

Liberal Arts Council
October 2, 2012

Present: M. Aakhus, T. Bordelon, M. Dixon, J. deJong, S. Spencer, E. Wasserman, T. Schroer (for R. Priest), J. Evey, S. Rode, R. Gennaro, J. Hardgrave, MT Hallock Morris, W. Rinks, I. Phillips, C. York, P. Moore, and B. Christie.
Guest: M. Felton

The meeting began at 9:04 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 25, 2012 were approved unanimously.

II. New Course Petitions

I. Phillips presented the petition for the new course SOCW224: Introduction to Social Justice. The petition was approved unanimously.

E. Wasserman presented the petition for the new course THTR254: Stage Combat. The petition was approved unanimously.

III. Liberal Arts Living Learning Communities (LLCs)

M. Felton, who currently serves as the LLC coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts, provided an overview of the program. She noted that a theme-based LLC for Liberal Arts students has the advantages of attracting motivated students and it will allow them to be advised more effectively. Additionally, she expressed concern over students' understanding of what the liberal arts are and that this may account for the low enrollment in the Liberal Arts LLC. This semester, sixteen students are enrolled in the Liberal Arts LLC, which has a cap of twenty-nine and nine students are enrolled in the Social Work LLC, which has a cap of fifteen. A theme-based LLC with a new name might help attract students to the program. T. Bordelon reported that K. Elpers, who coordinates the Social Work LLC, also expressed similar sentiments. Several ideas were put forward as possible theme-based LLCs.

M. Aakhus requested that any chairs interested in LLCs contact T. Bordelon, who will arrange a meeting and draft a proposal to be presented to the Liberal Arts Council at a future meeting.

IV. Southern Hospitality Days

Several chairs reported either low or no attendance at the Southern Hospitality Day on September 29, and expressed concern over the new Southern Hospitality Day format, which includes a one hour-long academic information session, as opposed to the previous program that included two twenty-minute sessions. This new format provides time for faculty to give tours of labs, studios, etc., which may be beneficial to some Liberal Arts programs, as well as programs housed within other colleges. Many agreed, however, that it prohibits students interested in Liberal Arts' programs from visiting more than one academic session. The possibility of holding a Liberal Arts session that will

allow perspective students to obtain information about more than one program will be explored for possible implementation for spring 2013 Southern Hospitality Days.

V. 2013 Summer Schedule

M. Aakhus announced that a decision has been made to implement a 5 week-5 week-4 week schedule beginning in summer 2013. No additional information has been made available, but once it has, M. Aakhus will distribute it to chairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.