

Liberal Arts Council Meeting October 25, 2011

Present: M. Aakhus, M. Dixon, T. Bordelon, D. Craig (for E. Wasserman), S. Spencer, S. Rode, J. Evey, R. Gennaro, T. Hunt, R. Priest, MT Hallock Morris, W. Rinks, K. Waters, C. York, B. Christie.

Absent: I. Phillips

I. Minutes

T. Hunt moved to approve the minutes from October 18, 2011. The motion was seconded by W. Rinks and approved by the council.

II. Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

T. Bordelon distributed a proposal for the restructuring of the MALS program. During the discussion, R. Gennaro expressed his intention to involve the Philosophy Department in this process and he volunteered to serve as the chair overseeing the program. T. Bordelon will prepare a list of duties for the director of the MALS program and participating faculty members. He will present it to the LA Council for approval at an upcoming meeting.

III. Academic Planning Council

The next meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2011. Proposals from the College of Liberal Arts requesting initial approval to explore the development of a new program include minors in Cognitive Science, Pre-law, and Legal Studies as well as a major in Humanities. The major in Anthropology will be approved for implementation in fall 2012. The proposed major in Arts and Heritage Administration still requires final approval from the Art Department and will be presented to the Academic Planning Council in spring 2012. M. Aakhus encouraged department chairs and directors with programs seeking approval to attend this meeting. Lastly, it was agreed that B. Posler should be invited to a future meeting to discuss how new courses and programs might be tracked as they progress through the approval process.

IV. Open Items from the Chairs

MT Hallock Morris reported that B. Posler reaffirmed to the Faculty Senate that the review process for tenure-track faculty occurs in the third, sixth, and twelfth semesters. A general discussion of the tenure review process followed.

T. Hunt raised the issue of assessment models that emphasize employment of USI students after graduation as a measure. Those currently in use are not appropriate for most Liberal Arts students. S. Spencer agreed that a revised system of measurement for Liberal Arts students would be beneficial for program reviews and departmental marketing. T. Hunt volunteered to explore this issue further.

V. Announcements

The Department of Communications will sponsor the Berger Lecture on October 26, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Kleymeyer Hall. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas will present "A Clash of Cultures? The Era of President Obama and Competing Visions of America."

S. Williams will present the Cooper Award Lecture on November 1 at 3:00 p.m. in Kleymeyer Hall.

There will be a Safe Zone training session for students on Saturday October 29.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05.