



SLIS School Council

June 2, 2023

10 AM to 12 PM

7-152 Education North

Present: D. Allard, K. Anderson, D. Askey, K. Frail, K. Gariepy, T. Oliphant, B. Reyes Ayala, J. Rodger

Regrets: M. McNally, T. Samek

Minutes: G.M. Visconti

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Quorum was not reached therefore an informal discussion ensued without voting. Relevant agenda items will be tabled until the next School Council meeting.

- At GFC on monday motion to make SLIS administrative unit passed unanimously, with other items on the agenda. Starting on July 1. Best outcome in terms of preserving autonomy within SLIS in an organizational structure that has been de-departmentalized.
- K. Gariepy will continue to discuss governance changes with representatives from ALA to help manage accreditation.
- 18 fall graduates 53 in spring (71 in total). Potentially 118 incoming students.
- About 260 students in the program still.
- We hosted a professional development event with LISSA / LISAA. Speed mentoring, cover letter clinic, networking etc. Anticipating this will be a continuing event.
- Greg Morgan is new president of LISAA
- SLIS Teaching & Learning portal - tami and GM working with Tech in Ed to create a resource for all instructors, faculty + ATS, related to pedagogy and school policy, etc.
- New student orientation back to in person - hasn't been in person since 2018. Will be recorded for online folks.
- Sebastian Poon is the incoming LISSA president. SLIS and LISSA will now meet monthly.
- Both 2021 Exit and Employment surveys are now available on the website.
- Ongoing facility-related security issues: some faculty members have been moved to other areas of Education Centre and others have opted to work chiefly from home. Discussions will continue with Education Space + Facilities team.

- Admissions update (t. oliphant)
 - Large increase in the number of international graduate school applications across the board at FGSR
 - There is an emerging need to better support international students through issues of immigration, tuition, etc.
 - Appreciation to admissions committee - the most applications we have ever had at SLIS
 - Sari was the only person processing applications
 - 237 applications - record number
 - 161 for online (41% acceptance), 76 for on-campus (68% acceptance)
 - Ongoing conversations about EDID in our admissions process - our processes generally tend to align with EDID but continued conversation is needed
 - We have missed out on excellent candidates by virtue of requiring a completed 4-year degree.
 - A lot of discussion of other requirements - ex. 3 reference letters - and how to improve processing procedure and times
- There has been a call for expressions of interest in the SLIS Graduate Coordinator role. The role is in flux for next year.
- D. Askey - security is a concern for the library as well. Consultation with facilities about this topic as well. It's primarily a staffing issue - not enough people to cover the campus at the moment. Had good fortune to hire positions at U of A Libraries that were left vacant more recently.
- D. Askey will be starting administrative leave for a year, starting in August.
- K. Anderson update
 - Waiting for decisions to be made following the recent provincial election.
 - Able to secure an increase to operating grants, some libraries will be seeing a substantial increase.
 - Planning next symposium, plan is to host an in-person event around february. Theme will be around digital literacy. Preliminary planning stages, would love to find more participants.
 - Indigenous liaison, Colette Poitras, is working on establishing public libraries within First Nations. There is excellent work being done to integrate public library services into the community (ex. Frog Lake).
- K. Frail
 - There have been successes in hiring SLIS students into the UAlberta library system. Many students are returning to their roles.
 - New chat services, creating online training materials
- Question about status of SC
 - Call another meeting in Fall to proceed with a motion
 - Expectation is that all terms of reference will comply with new structure by January, sub-committee will need to form quickly.

- It is important for accreditation that SLIS continue to have a body of internal and external stakeholders to guide in some capacity school governance.