

Liberal Arts Council Spring Retreat April 17, 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, and C. York.

I. Mission and Vision Statements

T. Bordelon thanked chairs and their departments for drafting and submitting their revised vision and mission statements. He initiated the discussion of crafting new College of Liberal Arts Vision and Mission statements with a review of the University's vision, mission, and goals. He also described the Pott College's Vision and Mission statements as well as the current College of Liberal Arts Vision and Mission statements. T. Bordelon stated that the goal of today's retreat is to draft a vision statement, mission statement, and a few goals for the College of Liberal Arts.

II. College of Liberal Arts Vision Statement

After considerable discussion of what differentiates the College of Liberal Arts from others at the University of Southern Indiana, the LAC agreed upon the following draft for the College's Vision Statement:

Linking formal inquiry with self-discovery, the College of Liberal Arts fosters knowledge, skills, and values necessary for success in the ever-changing global community.

III. College of Liberal Arts Mission statement

Following reflection upon the College's existing Mission Statement, the LAC agreed to retain it. The College's Mission statement is reproduced here:

We strive to ignite intellectual curiosity and a passion for lifelong learning.

We aim for the understanding of self, society, and ethics necessary for responsible and engaged citizenship, for integrity balanced with social awareness.

We foster both cultural enrichment and an appreciation of the human condition in all of its diversity.

We cultivate an awareness that truth is complex, multifaceted, and unlikely to be found in one place.

IV. College of Liberal Arts Goals

While considering the draft vision and mission statements, the LAC agreed upon the following goals for the College of Liberal Arts:

- Improve retention and graduation rates through effective advising and innovative instruction.
- Recruit and retain highly qualified and diverse faculty members who demonstrate excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.
- Expand and develop undergraduate and graduate academic programs that meet regional, national, and international needs.

- Increase the College's leadership in the region through outreach, experiential learning, and campus and community partnerships.

V. Budget Presentations

Each chair delivered a brief presentation concerning their departments' first-priority faculty requests. Chairs will now rank the requests electronically, using a tool that will be available on the LAC Blackboard page.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.