From: "John Bertot" <jbertot@fsu.edu>
Subject: **Quick Summary**
Date: February 16, 2006 7:50:57 AM EST
To: <jbertot@fsu.edu>, "'Nancy Everhart'" <everhart@ci.fsu.edu>, "'Don Latham'" <latham@ci.fsu.edu>, "'Genz, Marcella'" <genz@ci.fsu.edu>, "'Houff, Susanne'" <shouff@ci.fsu.edu>, "'forward-kkim'" <kkim3@mailer.fsu.edu>, "'Kazmer, Michelle'" <kazmer@ci.fsu.edu>, "'Latham, Don'" <dlatham@ci.fsu.edu>, "'forward-mcahvez-hernandez'" <mchavezh@mailer.fsu.edu>, "'Kyung, Kim'" <kim@ci.fsu.edu>, "'Doffek, Pamela'" <pdoffek@ci.fsu.edu>, "'Jorgensen, Corinne'" <cjorgensen@ci.fsu.edu>, "'Koontz, Christie'" <CKoontz@admin.fsu.edu>, <wetzelsa@gru.net>
Reply-To: <jbertot@fsu.edu>

Dear All:

I'm in Ft. Lauderdale, talking to various folks down here about our proposed curriculum revision, but wanted to get a very quick summary of the discussion meeting yesterday out. This is not comprehensive, just the highlights. Others should add their thoughts as well.

To all who helped, my thanks. It was good to have the various team members answer and ask questions. This was a team effort, and I appreciate the work.

Overall Program

2 issues stood out for me here:

1. Too many core courses. There was discussion at keeping it down to 4 core; and a general sense that the one that should go is the Introduction to Information Professionals course (this was not unanimous).

2. Most agreed that having the option of Information Needs and Research was good. However, there was some discussion about the need for an evaluation class that got into both numeric and qualitative analysis. This is neither the Research nor the Info Needs class as now designed. Issue is do we need a different class entirely, or can we change one of these to better meet that type of class (as an aside, I actually have material on this, including a book).

3. Remove the internship requirement? Some discussion that many of our students are already employed and for them, an internship would not be necessary. However, for those students not employed, we could make it required. Cohort/mentor approach would really be essential in this mix.

4. Go down to 36 credits. If we stay at 4 core, and remove the internship requirement, we'd be down to 36 credits. And, at those numbers of credits, students could essentially take two specializations of 12 credits each -- a sort of mix and match.

5. People seemed to support highly the certificate/specialization approach.

6. Concerns about too much too soon in terms of how many courses to offer. Going to 36 credits would help (it would also help with financial aid as students could take 6 credits at a time very neatly). As an aside, no one recommended specific cuts.

Specific Concentrations

1. There were various discussions with the Youth concentration in general and the Media program in particular. One suggestion included a name change for the Concentration to Youth Information Needs and Services. Don and Nancy will be discussing these and coming back to the team. I suspect that the Media folks will have to stay at 39 credits; working the LEAD initiative

in to this mix would require some to take 42 credits.

2. Didn't hear a lot about Information Needs and Services. However, Corinne did post to the faculty prior to the meeting a revised approach at least for Leadership and Management and Reference. I ask that she post this to the team as well. Personally, I don't agree with the changes to the leadership and management. All whom I've talked to indicated the need for budgeting and HR; the proposed changes seem to indicate that a student could get out of the specialization without either of those courses. I'm fine with the changes to the reference specialization.

3. Information Architecture and Technology. First, at a separate meeting in the morning, some folks recommended changing the name of the concentration to Digital Information Systems. No one recommended cutting anything, and one person recommended additional classes in areas such as Data Mining and Information Security.

I'd like to get to making the changes over the next two weeks so that we have another iteration of the proposed revision by March 1.

That's about what I can get out for now. For those who were there, please do add/modify.

Next Steps:

1. Revise the planning document in light of these comments.

2. Plan for the vetting of the revised document (program committee, FLA, other)

3. Shop the proposal around.

4. Get a vote in principle from the faculty to move forward on the plan (likely the March or April faculty meeting)

5. Gear up for some implementation this fall (only with our already existing classes), with full implementation in fall 2007.

6. Curriculum mapping, learning outcomes, evaluation plan, etc.

John

****
* John Carlo Bertot, Ph.D. Phone: (850) 644-8118 *
* Professor Fax: (850) 644-4522 *
* College of Information Email: jbertot@fsu.edu *
* Florida State University http://www.ii.fsu.edu/~jbertot *
* 101 Shores Building *
* Tallahassee, FL 32306-2100 *
****