

HCIM Program Committee Meeting for October

October 11th, 2019

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

HBK 4115

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

Attendees: Voting members: Bill Kules (2 / 2), Carol Boston (2 / 2), Niklas Elmqvist (2 / 2), Ge Gao (2 / 2), Alex Leitch (2 / 2), Astha Khurana (2 / 2)*

Others: Jonathan Lazar (Presenter), Kate Izsak (Academic Programs), Dustin Smith (HCIM Advisor), Amy Asadi (Program GA/Note Taker)

*Denotes number of meetings voting members attended in 2019-20.

Agenda and related documents [here](#)

Minutes of the Meeting:

Agenda item: (1:00) Approval of [September Meeting Minutes](#)

Presenter: Bill Kules

Discussion: The minutes of the September meeting were adopted by unanimous vote.

APPROVED: Vote: **5** voted yes, **0** no, **0** abstain

Agenda item: (1:05) Program Updates

Presenter: Bill Kules

Discussion:

- ISchool Open House
 - About 20 prospective students attended the iSchool Open House on Oct 8th, about a quarter from the InfoSci program.
 - Several stayed for Capstone course; two attended Data Visualization.
- Returning Intern Feedback
 - Carol collected program feedback from 2nd year HCIM students regarding their internship experiences. They identified strength areas of the program as: curriculum covering UX design process and contextual inquiry; project-based assignments resulting in portfolio pieces; visual design course and tools covered; and presentation practice.
 - They identified program improvement areas/personal needs as: further focus on prototyping & motion design, card sorting & other research methods, and agile development; more portfolio and app critique opportunities; wishlist for a Career Fair as large as Computer Science's
 - Results suggest the potential switching of 710 and 711, so that students have solid interaction design skills and pieces by the time they interview for summer internships.

- Fall 2020 Admission Targets
 - Originally intended to aim for an incoming class of a total of 40-45 students (both FT and PT) for Fall 2020.
 - Brian has suggested that 50-60 is the better target, which will prompt offering 2 sections of each core course.
 - Three-year part-time plan could make the program increasingly attractive to working professionals in the DC area.
- Graduate Advising
 - Dustin is now fully acclimated as the new HCIM Graduate Advisor

Agenda item: (1:15) [For discussion and possible approval] **Presenter:** Jonathan Lazar
Accessibility Specialization - See [program research slides](#) as a refresher

Discussion:

Jonathan presented a draft proposal for curriculum and course sequencing of an accessibility specialization (including input from Hernissa Kacorri and Amanda Lazar).

- Recommended course sequence:
 - Introduction to Accessibility
 - INST 704 - Assistive Technology Building
 - Disability Rights/Studies (Possible psychology component)
 - Accessibility in either government, education, libraries (potentially INST622 for libraries focus)
 - Field experience component or capstone with accessibility focus
- Based on discussion, first two courses could be required, while students could choose between 3rd and 4th course option, resulting in a 4-course specialization (since HCIM has 6 required courses).
- Capstone may not be quite the right model unless a substantial client project is found; however field experience could be valuable.

Conclusions:

Jonathan will reconvene with colleagues for input and will create full proposal. Committee members will provide any additional feedback to Jonathan before the final presentation of a proposal expected to be adopted at the December meeting.

Agenda item: (1:40) [For discussion and possible approval] **Presenter:** Niklas Elmquist
Game Design [proposal](#) and [draft syllabus](#) (INST 728 special topics in spring, 2020)

Discussion:

Niklas presented an overview of the INST 728 Special Topics: Game Design course for review and approval. Course would be in an in-person, 3-credit elective focused on game design as it applies to both physical and digital games. Course would be open to graduate students only and require no prerequisites or prior programming experiences.

Conclusions:

Committee members will provide any feedback to Niklas in the next two weeks. A finalized course plan will be reviewed for possible approval at the November meeting. Course will be available for spring registration.

Agenda item: (1:55) [For discussion] Preliminary work of subcommittees **Presenter:** Subcommittee members

Discussion:

Subcommittee members presented preliminary suggestions for redesign of courses INST702 and INST711, as well as the application review process.

[INST 702 Advanced Usability Course Review](#) - Niklas Elmqvist, Carol Boston

Suggestions include: adding topics such as card sorting and tools such as UserZoom; adding discussion of usability in agile environments; and including a focus on analytics as a tool to understand usability. New instructor could assist subcommittee with final redesign.

[INST711 - Interaction Design Studio Course Review](#) - Bill Kules, Alex Leitch, Astha Khurana

Suggestions include: creating more emphasis on ideation, interaction designer, design grammars, dark patterns, motion design and microinteractions and less emphasis on user research. It's suggested that students learn design tools outside of class. Mac systems are industry standard and may in future be required for students as a prerequisite to the program.

[Application Review Streamlining](#) - Carol Boston, Ge Gao, Jeff Waters

Suggestions include: Tightening up the ratings scale from 10 points to 6; adopting a new system that would have each committee member review all applications in one particular area only. This approach may provide more focus and reliability in differentiating each candidate. It's important to continue to be mindful of social factors and under represented populations.

Conclusions:

Committee members will provide feedback to each subcommittee in the next two weeks to be included in reports presented at the November meeting.

Agenda item: (2:20) Set dates for November meeting (see [poll](#)) and January "Calibration" meeting.

New November Meeting date is November 15th. January calibration meeting will be required to start reviewing applications.

Agenda item: (1:20) Review action items & wrap up

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan will consult with colleagues and prepare a full proposal for an accessibility specialization, including courses, course sequencing, and potential prerequisites, for discussion at the Dec. meeting.	Jonathan Lazar	December 13th, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> INST 728 Special Topics Game Design Proposal All committee members will review the course proposal and syllabus and provide Niklas with feedback.	All	October 25, 2019
After feedback, Niklas will submit a final course plan for the November 15 meeting.	Niklas Elmqvist	November 8, 2019
Kate will schedule the course for registration.	Kate Izsak	November 3, 2019

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| <p>❑ INST 702 Advanced Usability Redesign
 All committee members will share their recommendations for the course.</p> | <p>All</p> | <p>October 25, 2019</p> |
| <p>Carol will reach out to identified potential instructors for the Spring 2020 offering.</p> | <p>Carol Boston</p> | <p>November 3, 2019</p> |
| <p>Carol and Niklas will continue to seek additional feedback on syllabus topics from industry professionals and incorporate in the report for the November meeting.</p> | <p>Carol Boston, Niklas Elmqvist</p> | <p>November 8, 2019</p> |
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| <p>❑ INST 711 Interaction Design Course Review
 All committee members will share their recommendations for the course.</p> | <p>All</p> | <p>October 25, 2019</p> |
| <p>Subcommittee members will prioritize topics, address feasibility, and capture positive feedback about course to keep in the redesign for the report for the November meeting.</p> | <p>Bill Kules, Alex Leitch, Astha Khurana</p> | <p>November 8, 2019</p> |
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| <p>❑ Streamlining Application Review Process:
 Carol and Jeff will review a last year's processes.</p> | <p>Carol and Jeff</p> | <p>October 25, 2019</p> |
| <p>The subcommittee will provide specific workflows for the discussion for the November meeting.</p> | <p>Geo Gao, Carol Boston, Jeff Waters</p> | <p>November 8, 2019</p> |