

LASSA PEP Survey

Results & Compiled Comments - Brief

Question:

Has class scheduling affected your ability to graduate in the timeframe you expected to? (i.e. daytime to evening ratio and/or winter to summer ratio)

Yes - 15.9% (13/82)

No - 84.1 (69/82)

Summarized Comments:

- Too few courses offered during summer term, particularly for MAS students.
- Poor scheduling of courses during winter term results in too many course conflicts.
- Not enough morning and afternoon classes are offered - too many evenings.
- Not enough evening courses offered.
- There are no summer programs for MAS students .
- Management should be offered every term.
- Problems with LIBR/ARST 587 rescheduling where students were removed from their preferred sections/terms.
- 8 am classes are too early, and not being able to take classes between 11 and 2 is a problem .

Question:

Has the number of courses offered affected your ability to graduate in the timeframe you expected?

Yes - 12.2% (10/82)

No - 87.8% (72/82)

Summarized Comments:

- There are a lot of interesting courses - I want to take more of them than I can fit into two years!
- Not many courses offered in the summer term.
- Excluding the core and other required courses, most courses are not offered with any consistency.
- I'll be able to graduate, but I'll have to take classes that I'm not interested in or are not applicable to my goals in order to make it work.

Question:

Do you have any suggestions for additional courses to be covered in your program area?

Summarized Comments:

- Web 2.0
- Advanced diplomatics
- Group work practices
- Map librarianship
- Copyright
- Information policy
- Canadiana/Canadian literature
- Advanced qualitative research methods
- Cross-cultural archival practices
- Library instruction
- Museum archives
- Social software
- Technology for kids in libraries
- Information architecture
- Digitization

Question:

Have you attended a LASSA event (social or academic) this year?

Yes - 90.2% (74/82)

No - 9.8% (8/82)

If you have not attended an event, please explain why.

Summarized Comments:

- Work conflicts
- Did not attend after first potluck, as second and third year students were unfriendly.
- Pub nights would be best in a more central location.
- Potlucks and events are scheduled way too early. Who wants to celebrate at 4 o'clock.
- Too busy

Question:

Did you use the LASSA book sale wiki?

Yes - 56.1% (46/82)

No - 43.9% (36/82)

Please give us your thoughts on how the wiki can be improved.

Summarized Comments:

- More people should sell their books.
- I think it was great, though I wish it were available/advertised/used by people earlier.
- Could be extended to include book sharing.
- I think the wiki requires cleanup and maintenance during the book sale. Sometimes people have already sold their books and the ad for the book is still there.

Question:

Did you attend the SLAIS Job Fair?

Yes - 58.5% (48/82)

No - 41.5% (34/82)

Please give us your thoughts on how the Job Fair can be improved.

Summarized Comments:

- Recruiters from farther afield.
- Additional opportunities for one-on-one sessions (i.e., more opportunities per student).
- Interviewers should include at least one children's librarian.
- Needs to be a better understanding of the purpose of the recruiters.
- It seemed to be geared more towards the Library sides ie: the tables upstairs.
- It might be nice to have a more open meeting for professional domains such as RM, archives, public libraries, academic libraries, etc. I envision 2-3 professionals from one domain discussing the challenges and opportunities within that domain with it being an open discussion with students.
- Longer time with the panel speakers, either on pre-set topics, or on open questions.
- It would've been nice to have more archivists and records managers there for students to talk to, and to get their thoughts in the panel. Also, since it is the first professional event for many folks, I think it'd be helpful to provide some guidelines about how to dress or what to expect.

- Greater integration of the recruiters and the resume workshop (i.e. locate both on the same floor for student convenience while waiting for one-on-one appointments).
- The only improvement might be if you broadened the range of information professional invited. It would be interesting to see librarians working in non-library specific occupations.
- I would like to see more information about summer jobs and other places to get experience.
- Due to work commitments, I could only attend the one on one interview
- More non-traditional professionals for the one-on-ones and a larger recruiter/employer fair that is near the main event and has more opportunities for interaction.

Question:

Did you attend any SLAIS colloquia this year?

Yes - 63.4% (52/82)

No - 36.6% (30/82)

Please explain why you did not attend any SLAIS colloquia this year.

Summarized Comments:

- Only because I lost all motivation to do much of anything school related this year. If I had been in my first year, I definitely would have gone to some colloquia.
- I feel like I spend enough of my life listening to lectures.
- My work schedule kept me busy over lunch hours.
- Time constraints and schedule conflicts .
- There are just way too many to choose from. I feel like students are constantly pushed to go to the colloquia, and it is hard to make the time for them. Additionally, I have not attended because there has not been a topic that was especially interesting to me.
- No time.

Question:

Did you attend a Director's Forum?

Yes - 20.7% (17/82)

No - 79.3% (65/82)

Please explain why you did not attend a Director's Forum.

Summarized Comments:

- Not interested.
- Times conflicted with classes or work.
- Time constraints, low priority.
- In the past, the director has played the blame game----or invalidated how deeply the issues affect students.
- I was coming up to graduation and felt that as a result, my attendance would have limited relevance.
- Bad timing (too many outside activities).
- I didn't really think I would get the answers I wanted, nor do I feel that anyone in the administration would really care about what I had to say.
- I didn't think that anyone would really be interested in or responsive to my concerns with the program.
- I have not heard of this.
- I was uncertain as to how this would be helpful to the students. I understand that communication is important, but it might be easier to express opinions about the forum in an anonymous form such as this survey.

Question:

Are there any barriers preventing you from participating in student group activities?

Yes - 57.3% (47/82)

No - 42.7% (35/82)

Summarized Comments:

- Just the general busyness of my life outside SLAIS.
- I feel if I miss the first meeting of the year/semester then all of the executive positions are taken. There seems to be very little room for non-executive members to get involved - especially when the meetings are frequently not advertised to non-exec members.
- Timing. All the tours have been on Fridays, for example.
- There are plenty of ways I'd like to be involved more at SLAIS, but it's not realistic considering workload, part time work, etc. It's the fact that there's so much going on that just adds to the stress - which is why I skip colloquia, it's just another thing to add to the pile. I know we all want to be involved, but at a certain point it's just unhealthy, really - when all I ever talk about is school, the only people I see are from school, and all we talk about is how we have no life out of school! If SLAIS wanted to provide a healthier atmosphere, there should be a lessen emphasis on the 10 billion options we have - like the 40 emails I get from SLAIS every day. Seriously. Even this rant is stressing me out.
- Heavy course work and looking after a family.

- Lack of time.

Question:

Do you have sufficient opportunity to interact with students from SLAIS programs other than your own? Please explain.

Summarized Comments:

- I come across them once in a while at colloquia etc.
- Not really. I don't know any library students at all.
- I have the opportunity but I don't seek it out very often.
- Yes, once we were all gathered in IKBLC!
- Yes
- Insufficient academic opportunities to interact with MAS students who are not joint. A common core class would be ideal.
- Yes. SLAIS lounge, plus the overlap in classes between MAS and MLIS.
- Yes, and it's better now that we're in the Barber Centre. Last term I only saw the people who were in my classes, but that included a fair number of joint students, so I got to hear about the archival perspective through them. Since moving into Barber, I've had more opportunity to interact with students from all programs outside of class as well.
- Yes, I think LASSA provides these opportunities with the potluck parties and other events.
- Not really - in fact, the structure of the core pretty much guarantees that students socialize primarily with people from their cohorts. Human nature I guess and I'm guilty as charged. It's too bad though - it would be great to mix more.
- I think that students who wish to can participate in the AMS or GSS. It would be useful and interesting I think to have increased interaction between history students and MAS students.
- I think we have the time and opportunity, but we don't generally want to spend time interacting with those outside our specific program. It's like mixing vinegar with oil; you can't keep them together for long. We come from very different worlds.
- No - lacked a student lounge for half the quarter.
- I think on the social level, we do. Now that we're all in IKBLC that is happening more, which is just great! It would be cool to have some kind of formal idea/research sharing activities, like the poster sessions that Joe Tennis tried to get started for Masters students during Research Week a couple of years ago. And I think it would be very cool for us to have a SLAIS student version of cIRcle, where we can deposit papers etc. for others to read and comment on, to be made public or private (password protected) depending on the preferences of the student involved. We have so little opportunity to learn from each other except through presentations in classes, and there just isn't time

for everyone to take every class they're interested in. Wouldn't it be cool for people who didn't get to take a specialized subject like teen services or health librarianship to be able to read the papers that students want to make available to other SLAIS students?

Question:

Do you have a peer mentor?

Yes - 35.4% (29/82)

No - 64.6% (53/82)

How was this mentor assigned to you?

Summarized Comments:

- Through BCLA's program. I'm a little disappointed with this program though... peer mentors are assigned weeks after the beginning of class and I think it is the first day and beyond when it is most important to the new students. Several weeks later is much too late.
- I asked for one from LASSA.
- BCLA/CLA Student Chapter
- No idea.
- I had one first term, through the program.
- Through the ACA.
- This is a confusing question, because I have a peer mentor through the ACA, but I can't recall having one through LASSA.
- Through the peer mentorship program via e-mail.
- Email from SLAIS office in first term. However, we weren't well matched at all (completely different professional paths) and I didn't get the email until WELL into the term ... by that time, I had figured out what I wanted to know anyways.

Question:

Do you have a professional mentor?

Yes - 25.6% (21/82)

No - 74.4% (61/82)

How was this mentor assigned to you?

Summarized Comments:

- I met her at a meeting for the Vancouver Assoc of Law Libraries.
- My professional mentor from BCLA didn't work out - she never replied. I have several others that I have acquired over time and am happier with the match than I was with the professional mentor. I think

personality matches are as (if not more) important than professional interest matches. Perhaps more could be done to introduce professionals and new students in person to acquire mentors more naturally. This doesn't need to be done till after the first several months of the program, I think.

- Through the Association of Canadian Archivists (actual organization, not the student chapter).
- BCLA/CLA Student Chapter
- SAA

Question:

LASSA's budget is largely made up of your student fees. What other activities or programs would you be interested in seeing LASSA organize?

- I feel a general lack of technology courses, so perhaps they could sponsor some special topics type colloquia in this area.
- Food! Random pizza days, or other special food themes. Ice cream days, or cake days or hot dog days, or, etc. Just something to encourage/reward the students who spend time in the SLAIS area building school community, and to bring community together, lessen stress. Have these between 11-2 to ensure no one is automatically excluded due to classes.
- More social activities, and maybe more workshops offered on software or other things that we do not get a chance to learn in class.
- Book drives for charity
- Coordinating literacy outreach
- Job Fair-like opportunities at other points in the year (e.g., resume clinics, interview clinics, etc. The Co-op program provides some of these opportunities, but not all students participate in Co-op.
- SLAIS get togethers between classes, socials, book trades, etc.
- "Stress Reduction" where LASSA brings in massage therapists and through out the entire event any talk of SLAIS or libraries is strictly prohibited.
- I think LASSA should buy a button-maker. It can be used for awareness-raising (BCLA uses a button campaign during Freedom to Read Week), it can be used for fund-raising efforts, and it can be shared with the other student groups. Alternatively, LASSA could get a GOCCO printing machine, for the same reasons outlined above (just replace "buttons" with "postcards"), but I think this would be more expensive.
- Perhaps some computer skills classes: Inmagic, Dreamweaver, help with database design, help with web page design. These workshops should happen in SLAIS labs. Starting to collect books and journals for a department reference library.

- Maybe a bowling night; or an early term "interaction" event --meaning, somewhere that people from library studies, joint program and the archives program can all meet. I think we met at the orientation and never saw each other again after that.
- Student colloquium/forum ... where students have an opportunity to discuss and present any research that they may do for a class or thesis.
- A small collection of library and archival journals in the SLAIS lounge. In the new building, they also took our water away, which we paid for when we started our programs. We should either bring it back or give us coffee or something else.
- In addition to the potlucks, perhaps an off-site social event for students only. "The Hollywood Librarian" was a great event---things like this, or one high-profile speaker per term.
- Social activities other than potlucks; bringing in speakers; short workshops.
- More regularly-scheduled social events (that don't involve making food and are less formal). For example: SLAIS students take over Koerner's pub from 5-7pm once a month.
- More workshops, perhaps in the areas of programming or technology
- Has SLAIS ever had a party or picnic at the beach? It could be a nice late-summer activity for returning students to get together before the school year starts and find out how everyone's co-op jobs went, etc.
- Perhaps a huge board game night would be fun! And it could work as a mixer, of sorts - everyone sits down at their various tables, and in 1/2 an hour, we have to move to another table with a new game, with people we don't know. (If people are concerned about winning or not, we could always say, depending on the game, that whoever has the most money or whatnot at the end of the 1/2 hour wins...)

Question:

Please give us your thoughts on how the PEP survey can be improved.

- Excellent! Include all events that LASSA hosted (I think some were missing) and include all events that each club hosted (for those of us who forgot). Also, this is a great opportunity to communicate to the student body what the clubs have been doing (or not doing!)
- In Q 8.2 please add "CLA" -- the group is the BCLA/CLA Student Chapter @ SLAIS.
- The questions assume that the ability to graduate in one's expected time frame is the only factor that need be considered when evaluating class scheduling and the variety and quantity of classes offered. Consider asking for more feedback on the content and format of the program.

- There should be a section that allows for general comments/feedback about SLAIS. There's a lot more to complain about than just the few issues the survey touches upon.
- Give us more space to address broader thoughts about the program(s) in general. I think there's a sense of dissatisfaction amongst the students that isn't going to be heard through the particular questions being posed here. I really think there needs to be a few questions that specifically target the student's experience (so far) at SLAIS; the anonymity of this survey is ideal for sharing such sentiments.
- It's fine. I would like to add thought that I would like to see LASSA work on getting the Instructor evaluation (Perhaps not the personal comments) in an accessible place. Another school at UBC does this. Thank you for all your hard work over the course of this school year.
- I think the PEP survey improves each year! More information about how the faculty does or does not use the PEP survey should be more transparent, but that depends on the SLAIS office not the PEP survey co-ordinators!
- Offer a prize to one of the participants.
- Option to provide comments whether or not you answered yes or no.
- Explain what exactly is a director's forum, etc. I don't know which events are sponsored by which student groups, etc, so maybe give examples of events?
- I'd like to be able to give feedback on instructors.
- Ask about the quality of courses provided and any problems with relevancy.