

**Liberal Arts Council Meeting
February 28, 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, C. York, and B. Christie.

I. Minutes

No minutes available for review.

II. Test Protocol – C. York

An examination from Liberal Arts ended up in the hands of a student and this has raised concerns about security. The Copy Center has been made aware of the problem. A decision was reached to leave the current policy in place for now.

III. Senate and House Bills

The bills that would impose a common numbering system for core transfer courses and limit the number of hours for a bachelor degree at 120 hours were discussed. The purpose of the bill appears to be a desire to improve four-year graduation rates and to reduce tuition costs for the state. Concerns were raised about the impact the 120-hour bill might have on student financial aid. Accredited programs will be affected most by the bill, but exemptions may be granted to these programs. Questions were also raised concerning USI's withdrawal and course repeat policies as well as their impact on student graduation rates.

IV. Budget

M. Aakhus would like chairs to look at their staffing priorities. Chairs should submit a rationale for their highest priority and these will be considered by the LAC at its March 27, 2012 meeting. Budget requests for other items will be considered at the April 3, 2012 LAC meeting.

V. Core Curriculum – M. Dixon

M. Dixon provided an update on the work of the Core Curriculum Review Task Force. Revisions to the proposal continue; the Task Force will submit its final recommendation to the Faculty Senate on Monday March 12, 2012.

VI. Open Items from Chairs

S. Zehr will serve as the interim director of the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies.

S. Spencer will distribute several curriculum proposals from the Department of English. T. Hunt will distribute also several proposals from the Department of History.

R. Gennaro asked whether or not departments can use USI Foundation funds for faculty travel. Chairs must consult with the Foundation to determine if their funds are restricted; if not, they may determine how to use the funds.

VII. Announcements

S. Spencer announced that the RopeWalk Visiting Writers Series will present Kiki Petrosino on Thursday March 1, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in Carter Hall D.

R. Gennaro announced that N. LaRowe will host Law Day events on March 13 in Rice Library 0017 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

K. Waters announced that three of four proposals submitted to the Efroymsen Family Fund by the Department of Art, totaling \$19,000, were funded.

W. Rinks reported that J. Morris will receive a Broadcast Education Award for his news package on the rebuilding following the Missouri tornado.

T. Hunt announced that History major Catherine Carver has been selected as an intern at New Lanark, Scotland, a World Heritage site. She will spend six weeks working there beginning in May, and for the first two weeks, she will be accompanied by her faculty mentor, Dr. Kristalyn Shefveld. Also, Jessica Arnett, MA, instructor in History, has accepted a fully-funded five year doctoral package from the History Department at the University of Minnesota; she will begin in fall 2012.

Also, the last session of a three-part workshop on historical preservation taught by Shirley Ray, instructor in History, will take place on Saturday morning, March 3. The workshop is offered through Outreach and Engagement, and is partially funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Each workshop has been fully attended by the maximum 18. A second three-part workshop on archival management will begin on March 17. USI archivist Jennifer Greene will lead the workshop on three successive Saturdays from 9:15-12:00 in the Rice Library Archives.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.