

Liberal Arts Council Meeting February 24, 2009

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

I. **Approval of Minutes from 2/3/09 and 2/10/09**

The minutes for 2/3/09 and 2/10/09 were each approved, as amended.

II. **New Course Petitions**

J. Kempf presented a proposal for a new class, Art 334- *Asian Art* as part of the art history curriculum. The petition was approved by the Council.

J. Evey presented a new course proposal created by O. Armeanu, POLS 385- *Western European Politics*. The petition was approved with modifications.

III. **Summer Sessions**

A university task force has presented a plan to reduce the number of summer sessions from three to two. The first session would be four weeks and the second session would be eight weeks. The Dean reminded council members that teaching summer courses is **not** mandatory; courses should be scheduled according to the needs of the departments and the students. Chairs were encouraged to approach a change in the number and length of summer sessions strategically.

IV. **LA Office Hours**

The current CLA policy for office hours for full time faculty is one hour per week for each class taught per semester spread over at least two days per week. Departmental policy on this issue can be different than the college requirement, as long as the amount of time required is not less than the college policy. Department chairs are the policy makers for their department(s); however, the best policies are based on informed decisions that include faculty input. The Dean encourages departmental policy-making that fosters community among faculty members.

V. **Adjunct Faculty Celebration**

The Council endorsed a suggestion from an LA adjunct suggesting a gathering of adjunct faculty to show appreciation for adjunct support in all the departments.

VI. **Academic Affairs**

Faculty Senate has made a recommendation that any new freshman placed in GENS099 must pass the course before taking any core curriculum courses. Failure of the course will result in the student being one year behind in the core curriculum requirements. The Dean does not support this recommendation. This will go into effect in Fall 2010. S. Spencer reported that under the new system, 40% of new students will have to take a writing test.

The University will soon have paperless closed-class petitions, a recommendation that originated in LA. A. Torres will get details regarding overrides for closed classes, pre-requisites, time conflicts, etc. That information will be passed on to Chairs when available.

Dr. Bennett presented the university budget to the Deans; this included funding for the Art Center and the position for PA/POLS set as priorities.

Dr. Bennett also held a preliminary discussion regarding the search for a new Provost. She presented a draft plan and M. Rozewski will chair the search committee.

Around the Table Dean's Office

The Dean is reviewing portfolios and FARS.

With the many searches underway, remember that a transcript is official only if sent directly from the originating institution to our institution. It can be sent to A. Torres or the Search Committee Chair, NOT hand delivered.

B. Christie – Corrections for the final schedule edit for Fall 2009 are due by the end of the day Wednesday. Please review the Honors Day spreadsheet and make necessary corrections/additions and return to me as soon as possible.

Performing Arts

One of our students, Brad Lock, attended the University and Regional Theatre Auditions in Chicago last month to interview with top graduate schools. He has already been offered full scholarship and assistantship packages to the University of Connecticut, Penn State, and Cal State at Fullerton. He is at this time planning to accept the Cal State offer. Brad has been closely mentored these last few years by S. Jensen and will be designing costumes for the last play of the season, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, in April.

Master Harold and the Boys opened on February 19th and runs through March 1 and has received wonderful reviews. Daniel Craig's choir performed at the Lincoln Symposium.

Communication

The proposed Master of Arts in Communication has received approval from the Graduate Council. It will be considered for University approval on March 30. A USI student has been named a finalist in the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts National Competition in the "PSA/Promo/Commercial Category". Benjamin Weber, Radio/TV major won 3rd place for his entry titled "Stupid Ideas." Ben will be presented his award in Las Vegas this April.

The Department of Communication has again been selected by the Scripps Howard Foundation to award two internships/scholarships worth \$4,000 each.

Art

ART - USI art students recently competed with other college art students in the Henderson Fine Arts Center Regional College Art Juried Exhibition 2009. Around 85% of this competitive exhibition consisted of art work from USI students who also won 5 of the 8 awards. USI Art major (in photography) Jessica Dodd won Best of Show for her black and white silver gelatin photograph. The exhibition runs through March 30.

Philosophy

M. L. Stoll led the Philosophy Club as well as several of our faculty including M. Felton in *The Vagina Monologues* to a standing room only crowd on February 26 in RL 0017. All proceeds benefit the Albion Fellows Bacon Center and V-Day campaign to help women in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

History

The History Club recognized Black History Month with a presentation by B. Hart which featured a power point presentation of pictures from the USI History Department archives.

The Lincoln Symposium was very well received.

Political Science

M. Hallock Morris gave an invited lecture to the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources on February 16.