

**2006 PEP Survey Results - MLIS Students**  
**[includes relevant curriculum comments from Joint Students]**

The 2006 Program Evaluation Project (PEP) Survey received a total of 111 responses, of which 76 were from MLIS students. In most cases, responses to each question are represented as a percentage of 76. The responses to question 3 are expressed as the number of student responses for each amount. Space for elaboration was provided after many questions and at the end of each section; due to the extent of this feedback, comments are either summarized or directly quoted. Names of specific individuals have been removed. Two types of questions have been asked in the PEP Survey: those intended to provide feedback to faculty and administration, and those intended to provide feedback to LASSA. All questions have been included in this report, although it is acknowledged that not all questions will be pertinent to the faculty and administration.

**PART A. Coursework and Curriculum**

1. What is your program emphasis?

- ◆ 76 students in the MLIS program responded

2. When did you begin your coursework?

- ◆ September 2003           2%
- ◆ January 2004   6 %
- ◆ September 2004       28 %
- ◆ January 2005   16 %
- ◆ September 2005     20 %
- ◆ January 2006   28 %

3. How many credits will you have completed by April 2006?

6 - 1	24 - 8	35 - 1	42 - 1
9 - 3	25 - 2	36 - 4	45 - 1
12 - 15	26 - 1	37 - 1	46 - 1
16 - 1	27 - 2	38 - 2	48 - 11
18 - 3	30 - 1	39 - 1	49 - 1
21 - 5	33 - 1	40 - 2	70 - 1
23 - 1	34 - 1	41 - 1	

4. Have your courses met your expectations?

- ◆ 23.7 % YES [18/76]
- ◆ 14.5 % NO [11/76]
- ◆ 61.8% SOMEWHAT [47/76]

5. If courses have not met your expectations, why not?

- ◆ Many students expressed disappointment with some of the core courses
- ◆ Several students felt there is too much emphasis on theory, and not enough time spent on practical skills; students expressed concern that they are unprepared to work in the field
- ◆ Students expressed particular concern about LIBR 510, noting that the course requires more organization and that the readings were too heavy

- ◆ Several students noted that there is too much group work, and others would like more opportunity for in-class discussion
- ◆ “One credit courses would be better scheduled earlier in the semester before the workload in 3 credit courses hits”
- ◆ “For the most part, courses have met my expectations and in some cases exceeded my expectations”
- ◆ A Joint student noted that “some library courses have sacrificed critical thought for practicality. In most of my library classes I do not feel challenged, I feel bored”.

6. Have courses satisfied your areas of interest?

- ◆ 40.8 % YES [31/76]
- ◆ 9.2 % NO [7/76]
- ◆ 50 % SOMEWHAT [38/76]

7. If not, what subject areas would you like to see covered?

- ◆ Several students expressed a desire for more technology and management courses, including human resources and advocacy topics
- ◆ “It would be interesting to have some of the courses offered by sessionals in the summer taught during the fall/winter terms”
- ◆ “The curriculum is currently NOT well-rounded. Not enough courses in public (adult), academic or special librarianship” and “It seems like unless I want to be a systems or youth librarian there’s no place for me at SLAIS”
- ◆ “Instructional skills should be mandatory”
- ◆ “In theory, the calendar offers all the areas I am interested in, but the courses aren’t offered enough”
- ◆ Several students requested medical and legal library courses

8. Have you ever participated in a curriculum review process?

- ◆ 7.9 % YES [6/76]
- ◆ 92.1 % NO [70/76]

9. Can you adequately schedule your courses?

- ◆ 74.7 % YES [56/75]
- ◆ 25.3 % NO [19/75]

10. Do you think your course workload is appropriate?

- ◆ 41.4 % NO – TOO MUCH [29/70]
- ◆ 1.4 % NO – TOO LITTLE [1/70]
- ◆ 57.1 % YES – JUST RIGHT [40/70]

11. Does your course workload affect your learning experience?

- ◆ 77.3 % YES [58/75]
- ◆ 22.7 % NO [17/75]

12. If yes, please explain how.

- ◆ Several students noted that the reading is too heavy, and that it is not discussed in class either; “there is no time to do most of the assigned readings, and much less time to have any meaningful reflection and discourse about what is being crammed in”
- ◆ “I don’t see a bigger picture of how each reading affects a real world situation”
- ◆ “It’s quite busy, but I expected that”
- ◆ Again, students were concerned about the high level of group work
- ◆ “Assignments tend to be more time-consuming than challenging”

13. Have you or are you planning to take summer courses?

- ◆ 75 % YES [57/76]
- ◆ 25 % NO [19/76]

14. Which summer courses would you like to see offered?

- ◆ Most responses indicated that there just needs to be more courses offered, both 1 and 3 credit courses
- ◆ Several students requested that Management and Research Methods be offered in the summer terms
- ◆ “More choices! It’s pretty slim pickings, especially considering we pay tuition all year-round”
- ◆ “I thought this summer’s course range was quite good – it offered a little something for everyone”
- ◆ Joint students expressed interest in having the following courses offered in the summer: management, indexing, research methods, and collections management.

15. Do you feel that there are enough summer courses offered?

- ◆ 16 % YES [12/74]
- ◆ 83.8 % NO [62/74]

16. Do you have any additional comments to add regarding your coursework or the curriculum?

- ◆ Several students commented that they felt there should be more classes related to technology.
- ◆ One student responded by saying that “I have enjoyed many of the instructors and count some as my friends.”
- ◆ Several students felt that faculty needed to have practical and professional experience prior to their teaching at SLAIS. Many voiced a concern about the teaching abilities of some of the faculty.
- ◆ Students commented on the size of some of the library core courses (some classes had up to 45 students).

## **PART B. Student Life**

17. Do you think that LASSA adequately meets your student needs?

- ◆ 87.8 % YES [65/74]
- ◆ 12.2 % NO [9/74]

18. If not, please elaborate.

- ◆ One student commented that they appreciated the print cards that were provided by LASSA and their intervention into the situation of the heat at FNS.

19. Have you ever attended a LASSA event, social or academic?

- ◆ 74.3 % YES [55/74]
- ◆ 25.7 % NO [19/74]

20. Did you attend the LASSA AGM?

- ◆ 31.1 % YES [23/74]
- ◆ 68.9 % NO [51/74]

21. If not, why not?

- ◆ Many of the students responded that they did not have the time to devote to attending LASSA events because of school and work responsibilities.
- ◆ Other students commented that they were not interested.

22. Are you aware of, or involved in, any of the following student organizations at SLAIS? [could only pick one organization]

- ◆ 60.3 % BCLA/CLA [38/63]
- ◆ 39.7 % SLA [25/63]

23. Do you think that you have sufficient ability to participate in extra-curricular activities at SLAIS?

- ◆ 52.8 % YES [38/72]
- ◆ 47.2 % NO [34/72]

24. If not, why not?

- ◆ Extra-curricular activities for some students seemed to be a luxury they could not afford and commented that they had no time to participate.
- ◆ Some students commented that they were already having some problems with balancing school and part-time work, and that extra activities were too much to include in their already busy schedule.

25. Do you think you have sufficient opportunity to interact with students of other programs?

- ◆ 38 % YES [27/71]
- ◆ 62 % NO [44/71]

26. Do you attend SLAIS potlucks at the beginning and the end of term?

- ◆ 66.2 % YES [49/74]
- ◆ 33.8 % NO [25/74]

27. Have you attended any colloquia whose topics are outside the subject domain of your program?

- ◆ 39.7 % YES [29/73]
- ◆ 60.3 % NO [44/73]

28. Have you attended any colloquia whose topics are within the subject domain of your program?

- ◆ 60 % YES [45/75]
- ◆ 40 % NO [30/75]

29. Do you pay full-time or part-time tuition fees?

- ◆ 86.7 % YES [65/75]
- ◆ 13.3 % NO [10/75]

30. Are you in debt from being at SLAIS?

- ◆ 54.7 % YES [41/75]
- ◆ 45.3 % NO [34/75]

31. If so, how much?

- ◆ 33.3 % LESS THAN \$10,000 in debt [14/42]
- ◆ 35.7 % \$10,000 - \$ 20,000 in debt [15/42]
- ◆ 31 % MORE THAN \$20,000 in debt [13/42]

32. Do you work as well as attend school?

- ◆ 18.7 % NO [14/75]
- ◆ 45.3 % YES – either full or part-time off campus [34/75]
- ◆ 21.3 % YES – either full or part-time on campus [16/75]
- ◆ 14.7 % YES – part-time both on and off campus [11/75]

33. Have you ever attended a Director’s Forum?

- ◆ 9.6 % YES [7/73]
- ◆ 90.4 % NO [66/73]

34. Did you find orientation helpful?

- ◆ 84.9 % YES [62/73]
- ◆ 15.1 % NO [11/73]

35. Do you have any additional comments regarding student life at SLAIS?

- ◆ One student commented that “even though I am unable to participate much, there does seem to be quite a bit of effort on the part of several SLAIS students to make sure something is going on for socializing or participating in an event/group.”
- ◆ Several students commented that they felt that there needed to be a common space for students to work together, that there was not enough room at TEF, and that having classes across campus was a nuisance.
- ◆ Students commented that they enjoyed and appreciated the Job Fair held by the student organizations, and felt that this should be an ongoing event. Several students also voiced a concern that faculty was not present at this event.

**PART C. Faculty, Administration & Staff**

36. Are you satisfied with your level of communication with faculty?

- ◆ 79.2 % YES [57/72]
- ◆ 20.8 % NO [15/72]

37. Are you satisfied with your level of communication with administration?

- ◆ 80.3 % YES [57/71]
- ◆ 19.7 % NO [14/71]

38. Are you satisfied with your relationship with your advisor?

- ◆ 61.6 % YES [45/73]
- ◆ 38.4 % NO [28/73]

39. Do you have any additional comments regarding faculty, administration or staff?

- ◆ Some of the students commented that they felt that the faculty often seemed too busy for teaching and/or their advisory role towards students.
- ◆ Students also commented that new faculty needs to have more support in terms of teaching.
- ◆ Students inquired as to where their student fees are going.
- ◆ Several students expressed concern regarding advisors going on sabbatical, or who have left SLAIS; a few students actually do not have advisors, as their original advisor is no longer at SLAIS, and they haven't been assigned anyone new.

#### **PART D. PEP Survey Comments**

40. How can the PEP Survey be improved?

- ◆ Some students expressed a wish to have a larger scale of possible answers, such as "sometimes", "barely" or "okay"
- ◆ The question regarding student groups must be changed so that students can pick more than one answer
- ◆ Some students wanted space to elaborate after every question, not only at the end of the section
- ◆ One student appreciated the "hard-hitting" and "direct" nature of the questions asked
- ◆ One student would like to see a question regarding students' expectations prior to beginning the MLIS program, and how these have been met. Others wanted to include a "wish list" for the new building