SOIS Undergraduate Program Committee

DRAFT Minutes for May 04, 2017 Meeting, 10:00-11:30 in NWQB 2450

Members: Rakesh Babu (RB), Shana Ponelis (SP), Thomas Haigh (TH), Casey Harjes (CH), Brian Williams (BW), Laretta Henderson (LH)

Called to order 10:04. SP not present.

1. Approve Agenda (TH, RB: 3-0-0)
2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (RB, CH: 3,0,0)
3. (Old Business)
4. (New Business)
   a. Review the following additions to outcomes for 310 suggested by SP: “(1) Design user interfaces and interaction sequences for websites and mobile devices taking into account usability principles. (2) Refine user interface designs based on results of usability evaluation and feedback from users.”

TH: These seem reasonable, and address call from BS for specific guidance on outcomes.

RB: Thinks that design can be incorporated by adding elements to the final project. This could satisfy the second requirement. Should we explore the suggestion by BS to cover interface design in 230?

TH: Topics in 230, or a replacement, such as tagging and ontologies could inform website structure through solid information architecture, but should not be expected to provide the major coverage of human factors user interface design.

RB: Has concern over whether adding a design component to the final project could satisfy the first objective.

TH: As long as the material is demonstrated somewhere in the semester the outcome is satisfied.

RB: Then adding to two suggested outcomes would be fine.

CH: The objectives mandate websites and mobile devices. Should we be less specific?

BW: Not mentioning websites or mobile devices would allow for future changes in technology.

TH & RB: “(1) Design user interfaces and interaction sequences for computer systems, including websites and mobile applications, taking into account usability principles. (2) Refine user interface designs based on results of usability evaluation and feedback from users.”
Motion: Approve the addition of the two outcomes for 310, as edited. Will be added to our recommendations to FC (TH, RB: 3,0,0)

  b. Discuss and finalize recommendations for 230 and 210 following our examination of the courses in the previous meeting. This will involve editing language for the recommendations in item c below.

TH: Recaps argument for the proposed swap of 350 into core, 210 out.

LH: Would also like to encourage students to take English 205 or 206.

BW: We are already pushing those courses. English 310 could be used since it is required of Computer Science and Engineering students.

LH: 210 was taken off the list of OWC-B at the last APCC meeting. So as of next semester will not show as satisfying.

TH: Maria Haigh got it approved.

BW: SOIS was told that as taught the course was not covering the necessary requirements.

TH: The decision cannot be made “administratively” without the involvement of UPC or FC, under the SOIS P&P. The designated faculty coordinator for the course should also have been consulted. This kind of action makes a mockery of shared governance.

CH: Has concerns over whether 210 will be popular outside the core if stripped of OWC-B.

TH: If we change the requirements for the 5 electives to allow 1XX or 2XX courses to count (i.e. 210 and 120) would that ensure that they still take it?

BW: If we allow 210 and 110 to satisfy the SOIS elective requirements they’ll take fewer SOIS courses. If we leave as is, they’ll take as part of their general electives.

LH: Do we as a school even want to continue to teach 210 to most students?

TH: Are there other things for LS to teach?

LH: Yes. Various MLIS courses.

TH: Moving 210 out of the core would give flexibility to push it or de-emphasize it based on demand and instructor availability.

BW: There are online courses elsewhere in UWM that would cover those skills and requirements if we did shift instructor resources elsewhere.

Motion: Endorse the draft recommendation to shift 210 out of the core and replace with 350. (TH, RB: 3,0,0)
TH: Recaps situation with 230, and the offer made by Richard Smiraglia on behalf of the KO group.

LH: Strongly supports the proposal.

BW: 230 connects more with LIS people, less so with information systems people.

TH: The proposed new course would satisfy the LIS oriented students more, but also be more relevant and useful for IT.

CH: Agrees with everything said.

Motion: To approve the recommendation that Richard Smiraglia and the Knowledge Organization group develop a new 300 level course “Knowledge Organization for Information Science & Technology,” to replace 230 in the core. (RB, TH: 3,0,0)

c. Having now explored all the core courses in the IST program, we will pull together our discussions over the past two years to finalize a set of recommendations for changes to the program to send to SOIS Faculty Council. A draft has been circulated to committee members. As well as recommendations for changes to specific courses, we may also recommend changes to the sequence of core courses, the development of electives in particular areas, changes to prerequisites, and changes to overall degree requirements. Some of these changes would require action by university bodies to implement.

Some points during edits and discussion:

CH: If 210 can’t satisfy OWC-B, we should develop a new course or have an existing course certified to satisfy the cultural diversity requirement.

TH: Our SSI instructors have expertise in topics related to the cultural and social aspects of technology.

LH: This could address a lack of diversity coverage in the program.

LH: BSIST students should receive training somewhere in the program on how to deliver workshops, teach, etc.

[Edits and discussion of draft document]

Motion: Approve recommendations document for transmission to FC, including action items for adoption by FC. (RB, CH, 3-0-0).

d. (New business) With the departure of TH we need replacement faculty coordinators for 440 and 490. No faculty regularly teach those courses.
No immediate volunteers.

BW: This will be something that the next chair of the UPC should address.

LH: We could ask MK. SP sometimes teaches 490 online.

RB: Willing to be considered for 440.

Meeting concluded, 12:00.