SLIS Ad Hoc Ph.D. Committee 2011-12
Final Report and Recommendations

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 2011-2012, the Ph.D. Committee was specifically requested to accomplish the following:

1. Continue to work on identifying university requirements for establishing a new Ph.D. program.

   **Outcome:** The committee concludes that funded research has a significant role in having a successful and sustainable Ph.D. program. This is also a major part of the university application for establishing new Ph.D. programs.

   **Recommendation:** Encourage faculty to engage in more funded research activities. This includes increasing awareness of external funding opportunities, encouraging faculty to compete for more external research grants, encouraging research collaborations with faculty internal and/or external, reviewing tenure and promotion policy to identify ways that the policy could better encourage and support funded research activity.

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

   - Conduct and analyze 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 (OU SLIS PhD World Café, August 8th, 2011)

   - Develop a formal system of collecting data from current students and alumni that pertains to local student demand

   **Outcome:** See World Café Report
   **Recommendations:** See World Café Report

3. Explore 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.

   **Outcome:** A questionnaire about faculty research interests was developed and sent to faculty. Based on faculty feedback, the committee started to identify sources of external funding at both the state and national levels.

   **Recommendation:** Continue to encourage faculty to engage in more funded research activities. The
committee needs to complete a compilation of external funding opportunities that are relevant to LIS at state and national levels.

4. Continues to evaluate comparable Ph.D. programs to identify key elements of a Ph.D. design

**Outcome:** The committee started this process, but it yet to complete it.

5. Provide recommendations for “branding” the SLIS Ph.D. program

**Outcome:** The committee concluded that published research would determine the “brand”.

6. 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.)

**Outcome:** The committee did not address this charge during 2011-12.

7. Design a potential program structure (e.g. coursework, admissions criteria, criteria for advancing to candidacy, etc.)

**Outcome:** The committee did not address this charge during 2011-12.

Suggested charges for next year:

- 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.)
- Complete a compilation of external funding opportunities that are relevant to LIS at state and national levels.