iSchool Online Program Update
9/22/14

Progress

MLIS

Eleven courses have been successfully transitioned to the Pitt Online format and two are currently being transitioned. This represents an important milestone as students will be able to complete the MLIS entirely in the Pitt Online format beginning in Spring 2015.

Transition Process Complete:

LIS 2000 - *Core Course* - Understanding Information (Mahoney & Tomer)
LIS 2005 - *Core Course* - Organizing and Retrieving Information (Mahoney)
LIS 2184 - Legal Issues in Information Handling (Currier)
LIS 2214 - Library and Archival Preservation (Meislik)
LIS 2322 - Resources for Children (Bowler)
LIS 2407 - Metadata (Oh)
LIS 2500 – Reference Resources (Mahoney)
LIS 2600 - *Core Course* - Introduction to Information Technologies (Tomer)
LIS 2610 - Library and Archival Computing (Tomer)
LIS 2700 - *Core Course* - Managing Libraries and Information Systems and Services in Changing Environments (Currier)
LIS 2771 – Academic Libraries (Corrall)

Currently in Transition (Fall 2014):

LIS 2110 – Research Methods in Library & Information Science (Corrall)
LIS 2635 – Information Architecture (Tomer)

Planned for Transition Spring 2015:

LIS 2537 - Government Information Resources and Services (Scott)
LIS 2975 – Special Topics - Research Data Management (Lyon)

The MLIS FastTrack program will successfully conclude in Fall 2014. All enrolled students pursuing a MLIS degree through online programming will be doing so through the Pitt Online Platform as of Spring 2015. This is also an important milestone.

We continue to adhere to a schedule of transitioning two courses per term to the Pitt Online format.

Dr. Christinger Tomer distinguished himself as a 2014 winner of the Blackboard Exemplary Course Award for his LIS 2600, Introduction to Information Technologies course. The 'Catalyst'

Exemplary Course Award is an annual recognition by Blackboard for courses that excel in interaction and collaboration, assessment and learner support.

The MLIS Faculty are exploring alternative delivery methods for courses. For example, Dr. Tomer and Elizabeth Mahoney are currently delivering LIS 2000 in a team format; Dr. Tomer and Dr. Currier have supervised delivery of a course by a PhD student; and Dr. Bowler is currently supervising delivery of a course by an adjunct instructor.

Certificates of Advanced Study

In March we received approval to offer Post-Baccalaureate Certificates and Graduate Certificates of Advanced Study in Big Data Analytics and Security Assured Information Systems (4 total).

The Provost's Office has also approved the use of the certificate programs as "bridge" programs, meaning that a student who enrolls in the certificate program but wishes to transfer the credits directly to a degree program will be permitted to do so (the student will be able to earn either the degree or the certificate but not both).

Two courses have been developed for the Pitt Online format for the Security Assured Information Systems certificates and two additional courses are currently in development. This development schedule will allow us to launch the online Security Assured Information Systems Certificate Programs in Spring 2015.

Transition Process Complete:

INFSCI 2150 – Information Security and Privacy (Joshi)
INFSCI 2170 – Cryptography (Krishnamurthy)

Currently in Transition (Fall 2014):

TELCOM 2813 – Security Management (Joshi)
TELCOM 2821 - Network Security (Krishnamurthy)

<u>Challenges</u>

The transition or development of a course for the Pitt Online platform entails a significant investment, both financially and in faculty time resources. The Pitt Online team has limited resources available to transition and service the courses. It is therefore important that we strategically choose the courses that we designate for transition in order to best serve the needs of our students, the iSchool and the University.