MLIS Curriculum Committee
Report to SIM School Council
Submitted by Jennifer M. Grek Martin
May 2019

The MLIS Curriculum Committee met monthly from September 2018 to May 2019, with no meeting in November due to scheduling conflicts. Membership of the Committee consisted of C. Falvey (student), J. Grek Martin (Chair/faculty), V. Howard (faculty), D. MacNeil (IM community rep), D. McDonald (alumnus), L. McKay-Peet (IM community rep), C. Savage (student), P. Skerrett (faculty), H. Steeves (alumna), S. Toze (ex-officio), and J. Watson (Secretary).

In addition to the regular, cyclical review of courses, this year the MLIS Curriculum Committee has been working on the following topics:

Courses/Curriculum

The degree name change from Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) to Master of Information (MI) is now official.

Areas of Concentration have been revised and constitute the basis for future Certificates. Areas of Concentration include Librarianship, Librarianship – Youth or Children's Services, Archives, User-Centred Design, Information Management and Policy, and Data Management. Elective courses have been designated for all Concentrations and Certificates, but course sequencing still needs to be finalized before all six Certificates are put forward (particularly for Librarianship – Youth or Children's Services and User-Centred Design.)

From the meeting of the instructors involved in teaching technology courses, it was determined to keep INFO 5590 Information Management Systems as a core course, but to pair it more closely with INFO 6540 Data Management to build a foundation in technology skills throughout Year 1. INFO 5590 is now Fall, Year 1, an INFO 6540 is Winter, Year 1, with no electives in the Fall for incoming students. It was suggested that technology topics and skills be infused more throughout the core courses, particularly in INFO 5500 Information in Society and INFO 5515 Organization of Information. This suggestion will be brought to the Core Courses instructors' meeting later in May. Further topics for this meeting that were brought in the tech courses meeting and Curriculum Committee meetings include the amount, timing, and quality of group work, the possibility of broadening content into museums and archives, and the possibility of infusing professional skills in the core courses.

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC), the MLIS Curriculum Committee recognizes the need to integrate Indigenous content into the curriculum. Short-term goals are to infuse Indigenous content into core courses through the guidance of Dalhousie University's Indigenous Services Librarian (Morning Star Padilla). This process has begun. Long-term goals are to work with community members to develop a content-specific course. This topic will also be discussed at the meeting of the Core Course Instructors.

The current online, summer course schedule is as follows:
Odd years: INFO 6090 Culture of Privacy, INFO 6500 Community-led Services
Even Years: INFO 6070 Reading and Reading Practices, INFO 6300 Government Information Resources

Policy Changes

The Advanced Technology Elective Policy was updated to reflect two courses added to the current list of electives: INFO 6270 Introduction to Data Science and INFO 66881 Geospatial Information Management

Ongoing Developments

MLIS program Competencies have been reviewed and include, at the category level, Information Management Leadership, User-Centred Information Services, Management of Information Technology, Research and Evaluation, Risk Management, Change Management, and Workplace Skills and Attributes.

MLIS Curriculum mapping continued via the software Daedalus 1.0, due to lack of visualization tool with 2.0. Learning Outcomes were mapped to Competencies for the Core Courses. Compiling Learning Outcomes for the electives will continue, but use of Daedalus will be reviewed, sue to lack of support for and development of the software.

The Committee will consider the possibility of sending a technology 'starter package' to incoming students during the summer months before the start of the program in the Fall.