COUNCIL

2016-2017 Session – 1st Regular Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday September 29, 2016

4:00pm-6:00pm

Room 728, Claude Bissell Building

1) Call to order and acceptance of the Agenda

2) Reading of acknowledgement of traditional land statement

3) Approval of the Minutes of June 9, 2016 (attached)

4) Business arising from the Minutes

5) Dean’s report

6) Council Committees’ reports
   a) Executive Committee
      • Nominations for the 2016-2017 Executive Committee
      • Introduction of new student representatives and faculty members.
      • Updates to committee schedule
   b) Standing Committees
      • Awards Committee
      • Committee on Standing (attached)
      • Programs (attached)
      • Recruitment and Admissions
         • Master’s (attached)
         • Doctoral (attached)

7) Reports from Institutes
   a) Coach House Institute
   b) Digital Curation Institute
   c) Identity, Privacy and Security Institute
   d) Knowledge Media Design Institute
8) Other reports
   a) Careers
   b) Communications and Alumni Relations
   c) Development and Advancement Initiatives
   d) Public Library Leaders Program (attached)

9) iSchool Students
   a.) MISC (attached)
   b.) MUSSA
   c.) DSA

10) iSchool Alumni

11) Other Business

12) Question period

13) Announcements

14) Adjournment
COUNCIL

2015-2016 Session – 5th Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday June 9, 2016

4:00pm-6:00pm

Room 728, Claude Bissell Building

PRESENT:

Members (ex officio): Prof. Wendy Duff (Dean)

Teaching Staff: Prof. Leslie Shade (Council Chair), Prof. Matthew Brower, Prof. Alan Galey, Prof. Patrick Keilty, Prof. Cara Krmpotich, Prof. Kelly Lyons, Prof. Heather MacNeil, Prof. Mike McCaffrey, Prof. Irina Mihalache, Prof. Matt Ratto, Prof. Aviv Shachak, Prof. Siobhan Stevenson, Prof. Eric Yu

Professional Librarians: Ms. Kathleen Scheaffer, Ms. Nalini Singh

Senior Administrative Officers: Ms. Barbara Brown, Mr. Glenn Cumming, Ms. Anna Pralat

Associated Instructor or Sessional Lecturer: Dr. Adriana Ieraci

Administrative Staff: Ms. Kathleen O’Brien

Students:

Doctoral: Mr. Allen Kempton

Masters (MI): Ms. Stephanie Abba, Ms. Chelsea Misquith, Mr. Tristan Smyth.

Masters (MMSt):

Alumni/Alumnae: Ms. Angela Henshilwood

External Members:

Assessors:

Observers: Ms. Isidora Petrovic
Recorder: Ms. Mary-Marta Briones-Bird

REGRETS: The President of the University of Toronto, Vice-President and Provost, Chief Librarian of the University, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Prof. Christoph Becker, Prof. Nadia Caidi, Prof. Chun Wei Choo, Prof. Costis Dallas, Prof. Sara Grimes, Prof. Jenna Hartel, Ms. Robin Kester, Ms. Sari Gutman, Ms. Danielle Klein, Prof. David Phillips, Ms. Rebecca Raven, Prof. Sarah Sharma, Ms. Elisa Sze

ON LEAVE: Prof. Nicole Cohen, Prof. Lynne Howarth, Prof. Victoria McArthur, Prof. Seamus Ross,

ABSENCES: Prof. Jeffrey Boase, Prof. Kenzie Burchell, Prof. Brett Caraway, Prof. Mark Chignell, Prof. Allesandro Delfanti, Prof. Juris Dilevko, Prof. Dimitrios Hatzinakos, Ms. Victoria Hawkins, Ms. Lari Langford, Prof. Rhonda McEwen, Prof. Cosmin Munteanu, Prof. Jeremy Packer, Prof. Brian Cantwell Smith, Prof. Alan Stanbridge, Prof. Anthony Wensley, Ms. Susan Maltby, Ms. Rotem Anna Diamant, Ms. Ling Lam, Ms. Claudia Palermo, Ms. Stephanie Pegg, Ms. Shevaun Ruby

1) Call to order and acceptance of the Agenda

2) Reading of acknowledgement of traditional land statement

3) Approval of the Minutes of March 30, 2016

   MOTION: Ms. Stephanie Abba moved to accept the minutes, Prof. Siobhan Stevenson seconded the motion, all were in favour and the motion CARRIED.

4) Business arising from the Minutes

   No business.

5) Dean’s report

   Dean Duff - So many amazing achievements this year. I will mention just a few. Prof. Chun Wei Choo won the JJ Berry Doctoral Supervision Award; there are two awards given and Prof. Choo has been honoured with the one in Social Sciences. Thanks given to Prof. Lyons for spearheading the nomination process.

   Dean Duff – As well, another achievement and a very prestigious award, Prof. Seamus Ross has been appointed to the Royal Society of Edinburgh as a corresponding fellow.

   Dean Duff – some departures to announce, Prof. Mike McCaffrey, Prof. Susan Sim and Mr. Adrian Berg are all leaving us. For the second part of the meeting we will have a reception to honour them. Other announcements: Ms. Kathleen Scheaffer has returned from sabbatical and she is also taking on the role of chairing the library committee for UTFA -- another incredible achievement.

   A number of our students have won best paper awards. One of our doctoral students, Ms. Karen McEwen, has won the CCA (Canadian Communication Association) Beaverbrook Media at McGill student paper prize, for her paper on the political economy of wearables. Many faculty members have also won best paper awards this year.

   Student services updates: next week is graduation, and so many of our students will be graduating and leaving us. The enrolment numbers are something to truly celebrate, and we will meet our targets for this year and exceed the targets for international students coming in. Kudos to Student
Services, Master’s Recruitment and Admissions Teams, and the student ambassadors who have volunteered.

As well as you know, at the last Council meeting on March 30, 2016, we passed the executive delivery option of the Information Systems and Design (ISD) program; the first intake will be this coming September. Yesterday evening we held an information session, very exciting, we will have 15 students as we ramp up.

As well the research grants we are getting are also up and I will turn over to Prof. Shade.

Prof. Shade - We are waiting to hear about a particular series of Insight Development Grants, and we should find out in the next two weeks. People are applying for numerous SSHRC grants, which is great.

Dean Duff – And we are underway with our 4th and 5th floor renovations, a short term pain for a long term gain.

Mr. Glenn Cumming – Reporting on the Public Library Leadership Fellow Program (PLLP) for Ms. Raven who sent regrets. Ms. Raven has been working with a senior advisory team of other public librarians to roll out a leadership development program that is attempting to emulate the association of leadership libraries leadership development program. These are the next leaders of public libraries across Canada. They’ve had two cohorts of librarians, the second cohort finished earlier this year. They’ve been doing an assessment with the first two cohorts and the heads of the library programs what they thought of having their mid-level managers go through this training program. They’ve been working on that, with the idea of looking at their curriculum for a third cohort this year. They are working closely with Ms. Wendy Newman and others on that.

Mr. Glenn Cumming – presented on the status of the website. In a report at the last meeting of Faculty Council, we reported that a request for quotation (RFQ) was going to be released to update the two major websites. When you look at the two websites, it’s not that great; there have been many well intended attempts to upgrade. Current shortcomings of the website include that it doesn’t highlight the research strengths of the faculty, nor does it offer students and stakeholders data on our policies, procedures and timelines. As well, another issue is an unsupported software on the current ischool website. As part of our discussion of the website, we wanted to do the upgrade in two steps; what we wanted to do was identify a contractor who could help us plan a website architecture and design strategy. The second step is to implement the plan. This is where the website development work comes in, as it helped identify the outcomes we wanted to achieve and what we want the vendor to accomplish.

Mr. Glenn Cumming – we are asking the web consultants to submit their report by mid July. I have been working with Prof. Costis Dallas, Mr. Alex Dvornyak and Mr. Ivan Sestak to put together a document we submitted to eight website firms. The company selected from the competition is called Therefore Interactive.

Dean Duff – a couple of short announcement. At the Coach House Institute, there was a suggestion to change the name to the McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology, and it has been approved by the President.

Dean Duff – Almost 6 months in the job of Dean, what an exciting job, I highly recommend this job to all of my colleagues. Prof. Shade – Doing a marvellous job. (Applause.)
6) **Council Committees’ reports**

a) **Executive Committee**

Prof. Shade – In your package are a list of committee assignments, for 2016-2017, and the Executive of 2016-2017 recommended to approve these assignments. A lot of work has gone into trying to balance the workload of faculty members, so thanks everyone for agreeing to serve. And, thanks to the students for their hard work at meetings as well.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the committee assignments moved by Prof. Matt Ratto, seconded by Prof. Cara Krmpotich, all were in favour and the motion was CARRIED.

**ACTION:** When student representatives are elected, please email Ms. Mary-Marta Briones-Bird and Prof. Leslie Shade so that the committees can be updated with the student representatives.

b) **Standing Committees**

- **Awards Committee**
  
  Prof. Matt Ratto – Since the last meeting we have two activities to report, the doctoral completion awards and the convocation awards, but also wanted to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Barb Brown. Prof. Ratto – Thanks also to all the Awards committee members.

- **Committee on Standing**
  
  Prof. Kelly Lyons – Thanks to all members of the Committee on Standing for their work over the past year. Thanks to all the members of the committee and especially the student representatives, it’s a challenging committee, a lot of hard work. Thanks to Ms. Barb Brown for in particular working with students in a sensitive manner, thanks to Ms. Briones-Bird as well. A notable creation this year is the creation of the Subcommittee on Doctoral Matter’s, which is tasked to oversee the annual doctoral progress review (APR) process, and review doctoral program extension requests. The committee is comprised of Prof. Kelly Lyons, Associate Dean, Academic, Prof. Heather MacNeil, Director, PhD program, Prof. Leslie Shade, Associate Dean, Research, Prof. Wendy Duff, and Interim Dean. Prof. Lyons reviewed the report of the Committee which included approval of many thesis committees and titles. The following student thesis committee and titles were approved this spring, Mr. Brian Griffin, Ms. Sarah Lubelski, Ms. Sandra Danilovic and Mr. Adam Pugen, and QEC for Ms. Emily Maemura, Mr. Mark Sedore, and Ms. Rebecca Noone. Once of the changes made that you will hear about in the Programs report is that we will no longer be approving the membership of Qualifying Exam Committees in the Committee on Standing. It’s not a SGS stage.

  Prof. Lyons – In other business, we approved six first extensions for course work, denied one extension and approved one late withdrawal since the previous meeting of Council.

- **Programs Committee**
  
  Prof. Lyons – a tremendous thanks to all the member of the Programs Committee, we had a lot of business this year. We approved the bulk of our initiatives at the March 30th meeting; however since that meeting we are reporting that we approved a special topics course on Bio Design to be taught by Prof. Matt Ratto. We also further revised the policies for the QE and thesis proposal after receiving feedback from SGS. Those will take effect in September 2016. We have reviewed and provided feedback on a proposed Undergraduate Program that David Phillips is spearheading as Undergraduate Program Director.
• Recruitment and Admissions

**Master’s Recruitment and Admissions Committee (M-RAC)**

Ms. Brown – Delivering on behalf of Prof. Hartel. For Master of Information enrolment, at this time last year we had 135 accepts, now we are at over 200 accepts, a significant difference. For museum studies we are on par, 7 on the wait list. It looks like we may be in a position to have wait lists for the MI as well. A lot of hard work. (Applause). A huge number of people involved, thanks to the MRAC committee, those who attended the Information Days, those have been the most productive. The voices of students at those events and alumni are extraordinary. Would also like to thank everyone who worked together to review applications: Prof. Mihalache, Prof. Keilty, Prof. Dilevko, Prof. Choo, Prof. Yu, and Prof. Duff, so thanks to all. Thanks to Ms. Laura Jantek, Ms. Christine Chan, and Ms. Carol Ng. and in Co-op Ms. Isidora Petrovic and Prof. Siobhan Stevenson. Welcome to our new student reps as well.

Ms. Brown – We have run 11 webinars, thanks to all the faculty members who have participated in those and Ms. Petrovic on Careers. 127 people attended the webinars and 180 checked in. Many emails and phone calls. The Meet and Greet was incredibly successful. On July 9th, we’ll be holding a session called Getting Started, preparing students on how to enrol for next year. This is a critical session for students – we cover how to pick a concentration, what to do if they have two concentrations, and how should they prepare and select their courses over the two years. Thanks again to the faculty members. Our orientation is on Sept. 8th, 2016.

Dean Duff – The numbers are fantastic, thanks to Ms. Brown. I have been reviewing each concentration to see where students are going, which are increasing, going down, or holding. C&T, KMIM and ARM are currently up. Ms. Abba – thanks for including student voices in the planning and in hearing our concerns.

Ms. Brown – we will be hiring a new recruitment and marketing officer. Dean Duff – We are also looking at a RFQ to hire a contract for the marketing piece and to create a compelling narrative about the iSchool. Ms. Brown – it will be put to tender and as with the website, there will be a selection process, so it will really begin in the Summer and we hope to complete in the Fall.

**ACTION:** Dean Duff – We will be seeking feedback from the committee as the branding exercise is underway.

**PhD Recruitment and Admissions Committee (P-RAC)**

Prof. MacNeil – A short update. We have received 76 applications started, at the time of deadline 48 completed, we made 10 admission offers and 7 places were accepted. We have one last meeting this term, which will focus entirely on recruitment and our website needs and building up our research profiles. Thanks very much to PRAC members for all their hard work, particularly in reviewing applications.

7) **Reports from Institutes**

a) **Coach House Institute**

Dean Duff - Interim Director of the Coach House Institute, Prof. Seamus Ross has submitted the report. People should note on their agenda for Fall that there will be an incredible conference, Oct. 14-16, 2016 Then, Now, Next. Prof. Shade - Fantastic panels being formed.
Call for papers end of June, faculty and students encouraged to apply. Very exciting event to look out for.

**b) Digital Curation Institute**
Prof. Shade – Prof. Becker is away, his report is attached for your review. The DCI has been very busy working on a variety of things, of note is the Marshall McLuhan Centenary Fellowship in Digital Sustainability at the UofT Digital Curation Institute.

**c) Identity, Privacy and Security Institute**
No report. Dean Duff – With IPSI, it might transform into a collaborative program. Prof. Shade has nicely agreed to be the liaison for IPSI.

**d) Knowledge Media Design Institute**
No report.

**8) Other reports**

**a) Careers**
Ms. Petrovic – We have 22 out of 26 placements confirmed, a 96% success rate. The one who didn’t accept is doing really well in a practicum in the City of Toronto Privacy Information Office. Already hear that two employers want to extend their 4-month to 8-months, they are very happy with our students, we hope more will do the same and extend to 8 months. Prof. Stevenson – We had a very positive experience going to Air Canada, one student is working out there at their Operations Centre, they are doing amazing, and the ISD student they are so thrilled with her and it is building a relationship with our program. Thanks to Ms. Petrovic for all her work and they seem pretty keen to build this relationship and to send more students there.

Ms. Brown – a student gave us feedback that Ms. Petrovic’s counselling was very sensitive to their challenges and that they found it was the best counselling they had received; that is one of many we received on the professionalism and excellence of Ms. Petrovic’s approach. As we are stopping and talking about Co-op, we must thank Prof. Stevenson as well for all the work.

(Applause)

Dean Duff – I have to say that these Co-op placements will help every student here because institutions that would never think ‘I would never hire an iSchool grad, are now being given an awareness of the incredible knowledge that people with a Master of Information have’.

Prof. Stevenson – One note of feedback received from one of our employers, which is that you can get the technical people with all the tech skills and then the people with the soft skills, but it’s always much harder to get the people with can translate and bring the two pieces together which he is finding in our students. Prof. Yu – Really glad to hear that. We do have some graduates working there and at the airport administration. Prof. Shade – logo for our brand ‘where the hard and soft skills come together’, we’ll work on that.

**b) Communications and Alumni Relations Report**
Ms. O’Brien – Pleased to report we have had 5 stories placed in the Bulletin in the last couple of months, probably a new record for us. The circulation is 8,000 to 12,000. As well, building on what Mr. Cumming had discussed earlier regarding the website and to make it clear, we now have one Faculty directory.

Ms. O’Brien – On behalf of the alumni association who couldn’t be here, the Convocation Reception is on June 17th at 4:30pm at Rotman; it is going to be great. At the Spring Reunion
this year we had a silent auction to fund 3 alumni development grants, student scholarship and funding, which is great, we raised $485.

Dean Duff — Last month, Ms. Robin Kester, our Senior Advancement Officer, has been seconded to the Division of University Advancement. During that time Ms. O’Brien has agreed to pick up some of these tasks; not only does she do a tremendous job, she is adding some extra alumni relations to that. Our alumni association simply loves working with Ms. Kathleen O’Brien. (Applause).

c) Development and Advancement Initiatives
Dean Duff – The arrangement we’ve made is that Ms. Kester will work 3 days a month to maintain a few projects while she is away and we work on. The project areas she is focusing on are the co-op, UNESCO, securing the remaining money we need, and the others are Semaphore and the McLuhan Centre (formerly the Coach House Institute).

9) iSchool Students
a.) Master of Information Student Council (MISC)
Ms. Chelsea Misquith – I am MISC President for 2016-17. Some recap from last year and upcoming events for next year. We had the end of term party on April 16th at the Gladstone, great to see the students all socializing; our AGM was on April 19th, a good transition from our old to new Council. We did dissolve the Information Services Committee representatives that we had and we decided that if there were to be any Inforum representatives in the future we would like to use the MISC tech fund to do that. We also have a winner for our MISC teaching award: Dr. Colin Furness. That will be presented at our graduation ceremony next week. (Applause).

We’ve been reviewing some goals and one is to expand on mental health initiatives; we will be doing collaborations with other peer initiated student groups on campus, and our Treasurer Tristan Smyth is looking at investment because we do have funds to invest. Our social committee co-chairs are in the process of planning orientation activities for the Fall, I believe they are in correspondence with Ms. Barb Brown. Thanks so much to all the graduating students and those that served on MISC last year and for all the time and effort they spent, in particular Mr. Christopher Hogendoorn. (Applause).

b.) Master of Museum Studies Student Association (MUSSA)
Prof. Shade – Ms. Maya Donkers and Ms. Claudia Palermo have sent regrets on behalf of MUSSA as all the students are working at their Internships.

c.) Doctoral Student Association (DSA)
Mr. Allen Kempton – PhD research days: thanks to the students who participated, the faculty, staff and panels and all those who attended. Ms. Elysia Guzik is now serving on the Graduate Students Union (GSU). We would also like to voice our concerns about the reduction to the travel funds. Dean Duff - We are thinking of a different format for the RIP. Prof. Shade – Ms. Kathleen Schaeffer and myself are in the process of organizing what we are calling RIP ‘Research in Progress’ informal presentations of research by students and faculty members that will be on Tuesdays, 12pm-1pm, 4-5pm or 5-6pm. Meant to showcase research in progress that will be a nice venue for doctoral students, faculty members and everyone in the community to find out what sort of research we are working on.
Dean Duff – For the Research Days we are thinking of moving it from Spring to Fall to work better with timelines. For the iSchool student conference, we encourage you to set the date early for the highest participation rates.

10) iSchool Alumni
   No report.

11) Other Business
   No other business.

12) Question period
    Ms. Stephanie Abba – Any updates on the Inforum progress? Ms. Glenn Cumming – It’s going pretty well, it’s on schedule, a couple surprises, but overall going quite well. We have weekly meetings with the Project Manager and the General Contractor. Dean Duff – It’s very exciting, we will have a party to celebrate sometime in the Fall. Special thanks to Prof. Cara Krmpotich, Mr. Glenn Cumming and all the members of the renovations committee for their hard work. So please look out for announcements of an upcoming event in the near future. (Applause).

13) Announcements
    Mr. Smyth – Announcement of a name change to the iJournal we are now launching it as the Iguana, an academic blog. It will be very interesting and we hope that faculty and doctoral students will be interested to contribute to it as well, 300-500 word articles.

14) Adjournment
    MOTION: Mr. Tristan Smyth motioned to adjourn, Prof. Heather MacNeil seconded the motion, all were in favour and the meeting was adjourned.
Since the last meeting of Faculty Council (which was on June 9, 2016), the Committee on Standing has:

- The sub-committee on Doctoral Matters has:
  - Reviewed and provided feedback on Annual Progress Reviews for all doctoral students
  - Considered 11 requests for program and candidacy extensions. The grounds for recommending extensions are based on the committee’s assessment of the justification given for non-completion (that is, whether the impediments to progress in the last year were serious, unexpected, and largely out of the student’s control) and on the committee's confidence in a student’s capacity to meet the targets set out in the current request. All requests come with a detailed timeline. All but two requests were approved. In four cases, the Subcommittees granted an extension for less time than requested with an anticipation that an additional extension will be granted when the student demonstrates significant progress towards the goals they set out in their original request.

- **Approved the Thesis Title and Supervisory Committees for:**
  
  **Ashley Scarlett** (change in Committee Membership)
  - Thesis title: “On the matter of the digital in contemporary media art”.
  - Supervisory Committee:
    - Prof. Costis Dallas (Supervisor)
    - Prof. Brian Cantwell Smith (Member)
    - Prof. Matthew Brower (Member)

  **Sarah Lubelski**
  - Thesis title: “A Gentlewoman’s Profession: The Emergence of Feminized Publishing at Richard Bentley and Son, 1858-1898”
  - Supervisory Committee:
    - Prof. Alan Gale (Supervisor)
    - Prof. Siobhan Stevenson (Member)
    - Prof. Lori Loeb (Member)

  **Harrison Smith** (change in Thesis title)
  - Supervisory Committee:
    - Prof. David Phillips (Supervisor)
    - Prof. Rhonda McEwen (Member)
    - Prof. Leslie Shade (Member)

  **Amir Lavie**
  - Thesis title: “An Exploration of the Roles and Functions of Archival Institutions in the Shaping of Canadian-Jewish Community Memory Infrastructure”.
  - Supervisory Committee:
    - Prof. Seamus Ross (Supervisor)
    - Prof. Wendy Duff (Member)
    - Prof. Harold Troper (Member)
    - Prof. David Koffman (Member)

  **Nathan Moles**
  - Thesis title: “Inside Open Government Data Curation: The Impact of User and User Conceptions on Curation Processes at the City of Toronto”.
  - Supervisory Committee:
    - Prof. Fiorella Foscarini (Supervisor)
    - Prof. Wendy Duff (Member)
    - Prof. Christoph Becker (Member)
Zia Babar
  o Thesis title: “A Modeling framework for supporting software-enabled enterprise transformation”.
  o Supervisory Committee:
    ▪ Prof. Eric Yu (Supervisor)
    ▪ Prof. Kelly Lyons (Member)
    ▪ Prof. Prof. John Mylopoulos (Member)

• Approved the following Qualifying Exam (QE) committees (PhD):
  Mark Sedore
  Qualifying Exam Committee:
  • Prof. Leslie Shade (Supervisor)
  • Prof. Sarah Sharma (Member)
  • Prof. Seamus Ross (Member)

Jamila Ghaddar
Qualifying Exam Committee:
• Prof. Nadia Caidi (Supervisor)
• Prof. Fiorella Foscarini (Member)
• Prof. Jens Hanssen (Member)

• Approved the following MI Thesis Titles and Committees (MI):
  Daniel Mackwood
  Title: Wholesale broadband access and regulatory appeals in the Canadian telecommunications industry: An institutional analysis.
  Supervisor: Prof. Rhonda McEwen
  Second Reader: Prof. Leslie Shade
  No ethics approval required.

Meaghan Uyede
  Title: A Case of Wooden Type: Evaluating analytical bibliography through the digital collation of the Sagabon Tales of Ise
  Supervisor: Prof. Alan Galey
  Second Reader: Prof. Randall McLeod
  No ethics approval required.

Tristan Smyth
  Title: This Title Is Currently Unavailable in Your Region: The Future of Streaming Media Services in Canada
  Supervisor: Prof. Leslie Shade
  Second Reader: Prof. Chun Wei Choo
  No ethics approval required.

• Approved one request for a late withdrawal
• Approved one request for a first extension to complete coursework
• Did not recommend to SGS a second extension to complete coursework but instead approved a late withdrawal for the course
Faculty of Information Programs Committee Report – Sept 29, 2016

Report provided by Associate Dean Academic Prof. Kelly Lyons, Chair of Programs Committee

Since the last Council meeting (which was June 9, 2016), the Programs Committee issues the following report:

- The new documents describing the PhD thesis proposal and qualifying exam procedures now on the website. These rules are effective for those starting either process in September 2016. All those who started the process prior to Sept. 2016 will stay with the old procedures.
- The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the revised Interactive Digital Media (IDM) undergraduate program that is jointly offered with the ICCIT at UTM. The Committee also reviewed and provided feedback on a new proposed 2-year undergraduate specialist degree.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on clarifications to the MI and MMSI thesis procedures. The changes will be finalized soon.
• Ms. Andrea DiBiase joins us in late September as our Recruitment Officer. Right away she will promote the iSchool at more than a dozen outreach events through October into early November at universities across Ontario.

• We have scheduled four Information Days (2 in the fall, 2 in winter); the first Information Day is Saturday, October 22, 2016. Information Day is divided into a morning MMSt session and an afternoon MI session. The events feature a number of welcomes; presentations from Faculty about concentrations (for the MI) and the CRO; introductions to the Co-op and practicum; an Info Fair; displays of Faculty research; and tours of the Inforum, Semaphor, and other nearby campus highlights. Concentration liaisons will be approached soon to confirm their participation in all four Information Days; as well representatives for MMSt. We will also be providing webinars and chats, largely working with current students for peer to peer information.

• Though not spear-headed by MRAC, the Committee looks forward to the branding campaign that is now underway and will lead to an enhanced narrative about the iSchool, its programs, and concentrations; the project will also help refine our visual materials.

• The Committee is poised to review applications starting in early Winter.

• Two very enthusiastic students from the MI and MMSt program are representing the student body on the Committee.

• We have no 2017-18 statistics to report at this moment but there is an overall sense that this year will build upon our momentum and grown that be a strong year for applications to both programs.
The Committee (PRAC) has met once so far this year.

We are developing strategies to target student recruitment in specific areas of faculty expertise. We are also looking at ways of enhancing the iSchool website as a PhD recruitment tool by highlighting faculty and doctoral student research, student-faculty collaborations and various iSchool activities showcasing our PhD students.

PRAC is also developing a list of targeted priorities for PhD recruitment and will be soliciting input from faculty on research areas to specifically target in this year’s recruitment efforts.

An information session for potential PhD applicants will be held at the iSchool in mid-November 2016.

Admissions period: applications due January 15, 2017

Submitted by:
Heather MacNeil, Chair
On behalf of the Doctoral Recruitment and Admissions Committee
The Public Library Leaders Program (formerly PLLF, see proposal approved by Faculty Council 2012) remains a significant partnership of the iSchool with the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC). CULC includes the directors of the 37 public library systems serving populations over 100,000. Designed for high-potential mid-career public library leaders who wish to prepare for senior positions, the program arose from demonstrated need and demand. It is based on successful leadership institute models in North America. This 18-month program includes instructional sessions and intensive site visits (with case studies) in exemplary Canadian and American urban public libraries. Information on the program’s design and instructional objectives is in the link above.

Background

The Public Library Leaders (PLLeaders) program is a strategic response to the well-documented leadership succession challenges in the public library sector, which employs close to 3,000 professional librarians (university and college libraries employ about 2,000). There are more than 3,400 public library service points (including branches) in Canada, and more than 2/3 of Canadians are public library members. (Statistics: Schrader and Brundin 2012). The vast majority of Canadians are served by urban public libraries in communities over 100,000. These public institutions are not only centres of cradle-to-grave informal learning and formal education support; they are also centres of community development and inclusion, particularly for newcomers. The iSchool’s partnership with CULC represents an important connection to one of the iSchool’s major employer groups, and to the current and future leadership of Canada’s most trusted and popular public institutions. During the past summer, there was much public discussion of the capacity of Canada’s cultural and heritage sector leadership, as many institutions made senior appointments. In its partnership with this Program, the iSchool has a leading role in anticipating and responding to leadership requirements of the library and information sector.

The first cohort of the Public Library Leaders Program graduated in January 2014; the second, in January 2016. Each cohort includes twenty Fellows recommended by their libraries.

Update

The third cohort will begin in October 2016. The new participants represent urban communities from Halifax to Vancouver. The inaugural session will be hosted by Halifax Public Library in its celebrated new building. The theme of the site visit is planning and development of major capital facilities. The inaugural instructional session (led by Rebecca Raven, CEO of Brampton Public Library and a graduate of the Program) will focus on strengths-based leadership.
Future site visits include Vancouver, Edmonton, Burlington, and Toronto, and we are awaiting final confirmation of one in the Chicago area. The extraordinary generosity of the site hosts in sharing their leadership teams' experience and insight in detailed and confidential sessions is key to the success of the Program.

Since the most recent report to Council, the results of the participants' evaluations and the June 2016 Focus Group of public library CEOs who have sponsored students in the Program have been reviewed in detail and a summary is in preparation. Both have strongly affirmed both the need for the Program and the excellence of its delivery.

We have begun work, through a contractor, for a new Web site for the Program – pleaders.ca - to be launched fall 2016. This will supplement the material on the CULC Web site. The overly-long name of the Program has been changed to PLLeaders.

The Advisory Team includes Jefferson Gilbert (CULC), Greg Buss (Richmond), Rebecca Raven (Brampton), Lita Barrie (Hamilton), Maureen Sawa, (Victoria) Ken Roberts (consultant), Glenn Cumming, and Wendy Newman (iSchool, retired).

Changes in staffing of the iSchool have made this a transitional year for the Program’s operations. The Advisory Team gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Glenn Cumming and Kathy Shyjak in coordinating changes in administrative support. We are currently seeking a contactor to assist in Blackboard support. As usual, this will be paid from the tuition proceeds and is not an expense to the iSchool.

Rebecca Raven

15 September, 2016
Orientation Activities
MISC had our Orientation activities in the week before classes began. Our Social Committee Co-chairs, Eden Rusnell and Ronit Barenboim, partnered with MUSSA to organize a well-attended BBQ for first year MI and MMSt students, followed by tours of the iSchool and other prominent locations on campus. The evening after, there was an pub social at the Fox and the Fiddle for all MI students to mingle, and a few of us even did some karaoke! We saw a 20% increase in students this year than past years, and response to the events have been extremely positive.

MISC Professional Development Committee Clubs and Associations Showcase
Jake Miller, Professional Development Committee Chair, organized a Clubs and Associations Showcase to coincide with the Welcome Back iTea. We saw a great turnout, and students were happy to meet with and learn about the various student groups at the iSchool.

MISC Fall Elections 2016
MISC is currently having our voting period for the Fall Elections. We had a two-week nomination period, and voting officially ends on October 1, with results being announced by October 5. We have consistently had a low voter turnout for our elections, and are hoping that this year will be better.

FIAA Collaboration
I attended the September FIAA meeting in an effort to strengthen the ties between MISC and FIAA. I discussed collaborating with FIAA on social and professional development events, and hopefully this will provide MI students with opportunities to network and socialize with alumni.

Submitted by Chelsea Misquith, President
Monday, September 26, 2016