommendations to the Director and the faculty relative to the consideration of the said program. In particular, the Committee is charged with reviewing and addressing infrastructural needs of developing and maintaining a Ph.D. program within OU SLIS.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, the ad hoc Ph.D. Committee was specifically requested to accomplish the following items:

• Identify university requirements for establishing a new Ph.D. program

  Recommendation: Having read the OU application for establishing new degree programs, the committee agreed that one of the areas that SLIS needs to be attentive to is student and local demands/needs for a Ph.D. program since the application materials specifically require such data. As such, the committee recommends that:

  1. Conduct a focus group with SLIS alumni as to their desire to obtain a Ph.D. and collect data as to possible areas of focus for the Ph.D. program
  2. Develop a formal system of collecting data from current students and alumni that pertains to local student demand

• Evaluate local, national, and international needs for a Ph.D. program

  Recommendation: See recommendations listed for Charge #1

• Identify funding opportunities for the development and maintenance of a Ph.D. program

  Recommendation: Having explored all opportunities currently offered by OU and the College of Arts and Sciences, the committee agreed that funding at the University level is limited. As such, the committee recommends that SLIS:

  1. Encourages exploring opportunities for external grant opportunities to fund potential Ph.D. students and faculty research. The committee also urges that such funding is related to research funding rather than teaching grants in order to help facilitate a research environment that is both intellectually and fiscally sustainable.
• Evaluate current Ph.D. programs at comparable universities and social science units to identify potential program designs (including the possibility of collaborating with other OU units to form an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program)

Recommendation: The committee started this process, but it yet to complete it. As such, the committee recommends that SLIS:

1. Continues evaluating comparable Ph.D. programs to identify key elements of a Ph.D. design

Suggested charges for next year:

• Provide recommendations for “branding” the SLIS Ph.D. program
• Develop a potential infrastructural design for the Ph.D. program to recommend to SLIS faculty (e.g. program milestones or stages (admissions, yearly review, advancement to candidacy, etc.)
• Design a potential program structure (e.g. coursework, admissions criteria, criteria for advancing to candidacy, etc.)