

Liberal Arts Council Meeting September 9, 2008

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

I. **Minutes for Approval**

The minutes from April 24 and 29, 2008, and June 24, 2008 were reviewed and approved with minor changes.

II. **Working Group Volunteers**

The university is recruiting faculty members who are interested in volunteer service on two new committees. One committee will be re-evaluating the current structure of summer scheduling at USI. The second is reviewing the part-time faculty handbook.

III. **Dean's Student Advisory Group**

The Dean asked members of the LAC to select a student representative from each discipline to represent all LA majors on the Dean's Student Advisory Council. Meetings are at noon on the first Wednesday of each month; lunch will be provided. Submit names by the end of the week.

IV. **First Year Faculty Mentors**

Faculty mentors are selected each fall semester for all first-year faculty members (22 this semester). Recommend mentors today. Mentors will be from a different department and are expected to meet with their mentee at least once per semester. While meetings are at the mentee's discretion, the mentor is to stay in contact. One lunch meeting will be paid for by the Dean's office, however, arrangements must be made at least one week in advance.

V. **Majors at Home Initiative and Grant Opportunity**

This initiative is a result of the National Student Engagement Survey and has been embraced by Academic Affairs. Early results show that freshmen feel they are an important part of the major and its purpose and goals. Conversely, surveys of upper-classman indicate that they are feeling less involved in the programs of their majors. Student clubs and organizations should be sponsoring events and recruiting new members. Another idea is for department chairs to have a list serve of all new majors. Grants are available for each department for this initiative. Applications (for up to \$5,000) must include department goals, expectations, and budget. Additional printed information was provided.

VI. **Advising Visit to Vincennes**

USI has a concurrent admission agreement with Vincennes University. VU students who are enrolled in this program and attend USI should **not** be considered transfer students, but should be treated as returning students. VU students **not** enrolled in this program **are** considered transfers. VU students must have a B average to be in the concurrent admission program. Most of the students currently enrolled in this program are business majors. The Dean would like Liberal Arts departments to make contacts and recruit students. Within the

Liberal Arts, most students are in history and psychology, but art and criminal justice studies should also be of interest. W. Rinks and R. Priest volunteered to go on September 30th.

VII. Post Script

Enrollment for Fall 2008 is up 2% from last year. Graduate student enrollment increased a whopping 12.9%. There was also a 23% increase in older student enrollment. The number of minority students is increasing and USI has students from 50 foreign countries. Retention is up. Life at USI is good.

W. Rinks asked about the closed class and petition override issue. The Dean presented the LA chairs' response to the Academic Affairs Council against allowing across the board permission to override and offered the alternative plan of an electronic process to handle these situations. The alternative plan was welcomed by the Provost and it was agreed that the process could be done through Outlook. Well done, Liberal Arts Council!

VIII. Around the Table

Communications – L.A. Howard has received notice of publication acceptance from the **Journal of Applied Communication Research** for an article she coauthored with P. Ferrier, "Cultivating Respect: Using Performance to Understand Stereotypes of Media Victimization". This journal is one of the top tier publications for CMST and has an acceptance rate of 3.85%.

W. Rinks will present a paper on Native American Radio News Networks on Friday at the joint meeting of the Kentucky Communication Association and the Tennessee Communication Association. B. West is a participant on a panel discussing the "Rhetoric of the 2008 Presidential Campaign".

History – Brian Wassmer (Social Science Teaching) is now teaching at Reitz High School. Andrea Henke (History 2008) had her article "Displaced Persons and Holocaust Survivors Immediately Following World War II," published in the third volume of *Amalgam*. The history department's newsletter, *Timeline*, Vol. 2, No. 1, has just been published.