MLS Program Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2015  
1:30-4:00 p.m.  
Ragsdale 218A

Present: Drs. John Harer, Kaye Dotson, Al Jones, Jami Jones (via SKYPE), Gail Munde, Lou Sua, & Elaine Yontz  
Absent: Dr. Barbara Marson (attending NCCCL meeting)

The minutes of the MLS Program Meeting of February 9, 2015, were approved (Munde, Harer) as presented with the minor editorial change to strike the sentence regarding the PhD being required to teach library science courses as an adjunct since the MLS is a terminal degree.

Harer handed out the agenda and appropriate handouts at the beginning of the meeting. The agenda was followed closely.

Harer introduced a discussion about redesigning the MLS Program brochure in recognition of the program’s recent accreditation by the American Library Association (ALA). Faculty gave ideas for redesigning with the main suggestion to include a picture of NCEDDS students. The discussion soon turned to needs for other recruitment materials to emphasize our new accreditation status. Faculty suggested the purchase of stickers for degrees, pins for graduates, and other types of “bling” to be used at conferences and other informational sessions. Harer will use these suggestions in a coordinated recruitment plan which he will present to Dr. Mott by the end of March. He has already ordered a new table cloth with the ALA Accreditation logo. He is also going to meeting with ECU press personnel about getting a detailed press release on the program’s ALA accreditation.

Munde led a discussion of reasons students drop out of our program. Copies of her list of questions and responses. She will get IRB approval to send a questionnaire to approximately 100 students who left our program for various reasons within the last six years or so. Faculty input was given to improve the proposed questionnaire.

Harer announced that the H. W. Wilson Foundation has promised to grant the ECU MLS Program $15,000 as a newly ALA accredited program in January 2016. The program can choose how to use the funds but the general consensus was that they be used for student scholarships.

Harer discussed his recent conversation with Diane Coltrane in the ECU Registrar’s Office about ways to use prerequisites and co-requisites in order to eliminate the need for our current 3-tiered curriculum. He also mentioned the possibility of issuing faculty advisors a PIN number they could pass on to their advisees to facilitate registration.

There was discussion about transition plans for our curriculum based on proceedings of the February curriculum workshop. Yontz will develop the E-Resources course; Marson, the Digital Libraries course; and Sua, the Diversity course. Each will receive the $1,500 stipend.
Yontz volunteered to develop a course on Library Advocacy. Harer asked faculty to consider designing an Information Literacy/Library Instruction course. There will be a stipend of $1,500 for each of the two courses with the expectation that the designers of the courses will take through the approval processes with the program, the IDP, the CTE (clearance only), and the COE.

Harer distributed a list of course offerings for summer and fall 2015. The three elective courses to be offered in the summer are Genealogical Services for Librarians (LIBS6215, A. Jones); Art of Storytelling (LIBS 6160, Harer); and E-Resources (LIBS 6903, Yontz). The Public Library Seminar (LIBS 7050, Sua) will be offered in the fall but not the summer. These and other changes will be made to the OneStop listing by Harer as the faculty begin the registration process with our advisees.

In addition to the Library Advocacy and Information Literacy new course proposals, Harer requested faculty to begin to look for appropriate areas in which to offer certificates. Music Librarianship, Medical Librarianship, and Health Sciences Librarianship were discussed briefly, as well as a CEU module on Granting Writing for Librarians.

J. Jones will be organizing Virtual Road Shows via Saba Meeting to be presented on April 6th and 9th evenings. Harer recognized faculty participation in conferences: NCCCLA (Marson); ACEMBITE (Harer); Librarian-to-Librarian Summit (Harer, Munde), which included presentation of a cake in honor of the programs accreditation by the ALA. There will be an upcoming Joyner Paraprofessional Conference on May 15th, and the Virginia Library Association conference in October.

The faculty voted on the recipients for two library science awards. The Outstanding Graduate Student nominee was Barbara Raley-Flohr; and the Kester Award nominee was Laura Long. Munde made a motion, seconded by Sua, to accept both nominees by acclamation. There was unanimous approval from the faculty. Yontz encouraged the faculty to attend the COE Awards Ceremony which is usually held at the Rock Springs conference facility in late August.

There was general discussion about the out-of-state tuition situation. Harer did research on 29 100% online programs in the ALA directory to determine that the range of tuition per course varies from $500 to $1,800, with ECU at approximately $800.

Harer announced that faculty should have syllabi forwarded to Shirley Williams and that faculty should also sign the blanket travel online form that she distributed by e-mail. The meeting ended with a brief discussion of three candidates for COE Dean; and Sua asked faculty to begin to think about the reception for graduates in May. The last MLS Program faculty meeting will be April 6th so plans must be approved at that time.

Munde invited faculty to attend the Program Advisory Board meeting and luncheon on April 18th from noon to 3:00 p.m. in the Joyner Library Conference Room 2409. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Next (and last) meeting for the 2014/15 academic year will be April 6, 2015, place to be announced.