

MLS Committee Actionable Projects

Committee Charge & Actionable Projects

- The Committee was given a charge to create and oversee five or more actionable projects for the 2015-2016 academic year. The actionable projects are:

- 1) **YX Specialization** – Shepherding the specialization through University approvals and actively recruiting new students.
 - i. The YX specialization was approved by the University and specialization faculty Mega Subramaniam and Tammy Clegg received an IMLS grant to create a professional certificate based on the coursework for the specialization.
 - ii. Mega and Lindsay presented on this specialization at the ALA Midwinter meeting in January 2016. There was clear interest in having this specialization and especially or professional education in this area.
 - iii. The specialization admitted 8 students for Fall 2016.
 - iv. Program staff, the recruitment coordinator, communications coordinator and others are crafting a strategy for promoting YX extensively for 2017-2018.

- 2) **Diversity and Inclusion** – Continuing to build the Program and College’s reputation as leaders in diversity and inclusion with initiatives including:
 - i. CIDLIS – The 2015 Conference on Inclusion and Diversity in Library & Information Science.
 1. CIDLIS was held and was the best attended to date.
 2. The 2016 conference is scheduled for October 20-21, 2016. There is funding for this conference, however, Paul and Larry are working to recruit for additional funding.
 3. Yale University and others have expressed interest in sponsoring.
 - ii. A grant proposal with the University Libraries and iSchool liaison – Tahirah Akbar-William, to create a summer institute with underrepresented high school students, primarily from lower socioeconomic positions, to give them a “mini-college experience.”

The Proposal was received and it was determined that as it stood the proposal was not at a point where we could formally partner. We are helping to promote a scaled down version of this concept occurring in July 2016. If proof of concept is demonstrated by the summer institute, we may partner in future years.
 - iii. Continued development of diversity recruitment strategies. The MLS Program used the National Name Exchange registry to encourage students of color to come to the iSchool.

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We participated in an employee fair at DC Public Libraries.

- 3) **Re-Envisioning the MLS** – The Re-Envisioning the MLS initiative covers entire scope of the 2015-2016 Charge. The next year of Re-Envisioning the MLS will bring:
- i. Projects focused around developing new curriculum, promoting conferences through presentations, and many others. We will also recommend that the Re-Envisioning project could be incorporated into the November State of the College.

Re-envisioning was incorporated into the State of the College.

- ii. The program will work with communications staff in the College to build out web content and recruitment materials that are not text-based including a video series featuring current students and alumni talking about their experiences at the iSchool.

An MLS video was created and is posted on the College YouTube.

We will be working with the Recruitment Coordinator over the summer to craft a full recruitment strategy.

- iii. The MLS program will develop a new model of the program that emphasizes four cornerstones. This model will be used to reframe program marketing as well as course content. Reframing the program this way will help make the strengths and purpose of the program clear to outsiders. The cornerstones are:
 1. Archives & Digital Curation
 2. Leadership & Advocacy
 3. Rights & Justice
 4. Youth

This project is being held until the new iSchool Website iFrames are available, so that we can best incorporate it into the new design. This will be a high priority project for the new MLS Program Coordinator.

- 4) **Establishing Career Focus:** which is an evolution of the MLS program's job workshop series that has been around for several years and offers students a variety of professional development events both online and in-person. The program will also work with faculty in Core classes in an effort to better integrate Career Focus and other professional development activities into course curriculum. (A dedicated career-focused staff member within Student Services would provide excellent career advice for students and alumni, and provide the iSchool with an incredibly valuable selling point for prospective students.)

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This program was truly established this year and hosted the following events:

- i. What's in a Linked Profile with Dennis Nangle
- ii. Internship and Networking Fairs (Fall & Spring)
- iii. Job Panel: Information Professionals in the Federal Government
- iv. Handling Job Offers and Negotiating Salary
- v. Job Panel: Working in a Special Library
- vi. So You Want to Apply for a Fulbright
- vii. Job Panel: Public Libraries
- viii. Presidential Management Fellows Information Session
- ix. Resume and Interview Workshop
- x. Planning your Job Search
- xi. Job Panel: Archives

The Program conducted surveys after each event and is compiling the results. These will be reviewed over the summer to aid in the planning for next year's programming. The MLS program will focus combining efforts with other degree programs to make Career Focus programming a college-wide effort.

- 5) **Core courses** will be aligned with these cornerstones and updated to reflect the core values and competencies identified during the re-envisioning process.
 - The Committee is recommending that this be taken up in 2016-2017.
 - LBSC631 is the course that will likely require the most work.

- 6) **Program name change**

As outlined above the MLS program will update the program name to better reflect industry standards.

MLIS Program name was approved by MHEC. The Program is working with the Office of the Registrar to examine implications and create a roll-out plan.

- 7) **Portfolio requirement**

Program staff and the Advisory Board will develop a required "portfolio" that students will build as they progress through the program to use for marketing themselves to future careers after graduation.

A draft of portfolio assignment was created and reviewed by the MLS Program Committee. We recommend creating an implementation plan in

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2016-2017. The Committee will approach other programs to see if they are interested in creating a similar requirement.

8) Field Study changes

The two field study courses (LBSC 707 and LBSC 703) will be consolidated into a single course. This would be in line with the MLS Core, which also offers the same courses regardless of specialization.

This syllabus is currently drafted. It will be left for the MLS Committee's review at the first meeting in Fall 2016.