

Liberal Arts Council Meeting September 30, 2008

Present: D. Glassman, M. Aakhus, J. Palladino, S. Spencer, S. Rode, E. Wasserman, J. deJong, T. Hunt and guests A. Buck and B. West present for R. Priest and W. Rinks, respectively. R. Priest and W. Rinks are representing Liberal Arts at Vincennes University today.

I. **Minutes from 9/16/08**

Minutes from the last LAC meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.

II. **Campus Solicitation Policy**

Soliciting on USI networks for outside organizations or fundraising is prohibited without written permission from the President. The two exceptions are the USI Foundation and the United Way. The USI News & Information Marketplace is the venue for selling personal items or advertising non-university fundraising.

III. **Academic Advising for Online Orientation**

USI is working to provide online orientation materials for transfer and distance education students who do not attend on-campus orientation sessions. The College of Liberal Arts does not have majors in distance education and transfer students to LA are generally advised via telephone or email. Chairs should be the contact person for academic advising for transfer students in LA.

IV. **Tenure & Promotion Faculty Evaluations**

The Academic Affairs Council agreed that the department chair should have access to evaluation/commendation letters from previous evaluations. There are still two departments in LA who do not have tenure and promotion guidelines. The Dean prefers departmental versus college evaluation committees; however, several departments due to size or new faculty cannot always use only their department. Any candidate may write a letter as an addendum to their evaluation. The narrative is an important element of determining excellence in teaching for tenure and promotion.

V. **Academic Affairs Update**

The Dean again stressed the importance of nominations of LA faculty members for University awards. The Provost has received no nominations for the Berger service award; the deadline for nominations has been extended to October 5th. Nominations for teaching awards will be considered in November and December.

The USI Travel Policy is being re-evaluated. Faculty and students will not room together; no one in a position of authority over another will share a room with that person. The main issue is that no faculty member will be **required** to room with someone else.

The CAP program was revisited. English has increased the number of high schools involved in the CAP program. Departments should have a CAP liaison. The Dean distributed printed information about compensation for teaching CAP classes.

The Provost is changing the GPA for academic probation from 1.6 for 0-31 hours to 1.7 for 6-31 hours. The rest remains the same: 32-62 hours, GPA of 1.8, 2.0 for 63+ hours.

Survey requests to the Office of Institutional Research now require clearance through the Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research office. This is to track requests involving human-subjects research.

The Provost is working to further streamline the faculty hiring process. Candidates may come for interviews with copies of transcripts in their files and without reference calls. Official transcripts and reference checks are still required before contracts will be issued. Departments may choose to require reference checks before requesting candidates come to campus. The Dean would like to have a secure website for LA to accept electronic applications and electronic signatures; the Provost will discuss the possibility with HR. The English department is already in the process of setting up a designated, secure electronic account for each search in the department with access given only to search committee members.

LA faculty members are again encouraged to participate in Connect with Southern Indiana, a leadership program with Evansville and the surrounding nine-county area. There have been no faculty applications for this program so far. D. Hitchcock and H. Braysmith are LA faculty members who have participated in the program in the past.

The issue of reducing the hours for Southern Hospitality Days was tabled by Dr. Bennett at the council meeting until she could gather further information.

M. Aakhus had brochures for the Carithers Scholarships for department chairs to distribute during Southern Hospitality Days. Majors from English, Philosophy, Modern & Classical Languages, History, Art, and Theatre who meet the requirements are eligible to apply.

Communications will have members of the accreditation team on site October 19-22. The department has been working very hard on the accreditation review process.

Around the Table

ART

*R. Millard-Mendez had two of his art works published in the highly competitive book, "500 Chairs".

*"East West North", a faculty art exhibition, opens on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 6-8pm at the Evansville Museum and continues from Sept. 21- Nov. 30. This exhibition includes work from M. Aakhus, C. Armstrong, J. deJong, L. Dowhie, J. D'Uva, X. Hu, D. Huebner, R. Millard-Mendez, K. Waters, and many of the adjunct art faculty of the University of Southern Indiana as well as the faculty from University of Evansville and Ivy Tech Community College.

* C. Roth and J. D'Uva have art work included in the Art of Our Decade juried invitational exhibition at The Communities of Solarbron. The show opened September 14 and continues until October 10, 2008.

* C. Armstrong oversaw a team of 10 graphic design students who completed a design for the 3rd Annual Toyota Kenny Kent Scion Design Competition.

* R. Millard-Mendez had art work accepted into the HxWxD, a juried sculpture competition at the Rosewood Arts Center Gallery in Ohio. He also has three works of art exhibited online that he donated to a benefit for Art Now for Autism.

Communications

L. A. Howard, associate professor of communication studies, organized a successful "Debate-A-Palooza" on Friday night, September 26. Approximately 600 USI students participated.

English

P. Aakhus has been accepted to present, "The King, the Abbot and the Woman Druid: Secular and Clerical Magic in a Twelfth Century Irish Death Tale" for the "Purity and Transgression" session sponsored by the Societas Magica, at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, in Kalamazoo, 7-10 May 2009.

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

* All new MPA students have been paired with successful MPA students or alumni. This is the first time we've assigned mentors.

* Our students are working on a live radio show with WNIN regarding the presidential election.

*MT Hallock Morris was elected by the Defiance College Alumni Executive Board to receive the Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence Award. She will receive the award (in DC) at their homecoming and be part of an alumni leadership symposium on the Friday of Homecoming (Oct 3 and 4, 2008).

* WR Mack was interviewed by our local NBC station, Channel 14 News, regarding the importance of Indiana in this year's presidential race.