MIM Committee Report

December 1, 2015

Submitted by Tetyana Bezbabna

Attendees: Tetyana Bezbabna (MIM program Coordinator), Jeff Waters (Coordinator of Graduate Student Services), Kathy Weaver (MIM Program Director), Andrea Wiggins (Assistant Professor), Rohan Khadilkar (MIM Student Representative), Vanessa Frias-Martinez (Assistant Professor), Jessica Vitak (Assistant Professor, guest)

The MIM Committee met on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 to:

1. Overview the current state of the MIM program
    a) Spring registration
    b) Fall 2016 Admission Cycle
    c) MIM Curriculum Assessment
2. Discuss opportunities for the MIM
    a) Potential for collaboration with the UMBC Cybersecurity program

Spring Registration

The Spring 2016 registration has started. The MIM program coordinator has been meeting with individual MIM students to review and advise students on their course plans.

As of today, there are several MIM relevant courses with extensive waitlists (INFM 700 f-2-f *Information Architecture* **13 waitlisted people**, INFM 711 online *Financial Management* **10 people on the waitlist**, INST 728Q f-2-f *Visual Analytics* **24 people on the waitlist**, INST 733 online *Database Design* **29 people on the waitlist**, INST 737 f-2-2 *Digging into Data* **19 people on the waitlist**). Further discussions are needed to decide whether the program is able to offer additional sections of the aforementioned courses.

The MIM committee has agreed that there is a need for a thorough and more detailed course work/registration advising process for the incoming MIM students.

Action item: The MIM program Director, Coordinator, Student Advisor, and a committee Student Representative will be working together to build effective course plan advising strategies (i.e. the MIM

webpage that would provide the incoming MIM students with information necessary to build a well-organized program course plan, considering MIM core requirements, capstone courses, and courses relevant to individual MIM specializations including their necessary prerequisites).

Fall 2016 Applications

Fall 2016 admission cycle has started. The first MIM application deadline is December 15. The final MIM application deadline is January 15. As of November 30, there were 150 MIM in-progress applications (applications have been started, but are missing one or more of the required admission documents, such as TOEFL/GRE scores, recommendation letters, resume, etc.) and 67 MIM submitted applications (these applications are complete and all required admission documents are submitted).

The MIM program director, coordinator, and the student advisor discussed and confirmed fall 2016 MIM admission targets and the application review process.

MIM Curriculum Assessment

The MIM program director and coordinator have been working on developing the MIM curriculum assessment plan. Our main goal is making sure the MIM core courses (INFM 600, 603, 605, and 612) provide students with sufficient background and knowledge to succeed in advanced MIM courses.

The survey has been distributed among the iSchool instructors teaching the MIM advanced elective courses. The instructors were asked to list core technology skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the courses they teach. We were also interested in instructors' feedback regarding past student progress and success in their courses.

Action Item: the MIM program Director and Coordinator have been working together to collect and analyze survey results. The survey summary report will be presented to the committee at our next February meeting.

Potential for collaboration with the UMBC Cybersecurity program

The MIM Committee has reviewed potential collaborative opportunities of the MIM program with the UMBC Cybersecurity program offered at the Universities at Shady Grove campus: introducing the MIM Cybersecurity specialization. The Cybersecurity specialization would require students to complete four of the MIM core courses (INFM 600, 603, 605, and 612), the MIM capstone requirements (INFM 736 and 737), four of the MIM electives (TBD), and two of the UMBC cybersecurity courses. The UMBC courses would be transferred to the students MIM degree and counted as MIM electives. The cybersecurity specialization would cover the managerial (information security, privacy, assurance, people behavior) and technology (cybersecurity technologies, encrypting) aspects of the field.

The MIM committee debated whether the UMBC Cybersecurity coursework would be a good addition to the MIM program due to its high focus on technology (computer science related) aspects of cybersecurity, such as computer forensics, advanced computer security issues and practices, general computer topics. After thorough review of the UMBC courses, the committee decided that the MIM program will not offer the UMBC Cybersecurity as one of the MIM options.

The MIM program supports the iSchool's and university's efforts in realizing the massive scope of the cybersecurity subjects and integrating those into the programs research and curricula. Information security, which is a broader term and a super-set of cyber security, perfectly fits the MIM program's goals. Information security involves protecting information from unauthorized access, use, disruption, modification or destruction, regardless of whether the information is stored electronically or physically. The committee decided that the Information Security specialization will be a good addition to the MIM program; therefore, the committee members will be working on developing this specialization to be potentially offered to the MIM students.

Action item: the MIM program Director and Coordinator will work on developing the Information Security specialization course plan. The plan summary and course outline will be presented to the committee at our next February meeting.