Report to Faculty Council

14 February 2014

Submitted by Alan Galey
Chair, Master’s Recruitment and Admissions Committee

On the recruitment side, efforts to reach a greater number of potential new students this year have been successful. In addition to numerous trips made by Jerome, Laura, and Adriana to recruitment fairs and conferences, our new approach to Information Days has resulted in a 115% increase in the number of attendees over the previous two years. As RAC chair, I am convinced that Jerome’s new approach has proven to be the right one. I am grateful to him, his team of student ambassadors, and all the participating alumni, staff and faculty for making the Info Days so successful—especially with just a few more to go this year.

The task now is to begin translating this success into acceptances of our offers of admission. While there has so far been an increase in MI applications (draft and paid) over the past two years, Student Services is still working through them to determine the number of completed applications (i.e. files ready for evaluation and, ideally, offers of admission). The number that will determine whether we meet our goals this year is the subset of completed apps that we can convert into acceptances, and that will be determined over the coming weeks. It is also too soon to say much about the distribution of completed applications among the MI concentrations. Overall, I’ll say tentatively that although we’re not out of the woods yet, it looks like we’re no longer heading deeper into them.

A subset of the RAC is currently working hard on admissions, including the calling of applicants to follow up our offers of admission. This year we will be handling this task primarily within the RAC, with some farming out of calling to other faculty in some concentrations. I am especially grateful to Prof. Stevenson for agreeing to join the RAC on short notice to help on the LIS front. The RAC will also be handling the assessment and ranking of incoming OGS applications this year, which adds considerably to the committee’s workload.

In parallel to the admissions work, Kathleen Scheaffer is working with me, Jerome, Isidora, and the concentration leads to revise the descriptions of concentrations on the website. I and other members of the RAC have also been meeting with alumni and students to consult about improving our messaging.