

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 23, 2010

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

- I. **LAC Minutes for Approval from 3/16/10** Minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.
- II. **Committee on Campus Smoking**
A task force assigned to examine this issue is preparing a survey to be distributed to administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Options include parking smoking in parking lots and personal cars, designated smoking areas with shelters, or smoking in personal cars only. The task force plans to present a report to the President before the end of the semester.
- III. **Assessing Class Participation Grades**
The Dean emphasized the importance of clear and equitable guidelines for students regarding class participation grades. Assessment for class participation should be throughout the semester. There was general agreement that the Dean's office issue a directive broadly defining the purpose of participation grading and stressing the importance of clear guidelines for assessment. Chairs will discuss the issue with their faculty.
- IV. **LA Syllabi Guidelines**
The Provost is asking for syllabi information from all the colleges. D. Glassman asked that each Department send him their syllabus description. These should include the ADA policy and learning outcomes. For Departments that have no syllabus guidelines, the Dean will develop a general template.
- V. **Honors Day Update**
The event is this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Carter Hall. Faculty members are encouraged to attend. Only Faculty in regalia will be in the processional. D. Craig will announce the awards, M. Aakhus will hand them out and the Department Chairs and Donors will shake hands with the recipients. Changes this year are an effort to streamline the process to allow more time with students and families.
- VI. **Academic Achievement Awards**
The Dean raised questions about the increasing number of Departmental Academic Achievement Awards and the disparities in the compensation given with them. A lively discussion followed.
- VII. **Budget Updates for 2010-2011**
The USI Foundation will continue support for faculty development funding, including the CLAFDA awards. The LARAs have already been sent to recipients. This was a very competitive year with many junior faculty members applying. This year's winners are X. Hu, A. McKibban, M. Stoll, and M. York. The Dean would like to increase the number of available LARAs to five.
- VIII. **University Calendar**
The proposal committee is working on the following possible calendar changes: Start the fall semester one week early; fall break will be two days in October; final exams will begin earlier with the Wednesday before finals a dead day, with graduation on a Friday; for spring semester, add an assessment day and

take two days from the current spring semester schedule to give fall and spring semester an equal number of days (the two dead days would be study days).

IX. Around the Table

Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies – M. York presented “Social Capital and violence against women: A mitigation or enhancement factor?” at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 47th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

A. Buck gave a public lecture at the Owensboro Area World Affairs Council on “Free Trade: Economic and Social Implications” on March 18, 2010.

English – Eric Puchner is the guest for the RopeWalk Reading Series on March 25th.

E. Hawkins took four students to present at a conference in Louisville, KY.

History – A. King recently published, “Some 10th Century Material on Asian Toponymy from Sahlan b. Kaysan.” *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi* 16 (2008/9): 121-6.

Jessica Doyle ('08, History) has been accepted into the Ph.D. programs at the University of Cincinnati and The Ohio State University.

Performing Arts – The Repertory Project opened on March 18th. Theatre tech students have done well stepping in for T. Thompson following his heart attack.

Art - R. Millard Mendez has work in three national juried art exhibitions: *42nd Annual National Visual Arts Exhibition*, Meadows Gallery, Denton, TX; *Sensory Overload*, Corcoran College of Art + Design Gallery, Washington D.C.; and *Media Mix*, Cohasset Art Center, Cohasset, MA, in which he won first place.

Heather De Longa, a recent art graduate, won the Best of Show Award at *Art in the City*, a regional juried exhibition at the Bower-Suhrheinrich Gallery, Evansville, IN.

The 40th Annual Student Art Show will open this Sunday, March 28, with a reception from 2-4 p.m. At the 3pm awards ceremony, around \$8000 in merit awards, scholarships, and purchase awards will be presented to students for their creative achievements. This year the show was selected by Juror, Paul Andrew Wandless, an internationally-recognized ceramic artist and author. The exhibition will be open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm from March 29-April 30, 2010.

Modern and Classical Languages – USI Alumni in Residence, Mr. Eric Adams, President/CEO of Engine Inc., will present “Monolingualism-A Horrible Yet Curable Disease!” on April 8, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in Kley Meyer Hall.

Political Science and Public Administration – Three graduate students have received Graduate Student Travel Grants to attend the Indiana Political Science Association meeting next month: Toni Brink, Michelle White, and Linda Bailey. All three students are currently enrolled in the MALS program; Ms. Bailey and Ms. White are both alumni of the MPA program. In addition, Ms. Brink and Ms. White received a Graduate Student Research Grant for their project “Meltdowns, Cover-ups, and Mutants: Pop Culture’s Perversion of Nuclear Energy.” Ms. Brink and Ms. White are using this money to visit museums and nuclear power plants in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. M.T. Hallock Morris is the faculty sponsor for all three of the graduate students.

Communications - S. Young, a contract assistant professor in communication studies will present a lecture on "Personal Stories, Collective Pasts: Examining the Artworks of Esther Parada" on Monday, March 29 at Dominican University in Chicago. The lecture draws upon theories in feminism, rhetoric, and collective memory.

Dean's Office:

A. Torres – Summer contracts will be mailed April 26th. Information needs to be completed by April 8th. Please send any changes ASAP.

D. Glassman – J. Evey has been nominated by Dr. Bennett and accepted to the HERS Institute at Bryn Mawr for this summer.

J. Evey – I will be attending *Getting to Know USI* at Ivy Tech, Wednesday, March 31. If you have any materials you would like me to take, please get them to me by March 30.