

Liberal Arts Council Meeting
December 6, 2011

Present: M. Aakhus, T. Bordelon, M. Dixon, K. Waters, S. Spencer, S. Rode, E. Wasserman, J. Evey, I. Phillips, T. Hunt, R. Gennaro, R. Priest, MT HallockMorris, W. Rinks, C. York, B. Christie.

I. No Minutes

II. Chair Evaluation – T. Bordelon

Department chairs should let T. Bordelon know when they would like to have evaluations administered. OPRA will administer chair evaluations online and responses will be completely anonymous. This new system is for full-time faculty only. Separate evaluations may be set up for part-time faculty. Questions used on the evaluations have been taken from the chair evaluation form that has been used in the past.

III. LA Story – M. Dixon

A discussion regarding the publication of LA Story for the College of Liberal Arts resulted in some suggestions for changing the format. M. Dixon offered the choice of a color print edition or an on-line version. Chairs should solicit articles for this publication from faculty members and send these to M. Dixon. The new edition should appear by March 2012. Other suggestions for improving the document were having a graduate student as coordinator and changing the title. There was a general discussion about the lack of visibility for Liberal Arts in the recently distributed Foundation Newsletter and on the USI News website. M. Dixon pointed out that other colleges at USI have newsletters and Nursing has a full-scale magazine.

IV. Cognitive Science Minor – R. Gennaro

The philosophy department is proposing a new minor in Cognitive Science. USI already has faculty qualified to teach in this area of study and only one additional course is needed. There are also other departments on campus (Math, Engineering, Computer Science, Information Systems and Management), who might have an interest in this program. The target date for implementation is Spring 2013. Following discussion, a motion was made and the proposal was approved unanimously.

V. Open Items from the Chairs

Interdisciplinary course development – T. Hunt. Those planning to develop new interdisciplinary majors and minors in LA need to consult those departments that potentially will contribute any courses. M. Aakhus requested that an in-house review of any new interdisciplinary program be made before the proposal goes forward. Programs involved with these courses include Humanities, Arts & Heritage Management, and Medieval Studies.

M. Aakhus announced his plans to submit Liberal Arts requests for sabbaticals to the provost on December 14th. He will make a request for three and it is likely at least two will be granted.

Council members agreed that consideration of new course proposals should take into account the core curriculum review process. M. Dixon said the Task Force is scheduled to meet tomorrow (Dec. 7). A revised proposal will be completed before the break and will be presented at the spring faculty meeting on January 4, 2012.

E. Wasserman announced that the USI Theatre production of *Ren* has been selected to be performed at the American College Theater Festival at the University of Illinois on January 5, 2012.

The art department NASAD accreditation has been approved.

Departments and programs are working on the nomination of students for Honors Day. Members of the committee are R. Priest, K. Waters, I. Phillips, and E. Wasserman.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.