HCIM Program Committee Meeting for March

Meeting called by:	Wayne Lutters	Type of meeting:	Monthly Committee Meeting
Facilitator:	Alex Leitch	Note taker:	Emilia Azar
Timekeeper:	Alex Leitch		

Attendees:

Voting members: Wayne Lutters (5 / 5), Alex Leitch (4 / 5), Pam Duffy (5 / 5), Ruiqi Li (3 / 3), Amanda Lazar (5/ 5), Bill Kules (5 / 5), Carol Boston (5 / 5), Jeff Waters

Others in attendance: Emilia Azar (5 /5), Dustin Smith (4 / 5),

Agenda and related documents here

Minutes of the Meeting:

Agenda item:	1. (11:30) Operational Updates a. First-year Capstone, Thesis, Fall Registration info session on 3/8 b. Upcoming Admitted Students events on 3/29 (in person) and 3/30 (virtual) c. UXTerps Makeathon slated for April 29-30	**Presenters:**	Wayne Lutters, Alex Leitch, and Carol Boston

Discussion

- We are officially done with admissions for Fall 2022 and aim for a class of 60. All recommendations have been sent to the Graduate School for final approval and notification.
- About 50 first-year students attended a Zoom event regarding choosing a capstone or thesis for next year since Spring registration will open at the end of the month. Several second-year students appeared on a panel sharing their experiences.
- Committee members are invited to attend upcoming Admitted Students events on 3/29 (in person) and 3/30 (virtual). The in-person event runs from 4:15-6 p.m.; the Zoom event will occur from 8-9:15 a.m. to accommodate students across the world. Both events will feature student panelists.
- The 4th annual UXTerps Makeathon will be held April 29-30, with an expected 3 design challenges plus sessions and speakers.

Agenda item:	2. (11:35) [For adoption] - December minutes	**Presenter:**	Wayne Lutters

Discussion:

The December meeting minutes were adopted unanimously.

Agenda item:	3. (11:40) Debrief the admissions process–ideas for future recruiting, including PT students	**Presenter:**	Wayne Lutters

Discussion:

- As noted, the anticipated Fall 2022 incoming class size is about 60 students. A working fall schedule has been created to accommodate them and the approximately 70 returning students: Fall 2022 schedule. While there is a pathway for part-time students to attend the program, that has not been given much emphasis this year and the majority of students appear interested in full-time attendance.
- We will potentially need four capstone courses to address need next year.
- We are working on focus areas within the degree, including accessibility.

Agenda item:	4. (11:55) [For review, discussion, approval] Course proposals
	
	    i. Dan's Futures of Work (special topics)
	    ii. Amanda's Design with older people (special topics)
	    iii. Potential thesis companion 1-credit or some other support structure (including reflections from December and March student info sessions); scaling issues
		Presenters:	Wayne Lutters, Amanda Lazar

Discussion:

- The Futures of Work course, a new elective taught by Dan Greene, will function both as a seminar-style discussion for PhD and research-focused HCIM students, and have a hands-on component to meet the needs of industry-minded HCIM students. It will explore novel technological developments in diverse business and social contexts. Following brief discussion, it was approved unanimously.
- Amanda Lazar presented her new specialized elective course to help students to learn the basics of designing for our older population - a growing market. This is currently a pilot course for the accessibility focus area. Following discussion of refining one learning objective, the course was approved unanimously.
- We are working on the collection of 1-credits for next year. A potential new one will focus on providing more support to our thesis students, such as a weekly meetings on topics such as creating a literature review, managing a committee and advisor, managing time on a large project, etc. This would also serve as a social support network. A potential issue would be whether this would be affordable and accessible to all thesis writers.

Agenda item:	4. (12:25) Subcommittee re-engagement/re-ignition: Share/refresh us on the facts and impressions you've gathered to date	**Presenters:**	Amanda Lazar, Carol Boston, Wayne Lutters

Discussion:

[INST 630: Intro to Programming](#)
- Amanda noted that the instructors she interviewed believe the course is going better than the students themselves find it.
  - One alum offered that the basics were helpful, but there was no tie into visually appealing aesthetics. There were no projects that could be put into an HCI/UX portfolio.
- Pam has spoken to four current students and Dustin with the following takeaways:
  - The current course does not feel relevant to HCIM, or integrative. Additionally, different sections of the course have drastically different experiences. Some students feel the course feels superficial.
  - Students suggested having tutoring available; there was anxiety and stress tied to keeping up in the course, as coding is time-consuming, particularly for novices.

[INST 710/711 Sequencing](#)
- Carol shared that now that all first-year students have had a chance to experience a good portion of 710/711, regardless of how sequenced, a survey of their experience will be fielded before Spring Break.
- Regarding instructor insights related to course sequencing, Wayne noticed more probing questions and a comfort level with a culture of critique from students who started in INST 711 in Fall and were in his INST 710 in the Spring. Alex believes those who began with INST 710 in the Fall and took INST 711 in the Spring have had fewer challenges within the course and have demonstrated more of a willingness to commit. They cannot tell if that is a direct result of having taken 710 beforehand, or simply acculturation to graduate work.

[INST 775/76 Capstone](#)
- Victoria was not able to attend this month's meeting, so she will update the Committee in April.

The April 8 meeting will also include time for in-meeting co-design based on what has been learned from all three subcommittee efforts. At the May 13 meeting, subcommittees will be asked to share the recommendations in their final reports, and the program team will look to implement them starting in summer (e.g., syllabus updates, planning for schedule changes).

[Coming attractions](#) for future HCIM meetings
Next meeting: Friday, April 8, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.