

Liberal Arts Council Meeting
October 20, 2009

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

I. **Minutes from 10/13/09 for Approval** The minutes were approved as amended.

II. **Bill and Helen Sands LA Outstanding Professor Award**

Discussion continued from 10/13/09 meeting. Funding will not go into effect until next year. The selection procedure is nomination by any LA faculty member using a simple nomination form; nominee will be notified and asked if he/she would like to be considered. Nominees being considered must submit CV and a 500 (maximum) word essay addressing the guidelines for award selection. Departments may have more than one nominee.

After further discussion, the council agreed on the following stipulations: the Deans (excluding J. Evey since she is currently an acting chair) will make the final selection. The person making the nomination must write 500 words or less in support of their candidate for the award.

III. **New Program Development**

New academic programs may be introduced for consideration twice each year. LA programs currently in the queue are a Masters in Communications, which should be approved by Fall 2010; a Bachelor of Arts in Arts & Heritage Management, for which the Art Department has taken the initiative, with help from History, with a target date of the Fall 2012 semester; a Masters in History, for which a committee is collecting and assessing data with a Fall 2012 target date also. T. Hunt stated that the proposed Masters in Communal Studies would be incorporated into the MA in History. Also in process is a BA/BS in Anthropology with new courses already having initial approval and a new program petition underway. The target date for approval is Fall 2011. The English department, in cooperation with the College of Education, is currently developing a master's degree in English Teaching.

IV. **New Course Petition ANTH 131**

The petition was approved unanimously. ANTH 131, Introduction to Physical Anthropology, will be the first LA course to be proposed for the C 3 science core.

V. **Summer Session Proposal**

The Dean reported that B. Posler, chair of the committee to revise summer scheduling, said the committee did not consider the extra days the new summer schedule may provide; how extra days may be used was not part of their charge. The College of Science and Engineering reported that the semesters as they are now proposed will not accommodate the lab requirements for their students and an alternative was discussed. Student Services will handle housing issues. Drop dates for all the different sessions will present another issue to be resolved. Department chairs should be reviewing summer schedules to decide

whether or not courses currently offered in the summer will fit into the new proposed schedule. The length of any class should be decided by both the instructor and the department chair. The Dean asked council members to let him know of concerns from their departments. Faculty Senate will discuss the proposal on Friday.

VI. USI Nearby and Distance Education Initiative

The Armory, Innovation Pointe, and Castle High School are the off campus locations for USI classes. The University is urging all colleges to schedule introductory courses, particularly those in the Core, at these locations or online each semester.

VII. Student Recruitment

The Admissions Office has letters for each department that should be regularly updated, which are sent out automatically on a regular schedule by E. Otto. Revisions to current letters should be sent to the Dean electronically as a Word attachment. This letter should not be the only tool used for recruitment. The proposal to change orientation for Spring 2010 from 3 to 6 days is still being debated. B. Posler is still trying to find available rooms to accommodate the 3-day schedule.

VIII. Academic Affairs Update

S. Spencer met with the deans and will be present at the next meeting of the USI Board of Trustees to discuss faculty recruiting and retention.

Around the Table

Political Science and Public Administration – N. Myers, M.T. Hallock Morris, and Linda Bailey (MPA alumni, current MALS student) presented papers at the annual meeting of the Indiana Academy of Social Sciences, held Friday, October 16, at DePauw University (Greencastle, IN):

- N. Myers, "The Social and Economic Benefits of State High Risk Health Insurance Pools"
- M.T. Hallock Morris and Linda K. Bailey, "Riding the Bus: Poverty, Polycentricity and other Challenges Associate with Public Transportation in Midsized Cities."

History - A group of 12 history majors, four faculty members and several guests toured Historic New Harmony as part of the department's "Major as Home" initiative. Their tour was led by history major Joshua Orem, a long-time tour guide at New Harmony and last year's winner of the Donald E. Pitzer Award. Following the tour, the group enjoyed a luncheon at the Visitor's Center before returning to USI.

Art – K. Waters and M. Aakhus participated in the "Artful Living" home tours in New Harmony and exhibited their work at the Mother Superior House, a property of Jane Owen. The fundraiser supports the Hoosier Salon.

M. Aakhus, K. Waters and S. Sauls were in St. Louis to select works from the collection of Carol Carithers for accession to the University Art Collection. Seventy-four works were selected.

V. Poston presented "Advising the UCC: Finding the 'Seeds' and Avoiding the 'Pits' of the Core" to College of Liberal Arts faculty.

Performing Arts - The Theatre Program held a cookout for its majors and minors on Sunday, October 11. Over forty students attended it. After the meal, they all moved in force to strike the True West set from the Mallette Theatre.