

**Liberal Arts Council Meeting
January 24, 2012**

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

Guest: E. Jones

I. Minutes for Approval

No minutes were available for approval.

II. New Harmony Bicentennial – Dr. Ed Jones

E. Jones would like to see USI play a significant role in the celebration of the New Harmony bicentennial. Events commemorating the bicentennial will occur throughout 2014, with most activities in the summer. The Planning Committee is open to ideas addressing historical issues, New Harmony going forward, or invited speakers. E. Jones requests that chairs convey this information (Planning Document) to faculty, which must be completed by spring break 2012. A more developed plan should be submitted by the end of the spring 2012 semester. Proposals should be coordinated through the Dean's Office and E. Jones.

III. Grading Policies for Core Classes

Discussion of proposed legislation regarding the collection of grades from core classes and the difficulty in the interpretation of any data collected. Further discussion of the possible motivation for seeking such data ensued.

IV. Open Items from Chairs

S. Spencer raised the issue of developing strategies to assist senior faculty maintain high standards in their teaching.

R. Priest asked if third-year reviews and FARs could be submitted simultaneously, and if electronic or paper copies should be submitted. M. Aakhus indicated that they can be submitted together and he will check with the Provost's Office to determine whether or not they would prefer electronic or paper copies.

K. Waters asked if there will be a Liberal Arts Budget process this semester. M. Aakhus encouraged departments with retirements or other vacancies to produce a rationale to replace the position. Departments should look critically at their needs in producing a rationale.

J. Evey reported that some faculty have had desk copies disappear from the mailroom. Packages are now taken to administrative assistants who then bring them to the faculty member's office.

V. Announcements

T. Bordelon reported on the questions raised at the January 17, 2012 LAC meeting concerning the administration of student evaluations of teaching. Paper evaluations may be used in special circumstances and at the request of the dean; use of paper evaluations will be charged to the college after 2013. OPRA would require additional staff to administer mid-term evaluations. OPRA does not currently administer evaluations for independent studies. T. Bordelon also

provided an update on the Chairs Evaluation Committee and called for additional nominations.

S. Rode announced that French students received the highest scores in the state on the Praxis Examination. S. Spencer reported that English students ranked in the top 15 out of 43 on the Praxis Examination and T. Hunt noted that History students tied for 9th out of 42 on the Praxis examination.

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 am.