

MLIS Program Committee
October 3, 2018

In attendance:

Ken Heger, Ursula Gorham, Loretta Spangler, Caroline Drogin, Suzy Wilson, Kate Izsak,
Renee Hill, Paul Jaeger

AGENDA

1. Update on new MLIS Manager (Ursula and Paul)
 - a. Ursula: Hired Morgan Adle! Unanimous favorite of everyone who met her. She will begin on October 15. She will be moving back to the States from South Korea next week. In terms of transition, we don't have a plan. Her office will be across from the Quiet Room.
 - b. Jeff: Next week we should chat about an onboarding schedule.
 - c. Ursula: What is typically involved?
 - d. Jeff: Not sure how much should be UMD orientation, iSchool orientation, MLIS orientation. Let's talk next week about how we're going to do that.
 - e. Erin: I set up a 2 day onboarding schedule for Michelle and I'm happy to set that up. Morgan has already reached out to me.

2. Update on accreditation (Paul)
 - a. Paul: We have a chair of the evaluation committee. At some point, we will be sending the dates that we will have a site visit. Sometime in February or March 2020. I am pushing for as big a committee as possible. Right now the main thing I'm working on is a plan for the plan - all the things we will have to get data for, all the things we have data for, all of the resources we will use to get to the stuff we don't have. There's a lot we're going to have to do without the proper skills or the proper budget. I don't need anything but positive energy.
 - b. Renee: When do you anticipate that we will be springing into action?
 - c. Paul: Right now, this is the only action I can do. The first big thing will be a year ahead of when the date gets set. Everything is setting up the plan. This is just where we are right now. It gets more exciting starting in the spring.
 - d. Ursula: For the planned proposal: can they reject it?
 - e. Paul: Yes! I don't think they will. But the more nuanced we can be, the better. The lack of specifics we have in some areas might be a problem.

3. Update on Intelligence & Analytics specialization (Ursula)
 - a. Ursula: We had a conversation with Keith about how the IA specialization looked on paper, in regards to courses, and suggested that we revisit it. He wasn't sure what the outcomes might be for a student who took the specialization. I met with Susan Campbell on Friday to discuss this. We're struggling to reshape this program in a way that will satisfy the stakeholders. We put together courses but we're not sure if it's correct. Suggestions for moving forward?
 - b. Ken: What is Keith's objection?

- c. Ursula: I also spoke with Doug about this and from his point of view, as well as Keith's, he's getting stuck on the word "intelligence". They believe these courses will not allow a student to become an intelligence analyst. That's not the goal, never the goal. The goal is to have students working in or around intelligence organizations.
- d. Paul: We have a lot of graduates who get hired by intelligence agencies to do things they can't explain to us. We've had the head of HR at NSA speak to us about how much they love MLIS grads, but they can't speak about the work that the grads end up doing. Classes are focused on types of work that goes into being an organization working with sensitive material. We were encouraged to create a specialization, but we didn't have enough time to construct classes.
- e. Ken: We must have someone who works with this type of thing. It seems like we need to figure out not what people do, but what skills they need to bring to the job.
- f. Kate: For Keith and Brian, it's not clear why the skills are the skills needed. It's the framing of the skills that might clarify it for them. More transparency to why the skills are needed.
- g. Ursula: So the HR person at NSA - could they talk to us about skills?
- h. Ken: Look at USAJobs.gov and find the skills they're looking for, for jobs that this specialization would cover.
- i. Kate: Is the name wrong? Should it be called Intelligence?
- j. Ursula: I feel we are trying to use it in a broader term than people in the intelligence community would want it to be used.
- k. Kate: It's about managing information, a particular kind of information. It needs one course on the type of information we're talking about. But I feel like if we had the right adjunct, and a month, a person could do that.
- l. Paul: Hannah would be a good person to start with.
- m. Ken: Department of Agriculture has a syllabi and courses available online, we can look at those and see what skills they are using. They're government approved.
- n. Ursula: We have applicants to the specialization, with one student currently in the specialization.
- o. Kate: I think "intelligence" is the wrong word. It's more than intelligence. It's also records management.
- p. Ken: We need to broaden the term intelligence where if they don't work in an intelligence agency, it's not a failure - they're still able to apply their skills elsewhere. Make it clear that the skills are broad.
- q. Ursula: I did not get the impression from Susan that this is high priority for the deans.
- r. Kate: I have heard it talked about numerous times. I think it's not within Susan's scope of priority, but I think that there's an expectation that something happens with this.
- s. Ursula: I'm interested in who else is actively thinking about this.
- t. Kate: We can bring in adjuncts to think about this.

4. Spring 2019 application review process (Erin, Jeff)

- a. Jeff: Application deadline closed on Friday Sept 28. 81 people applied for spring 2019. The number continues to rise from 41 to 61 for fall 2019. I'm double checking applications right now.
- b. Erin: I took the spreadsheet that jeff made and as most of you have seen, sent out a list of what faculty are reviewing what applicants. We need to have these reviews done by October 19. Each of you have 18 applicants to review.
- c. Renee: Are we doing the same process of stars, and typing it out, and comments?
- d. Erin: Yes. The reason we ask for that is the stars is when they average the stars, they don't do halves. The idea is after the 19th, I will go through everyone, Jeff will go through everyone. The obvious yesses will move forward to the graduate school. We will continue to discuss the maybes. The Graduate School will send out final decisions by early November.
- e. Jeff: Graduate school takes 2-8 days. In November there are fewer staff, but fewer applicants as well. Should be relatively quick.
- f. Erin: We need to prioritize incoming students who are also applying for the law librarianship scholarship.
- g. Ursula: Did we end up deciding that they had to be in the legal informatics specialization?
- h. Erin: instead we are reviewing their applications for the award as well. Receiving this award is contingent on them declaring the legal informatics specialization.
- i. Ursula: Are there people who will actually submit something for this?
- j. Erin: I know of one. We can email Beth and see if any more have come in, the deadline is friday.