

Minutes: HCIM Committee Meeting

April 18, 2017, 10:00am - 11:30am, HBK 4113

Present Voting Members: N. Elmqvist(5/5), B. Kules (7/7), C. Holl-Jensen (7/7), J. Waters (7/7), L. Findlater (6/6), G. Vanderheiden (5/7),

Present Non-voting Members: L. Sarin (6/7), R. Marr (7/7), C. Boston (7/7)

Absent: B. Butler (0/7), M. Brescia (6/7)

1. Course Proposals + Changes
 - a. INST XXX - Open Source Intelligence
 - i. Action: New course proposal
 - ii. Vote: Yes: 6; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0; **Resolution passes**
 - b. INST 670 - Introduction to JavaScript
 - i. Action: Add restriction: "Permission of Info Studies"
 - ii. Vote: Yes: 6; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0; **Resolution passes**
 - c. INST 671 - Introduction to Web Programming
 - i. Action: Add restriction: "Permission of Info Studies"
 - ii. Vote: Yes: 6; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0; **Resolution passes**
2. Report: Current Student Survey
 - a. This survey was administered in January, 2017. Most of this feedback points to known issues the program has been trying to address for some time, but hopefully these results will further emphasize the importance of addressing these challenges, including:
 - i. Significant dissatisfaction with course offerings, including number of electives, number of sections of core courses, content and relevance to professional outcomes.
 1. The program needs more professional track faculty and more adjuncts to staff the courses we do offer.
 - ii. Overall, students seem fairly confident in their ability to find information about the program, and rated both the iSchool and HCIM website reasonably well.
 - iii. Students are relatively satisfied with communication from the program, though they continue to express concern about the volume of correspondence,
 - iv. Students wish faculty could be more responsive/available. It is possible to clarify when faculty are available? (For instance, a guide with faculty office hours?)
 - v. Students expressed interest in career-focus events, but tend to not show up to the events the program is already offering. While there are a variety of reasons for this, how can we mitigate this?
 1. Do students see a strong enough connection between events and their career goals?
 2. To be discussed in program development focus groups.
 3. Perhaps offering a 1-credit course where students are required to go to a certain number of events (such as talks from industry experts)?
3. Discussion: Fall 2017 Admissions
 - a. In terms of volume, HCIM is the only iSchool program that has increased number of applications this year; we currently have 33 enrolled students
 - b. In terms of process, clearer documentation about evaluation of applications is necessary, as is streamlining the reviewers' use of Hobsons. It's also important to consider the timing of the Graduate School's review of applications in our own processes.
 - c. As our deadlines are earlier than some other peer institutions, HCIM may want to consider moving the application deadline back to February 15.

- d. Toward a goal of more holistic review, the program may want to consider moving away from tests such as GRE as benchmarks. Refining the essay question to focus more on redesigning an interface is also necessary.
 - e. Other submission types (for instance, video) or the inclusion of interviews in our review process are interesting options, but not currently feasible for the program.
- 4. Update: Program self-study
 - a. Drafts of strategic overview and longitudinal data portions of self-study are complete; remaining sections (curriculum, program evaluation, and accomplishments and challenges) are in progress.
- 5. Update: Program development
 - a. Official announcement has been drafted; soliciting feedback before announcing.
 - b. Hiring for hourly position shortly.
- 6. Update: HCIM Project/Paper Award
 - a. Jenny Hottle has been awarded the 2017 HCIM Project/Paper Award.
 - b. It may be helpful to provide more detailed guidelines for evaluating projects.
- 7. Scheduling May Committee Meeting
 - a. Official date not set, but it will be the week of May 16th.