

Information Program's Committee

June 2023

Director's Report

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

This past year we have shifted from our former structure, and have worked to create new governance structures. Thank you to all members of the Committee, to the Department of Information Science (DIS), to the GSS team, and to Sarah Hall, as we moved through these changes.

Reflection on our Mandate

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 proposed PhD Information. There are currently undergraduate INFO courses, and plans for an INFO minor, which will be governed through the Undergraduate Committee moving forward.

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. This past year the committee worked with the Chair of DIS to set up all faculty meetings to discuss proposed changes. In addition, Information Program Committee Update was added as a standing agenda item in DIS meetings. Over the next year this committee will continue to assess the best ways to ensure all faculty teaching in the programs feel included in discussions, and able to provide feedback to the committee.

The membership of the committee has been formalized over the past year. The student members will be the Academic and EDIA/Special Projects representatives from ISSA. While we started the year with 2 Faculty members, we think 3 will be more appropriate moving forward. We will work with the FOM nominating committee to plan for this for 2025/2026. For the upcoming year we will use task forces, and invite feedback from faculty as required.

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Program Governance

Activities

As per the committee TOR, and the practice of the previous MI Curriculum committee, the Information Programs Committee met monthly to do the following:

- Establish terms of reference
- Establish the TOR for 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.

Motions

November 2023 .

Proposing removal of several electives due to low enrollment, the training being available elsewhere, loss of instructors, content changes, and lack of clarity of purpose. Courses to be put on hiatus: INFO 6840 Content Management Systems, INFO 6090 Culture of Privacy, INFO 6320 Legal Literature & Librarianship, INFO 6750 Health Sciences Literature & Information Sources. Courses to be cancelled: INFO 6310 Resources for Business Intelligence, INFO 6640 Expert Searching for Clients.

- The committee approves changes to the aforementioned elective courses, as outlined above.
- The committee recommends suspension of applications to the MIM program for the duration of the program renewal process.

December 2023

- The committee moves that INFO 6330 be re-offered without change. The committee wanted to note the excellent ratings in the student feedback, and to congratulate Dr. Spiteri for her work on this course

February 2024

- The committee moves that INFO 5530 be re-offered with minor changes.
- The committee moves that INFO 6860 be re-offered without changes
- The committee moves that INFO 6270 Introduction to Data Science be re-offered with minor changes.

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March 2024

- To approve the proposed minor modifications

April 2023

- To approve the TOR for advisory council as provided.

Curriculum Development

Motions: The following motions related to Committee decisions regarding new syllabi or shifts of syllabi from Special topics to permanent electives.

November 2023

- The committee moves to have the following new courses, “History of Archiving and Archival Records in Critical Perspective”, and “Global Histories of Disputed Archives & the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage” sent to Faculty of Graduate Studies for approval

February 2024

- The committee moves that INFO 6850 Knowledge Justice be reoffered with minor changes, and shifted to a permanent course.

Admissions & Recruitment

As noted in the Recruitment and Admissions reports, we have worked through new procedures this year, creating a strong base for next year. With the advice of this committee, and the Advisory Council we will continue to look at all aspects of our processes, in particular to look for ways we can ensure we meet our goals of diversifying our pool of applicants.

Standing Committees

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 are being asked to provide names. The council will be convened for the Fall of 2024.

Plans for next Year – To assist with the action items related to EDIAD initiatives, an EDIAD task force will be created for the 2024/2025 academic year.

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Proposed Workplan for 2024/2025

MI Program

1. Review the draft Program level learning outcomes for the MI program and finalize.
2. Review, discuss and approve the draft Advanced Technology and EDIAD TOR
3. Proposal for the shift from a practicum to an Internship
4. 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

MIM Program

1. Final development of the major program changes for a revised MIM, as a mid-career accredited (ALA) degree
2. Approve and support the passage of the proposal through the stages of Dal
3. A task force may be created to assist with the progress of this.

PhD Information

1. Work towards the implementation of our PhD
2. Establish governance procedures
3. Discuss and approve the Syllabus for INFO 7000 Research Paradigms in Information

Advisory Council

1. Establish Committee
2. Host the 1st meeting

EDIAD task force

1. As noted above, to assist with the EDIAD goals across the information programs, a task force will be created. The membership will be approved early in the Fall of 2024.

Thank you to all of the dedicated committee members, but especially our graduating Student representative – Toni, and our faculty representative Alison, who also joined us on the Admissions Committee. Special thanks to Kate Anderson and Paxton Romana for their contributions to our EDIA&D projects and plans. We will use their insights to inform our ongoing plans.