September 30, 2015, 10:00 am

LIBS Curriculum Committee Minutes

Present: John Harer, Kaye Dotson, Barbara Marson, Lou Sua, Elaine Yontz

Harer welcomed the members to the first 2015-16 Curriculum meeting. He mentioned the fabulous progress on developing recommended proposals and moving through the Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) process. These proposals were all in response to the program transition plan submitted to COA in December 2015. Harer asked Yontz to share more on this topic and progress as she had recently successfully guided her course proposal through the process. Yontz distributed the proposals for LIBS 6852 Digital Libraries, 6853 Library Services to Special and Diverse Populations, 6854 Electronic Recourses in Library Collections, 6855 Library Advocacy, and 6856 Information Literacy and Library Instruction. In order to make all as consistent as possible, Yontz has offered to review and move these through the GCC for the program. Marson asked for more information about including required readings beyond the text in the proposals. Yontz advised that these do need to be included. Discussion between Yontz, Marson, and Sua followed on this topic and all agreed that having these proposals ready for the IDP Department meeting next week would be extremely desirable, so all revisions will be made as soon as possible.

Yontz shared that Al Jones wants to revise the title, course description, and objectives of LIBS 6014. Yontz learned at the campus-wide Curriculum Workshop on 9/29/15 that the changes that Dr. Jones wants will require a new course rather than a revised course. A portion of the updated syllabus showing the desired changes was distributed.

The Curriculum Committee has approved moving forward with the new courses listed above and with Dr. Jones’ changes to 6014 by a show of acclamation.

Harer began a brief discussion of other revisions, mentioning that LIBS 6031 had been in question as to its significance to the entire program. Dotson expressed that this course does have value for the school librarian. Sua agreed and suggested reviewing the syllabus for any needed revisions. Marson sees the significance of 6031 for public librarians as well. Our general consensus at the meeting was that it was valuable for each concentration, but that we need to look at the course, not necessarily for revisions, but to confirm that the content is applicable to all three concentrations.

Marson advised that LIBS 6010 is in need of revision and she requested input as to beginning the process. The members of the Curriculum Committee agreed to review and share the syllabus to gather ideas for suggestions to be forwarded to Marson. A source for possible suggestions may be found at the upcoming Advisory Board meeting on November 14.

The discussion of internships led to agreement that each concentration should have a well-defined internship specifically for that concentration. At present we have LIBS 6991 for Schools; LIBS 6992 for Public and Academic. It was suggested that LIBS 6993 be created for Academic and leave 6992 for Public. Dotson and Yontz will meet in the near future to discuss the process for moving forward on this suggestion.
Harer reminded that we should begin thinking in terms of concentrations instead of pathways. This led to a discussion on setting up prerequisite requirements. Yontz will gather information on the course prerequisites and share with the committee for further discussion on how to put this into place. The tier structure would not be necessary if we have a system of prerequisites and the concentrations could be expanded.

First in the line of new concentrations, expressed Marson, is the need for an Archival Concentration, as we have verbally committed to this. With ALA accreditation, Harer believes we should move ahead in creating concentrations and the committee expressed agreement.

The School Library Concentration is set. The Public Library Concentration is strong but needs some tweaking which is underway with course proposals and name/syllabus changes. The Academic Library Concentration needs more definition. Harer mentioned the value of the Advisory Board in making these areas stronger. It is important for the MLS program to begin to seek our identity, to determine and grow what will make the program unique.