

HCIM Program Committee Meeting for May 2021

May 14, 2021
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Virtual meeting

Meeting called by:	Bill Kules	Type of meeting:	Monthly Committee Meeting
Facilitator:	Carol Boston	Note taker:	Emilia Azar
Timekeeper:	Carol Boston		

Attendees: Bill Kules (7 / 7), Carol Boston (7 / 7), Amy Asadi (7 / 7), Niklas Elmqvist (7 / 7), Ge Gao (7 / 7), Alex Leitch (7 / 7), Jeff Waters (7 / 7), Wayne Lutters (4 / 7), Dustin Smith (4 / 7)

Agenda and related documents [here](#)

Minutes of the Meeting:

Agenda item: (1:00) [For adoption] [April meeting minutes](#) **Presenter:** Bill
and agenda review

Discussion:

- Minutes of the April meeting were adopted unanimously.
- The Committee agreed to extend the May meeting up to 3:00 pm if needed.

Agenda item: (1:05) Operational updates and enrollment updates: Class of 2021 numbers, leadership transition meetings, Zoom watch party for Commencement on 5/21 **Presenters:** Bill and Carol

Discussion:

- We will host an HCIM Commencement Watch Party over Zoom from 12:45pm - 2:15pm on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Faculty are welcome to attend, and you can register [here](#).
- Today is the deadline for international students to accept their invitation to join the HCIM Fall 2021 cohort.
- June 18 is our deadline for domestic student decisions.
- Jeff shared the student acceptance number as of today for Fall 2021:
 - 57 students have accepted their admissions offers, and 38 of those students are from other countries (31 from India, 4 from China, 3 from other countries). This number does not include last year's deferrals or any admissions from our second batch of applicants. Enrollment could decrease depending on India's COVID-19-related visa restrictions.
- Bill reported that three out of the four capstone presentations to clients had been completed. The last one is on Tuesday, May 18, at noon. All are invited to attend.

Agenda item: (1:10) [For review and approval] Proposed updates to HCIM application for Fall 2022-- proposed recommendation from Jeff to make GRE's optional (based on [peer research](#) and policy of other iSchool Grad Programs): **Presenters:** Jeff and Carol

Jeff proposed the following wording to make GRE scores optional for international students starting with the Fall 2022 application cycle. *GRE/GMAT scores are not required for admission into the HCIM program for the Fall 2022 admissions cycle. Some applicants may wish to submit GRE/GMAT scores, and any scores that are submitted will be reviewed as part of our comprehensive admissions review process. Applicants are welcome to submit scores that they believe will strengthen their application, but applications will not be penalized for not containing GRE/GMAT scores.*

Discussion:

- Wayne wondered if the last sentence would be redundant, but Bill believes it would help reduce questions to keep it.

Conclusion: The GRE waiver for Fall 2022 applications was unanimously approved by the committee. HCIM program leadership will work together on adjusting the exact wording for the website this summer.

Agenda (1:20) Updates from PLO subcommittees **Presenters:** Niklas and Carol

- a. Niklas on [Research & Evaluation](#) synthesis (including Capstone)
 - i. Reflecting comments from Committee on questions on p. 2
 - ii. [Comparative data on how other programs incorporate quant methods](#) (with sample syllabi)
- b. Carol on [Professional Competencies](#) (Advanced Usability, UX Research Methods, HCIM Capstone/Thesis summer activity recommendations)

Discussion:

Niklas updated the Assessment & Rubric: Research & Evaluation document.

- Niklas made a few changes, including further connecting INST 631 to this rubric, developing the HCIM Thesis item, and separating data analysis and informed design into two separate elements.
 - Alex agreed on splitting data analysis and informed design into two elements because they are two different skills.
 - Data analysis is demonstrated through user research, and informed design is demonstrated through the finished product.
- The Committee discussed how “mastery” of an element indicates the ability to create a prototype, and “acceptable” indicates being able to generate design concepts.
- The committee voted unanimously to approve the program learning outcome on Research & Evaluation for use next year.

Carol discussed the Professional Competencies PLO document.

- She introduced the baseline rubrics and indicated she would like to gather instructor feedback and continue to work on this document over the summer, then bring it back to the committee in September.
- She included undergraduate InfoSci presentation rubrics for reference at the bottom of the document.

Conclusion: The PLO on Research & Evaluation was approved. Carol will further develop and complete the Professional Competencies PLO with the assistance of the leadership team over the summer.

Agenda item:	(1:35) Selection of two HCIM Excellence Awardees - to be formally announced at HCIL Symposium on May 27	Presenters:	Carol and Bill
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Discussion:

Amy left for this portion of the meeting when faculty nominations of 2021 HCIM graduates were reviewed and discussed. This portion was not recorded and no notes were taken.

Conclusion: Following discussion, the committee voted unanimously to award the two HCIM Excellence Awards (\$1,000 each) to Amy Asadi and Malcolm Moore. Carol will share this information with the iSchool Awards Committee for official notification and provide information about the award winners to the HCIL Symposium organizers.

Agenda item:	(2:00) [For discussion / identification of additional fact-finding needed for decision-making in 2021-22] Spring start option--following the ad hoc Spring start option offered in Spring 2021, do we want to formally adopt a Spring start option? (see *new* comparative program research)	Presenter:	Bill
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Discussion:

Emilia researched ten aspirational/ peer programs to see which offers a Spring start.

- Her research revealed an even split: five offered a Spring start in addition to their Fall start, and five offered only a Fall start.
- Alex suggested pushing off a Spring start for now. We do not know yet how the pandemic will continue to affect our numbers and students.
- Jeff and Carol discussed how approving a Spring cohort could add an additional workload for the HCIM Committee members to review applications and for staff to provide additional orientation and advising sessions.
- Bill proposed for the committee to return to the idea of a Spring cohort at a later time. He believes a Spring cohort could be advantageous for part-time working professionals and support future program growth.

Conclusion: The HCIM program leadership will discuss a Spring cohort at a later time. No decisions were made during today's meeting.

Agenda item:	(2:20) [For discussion / identification of more fact-finding needed for decision-making 2021-22] Draft proposal (strawman) to move to 36 credits ; consider other curricular moves	Presenters:	Carol and Amy
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Discussion:

- Carol shared the cost of increasing the number of credits to 36.
 - If the program required six additional credits, the program would increase by \$4,386 for in-state students and nearly \$10,000 for out-of-state students.
 - This could be a significant burden and decision factor for out-of-state students who traditionally think of UMD as a “good value” school.
- Amy explained a proposal for three different elective clusters, based on a 36-credit program.
 - Elective clusters would center around Product Design, UX Research, or Accessibility.
 - Full-time students could still complete the program in two years. Part-time students would be able complete the program in three years by taking two classes each semester.
 - This structure presumes most students would take Advanced Usability and Visual Design as core courses and still have room for four electives..
 - This report introduces new elective courses to fit each cluster, such as Motion Design for Digital Products and Psychology/Cognitive Science & UX for UX Research.
- Based on this research, Bill is interested in future discussions around elective clusters and articulating different areas of focus for students. This might be a better immediate point of focus, instead of a 36-credit program.

Conclusion: No decisions were made; this research will be valuable for future meetings and decision-making.

Agenda item:	(2:35) Review and looking ahead for next year (see this list of ambitious draft goals presented to PCC)	Presenter:	Bill
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Discussion:

Wayne requested suggestions from the current committee, to prioritize goals for the incoming committee.

- Alex would like to prioritize planned learning outcomes (PLOs) and curriculum mapping. Another priority is determining whether the program should increase to 36 credits, or potentially add a 1-credit visual design in summer.
- Bill agreed about finalizing and implementing PLO rubrics in addition to curriculum mapping. He would also suggest prioritizing focus on student equity, so the HCIM program can support a wide range of students. He concurred with aligning the program with specializations, so students can pick a more focused path of interest.
- Amy suggested teaching a combination of interlinked, specialized skills that students will need in the industry, for example, teaching students to become an expert in both UX strategy and UX research. This might be best supported with 36 credits.
- Niklas was happy with the list of goals as presented to PCC.

Conclusion: As outgoing HCIM Program Director, Bill expressed gratitude to the committee for its substantive work to improve the program over the past year. The committee in turn thanked him for leadership and expressed confidence in new HCIM Director Wayne Lutters and Associate Director Alex Leitch.

Agenda item: : (2:25) Review action items & wrap up

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
☐ Update application lang with Grad School	Jeff and Carol	May 14
☐ Finalize GRE optional language for website	Jeff, Carol, Alex, Wayne	August 2021
☐ Collect input on Professional Competencies	Carol (from Bill, Wayne, INST 702 instructor)	August 2021
☐ Identify specific Research & Eval assessments for 2021-22	Wayne/Bill/Alex/Carol	August 2021
☐ Identify specific Research & Eval methods to add to 710 for 2021-22	Wayne/Bill	August 2021
☐ Discuss Spring cohort start	Jeff, Carol, Alex, Wayne	Future
☐ Discuss elective clusters development	Committee	Future

Rolling agenda items for future HCIM meetings

