The School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS) engages in broad-based systematic planning to assess goals and program learning outcomes aligned with the SLIS mission and vision. Planning for the SLIS updates and assessments are triggered by changes in strategic plans and goals of North Carolina Central University and the University of North Carolina (UNC) system. At monthly and annual faculty meetings, the SLIS determines how it meets the expectations of UNC and the University.

As with LIS programs nationally, the SLIS is facing several pressures that shape the overall strategy to deliver a high quality LIS program that fulfills its student learning outcomes. The SLIS developed its path forward to improve its program through key strategic planning activities. The SLIS utilizes campus-level and school-level resources to execute various strategic planning approaches to evaluate its progress and plan its steps forward. The SLIS faculty and staff hold a retreat each fall before the beginning of school to revisit the past year and make plans for the coming year. As part of each retreat, representatives from key offices from the Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs office support the retreat with presentations and activities to assess and review the SLIS. SLIS objectives and related course SLOs analyzed using WEAVE Online are reviewed annually by the SLIS faculty with the assistance of the NCCU Office of Research, Evaluation, and Planning. WEAVE is a cloud-based outcomes assessment reporting software package to facilitate and streamline the university and its unit’s annual outcome reporting processes. With WEAVE, the SLIS is able to track PLOs and the achievement of goals and objectives through course curriculum and updates. The SLIS objectives and related course Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are stored in WEAVE and reviewed annually by the SLIS faculty with the assistance of the Office of REP. Additionally, the NCCU Director of Strategic Planning leads discussions at the annual retreat to review the SLIS’ objectives and (PLOs) to ensure that its goals are being pursued and its program objectives are being achieved. Input from students, alumni, and advisors (employers and professional leaders) representing the SLIS constituency is collected in surveys, meetings, and electronic communications to be included in the planning process. At the retreat, the attending faculty and staff conduct an analysis of the exit data from the previous semester and conduct a SWOT analysis. Decisions are made to respond to the data, and if appropriate, policy adjustments are made.

These and other activities have helped SLIS to improve its curriculum, engage its faculty more effectively, meet student needs for the profession, and leverage its administrative resources and facilities to support the student learning outcomes."

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