

**Liberal Arts Council Meeting
February 7, 2012**

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

I. Minutes

No minutes available for review.

II. Chair Evaluation Committee - T. Bordelon

Chairs have nominated faculty to serve on the Chair Evaluation Committee. Service on this committee will be one-year. S. Spencer expressed a desire to see a balance of senior and junior faculty on the committee. T. Hunt suggested that a survey should be conducted to determine how well faculty understand what chairs do. T. Bordelon noted that J. Wingo (OPRA) will be involved to assist the committee.

III. Pre-Law & Legal Studies Minors –R. Gennaro and N. LaRowe

The Academic Planning Council approved the initial proposals for both minors in fall 2011. A few changes have been made on the basis of feedback that has been received. The Council unanimously endorsed both proposals.

IV. Open items from the Chairs

M. Aakhus issued an apology regarding errors in issuing contracts for spring 2012.

S. Spencer noted several concerns with the new University web page. It requires, for example, a minimum of four clicks to get to a department's web page. Career Services' web page contains no information about internships and chairs no longer have access to this information. S. Spencer will meet with Phil Parker and report on this meeting to the LAC; he also requested that M. Aakhus raise these issues at the Deans' Council.

R. Priest raised a concern about wifi restrictions on campus. Many individuals, such as job candidates and community visitors should have access to wifi.

S. Rode asked about streamlining the process by which information is disseminated across campus. There are several venues available across campus and information has to be supplied to each one separately.

W. Rinks asked for an update on the proposed Advising Centers. A meeting with M. Mohris scheduled for tomorrow (February 8) to discuss how LA 1002 might be transformed into an advising center. If approved, the conversion will begin next year and the Advising Center will open for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Advising Center will have a lead advisor and three or four additional faculty advisors, who would serve two- or three-year appointments. This center would service primarily freshmen, but potentially also second year students. The primary goal of the advising centers is to improve retention of students.

V. Announcements

I. Phillips announced that Michael Omolewa, former ambassador from Nigeria, will give a presentation on Thursday 9 February in EDUC 1101 at 5:00 p.m. The Center for Social Justice Education is sponsoring the event. She also announced that submissions for the Center's Visual Media Contest are due by April 6, 2012. The prizes will be awarded at the Social Work banquet.

T. Hunt expressed concern that fall book orders were requested before the first edit went out of the fall semester was completed. Call for orders should be held back until the final edit is completed, as there are still many changes that are made.

R. Priest asked whether or not the purpose of the visibility/marketing campaign was to recruit students. Council members agreed that we need to do a better job of promoting the College of Liberal Arts.

S. Rode announced that W. Robert Connor will deliver the College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar presentation on April 11, 2012.

E. Wasserman reported that M. Kiesling requests the presence of chairs and program directors to meet with the three candidates for the director of the Rice Library. The dates of their visits are February 14, 22, and 24. The meetings will be from 11:45-12:30.

N. LaRowe will present "Qualifications and Ideological Conflict in Federal Judicial Nominations: An Experimental Test" for the Liberal Arts Colloquium series in Kleymeyer Hall on Friday February 10 at 3:30. A request was made to begin the colloquium shortly after 3:30 to accommodate faculty who wish to attend the presentation of the candidate for the position of director or the Center for Academic Creativity.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 am.