

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

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

I. Approval of Minutes for September 9, 2008

Minutes from the meeting on 9/9/08 were reviewed and approved with minor changes.

II. FERPA

W. Rinks, J. Evey, and D. Glassman attended an audio conference regarding FERPA. Unfortunately, the focus was only on the system being used by the University of Minnesota. A copy of FERPA guidelines for letters of recommendation will be shared. Discussion included the development of a standardized release form, electronic and faxed signatures, and where release forms will be housed. More information on this issue will be forth-coming.

III. Assignment of "I" Grades

Issues regarding incompletes were recently raised; a student was told after 3 months that it was too late to complete a course; however, there was no written agreement. Current University policy indicates that a student has up to 12 months to complete a course unless there is a written agreement. All faculty members should include a clear late work policy on their syllabi. Faculty also need to provide clear, written explanations of what needs done and within what time frame for an incomplete. Faculty Senate mandates that all grades given must be able to withstand scrutiny. If the instructor does not contact the registrar to remove an "I", that designation will remain on the student record for one year.

IV. Peer Evaluation of Teaching

This item on the agenda was tabled until more time was available for discussion.

V. Academic Affairs Update

* The Provost has asked that the Fresh Start Program be reviewed by the Faculty Senate. This program provides the opportunity for students who previously attended college but had very poor performance and discontinued their studies a chance to start over with their studies. Returning students are treated as incoming freshmen. There was discussion about how to make the program better.

* Retention for the past year is the best it has been in a long time. The Dean shared information from other colleges at USI; improving retention of LA students was discussed.

* J. Evey announced that Career Services is planning a presentation to LA majors concerning how to prepare for the job market.

Reminders from the Dean

Nominees for the Dean's Student Council should be turned in immediately.

Names for faculty mentors should also be forwarded right away.

Around the Table – via email

Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies – Sociology major, Samantha Stratton, will be delivering a campus-wide talk on September 11, about being sexually assaulted on campus. T. Schroer, founder of USI MAARV (Male Allies Against Rape & Violence) will host their first meeting September 11 at 4:30 in LA 2004.

T. Schroer will be the first speaker for the LA Colloquium Series on September 19th @ 3:30 pm. His talk is titled "Pedophilia and White Supremacy".

A. Buck will deliver a community lecture to the Owensboro World Affairs Council on September 18, titled "Russia and the E.U."

Political Science and Public Administration – All new MPA students have been paired with a successful MPA student or alumnus. This is the first time we've assigned mentors to our students.

Our students are working on a live radio show with WNIN regarding the presidential election. The Philosophy Club, the Political Science Association, and the Pre-Law Club participated in the Involvement Fair on September 10th with great success in recruiting both majors and members.