

Liberal Arts Council Meeting

March 17, 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, B. Christie

Announcements – Minutes from 2/24/09 will be held for review until next week.

R. Priest will meet and greet students on behalf of the CLA at the USI/Ivy Tech recruiting event today at Ivy Tech.

I. Honors Day

All LA faculty are invited and encouraged to attend the Honors Day event this Sunday, March 22nd, in Carter Hall. Faculty should arrive by 1:30 and bring regalia to UC 206. Department Chairs will be seated on the platform. M. Aakhus will hand out awards.

II. LA Advising and Assessment

LA faculty are strongly encouraged to attend one of the advising seminars; Chairs are asked to send another email reminder this week to their faculty members. Liberal Arts is trying a new evaluation procedure. All students will be given an evaluation form at advising and asked to drop it off that day. The form is modeled after the one developed by Communications for accreditation purposes. Discussion followed.

III. Department Chair Evaluations

These are typically done at the first departmental meeting after spring break. A two-part questionnaire will be given to all FT faculty to complete and return to the Dean's office. There will also be a form on the "O" drive to be completed by the Department Chairs. Chairs will meet with Dean to discuss progress and future plans. Communal Studies will be included in the Chair evaluations.

IV. Publisher/Book Adoption Relationship

T. Hunt is on a publishing company list-serve for which faculty members who select textbooks from this publisher gets \$10 for each book purchased by a student. An LA policy will be considered after checking the University policy.

Students who are on scholarship *must* buy books at the USI Bookstore. The Bookstore is a non-auxiliary unit of the university, but is also non-profit and provides scholarships for USI students.

V. Graduate Programs, Classes and the Issue of Reassigned Time

Reassigned time for teaching graduate classes was discussed. A Master's program that would weaken or undermine a departmental major will not be considered. However, with the development of new programs, LA needs to develop a formal policy for reassigned time. A discussion followed.

VI. Around the Table

Psychology – A. Mark presented "The Impact of Social Norms on Confrontations of Gender and Racial Bias" (co-author was Margo J. Monteith) at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

Sixth edition of Davis and Palladino, *Psychology*, was published in January by Prentice Hall.

Dr. Leslie Ashburn-Nardo, assistant professor of psychology at IUPUI, will present the 2009 Sydney Berger Lecture, "Speaking out about Prejudice," at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 19, in Mitchell Auditorium.

Performing Arts – D. Craig has resumed giving public performances with his Irish combo, Rowan Tree, and was seen last week performing at Ri-Ra's.

E. Wasserman recently gave an acting workshop to recruit the talented students of Hobart High School in northern Indiana for USI.

Last Saturday he also judged performing arts students for ACT-SO, a national scholarship program sponsored by the NAACP.

Matt Hart, a USI theatre alumnus, now drama director at Gibson Southern High School, with his students won the Best high school production in the State Thespian competition, earning the right to represent Indiana at the International Thespian Society conference in Lincoln, Nebraska.

History - "Using Book Tests to Get Students to Read," an essay by C. Harison, was published in the November 2008 edition of *Perspectives*, the news magazine of the American Historical Association.

The history department is pleased to announce that it will be joined by two new tenure-track faculty members in fall 2009. This spring at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Latin American specialist Matthew Rothwell will defend his dissertation on early Maoist influences on nascent Latin American resistance movements. Dr. Anya King, a 2007 Indiana University PhD in Central Eurasian Studies and Near Eastern Languages, is a specialist on the Silk Road and will become the department's first specialist in Middle East/Islamic World history.

The Liberal Arts Alumni in Residence Lecture Series will feature Jon Carl '95 '98 presenting "Hands on History: Transforming Students into Historians by Making Documentaries" in Kleymeyer Hall on Thursday at 6:00 pm.

Modern and Classical Languages - March 20, 2009, the department of Modern and Classical Languages is hosting the National Foreign Language Honor Society (Alpha Mu Gamma) annual initiation banquet. Keynote speaker will be newly elected USI president Dr. Linda Bennett.

March 23, 2009 a delegation from the University of Applied Sciences at Osnabrück, Germany will be on campus to talk about study abroad and faculty teaching opportunities. A presentation is scheduled for 1:15 pm in Carter Hall A/B.

Communications - The Department of Communications received a positive vote (9 to 4) by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) Accrediting Committee this weekend in Chicago. The department's bid for re-accreditation now goes to the ACEJMC Council for their May meeting in Portland, Oregon.

The Shield earned two awards in the Hoosier State Press Association's 2008 Better Newspaper Contest. Andrew Foster took second place for Best Feature Story and Seth Grundhoefer won third place for Best News Story. More awards will be announced later this month by the Indiana Collegiate Press Association.

A. Torres – Chairs will receive ballots for selecting recipients for the LARAs this week. Please return completed ballots to Angela.