MLS Program Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2016
10:00-11:30 a.m.
Ragsdale 211

Present: Drs. John Harer, Al Jones, Jami Jones (via Skype), Barbara Marson, Beth Strecker, Lou Sua (via Skype), & Elaine Yontz
Absent: Dr. Kaye Dotson (on recruitment trip)

The minutes of the MLS March 2 program meeting were approved with corrections.

Harer announced that he will be stepping down as program director at the end of the spring 2016 semester. Dotson will be replacing him as program director, effective summer 2016.

Harer indicated that as of April 6, no word about the IMLS grant for the proposed NCPLEDDS project had been received.

There was a lengthy conversation about enrollments for summer and fall. Some sections are overloaded, for example, LIBS 6135 and LIBS 6142. It was decided to leave them as is for the summer and determine later if we need to add those offerings in the fall.

Sua is checking students’ registrations for the internship to make sure that those in the public library concentration are enrolling in LIBS 6992 rather than LIBS 6991.

Harer will analyze enrollments to determine how many current students haven’t yet registered for courses yet. Yontz recommended sending a message via the current student listserv to encourage students to register early.

As of April 6, there were no enrollments in LIBS 6903, Records Management and Archives for fall. Marson suggested sending a message via the listservs encouraging students interested in this course to register since it is not offered frequently.

There was a discussion of upcoming curriculum changes; in particular, the requirement of one literature course for the public library concentration. Marson asked about changing the concentration work sheets that are currently posted on the website. The curriculum change has not yet gone through the COE curriculum review process and is anticipated to be complete in the fall. Any websites changes must wait until the approval is complete.

Marson mentioned that the faculty had previously decided to change the wording of “pathways” to “concentrations” and “work sheets” to “plans of study.” It was agreed that the wording can be revised on the MLS website. Sua is working on new forms for the plans of study. Marson will coordinate the website changes.

Harer has examined the archives track in other LIS programs to look for the possibility of online courses that our students could take as well. All LIS programs in North Carolina provide the archives track as face-to-face courses. All of them, with the exception of UNC-Chapel Hill,
include courses from the history department within their tracks. Harer mentioned two out-of-state colleges that provide online archives courses – San Jose State and Clayton State College (Georgia). Clayton State is the least expensive, but would be $400 more per course than a course from ECU. Harer is continuing to explore archives options for our students.

Sua reminded everyone that the graduate reception will be on May 7, 2016, from 11:00 to 1:00 in the Green Room of the Croatan Building. As of April 6, 72 persons were signed up to attend. The cost of the reception is being covered by foundation monies.

Harer reported on admissions. To date, there were 14 fully admitted, but 6 had not registered for courses yet. Eight non-degree students have been admitted. Half of these have a MLS, but need school licensure. Six MLS applicants were in the awaiting decision file and 36 in the uncompleted applications file. He projects that 20 will complete their applications. Harer reminded the faculty that last year, half of our new students applied in mid to late July.

Harer mentioned that there will be at least two virtual forums for recruitment – April 19 and 21, with the possibility of adding April 23. Seventeen individuals have signed up for a forum.

Harer reminded the faculty that the tenure-track position will not be filled until fall of 2017. He recommends not beginning the search process until this fall.

Harer distributed a recruitment flyer for the MA in Education – Reading Education for us to review. It serves as a template for our flyer. He also distributed a form that he had filled out with information on the MLS program. Faculty made corrections to this form.

Harer announced that the MLS Scholarship Committee met and awarded one Southwick award at $1300 and two H.W. Wilson awards at $1865 each. Yontz mentioned that, given the tight time frame, the committee used the evaluations that had been completed from the COE scholarship applications from this year as their criteria for selection.

Harer mentioned that the MLS Assessment Committee is formed and that meetings will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.