

Liberal Arts Council Meeting September 22, 2009

Present: D. Glassman, M. Aakhus, R. Priest, S. Spencer, E. Wasserman, R. Gennaro, S. Rode, J. Evey, J. deJong, T. Hunt, MT Hallock Morris, P. Aakhus, W. Rinks, A. Torres, B. Christie

I. Minutes for Approval 9/15/09 - Minutes were approved as amended.

II. Faculty Evaluation Committees

Evaluation committees are selected by the Chair of a department and approved by the Dean. Unlike search committees, which can consist of department faculty members exclusively, faculty evaluation committees must include at least one member from outside the department. Also, only senior faculty may serve on those committees who are reviewing tenure-eligible and tenure-track faculty. Non-tenure track faculty may serve on evaluation committees for contract faculty. For small departments, this might require more than one member of the committee to be from outside the department.

III. H1N1 Update

The University is currently formulating a strategic plan for H1N1. There have been two possible cases on campus to date.

IV. College Engagement Activities

The Dean asked for information from all departments who have participated in these activities. With Whirlpool closing the factory, USI has joined Evansville in seeking ways to help those people losing their jobs. The lay-offs are scheduled for May and June and will affect about 2,000 people.

V. Building Safety Inspection

Inspectors from Indianapolis were sent to USI by Homeland Security for safety inspections. Liberal Arts will need to meet safety compliance before the next inspection. Discuss with your faculty and correct infractions.

VI. Presidential Inauguration

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

VII. Faculty and Administration Reception

The reception is Friday, September 25th, from 5 to 7 p.m. for all full-time faculty and administrative staff. Please be sure to invite your first year faculty personally. Liberal Arts will again hold a reception in the spring for part-time faculty.

VIII. Course Lab Fees

The question of faculty requiring extra fees or class materials not approved was brought up in the Academic Affairs' meeting. The Dean explained how approved fees are applied in Liberal Arts. Course fee information is available through Banner and MyUSI.

IX. Student Conditional Re-admits

Issues regarding conditional re-admits were discussed and departments in LA have varying ways of dealing with them. The Dean charged LA departments to create conditional agreements with clear goals and responsibilities. In a related matter, John Mark from the athletic department confirmed that all athletes must sign a release form to allow athletic department personnel to check grades and class progress. A copy of the existing release form will be sent to the Dean for review.

X. LAC Meeting Announcements

On Tuesday, September 29th, there will be no Council meeting. D. Glassman, J. deJong, and R. Priest will be in Vincennes on that date. On October 6th, the Dean has an early meeting downtown and the council meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. Department chairs and directors were also asked to make sure all new faculty members are aware of the opportunities provided by the LARA and CLAFDA grants; the deadline is October 15th.

XI. Around the Table

History

The Evansville chapter of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America has just established a new scholarship for USI students of history who excel in 17th and 18th century world history.

Students from the History 490: Social Science Secondary Education Practicum class will be hosting the students from Henry Reis Alternative High School for a visit to USI on Wednesday, September 30. This is part of their mentoring program with the Henry Reis students.

Modern & Classical Languages

Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the College of Liberal Arts are sponsoring IPANEMA, a Brazilian band, for the Columbus Day celebration on October 19, 2009 in Carter Hall.

A German major received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Germania Männerchor, Evansville.

Communications

R. West and W. Durham recently presented papers at the Kentucky Communication Association Annual Convention.

WSWI radio has placed in the top 13 college radio stations in the Midwest region, one of the 4 regions in the nation. The top 50 will be narrowed down to 25 later this month, with the top college radio station in the United States honored on November 18th on MTV.

Art

A. Kosten has artwork in "Creatures Great and Small" a juried exhibition at the Eagle Art Gallery at Murray State University.

R. Millard-Mendez has artwork in the "16th Annual Juried Art Exhibit" at the Krempp Gallery in Jasper, IN. John Shartung, a recent USI art graduate who is currently pursuing a graduate

degree at ISU, also has artwork in this show. Both have their work featured on the Exhibition announcement.

Psychology

USI has gone to a single clicker system. Students can purchase these for around \$60 and use one clicker for any class for their entire time at USI. Uses include attendance, quick questions in class as part of an interactive lecture, for quizzes, exams, etc. Psychology has set up a demonstration with Dana Willett covering the many uses of the clickers, the software, and its integration into Blackboard on Friday, October 9th in Kley Meyer Hall from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Those who teach larger classes should consider attending to learn the value of these devices to classroom management. Everyone is welcome.

English

WNIN, our local NPR station, will be recording the Ropewalk Series for later broadcast.