Information Program's Committee

May 2025

Director's Report

Submitted by Information Programs Director and Information Programs Committee Chair, Dr. Sandra Toze.

This past year we have continued to reflect, adapt and consolidate changes based on our new structure to ensure we are supporting our programs, ensuring strong links between the Department of Information Science (DIS) and the Program committee, and working collaboratively with other Graduate Programs within the Faculty of Management (FOM). Thank you to all of the members of our committee, in particular, to our student members. I would like to provide a special thanks to Rowan Moore, who has made significant contributions to the committee, the MI program, and our Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Indigenization, and Decolonization (EDIAID) committee.

Continued Reflection on our Mandate

As highlighted in last year's report, the mandate of this committee is to be the decision-making body of the Faculty of Management Faculty Council, and an advisory committee to the Director of Information Programs. As such it develops and evaluates the "Information" family of programs on behalf of the Faculty, and ensures the programs are achieving their goals and objectives.

The Information Programs include the ALA accredited Master of Information (MI) program, the mid-career Master of Information Management (MIM), as well as the PhD Information. There are currently undergraduate INFO courses, and plans for an INFO minor. These courses are approved through this committee, as the subject experts, then move to the Undergraduate Committee.

To complete its mandate, in addition to the committee, and regularly scheduled meetings, this committee works closely with members of the Department of Information Science (DIS), who provide an academic expertise. Given this, starting this year all DIS faculty members were invited to attend the Information Programs committee, as observers. This ensures greater connection between all faculty who teach in the program. As was noted last year, the membership of the Information Programs committee was updated to include the following: the student members will typically be the Academic and EDIA/Special Projects representatives from ISSA; and we have shifted from two to three faculty members who teach in the programs being voting members, one of which is the Chair of the DIS.

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Program Governance

Activities

As per the committee TOR, the Information Programs Committee met monthly to do the following:

- Establish the admissions committee
- Cyclical course evaluation
- Review of program competencies in relation to courses, and changes in the professional landscape
- Discussion of cross course duplications, redundancies, discrepancies and omissions
- Discuss any student comments/feedback related to courses in progress
- Discussion of professional development curriculum and opportunities
- Discussion and approval of minor program changes.
- Establish any necessary subcommittees
- Discuss and consider the outcomes of our Strategic Planning processes including the Entrance Survey, Exit Survey and feedback from All Students meetings

Formation of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Indigenization, and Decolonization (EDIAID) committee.

This year a key initiative was the creation of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Indigenization, and Decolonization (EDIAID) committee. The EDIAID Committee is a standing committee of the Information Programs Committee. The purpose of the EDIAID Committee is to evaluate how EDIAID principles are integrated into the Department's programs.

Tasks

The EDIAID Committee will report to the Information Programs Committee in the following areas:

- Recommend definitions of the concepts of equity, diversity, inclusivity, accessibility, Indigenization and decolonization
- Recommend Departmental statement pertaining to its commitment to EDIAID
- Recommend program-level EDIAID competencies
- Recommend program-level EDIAID learning outcomes
- Monitor and report the extent to which EDIAID principles are incorporated into the programs' curriculum and activities
- Monitor and recommend pedagogical approaches to teaching EDIAID principles
- Recommend key performance indicators for measuring how EDIAD is delivered in departmental programs.

Accreditation Updates

As highlighted in the minutes of the Committee, the policies of the Trump Administration, and some states has created challenges for the EDI princues embedded in the 2023 Standards for Accreditation. Currently ALA has advised the following:

Programs may now request:

- Permission to use the *2015 Standards* for comprehensive reviews and annual/biennial reporting
- A postponement of their next comprehensive review (up to two years) while maintaining regular reporting requirements

To request either option, programs must:

- Submit a formal written request to the CoA, sent via email to accred@ala.org
- Include a detailed rationale for the request
- Reference any relevant state laws, federal laws, or university policies

This guidance has been incorporated into both the Fourth and Fifth Editions of *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures*. Please review the attached Update Notes, which also include minor revisions to the Evidence sections concerning the inclusion of meeting minutes in appendices. The revised documents are now available on our website.

Additionally, we've established an ALA-ALISE working group on accreditation, comprising CoA members, ALISE representatives, and two ALA Executive Board members. This collaborative body will meet regularly to monitor evolving accreditation challenges, review and adjust guidance as the political landscape changes, and ensure timely support for programs navigating these complex circumstances.

Given this uncertainty the Canadian ALA accredited programs are meeting to consider "made in Canada" options for accreditation. This is ongoing.

Motions Passed

June 2024
- The committee moves that INFO 6370 (Records Management) be re-offered, pending consideration of above suggestions (shifting the order of archives, removal of UG x-listing – after consultation with BMgmt program).
- The committee moves that INFO 6500 (Community Led Services) be re-offered with minor changes (namely work on finding formal community partnerships).
- The committee moves that INFO 6450 be re-offer as is (normal updates).

November 2024
- The committee approves the syllabus for INFO 5201 (Professional Development), as revised.
- The committee approves the course INFO 5201 (Professional Development) to replace INFO 0590 (Practicum).
- The committee approves the course INFO 6800 Archives to be re-offered without changes
- The committee recommends that the independent undergraduate course INFO 3020 proceed to the next level of approval.

December 2024
- The committee recommends that the independent undergraduate course INFO 3052 proceed to the next level of approval.

- The programs committee approves Philippe serve as faculty rep for admissions committee for 2024-2025
- The programs committee approves the EDIAID Committee Terms of Reference as submitted

February 2025

- The committee recommends that the core course INFO 5515 will be re-offered with minor revisions.
- The committee recommends that the elective course INFO 6070 will be re-offered with minor revisions

April 2025

- The committee approves the syllabus for the course INFO 3033 as presented
- The committee recommends that the elective course INFO 5590 will be re-offered with minor revisions

Admissions & Recruitment

Congratulations to our Admissions and Recruitment team on an excellent year. We are looking forward to welcoming a large cohort for the fall. As noted in the Recruitment and Admissions reports, we continued to work with the recruitment team in the Graduate Student Services to consider our processes, materials, and outreach. Philippe Mongeon, in his role of Chair of DIS organized a day of brainstorming with students and faculty to identify key target audiences, and messages. These messages will be refined over the summer, and we be incorporated into materials and plans for the new year. We will continue to look at all aspects of our processes, to look for ways we can meet our goals of diversifying our pool of applicants.

Standing Committees

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Indigenization, and Decolonization (EDIAID) committee – Highlighted above. See the annual report from the committee

Advisory Council – the Terms of Reference were approved. To help populate the council, a message was sent to all Alumni, and faculty and Information Programs committee were being asked to provide names. The process of this was delayed due to workload. The council will be convened for the Spring 2025.

Proposed Workplan for 2025/2026

MI Program

1. Participate in the DIS retreat to discuss key values and priorities. Align with strategic planning for the Program.

2. Finalize the Program level learning outcomes for the MI program.
3. Continue the process of shifting from a practicum to an Internship
4. Through the EDIAID Committee continue work to more holistically and systematically embed EDIAD across the MI program, including ensuring feedback and evaluation loops, and considering our recruitment and admission policies
5. Evaluate the current suite of certificates

6. Consider the Advanced technology suite of courses

MIM Program

1. Final development of the major program changes for a revised MIM if feasible with current budget constraints and
2. **Approve and support the passage of the proposal through the stages of Dal or alternatively, plan for the termination of the degree**

PhD Information

1. Consolidate the governance procedures through the PhD Committee
2. Launch for the 1st cohort, course, and seminar

Undergraduate INFO courses

- Monitor and evaluate the success of the current courses
- Consider building to an Undergraduate Minor

Master of Digital Innovation

- Work with the program to consider an MI/FOM based certificate

Advisory Council

- Finalize Committee and host the 1st meeting

Advanced Technology Courses

- Create a working group to advise on the definition, and courses included in our advanced technology suite of courses

Accreditation

- Continue to monitor the accreditation process through ALA in response to the realities of the Trump administration.
- Continue discussions with the Canadian Dean/Directors/Chairs to consider made in Canada approach to accreditation, which would prioritize our distinct culture and priorities.
- Continue our planning process towards our Plan for our Self Study (Summer 2026), and our complete Self Study (Summer 2027)