

HCIM Program Committee Meeting for April 2021

April 9, 2021
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Virtual meeting

Meeting called by:	Bill Kules	Type of meeting:	Monthly Committee Meeting
Facilitator:	Carol Boston	Note taker:	Emilia Azar
Timekeeper:	Carol Boston		

Attendees: Bill Kules (6 / 6), Carol Boston (6 / 6), Amy Asadi (6 / 6), Niklas Elmqvist (6 / 6), Ge Gao (6 / 6), Alex Leitch (6 / 6), Jeff Waters (6 / 6), Wayne Lutters (3 / 6), Dustin Smith (3 / 6)

Agenda and related documents [here](#)

Minutes of the Meeting:

Agenda item: (1:00) [For adoption] [March meeting minutes](#) **Presenter:** Bill Kules

Discussion: Minutes of the March meeting were adopted unanimously.

Agenda item: (1:05) Operational updates: Admitted Students Day (4/6), UXTerps Makeathon (4/2 and 4/3), leadership transition meetings, Commencement (programs encouraged to set up watch parties for grads and their families & friends) **Presenters:** Bill and Carol

Discussion:

- Bill attended Arif Kabir's thesis defense entitled ***Memorizing the Sacred in the Digital Age*** on the morning of April 9. The presentation went incredibly well.

Carol shared operational updates:

- The HCIM Admitted Students Day Zoom presentation on April 6 was well-attended, with around 75-80 attendees hearing program information and listening to the student panel.
 - Many students virtually sat in on both Bill and Alex's classes that day. Due to the high popularity, this is a great option to keep for future Admitted Students' Presentations.
 - About a dozen students have committed as of today by accepting their admissions with a \$300 nonrefundable deposit.
 - Between the accepted and previously deferred students, we anticipate a large class for Fall 2021. International students have until mid-May, and domestic students, until mid-June, to accept their offers.
- The UX Terps Makeathon on April 2 and April 3 was a success, featuring 14 teams and 3 challenges.

- Bill and Carol have had one meeting so far with incoming program leaders Alex and Wayne, and they will continue to meet through Spring semester for transition planning. Bill will draft an external announcement email about stepping down as director of the HCIM program and run it by Mia in Communications before sending out to students, faculty, and staff.
- [Updated based on subsequent information]: The campuswide commencement ceremony will be held in person in the outdoor stadium on May 21. The iSchool virtual commencement ceremony will be released on May 20 at 1 pm, with the reading of the names available at 1:30 pm.
 - HCIM student Malcolm Moore will be the iSchool masters-level commencement speaker.
 - Programs are encouraged to consider organizing watch parties.

Agenda item: (1:15) [For review and approval] Updates to HCIM **Presenter:** Jeff Waters
 application for Fall 2022-- review deadlines and requirements, including these suggested [new short-answer questions](#) (Jeff needs to convey changes to Graduate School by May 12)

Jeff introduced potential application changes:

- The Graduate School requires us to submit any changes to the Fall 2022 application by the middle of May.
- All international students outside the U.S. are currently required to send GRE scores. We also do not have an automatic GRE waiver for international students who have a U.S. undergraduate degree, but instead look at transcripts emailed individually by applicants prior to the application deadline, and grant a waiver to the vast majority.
 - Following a brief discussion about the value of the GRE requirement for international students as well as their waiver option, Bill asked that we table this discussion to focus on the short-term prompts.
 - Jeff, Emilia, and Carol will research a few other programs and present more information about how other programs handle GRE scores for their international students.
- The subcommittee working on application prompts shared their document with new supplemental application prompts.
 - Carol revised one question; the new wording was unanimously approved.
 - The five new [HCIM prompt application questions](#) were unanimously approved. Applicants will be required to answer three out of the five in applications for Fall 2022.

Conclusion:

Jeff will share the new prompts for the Fall 2022 supplementary application to the Graduate School.

Agenda (1:35) Updates from PLO subcommittee **Presenters:** Bill and Carol

- a. Ge/Niklas on [Research & Evaluation](#) (including Capstone) --Committee members, remember to comment in the doc on blue questions on p. 2
- b. Carol on [Professional Competencies](#) (UX Research Methods, HCIM Capstone/Thesis)

Discussion:

- Updates from the PLO Research & Evaluation subcommittee are as follows:
 - Carol shared that the small Spring 2021 section of INST 631: Foundation of HCI has required a research paper on classic HCIM-related literature, and the students seem to enjoy gaining more background knowledge about the field.
 - Niklas volunteered to synthesize the rest of the Research & Evaluation PLO.
 - Alex asked the Committee if we are offering enough quantitative methods course options within the iSchool.
 - Carol agreed that this might be a gap in the HCIM program, though students themselves distinguish between the industry track and the thesis track early on, with thesis students generally pursuing more quantitative courses, including INST 808.
 - Bill believes that the Committee should first clarify what the program is looking for, and then present an idea about a new quantitative course and the type of faculty member who could best teach it.
 - Carol and Bill agreed that a course description and a few learning outcomes would be the first step to eventually creating a new course.
 - Emilia and Carol will look for three or four course syllabi at peer or aspirational institutions to help guide development of a new quantitative methods course.
- Updates from the Professional Competencies subcommittee are as follows:
 - Carol is waiting on the undergraduates' PLO on presentation to incorporate directly into this document.

Agenda item: (1:50) [For review] Draft proposal to [move to 36 credits](#) **Presenters:** Carol and Amy

Discussion:

- Carol and Amy worked out a draft plan for turning HCIM into a 36-credit program.
 - The report includes three recommendations: increasing the credit requirement to 36 credits, requiring the Advanced Usability course, and requiring the Visual Design course.
 - Amy explained the rationale behind a recommended, full-time course sequence for the 36-credit program to be completed in two years.
 - Bill sees the proposed sequencing as a good starting point. Visual Design, UX Research Methods, and Interaction Design are three intensive courses, and the committee should continue to think through how to balance those within a student schedule.
 - Amy added that Visual Design and Advanced Usability use different skill-sets and could complement each other if someone took them at the same time.
 - Jeff indicated that making official changes to the number of credits could take as much as a year.
 - Bill will inquire at the next PCC meeting about the process and approval timeline for making such changes in the credit requirement.
 - Bill invited Committee feedback on these changes:
 - Jeff spoke in favor of changing HCIM to 36 credits. From the perspective of academic advising, this provides students with more flexibility.

- Niklas agreed with the 36-credit change, but asked if we should *require* two new courses or let students opt for more electives, since the HCIM program currently has limited options for students to specialize their degree through electives.
- Alex suggested the idea of introducing elective clusters to encourage specialization, and opening up conversation for cross-departmental collaboration.
- Amy agreed with the idea of clustering in the second year of the proposed full-time plan. A 36-credit HCIM program would open up the schedule for four electives.

Conclusion:

There is broad support for moving toward a 36-credit program. Bill will provide an update to the PCC on April 23 regarding this plan and inquire about next steps. The Committee can add any additional feedback for Carol and Amy directly to the report. Carol, Amy, and Dustin will meet to discuss a part-time sequence, and continue developing ideas for elective course clusters before the May Committee meeting.

Agenda item:	(2:10) [For discussion] Spring start option--following the ad hoc Spring start option offered in Spring 2021, do we want to formally adopt a Spring start option?	Presenter:	Bill Kules
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Discussion:

- Bill asked the Committee if they would like to consider a Spring start option for the program.
 - Alex observed that a Spring start adds different challenges than a Fall start. Bill clarified that there would still be an official cohort model for the Spring semester.
 - Jeff added that there's a time cost for allowing for a Spring start option. MLIS allows for both a Fall and Spring cohort, but they have a smaller number of applications than the HCIM program. The committee would need to review applications twice a year.
 - Bill added that we do not know how many other similar programs allow Spring starts. This is not a time-sensitive topic, so it can be discussed more at a later date and considered for Fall 2023 or later.

Agenda item:	(2:25) Review action items & wrap up	Presenter:	Bill, Carol, and Emilia
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Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> GRE research and discussion about GRE requirements for international applicants studying within the U.S.	Jeff, Carol, Emilia	May 7
<input type="checkbox"/> Research to find 3 or 4 course quantitative course syllabi at peer or aspirational institutions	Emilia/Carol	May 7
<input type="checkbox"/> Add elective clusters to 36-credits report and identify PT student pathway	Carol/Amy/Dustin	May 7
<input type="checkbox"/> Update PCC on HCIM plan for 36 credits	Bill	April 23

- ☐ Wrap up final draft of Research & Evaluation PLO Report

Niklas

May 7

- ☐ Update Professional Competencies report rubrics

Carol

May 7

Next Meeting: Friday, May 14, 2021, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
via Zoom

[Rolling agenda items](#) for future HCIM meetings