

**LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 7, 2008**

**Present:** D. Glassman, M. Aakhus, J. Palladino, S. Spencer, E. Wasserman, S. Rode, J. Evey, J. deJong, P. Aakhus, W. Rinks, A. Torres, B. Christie. **Absent:** T. Hunt.  
**Guest:** Bryan Bourdeau, Instructor in the College of Business.

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

Motion to approve the minutes as amended carried with one abstention.

W. Rinks and R. Priest gave a brief report of their visit to Vincennes University last Tuesday. Turnout by VU faculty and students was low. The importance of the trip was evident in the outdated check sheets being used at VU for the various departments. All the current brochures taken on the trip were left for updating the check list information. A tablecloth for such events has been ordered.

**II. Business Idea Competition – Bryan Bourdeau, Instructor in the College of Business**

This competition is an effort to increase campus interest in entrepreneurship. The College of Business is working to create a collegiate management program and a small-business development center. The purpose of the competition is to seek problem-solving ideas from students from all areas of USI. This competition is not requiring heavy research, only ideas. Prizes, both cash and other, will be awarded. The application deadline is October 22, 2008, at 5 pm. Mr. Bourdeau assured that students would retain intellectual ownership. He is currently working with artist Steven Lucas in collaboration with D. Huebner in the Tech Center to make the framing for some of his art to be placed in a new office building. There are also future plans for a faculty competition and a community competition.

**III. Peer Review of Teaching**

The Dean again stressed the importance of peer review of teaching. LA policy states that each member of the peer review evaluation committee should personally observe at least one class session for each candidate. This policy is not being followed by all as indicated by the few letters in portfolios from peer reviewers. Peer evaluation is considered one of the most valuable tools for evaluating teaching. Discussion ensued regarding the use of general guidelines for reviews, the value of several reviews per year, whether department chairs should have a more formalized process of evaluation than peer evaluators, and rules of conduct for visiting evaluators. It was concluded that the current policy remain in place and be enforced by the department chairs.

**IV. T & P Faculty Evaluations**

This agenda item was tabled due to time constraints.

**V. Academic Affairs Update**

No update this week.

## **Around the Table**

### **Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies**

R. Priest presented her study results from the Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Impact Study to the Evansville Rotary Club Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The results from the same study were the topic of interviews with WEHT News 25 and the Courier Press that same week. She was also on WNIN's (NPR radio) hour-long program, "Tri-State Matters" on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> with other members of the Habitat Evaluation Team presenting the same study.

The department and SAC student club is sponsoring "USI Votes Early (and "Often"). Faculty volunteers will be driving students to the polls for early voting beginning October 16<sup>th</sup> and continuing up to Election Day.

### **Department of Modern and Classical Languages**

Nine French, German, and Spanish majors are teaching languages to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in after-school programs in Evansville elementary schools.

S. Rode presented a paper "The Berlin Wall: A Personal Narrative and National Identity," at the 32<sup>nd</sup> European Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, October 4, 2008.

The department of Modern and Classical Languages, the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Office of Student Development, and the Office of International Programs and Services are sponsoring a "Columbus Day Concert – Flamenco Louisville," October 15, 2008, 4:30-5:50 in Carter Hall.

### **Center for Interdisciplinary Studies**

The Great Wall Colloquium on September 26, sponsored by the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies with support from Liberal Arts, CAC, and the Society for Arts and Humanities, drew about 1500 students, faculty, and staff to Carter Hall. Presentations were given on various walls including the Great Wall of China, Native American defensive walls, the Berlin Wall, Hadrian's Wall, the Mexico-US Wall, the Wailing Wall, the Iron Curtain, Shakespeare's walls, Roman Walls, the Virtual Wall, and the Chemical Wall by Liberal Arts faculty including M. Strezewski, B. Graves, P. Aakhus, S. Williams, MT Hallock Morris, O. Armeanu, C. Tew, M. Krahling (honorary LA faculty), L. Roberts, S. Darrell, and S. Rode. The Colloquium also featured superb original poetry by M. Graham and J. Gibson and beautiful photographs and paintings by K. Waters, J. deJong, X. Hu and M. Aakhus. A CAC grant has been submitted for the next Colloquium: Islands.