

**Liberal Arts Council Meeting
April 6, 2010**

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

I. LAC Minutes for Approval from 3/30/10 Minutes were reviewed and approved as amended with two abstentions.

II. Deadline Calendar for Honors Day Awards/Scholarships

The Council voted to establish December 1st as the deadline to provide applications to the LAC Awards Committee. December 15th will be the deadline for all departments to turn in their departmental Honors Day information to the Dean's office. The Awards Committee will have some flexibility for those University awards that have January application deadlines.

III. Course Drops

Reasons for not signing student withdrawal forms include telling the student to check with Financial Aid first and student plagiarism which requires completion of the Academic Dishonesty paperwork on the Dean of Student's website. Department Chairs and Deans can override a professor's refusal to sign a drop slip, but the question was raised regarding whether we need a College-wide policy. Department Chairs and Director should get feedback from their faculty. Policy concerns should be raised with Faculty Senate.

IV. Final Discussion for a Policy on BlackBoard Use for Course Materials

The LAC approved a new policy to have all faculty use BlackBoard for standard course materials. Exceptions would be approved by the Chairs and Director. This will be implemented in Fall 2010 with the understanding that training will be made available for faculty members. Full implementation will continue throughout both semesters (Fall 2010 and Spring 2011). Excerpts from books should follow copyright laws and the library is very cooperative with using E-reserve for course materials.

V. Final Discussion for a Policy on Graded Participation Activities in Classes

The policy does not dictate using a participation grade; however, it requires providing clear guidelines for determining the grade. The policy was approved.

VI. Final Discussion for a Policy on Reference Checks for Part-time Faculty

These references are required for the hiring of all part-time faculty and must include the most recent supervisor. The Department Chair or Director must make the reference check. Part-time faculty who have been teaching for more than the past two years for USI do not need reference checks unless there are issues to resolve. Any returning adjuncts who have not worked in over one year must complete a new application, submit an updated vitae, and undergo a reference check.

USI employees who are also instructors must have immediate supervisor contact as well. A. Torres reminded council members that summer contracts will go out April 26th and fall contracts will go out at the end of the summer.

VII. Academic Planning Council Update

New areas of study in LA that are in the pipeline:

*Bachelor of Science in Arts & Heritage Management – first approved in 2004, this program is currently being re-evaluated. Some decision should be made on this soon.

*Masters in Communication has been approved and is already creating a lot of interest. A USI team of faculty

who recently went to Europe to generate interest in exchange programs reported that Communication Studies was of the most interest to their audiences.

*The Masters in History is still under investigation and will not be up for approval until the 2011-2013 biennium. The Program in American Studies is also on the calendar for approval.

*LA has also made a strong proposal for a BA in Anthropology. Final approval is expected next year for implementation in Fall 2011.

M. Rozewski reported that no new programs requiring new faculty lines will be approved in the next biennium.

VIII. Student Course Evaluations

Both online and paper course evaluations are still being used at present. For LA to use only online evaluations, the request must come from the Dean's Office. There was a brief discussion about time necessary for departments to prepare for the change.

IX. Around the Table

D. Glassman – The ad for part-time faculty will post on the USI website this week and then in the local newspaper. The Dean is the contact person by mail or email.

The brunch for adjunct faculty is April 24th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Liberal Arts discussion board is available to the LAC on BlackBoard.

M. Aakhus – The Student Endeavor Grant showcase is Thursday.

J. Evey – Blackboard training, including email, announcements, gradebook, and posting of materials will be held on two different days for Liberal Arts faculty: Tuesday, April 20 from 3-3:50 p.m. in LA 1011 and on Wednesday, April 21 from 2-2:50 p.m. in LA 1009. Additional and more advanced training will be scheduled early in the Fall term.

Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies - S. Williams presented the paper "Barbarians at the Gate: Immigrant Hysteria and the Great Wall of Mexico" at the National Social Science Association conference in Las Vegas.

R. Priest presented the paper "Embedded Advising" at the National Social Science Association conference in Las Vegas.

S. Williams had his research article "Culture for Sale? An Exploratory Study of the Crow Fair" accepted for publication in the journal *The Qualitative Report*, Volume 16, Number 1 (January 2011).

History - Last week, A. King presented the paper "Beyond the Geographers: Information on Asia in Early Medieval Arabic Writers on Pharmacology and Perfumery" at the Association for Asian Studies annual conference in Philadelphia.

Last week, T. Hunt presented the paper "Helping Social Studies Students Succeed: Lessons from a High School-University Service Learning Partnership" at the National Technology and Social Science Conference sponsored by the National Social Science Association.

M. Dixon, M. Grow and T. Hunt have been accepted into the Center for Academic Creativity's Scholarly Writing Institute for summer 2010.

J. Hardgrave and M. Rothwell have been accepted into the Summer 2010 Online Teaching Institute.

M. Rothwell received a Faculty Research and Creative Work Award to support research in Central and South America related to his projected monograph, "Transpacific Revolutionaries."

T. Hunt received a Faculty Research and Creative Work Award to support research in London and Oxford

related to her projected monograph on women in early eighteenth century publishing.

T. Hunt received a College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Award to support research at Bloomington, IN related to her projected monograph on women in early eighteenth century publishing.

Performing Arts – Theatre student Jasmine Ruckreigel is a semi-finalist in the tryouts for the cast of the new TV program, *Glee*.

Modern and Classical Languages – G. Latorre: presented “Percepciones de Estados Unidos y Europa. El *Diario* y el *Diccionario* de Vicente Pérez Rosales (Chile, 1807-1886)” at the Seventh Biennial Florida International University Conference on Spanish and Spanish-American Cultural Studies, April 2-3, 2010, Miami, FLA.

M. Apodaca-Valdez received a Faculty Research and Creative Work Award to conduct research on Afro-Cuban Dances of *Iremes* or *Diablitos* in Cuba.

Psychology – Psychology Club is hosting the ARC Director of Development on Thursday, April 8 at 6 p.m. in LA 2030. Denise Seibert will discuss opportunities to volunteer at the non-profit organization for individuals with disabilities.

Communications – RTV Major, Ashley Creigh has been accepted to the Center for Spanish Language Media Sales Institute at the University of North Texas.

Philosophy – M.L. Stoll presented “Greenmarketing or Greenwash: How Corporations are Divesting Green of Meaning,” Environmental Ethics Conference, Metro State College of Denver, Denver, CO, March 31-April 3, 2010. Dr. Stoll will give a similar presentation at the upcoming LA Colloquium on Friday 4/23.

Art - S. Bielski has 2 art works in the *9th Nationally Juried Exhibition* at the Ceres Gallery in New York City.

A. Kosten has a solo exhibition of *Recent Works on Paper* at the Merced County Arts Center in Merced, CA.

R. Millard-Mendez has work in an invitational show: *Let's Go Postal*, Onconee Cultural Arts Foundation, GA; and a juried show: *Gateway to the Imagination*, Farmington Museum of Art, Farmington, NM.

L. Dowhie participated in Conference Proceedings and Advisory Board meetings at the 44th Annual National Council on Education for the Ceramic Artist (NCECA) from March 31-April 3 in Philadelphia, PA. Five current USI art students also attended.

Representatives from the visual communications and design areas at the University of Southern Indiana, Ivy Tech Community College, and the University of Evansville have arranged for the first annual Regional Portfolio Review to be held this Thursday, April 8 at Ivy Tech Community College. For this event, creative professionals from the community (including several USI alumni) have agreed to meet with students and evaluate their design portfolios. Around 25 USI art/design students have signed up to participate in this voluntary event.