

Liberal Arts Council
January 21, 2014

Present: M. Aakhus, T. Bordelon, M. Dixon, T. Schroer, J. deJong, J. Hardgrave, S. Rode, I. Phillips, S. Spencer, J. Evey, W. Rinks, M. Hanka (for MT Hallock Morris), C. Rivera, R. Gennao, C. York, P. Moore, and B. Christie.

Absent: E. Wasserman

The meeting started at 9:03 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 5, November 12, November 19, and December 3 2013 were approved unanimously.

II. New Program Petition

J. deJong introduced the petition for a Photography minor and explained that it had been endorsed previously by the Liberal Arts Council and has been before the New Program Committee. The petition was approved unanimously.

III. Budget Presentations

M. Aakhus informed chairs that we shall have budget presentations this year. He recommended that chairs review closely any collaborative programs as well as the requests submitted in 2013. No dates for the hearings have been scheduled yet.

IV. Advising/Spring 2014 Orientation

M. Aakhus reminded chairs that the college had been promised to faculty advisors with one-course assigned time per semester. He would like to move forward in identifying two faculty for these positions to assist especially with advising on orientation days. He also asked chairs to consider the need for workshops on advising and Core 39. S. Spencer reported that University Division and the University Core Curriculum Council will coordinate advising workshops in cooperation with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. M. Aakhus requested that M. Dixon convene a group to develop advising and Core 39 workshops for Liberal Arts faculty. These workshops might be scheduled for Assessment Day on April 3, 2014.

V. Liberal Arts and FYE

M. Aakhus reported that faculty teaching a thirteenth hour will be compensated for a twenty-fifth hour at the end of the spring semester. Now that this has been confirmed, he requested chairs to determine who, among their faculty, are interested in teaching one (or more) of the sections that Liberal Arts must staff for fall 2014. S. Spencer also reported that he and E. Wasserman have contacted B. Broshears (University Division) to discuss the creation of a Liberal Arts syllabus for the First-Year Experience (FYE) course.

VI. Open Items from Chairs

S. Rode noted discrepancies between the number of German majors and the number reported in the 2013 USI Fact Book. She asked if other chairs had noted similar discrepancies, and if they had to notify K. Draughn and J Wingo.

S. Spencer reported on spring 2014 enrollment numbers, and he asked chairs to consider what we can do to recruit students for fall 2014. He encouraged chairs to be pro-active in this endeavor. M. Aakhus suggested that a telephone call from a chair or faculty member to a prospective student can be a very effective tool in the recruitment of new students. He suggested also that a telephone call from an alumnus or a current student should be considered. Others asked about new marketing strategies to recruit students and the ways by which we might reach out to students through visits to high schools.

VII. Announcements

S. Spencer announced that the MA in English will be considered for its final approval by the Higher Learning Commission at its March 2014 meeting.

S. Rode reported that President Bennett has approved the departmental name change. The new name is the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.