

**LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 9, 2008**

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

No minutes available for review.

**I. August Retreat**

Dates for the annual fall workshop for LA Council members were discussed. The workshop for 2009 will be scheduled for Thursday, August 20, beginning at 8:30 a.m. University-wide meetings for faculty will begin on Monday, August 24. Classes begin on Monday, August 31.

**II. AA Appreciation Lunch**

Due to busy schedules prior to the Christmas break, the luncheon for the administrative assistants has been moved to after the break. The name of the event is now "AA Appreciation Luncheon". This year's luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6 at 11:30 at Biaggi's.

**III. Honors Day**

Honor's Day 2009 is scheduled for Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m. in Carter Hall. All department chairs and program directors are required to attend, unless attending a conference. In this case, the person who will be absent must provide an alternate to hand out awards. Candidates for nominated awards are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Those requiring letters of recommendation and essays are due January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Commencement**

The date for December commencement is the 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be two ceremonies this year at 10 a.m. and at 1p.m. Liberal Arts will participate in the afternoon ceremony. All LA faculty members are invited to attend the fall commencement. Attendance for faculty at the spring event is mandatory. This includes one-year renewable contract faculty members. Department chairs and program directors are required to attend the fall and spring ceremonies. All faculty members who attend either or both commencements are required to wear regalia. Faculty members attending the December commencement are to meet at the PAC at 12:15 p.m.

**V. Budget Process**

Academic Affairs had a special meeting yesterday regarding the economy and its effect on the next USI budget. The University will continue with college budget presentations and has encouraged departments with budget items in queue to continue to include them in their requests. Resources will be more limited this time. No endowment funds will be released for two years. This will affect LA somewhat, but not as much as some of the endowed colleges. The LA working budget will remain intact. Business Affairs is planning to use money from other sources to maintain endowed scholarships. The additional travel funds provided by the Provost for LA faculty will have the biggest impact on LA, since all of the Provost's travel funding is endowed. Dr. Bennett is encouraging all colleges, deans, and departments to be conservative in their spending this year. Travel money not used this year will roll over into the next fiscal year. Some grants for faculty development are also funded by endowments and alternate sources are also being sought to fund CLAFDA, FRCWA, CAC, etc. Funding for sabbaticals and summer

fellowships will not be affected. Although endowment money also funds faculty searches, searches will continue. However, candidate travel and meal expenses should be kept down when possible and travel costs will be closely monitored. This information should be relayed to faculty. The freeze on endowed funds will be in effect for the next two years.

## **VI. Academic Affairs Update**

The Provost has been reviewing data regarding summer sessions. Only having two summer sessions is being considered. There has been discussion regarding the low enrollment in the third summer session and how changes might be implemented.

Traditionally, field testing has been done in the fall semester (Sociology being the only exception). Departments now have the option of doing field testing in either fall or spring. Persons interested should contact K. Draughon.

Several opportunities for faculty development are being offered during the spring and summer semesters. They include workshops on "Getting Back to the Core", distance education, "Courage to Teach", and preparing the final submission for a published article.

The Provost asked for ideas for rescheduling final exams if inclement weather causes the University to close during finals week. No firm conclusion was reached.

## **Around the Table**

### **Performing Arts**

D. Craig successfully completed another Madrigal Dinner series. The event sold out over four days and raised money to help underwrite the annual trip the Chamber Choir takes to Ireland. Performing Arts appreciates all those who support this event.

On December 17-19, Performing Arts will be assisting Tales and Scales, Evansville's nationally renowned children's theatre troupe by providing support as it tapes a short program for public television. Taping will be conducted in the Mallette Studio Theatre.