MIM Committee Report

October 6, 2015

Submitted by Tetyana Bezbabna

Attendees: Tetyana Bezbabna (MIM program Coordinator), Jeff Waters (Coordinator of Graduate Student Services), Kathy Weaver (MIM Program Director), Ann Weeks (Associate Dean for Academic Programs), Andrea Wiggins (Assistant Professor), Jeff Waters (Coordinator of Graduate Student Services), Rohan Khadilkar (MIM student representative), Vedat Diker (Program Director, USG, guest)

The MIM Committee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 to:

1. Discuss the MIM program INFM 603 course requirement effectiveness and its alternatives
2. Review and vote on the following course changes:
   a. INST xxx Design Thinking – new course proposal for the MLS YX specialization
   b. INST xxx Promoting Rich Learning – new course proposal for the MLS YX specialization
   c. INST 728 V Data Visualization – conversion of special topics to permanent number
   d. INST xxx Visual Analytics – new course proposal
3. Get updates on MIM Fall 2015 events

1. Discuss the MIM program INFM 603 course requirement effectiveness and its alternatives

The MIM program has witnessed a significant decline in INFM 603 course enrollment over the last few years. The decline has been due to the fact that an increasing percentage of students come into the MIM program with sufficient IT educational and professional experience (programming languages and relational databases), allowing them to waive the INFM 603 core class requirement. This has resulted in small INFM 603 sections (Fall 2015 INFM 603 enrollment was 216 people for the CP section) and as a result, a higher per seat cost. However, there are still students who come into the MIM program without the sufficient IT experience, and they should be exposed to topics and skills covered in INFM 603 in order to prepare them for taking more advanced MIM technical courses.

The MIM Committee discussed the efficiency of having the INFM 603 core course mandatory requirement in the program, and reviewed an approach that would allow the program:

- To increase operational efficiency (specifically, avoid keeping the INFM 603 low enrollment sections),

- To offer incoming MIM students without IT background topics and skills covered in INFM 603, preparing them for more advanced MIM technical courses.

According to the discussed approach, the iSchool will develop and offer a MOOC that covers the topics and skills covered in INFM 603. The MOOC will not be a regular, for-credit course, but more of a pre-program boot camp. The MOOC will be open to anybody who is interested in studying the topics and developing the skills. At the same time, the MOOC will be required for the incoming MIM students. Incoming fall students would be required to complete the MOOC over the summer before their first semester in the program. The MOOC will consist of multiple modules, each covering topics included in INFM 603. Each module would end with a graded assignment. At the end of the MOOC, students would be awarded an e-certificate illustrating their completion of all MOOC modules (the average grade).

While the newly offered MOOC covers all topics discussed in INFM 603, INFM 603 can be redesigned to cover more advanced IT topics. The new INFM 603 would cover database design and information architecture topics and skills that are currently covered in INST 733 (Database Design) and INFM 700 (Information Architecture).

2. **Review and vote on the following course changes:**
The MIM Committee reviewed and voted on the following course changes:
- The MIM Committee approved the proposal for the new INST xxx Design Thinking course proposal for the MLS YX specialization;
- The MIM Committee approved the proposal for the new INST xxx Promoting Rich Learning course proposal for the MLS YX specialization;
- The MIM Committee approved the proposal to convert the earlier taught INST 728 V Data Visualization special topics course to a permanent number;
- The MIM Committee approved the proposal for the new INST xxx Visual Analytics course with a slight modification in the course prerequisites (INST 630 and INFM 603 were approved to be the new course prerequisites).

3. **Get updates on MIM Fall 2015 events**
The following are a list of MIM events that will ne held throughout the Fall 2015 semester:

- Data Analytics Specialization Day – October 10;
- MIM Curricular and courses information session – October 14;
- MIM and HCIM Internship & Networking Fair – October 16;
- Strategic Management specialization group advising – October 20;
- User Experience specialization group advising – October 27;

- Technology Development Specialization Day – November 14;
- MIM Listening Sessions – December 2.

Next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday November 3, 2015.