UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Annual Report, 2007-2008

Membership:
Susan Burke, Assistant Professor (Chair)
Myong-ho Yi, Assistant Professor
Stacy Zemke, Instructor
Tyler Wakefield, Student Representative fall term
Ryan Twining, Student Representative fall term
Summer Golden, Student Representative spring term

Academic year 2007-2008 action priorities as assigned by Committee A:

1. Develop and maintain a policy statement guiding decisions for BAIS program waivers and substitutions
2. Develop and maintain an undergraduate advising handbook, aligned with the responsibilities of faculty specifically assigned to the BAIS program
3. Review and revise the BAIS spring survey of students and the procedures for conducting the survey in order to gather full and useful data for BAIS program planning and review
4. Review OU undergraduate course offerings, seeking to identify interdisciplinary courses that would fulfill upper level program requirement
5. Review the revised VMGO in light of the Undergraduate Studies Committee’s responsibilities and make recommendations to the faculty for program improvement

Additional action priorities:

1. Recommend to the faculty a cap on the number of times an undergraduate student can repeat a class
2. Examine potential changes to the undergraduate internship

ACTIVITIES

1. The committee created a BAIS course substitution petition document that is available on the SLIS server.
2. The committee created a BAIS advising manual that is available on the SLIS server.
3. The committee created a new BAIS spring survey and administered it as a web survey.
4. Actions concerning courses:
   a. Undergraduate seniors are approved to enroll in LIS 5603 as a substitute for LIS 4003
   b. Undergraduate seniors are approved to enroll in LIS 5223 as a substitute for the courses listed in the “Leadership” area of the BAIS requirements
   c. Problem with undergraduates enrolling in master’s level courses that are not cross-listed is that the undergraduate students then have to pay the higher graduate
tuition. The faculty have responded that they do not see this as an issue except that students need to be informed of this prior to enrollment.

d. The committee reported to the faculty that the College of Arts and Sciences has three business-type minors that are available for our majors: Enterprise Studies, International Enterprise Studies, Nonprofit Organization Studies.

e. The International Baccalaureate Program course "Information Technology in a Global Society" was voted as a blanket substitution for LIS 2003.

f. As a result of some undergraduate students signing up for the same LIS courses many times and not completing the courses, the committee recommended to the faculty that students only be allowed to sign up for the same course two times. The faculty voted to limit course attempts by undergraduate students but has asked the committee to come up with a procedural document that addresses whether withdrawals count and other specific issues. When that document is created, the faculty will vote on number of attempts that they support.

g. The committee brought to the faculty the suggestion that undergraduates be allowed to do paid internships through the College of Arts and Sciences internship program. The faculty voted to allow this.

h. The committee suggested to the faculty some leadership courses offered by Liberal Studies. The faculty said these courses were examined several years ago and rejected as options. The faculty upheld that rejection at this time as well.

5. The committee proposed new BAIS objectives for the SLIS VMGO. While the SLIS VMGO were revised in 2007-2008, the program objectives were not revised in this academic year. It is recommended that the objectives proposed by this year’s committee be retained for future revision of the SLIS document. These objectives, initially written by the committee, were reviewed and edited by Dr. Lester and Dr. Latrobe. They are as edited:

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the cultural, social, political, and economic implications of the role and communication of information within and outside of the U.S.

2. Apply human-centered design processes to meet individual information needs in technologically intensive environments.

3. Analyze the information needs of organizations.

4. Use information architecture to coordinate design, technology, and business goals.

5. Implement and protect information systems and networks, using appropriate technological tools and processes, including programming, security protocols, and systems design. (Dr. Latrobe expressed concern about the wording “programming, security protocols, and systems design,” saying that it suggested that our students had more computer science-type background than they actually have)

6. Demonstrate understanding of information policy, information economics, and information ethics within the information professions.

7. Function in leadership and professional management roles in information environments.

8. Demonstrate critical thinking, professional writing, professional judgment, and analytical skills.