

MLIS Program Committee Agenda

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Room 4113

The following members of the MLIS Program Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2017:

- Ursula Gorham-Oscilowski
- Renee Hill
- Tammy Clegg
- Erin Zerhusen
- Ken Heger
- Jeff Waters
- Paul Jaeger
- Courtney Douglass

Non-members in attendance:

- Lindsay Sarin
- Suzy Wilson

1. LBSC 791 Discussion – take after 24 credits rule (Jeff Waters)
 - a. Policy states 791 is the capstone core course take it after 24 credits can take it concurrently with 24 credits
 - b. Propose changing the requirements taking it after 18 credits

Vote to change requirement, vote passes unanimously

2. Admissions for 2017-2018 (Erin Zerhusen)
 - a. Deadlines
 - i. Spring 2018
 1. Erin wants little change from Spring 2017 deadline
 2. Proposes September (September 29)
 - a. Gives a month and a half from when Hobson's opens

Vote to establish Spring 2018 admissions deadline, vote passes unanimously

- ii. Fall 2018

1. HILS December 15- discussion with History
 - a. Lindsay expressed concern that the History Department will take up to 90 day from submission to review
 - b. Erin says she will propose a January 12 deadline to cut down on wait time
2. MLIS deadlines
 - a. Erin in communication with other program coordinators to decide admissions deadlines
 - b. Proposes the idea of getting rid of best consideration deadline
 - i. Rolling admissions is not ideal for communications
 - ii. Graduate school reviews applications alphabetically so applying early functionally does nothing
 - c. Proposes solitary MLIS admissions deadline of February 15
 - i. MIM is January 31 (for reference)

Vote called to remove best consideration deadline and establish February 15 as the sole dealing for Fall 2018 admissions

- b. Essays (Statement of Purpose and Supplementary Essay)
 - i. Targeted essay vs. statement of purpose
 - ii. Current targeted essay question: What do you see as the most significant opportunities and challenges in the information field, what you bring to the field, and why you want to pursue an MLIS at UMD
 - iii. Current statement of purpose: asks research interests why UMD as a whole including program, and how your identity/past experiences contribute to the diversity of the University
 - c. Committee members agree that targeted essay should focus on the future as opposed to the past for statement
 - i. Considering including specific language in the targeted essay to tell the difference between the two
 - ii. Ask what is your specialization and how does that fit into your future career
 1. Including IPP- perhaps require justification, similar to the MIM application
 - iii. Members agree to draft language and pass around
 1. Revisit at next committee meeting
3. Field Study Waiver Policies and specific circumstance [*no minutes, sensitive subjects*]
 - a. Change policy to state you cannot apply for the waiver in your final semester
 - b. Specific situation