

Liberal Arts Council Meeting September 6, 2011

Present: M. Aakhus, M. Dixon, K. Waters, S. Spencer, J. Evey, S. Rode, E. Wasserman, I. Phillips, T. Bordelon, T. Hunt, MT Morris, W. Rinks, B. Christie.

Absent: R. Gennaro, R. Priest, C. York.

I. Minutes for Review

Approval of the minutes from August 11th and 30th was tabled until the next LAC meeting. The minutes from April 5th, 12th, and 26th will also be distributed via email for electronic approval. M. Dixon will email the drafts of these minutes for council members to review.

II. Core Curriculum

The Core was the last item on the agenda at the previous meeting but was not discussed due to lack of time. M. Aakhus asked that it be the first agenda item for discussion this week since the committee meets Thursday. All members shared concerns about changes to the core and the effect they will have on the College of Liberal Arts. Most likely, there will be no more Town Hall meetings for the current proposal. However, there will certainly be changes to the existing model. The council engaged in a lengthy (and lively) discussion. All members of the council have concerns regarding the current changes and some of the following issues were discussed: "The Ways of Knowing", the need for a required ethics course in the core, difficulties with measuring outcomes and critical thought, concern for staffing, seminar-size courses, one-credit hour courses, the elimination of LIBA courses and the approval process for proposed changes.

T. Hunt suggested that creation of linked courses similar to the existing LLC courses might be a viable option with the changes in curriculum. Three years ago, the task force for implementing the LLC's planned to make the LLC a model for the entire university. Concerns expressed about the LLC's included limited student housing and the difficulty of working with LLC coordinators.

III. Assessment Day – Fall 2011

Assessment Day for this semester is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13th. The dean expected all departments to meet and discuss assessment and planning.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15