

# HCIM Program Committee Meeting for December

December 14, 2018

1:00PM – 2:30 PM

HBK 4115

<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Bill Kules	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	Monthly Committee Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Carol Boston	<b>Note taker:</b>	Lacey Arevalo Sabado
<b>Timekeeper:</b>	Carol Boston		

**Present:** Bill Kules (4/4), Carol Boston (4/4), Joel Chan (4/4), Tamara Clegg (3/4), Niklas Elmqvist (4/4), Kate Izsak (2/4), Astha Khurana (2/3), Jeff Waters (3/3)

**Absent:** Eun Kyoung Choe (3/4)

## *Minutes of the Meeting:*

**Agenda item:** Approval of minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were adopted – **8 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes**

**Agenda item:** Program Updates (Operations)

**Presenter:** Bill Kules

### **Discussion:**

- **Monday Tech Talks:** Speakers are being lined up in preparation for Spring semester.
- **1-credit courses:** Offering more than one 1-credit courses is more strategic than offering a single 1-credit course because it allows international students to enroll in two 3-credit courses and two 1-credit courses to be considered full-time. Target is to have a robust suite of up to 5 one-credits, including lean UX and a course built around Tech Talks, for Fall 2019.
- **Visual Design:** Full class in Spring; to be taught by Justin Miller, now of Huge.
- **Reverse Career Fair:** In conjunction with the Visual Arts undergrad program, HCIM will sponsor this on March 28 to allow students to show their portfolios to circulating employers. One concern is that there might be limited employers who have capability to sponsor international students.
- **Web sites for HCIM student portfolios:** A comparative analysis of the websites of other HCI-related programs was done and Lacey is working on a design concept to highlight HCIM students on the hcm.umd.edu website. The University is also investing in an e-portfolio program that is being piloted in the InfoSci program. The UX Research methods class also evaluated the hcm.umd.edu website and provided useful suggestions for improvement.
- **UXTerps:** The newly chartered student group held 6 UX Studios in Fall tackling topics like sketching, portfolio development, and interviews. The organization is planning to organize a Makeathon (UX version of a Hackathon) and hold it during the iConference. Niklas already approved this.

### **Action items**

### **Person responsible**

### **Deadline**

- ☐ Share hcm.umd.edu website feedback from UX Research Methods
- ☐ Send Lacey the iConference HCIL symposium info

Carol  
Niklas

January 22, 2019  
January 22, 2019

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	Review and approve the new <a href="#">Application Review process</a> for incoming 2019 cohort	<b>Presenter:</b>	Bill Kules
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**Discussion:**

- 20 applications have been submitted to date; 160 are in progress.
- In the new approach, Jeff will take one pass through all completed applications to remove students whom the Grad School will not admit based on GRE/TOEFL cut-offs and compile the rest on a spreadsheet for the 6 reviewers.
- One reviewer will read and rate every application holistically, then turn their findings to a quantitative measure. Applicants will be evaluated according to technical, design, and social science strengths. The committee also discussed non-cognitive factors (self-management, persistence) that could contribute to applicant success, as well the desire to have a demographically diverse cohort.
- Reviewers will work together to calibrate their ratings and finalize the criteria by working through a small number of applications together in January and then dividing up the remainder of applications for individual scoring. Once scores have been compiled and the top 120 candidates have been identified (40 in each of the three skill categories), reviewers will look at applicants on either side of the Top 120 border to again validate the ratings process and Jeff will provide an aggregate check on diversity (including race, gender, country of origin).
- During the calibration process, reviewers will give further attention to important questions such as, *Are we looking only for "depth" candidates, or also for breadth candidates? How do we weigh academic experience against work experience? Is diversity a property of individuals or of the entire cohort?* The rating instrument is expected to be adjusted during the initial calibration meeting as specific cases are considered.
- It will be helpful to reiterate on the KSA feature of the ratings instrument prior to the meeting.

**Conclusions:**

- Vote to use the new application review process for 2019 admissions and iterate on the instrument during the calibration meeting for application readers in January: **APPROVED - 6 Yes Votes, 0 No votes**
- Timeline: Before the regular March 8 HCIM Committee meeting, the 6 people doing admissions will look at candidates on margins (5-6 sample apps) together again. At the March 8 meeting, we will review marginal cases/edge cases and consider overall cohort diversity, adjusting admission recommendations as necessary.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> Send notes from holistic admissions practices meeting before the calibration meeting.	Carol	Jan 15, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize calibration sheet (add details to categories etc.)	Bill and Carol	Jan 15, 2019

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	HCIM Subcommittee Reports	<b>Presenter:</b>	Various
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**Discussions:**

**INST 717: Internship course review - Niklas ([report updated](#))**

- As a result of a review of other HCI programs and student feedback, and in light of the industry experience now available to students through Capstones, the final recommendation of the course review is to make the internship practicum course an elective.
- The Committee identified five key elements toward fully enacting the recommendation in 2020:
  - \*Complete university processes to drop the internship as a required program element.
  - \*Create a database to help students start their internship search (but emphasize that finding an internship remains a student's responsibility).
  - \*Communicate with first-year students early in the year about the importance of internships and provide support for them (perhaps a 1-credit course?).

\*Focus on Winter and Summer electives to address revenue implications.

\*Determine whether the new program structure should be 18 required credits (INST 630, INST 631, INST 701/710), INST 711 plus two semesters of Capstone or Thesis) and 12 credits of electives or whether an additional required course should be identified.

- Removing INST 717 as a required course in the HCIM program will require time to go through the university process. As long as it is approved by PCC in May 2019, it can become officially effective for Summer of 2020. In the meantime, we should asterisk this on any course material sent to incoming students and consider a more liberal waiver policy for this year's students.

#### **INST 630: Programming course review - Joel (summary report [here](#) and draft syllabus [here](#))**

- The course review drew on data from last year's visioning process as well as course evaluations, student interviews, and analysis of position announcements. However, no employers were directly interviewed.
- INST 630 as currently constituted doesn't serve either complete novices or people with some level of programming experience well, and it is a continuing challenge to try to teach to both groups in the same course. Further, it isn't particularly suited for those working in UX research or design. Therefore, the recommendation is to either remove it as a core requirement, or retool it to make it better focus on UX design-relevant assignments. We may need two courses: one that is truly for beginners which provides more support for students coming in without any HTML/CSS background or experience, and an elective that is more advanced (React/Angular frameworks?).
- Kate suggested that some kind of test could be administered to determine whether people who are self-taught programmers have learned the basics covered in the retooled beginning course.

#### **Improving electives - Eun Kyoung ([report updated](#))**

- Jeff sent poll to students. 26 responded. They expressed a desire for classes in:
  - Game design/ interactive fiction
  - VR / AR
  - Lean UX
  - User psychology
  - Visual/graphic design
- Question about cybersecurity—Bill says it is important, even though doesn't rank highly.
- We already have a course on design with/for youth—Tammy would like to offer this too.
- Physical/tangible computing might be taught by (new faculty member PENG??) in the Spring but it will be hard for our students to get into since it will be a CS course.
- It is valuable to see what students want, and these preferences need to be combined with the Committee's assessment of what they need.

#### **Undergraduate HCI/UX update - Tammy ([report updated](#))**

- There are several opportunities for working with the undergraduate InfoSci program and other students such as those enrolled in Design, Culture and Creativity (50 freshman and sophomores per year who are not specifically connected to InfoSci). For example, the iSchool could send one person to teach in DCC each term.
- InfoSci is exploring ideas for an HCI specialization and proposes a soft launch of 5 courses with limited enrollment. Are there courses in HCIM that can be mirrored in the graduate and undergraduate programs? What is the potential for a 4 + 1 program in HCIM? Is there a quick way for them to learn HTML/CSS before they start the specialization?

#### **Conclusions:**

- Vote on recommendation to drop INST 717: HCI Internship Practicum as a required course – **APPROVED - 5 Yes votes; 0 No votes**
- Vote on recommendation to retool INST630 to serve programming novices – **APPROVED - 5 Yes votes; 0 No votes**

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> Work with INST 630 instructor on course revision and explore waiver options for INST 717	Bill and Carol	ongoing

### ***Other Items:***

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Due to time limitations, the following December agenda items will be moved to the February meeting:

- Discussion of sequencing of INST 710 and INST 711 for 2019-20.
- Review of HCIM Committee priorities for Spring semester

The HCIM app review calibration meeting will be set for January for the 6 readers; regular HCIM Committee meetings for Spring semester will resume on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in HBK 4115 starting in February.