

## **MPS-GIS Advisory Committee meeting**

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### *(1) Redesigning all course schedules to meet the requirements on the credit hours (current credit hours may be short of the requirement)*

MPS is on a quarter system. Three-credit classes require a minimum of 45 hours. MPS had been lower than that, so adjustments were made in 2010 for courses to meet twice a week (35 hours). Two weeks ago, MPS staff had a conference call with the Assistant Dean: a new proposal for remote sensing class was rejected for not meeting minimum hours. MPS staff realized that this was an issue for all courses in the program. The program needs to add hours to courses, but will not need to file paperwork for this. Courses will need 45 hours over ten weeks, 4.5 hours per week (they are currently 3.5 hours per week). The plan is to add time to the second meeting of the week: 2.25 hours each meeting. This will have a knock-on effect, as instructors will now have to rearrange the content of the courses, or add some lab content. Jack will put together a plan for how to standardize the experience across courses. The lecturers had some concerns about the added load, especially when they are teaching a heavy load of courses in a given quarter.

### *(2) Updates on the application and admission, and also the student enrollment trends*

For Spring, MPS admitted 20 students and 15-16 actually enrolled. Last Spring, admission was 25, and enrollment was 21-22. For Fall admission there are 56 applications so far (16 have accepted). (Deadline for applications is May 1.) The baseline is usually 50 enrollments for the Fall. Last year, MPS drew Spring applicants mostly from the Department. This year, applications are largely from off-site applicants. This distribution is quite dependent on how many Winter graduates we have from UMD geography.

### *(3) TA issues*

The number of qualified TAs is dynamic and produces some uncertainty in the MPS program.

### *(4) Advertising and recruitment*

The MPS program will try advertising on Google Ads, which it had done previously. Other departments with GIS programs have a dedicated budget for advertising: Penn State have a series of well-produced videos and run a MOOC. We need to be more proactive about building excitement and content around MPS.