

Liberal Arts Council
October 1, 2013

Present: M. Aakhus, T. Bordelon, M. Dixon, R. Priest, J. deJong, J. Hardgrave, S. Rode, I. Phillips, R. Gennaro, S. Spencer, S. Hall, W. Rinks, C. Rivera, MT Hallock Morris, E. Wasserman, C. York, and B. Christie.

The meeting started at 9:01 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 24, 2013 were approved unanimously.

II. Course Modification Petition

Art 473: Photography III. J. deJong introduced the petition to change the prerequisites and course description. The petition was approved unanimously.

III. First-Year Experience (FYE) Discussion

I. Phillips asked chairs what their understanding of the proposed FYE course is, as she understands it to be a universal, university course. Both M. Dixon and S. Spencer provided background information on this course as it has been discussed across campus for some time in the context of the University's Strategic Plan and the new core curriculum. The FYE course again generated considerable discussion, focusing upon issues of compensation for teaching a thirteenth hour, and whether or not the course should be housed within a department, a college, or if it should be a common university course. While there was some consensus that the FYE, if developed and implemented effectively, has the potential to impact positively both retention and graduation rates, chairs also expressed some concern that many issues pertaining to the FYE have yet to be resolved.

IV. Release/Assigned Time in the College of Liberal Arts

M. Aakhus reported that he has been asked by the Provost to compile a report of all release/assigned time granted to faculty within the college. M. Dixon is currently drafting the report. M. Aakhus has some information from some departments that dates back nearly two years. M. Dixon will contact chairs to ensure that all release/assigned time data is accurate. As part of this report, we shall require also a description of responsibilities for all release/assigned time. M. Aakhus requested that all chairs draft a description of their responsibilities to supplement the general description of a chair's responsibilities as contained within the *Handbook*.

V. Open Items from Chairs

C. Rivera reminded chairs that the Roads Colloquium will take place in Carter Hall this Friday, October 4 and he asked that they encourage their students to attend.

S. Spencer informed chairs that USI's English Department will host the annual conference of the Indiana College English Association on Friday, October 11. S. Hoeness-Krupshaw is the current vice-president of the organization.

VI. Announcements

E. Wasserman announced that the fall musical "Company" opens in the Mallette Studio Theatre on October 4. Additional performances will be on October 5-6 and 15-18.

M. Aakhus announced that applications for Connect with Southern Indiana are now available; interested faculty should contact Leslie Townsend, Director, Historic Southern Indiana and Connect with Southern Indiana.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.