

HCIM Program Committee Meeting for September

September 13, 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 (1 / 1), Carol Boston (1 / 1), Niklas Elmqvist (1 / 1), Ge Gao (1 / 1), Alex Leitch (1 / 1), Astha Khurana (1 / 1)*

Others: Dean Keith Marzullo (Presenter), Hayleigh Moore (Presenter), 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) Introductions and Welcome to New Members

Presenter: Bill Kules

Bill Kules, Program Director and Committee Chair, welcomed all attendees, including new voting members Geo Gao and Alex Leitch as well as returning members Niklas Elmqvist, Astha Khurana, and Carol Boston.

Discussion:

Recap of 2018-19 Highlights

- Launched two new courses: INST 711 Interaction Design Studio and INST 728T Visual Design
- Approved subcommittee report on improving electives (including through new 1-credits)
- Approved subcommittee report on PT student pathways (including improved course sequencing and variants on the Capstone)
- Revised admissions process to use a more holistic review process to ensure a more balanced cohort. The outcome was a more diverse cohort with skill sets from technology, art/design, and the social sciences.
- Strengthened industry partnerships (more industry partners working with Capstone students, teaching classes, presenting at Tech Talks; co-sponsorship of a reverse career fair, participation in design challenges).
- Supported the student organization, UX Terps, as they launched last year. Students put together opportunities for design challenges, speaker presentations, and in-house workshops (e.g., sketching). UX Terps also organized a makeathon at the HCIL symposium.
- Introduced an HTML/CSS basics course online this summer for people who wanted to ease their way into the INST630.
- Oversaw program research in the areas of accessibility and job requirements conducted by summer GA Hayleigh Moore.
- Drafted a 3 year part-time course sequence (Carol & Bill) that will continue to be refined.

Agenda item: (1:05) Dean's charge to the committee

Presenter: Dean Keith Marzullo

Discussion:

Dean Keith Marzullo welcomed the committee to the new academic year and acknowledged the efforts of the previous year's committee in continuing to revise the HCIM program. One of his governance goals for all program committees this year is to ensure that minutes are easily accessible, so that everyone can stay up-to-date. He spoke briefly about the iSchool's growth trajectory and encouraged the committee and program to both continue to achieve and to celebrate program successes publicly.

Agenda item: (1:15) Establishing committee objectives and [priorities for the year](#) (all) For reference: [2018-19 workplan and outcomes](#)

Presenter: Bill Kules

Discussion:

Bill presented an overview of 5 proposed high-level goals for committee consideration:

- **Review 711 Interaction Design Studio**
Based on preliminary instructor and student feedback, this course could benefit from introducing more focus on microinteractions and reducing overlap with other core courses.
- **Review 702 Advanced Usability Testing**
Based on preliminary instructor and student feedback, this course could benefit from content updates covering current practices in quantitative methods and an additional focus on remote usability.
- **Accessibility Specialization**
One initiative is to develop accessibility offerings by creating a specialization that includes four to five courses that focus on accessibility.
- **Outcomes Assessment and Planning Processes**
We intend to carry out data collection on program outcomes to help formulate our priorities for the next year.
- **Expanding 1-credits and Developing 638 Professional Practice**
Continue to invite instructors to teach 1-credit courses on special topics and further develop 638 Professional Practice course as necessary.
- **Admissions**
Resume the holistic review process initiated last year and incorporate ways to streamline the process. Our goal now is to continue with the holistic nature but find ways to streamline the process. Last year we received 361 applications. We extended 110 offers and admitted 34 candidates. Our acceptance rate is 33%. 7 out of the 34 first-year students who just started the program are working professionals.

Conclusions:

Following discussion, the committee agreed to tackle three items for fall: course reviews of INST 711 and 702 and the streamlining of admissions processes. Subcommittees were proposed as follows:

- INST 711 review: *Bill Kules, Alex Leitch, Astha Khurana*
- INST 702 review: *Niklas Elmqvist, Carol Boston*
- Streamlining Application Review Process: *Ge Gao, Carol Boston, Jeff Waters, Dustin Smith*

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

Agenda item: (1:45) [For adoption] [May 2019 Committee Minutes](#) **Presenter:** Carol Boston

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

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

Agenda item: (1:50) [For discussion and possible approval] [Three-year part-time plan](#) **Presenter:** Bill Kules

Discussion:

Bill presented the Three-Year PT Plan for committee consideration. This course sequence was drafted with the intention of identifying one clear path for part-time students to finish in 3 years, largely at the rate of one class per session, including summers and winters. Capstone course restructuring may also be required to accommodate PT schedules.

The Three-Year Part-Time Plan was adopted by unanimous vote.

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

Agenda item: (1:10) [For discussion] Report on summer program research on programming and accessibility requirements in UX job descriptions **Presenter:** Hayleigh Moore

Discussion:

Summer research assistant Hayleigh Moore presented her research findings on programming and accessibility requirements in UX job descriptions. Of particular note:

- Research outcomes based on reviews of 150 user research, design, and front-end development position descriptions under the broad rubric of UX show a demand for programming skills (HTML/CSS/JS), quantitative research methods, knowledge of agile methodology, and design tools (Sketch, InVision, etc.)
- Program reviews of institutions regionally and nationally indicated that they show elements of accessibility through courses and initiatives. However, UMD would be the first institution to offer an accessibility specialization within UX if brought to fruition. Jonathan Lazar will attend the October Committee meeting to discuss what such a curriculum might look like in more detail.

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

The three subcommittees will report on progress at the October 11 HCIM Committee meeting, with the goal of having final reports available at the November or December meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> INST 711 Interaction Design Studio review: Subcommittee members will provide revised course draft. Next Step: Bill will convene INST 711 review subcommittee meeting to go over existing course feedback.	Bill Kules, Alex Leitch, Astha Khurana	October 11, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> INST 702 Advanced Usability review: Subcommittee members will provide revised course draft. Next Step: Carol will ping Niklas to review existing data after CHI deadline.	Niklas Emqvist, Carol Boston	October 11, 2019

- Streamlining Application Review Process: *Ge Gao, Carol Boston, Jeff Waters, Dustin Smith*; **Next step:** Carol and Jeff will huddle to review last year's processes and then convene a meeting for the full subcommittee.

Ge Gao, Carol Boston,
Jeff Waters, Dustin Smith

October 11, 2019