

Liberal Arts Council
December 11, 2012

Present: M. Aakhus, T. Bordelon, M. Dixon, J. deJong, S. Spencer, E. Wasserman, R. Priest, J. Evey, S. Rode, R. Gennaro, J. Hardgrave, MT Hallock Morris, W. Rinks, I. Phillips, and P. Moore.

Absent: C. York, B. Christie.

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 20 and November 27, 2012 were approved unanimously.

II. Chair Evaluation

T. Bordelon summarized the final report of the Chair Evaluation Committee and requested that action be taken on its recommendation. W. Rinks moved that we use the form that has been in use to date and that the committee revised; S. Rode seconded the motion. The motion to use the revised form was approved unanimously.

III. Southern Hospitality Day Format for Liberal Arts

M. Dixon opened discussion of the proposed changes to the Southern Hospitality day format for the College of Liberal Arts. Following considerable discussion, R. Priest moved that we adopt a format that includes the following: Dean's opening remarks (five minutes), followed by a fifteen minute period in which perspective students and their guest can peruse tables with information about programs and departments. This will be followed by two fifteen-minute sessions in nearby rooms. All aspects of this new format will take place in the Liberal Arts building. W. Rinks seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. M. Dixon will meet with E. Otto to coordinate the implementation of these approved changes to the Southern Hospitality Day format.

IV. Scholar in Residence

R. Gennaro reported that the Philosophy Department is not in a position to conduct a search in spring 2013 for the Scholar in Residence position. R. Priest suggested that the opportunity to conduct a search for a scholar in Residence be made open to any department that submits a proposal for the scholar in residence. S. Spencer requested that the initiative be recast as a post-doctoral fellowship, with an emphasis upon emerging scholars rather than distinguished ones. J. Hardgrave moved to postpone the selection of a scholar in residence for one year and that chairs submit a proposal to M. Aakhus by March 1, 2013 to utilize the funds available for next year. R. Priest seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. M. Aakhus requested that the proposals detail innovative use of these funds and he will investigate whether or not they can be requested for uses other than salaries and honoraria.

V. Open Items from Chairs

J. Hardgrave asked when FARs are due to chairs. January 21, 2013 is the date by which faculty must submit their FARs to their chairs.

VI. Announcements

M. Aakhus reported that as departments prepare their budget requests, they should think strategically and consider collaboration between programs, departments, and colleges. He noted that President Bennett wants to see initiatives that emphasize departments' strengths and that break down silos. Departments should ask, for example, what they could achieve with two additional faculty members and where they wish to be in ten years as they prepare their budget requests.

The next Liberal Arts Council meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.