

Liberal Arts Council Meeting

March 31, 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. No Minutes for Approval

II. Course Modification Petition: ENG 490

Lack of coordination between the USI Writing Center and the English department was an issue discussed in meetings with B. Posler, P. Shaw, and S. Spencer. The English department will now take ownership of the training of tutors for the Writing Center. A full-time English faculty member will teach the tutoring class, which is a lab course. In the discussion that followed, questions were raised regarding teaching load, change to a non-repeatable course number, and tuition waver. S. Spencer will take the petition back to English Composition faculty members for further discussion.

III. Honors Day Debrief

The Dean identified time taken for the Honors Day event as the most important priority. The suggestion by E. Wasserman to make it a "staged" event is a possible solution. Liberal Arts wants to honor good students and recognize donors, but the program needs to be revised.

IV. Chair Evaluations

The deadline for chair evaluation information is April 1st. The FAR and teaching evaluations must be included. Faculty evaluations will be discussed at a meeting with the Dean. The meetings begin next week and will last about 30 minutes. The Dean will ask for initiatives for the coming year and accomplishments from the previous year.

V. Chairs' Choice of Topics

The Dean asked for follow-up information regarding the advisor training workshops. S.Rode, who was one of the trainers, reported that 23 people attended the first session and about 15 attended the second session. The main topics addressed were the DARS, campus services, and the core curriculum. Members of the LAC who attended the workshops had mixed opinions. Some felt the information was too basic, while others found it very helpful. Future workshops may feature a basic course and a separate course for more advanced issues. All council members felt the need for a central point of current information on changes in departmental requirements and curriculum changes. The Dean requested a summary/recommendation from those who conducted the advising sessions. He stated that there are one hundred and eleven fulltime faculty members, about half of whom are new faculty and need advising expertise. According to the faculty handbook, all faculty are responsible for advising.

News from the Academic Council included initial approval for History to proceed with plans for a Master's program. Final approval for the Master's in Communications was obtained. The Bachelor's degrees in Arts Heritage Management and one in Anthropology are still on the books for 2009-2011. A new minor in statistics was discussed, but it requires 24 hours of classes including Calculus 3. It is not likely an option for many LA majors.

For USI Nearby, LA has four classes scheduled in the armory for Fall 2009. Our goal is at least five classes for Spring 2010. Each department in LA should schedule at least one course off campus every semester. The Dean is collecting information from all Department Chairs about efforts to implement more courses at USI satellite locations. Dana Willet will be presenting information about online classes to LA.

T. Hunt distributed copies of a worksheet she created to assist faculty in planning and scheduling guest speakers and other sponsored events.

Department chairs will receive information at the fall retreat regarding new-hire procedures and the impact they will have on faculty evaluations. A. Torres asked council members to request faculty to send FARS electronically to the chairs and then chairs to forward the information electronically to her.

Fall teaching workshops will take place the Friday before the week of faculty meetings for the Fall 2009 semester.

The Dean advised Department Chairs that summer class caps will be more restricted this year because of the budget. He urged them to not offer any classes that they know will not make the cap. For now, any class with less than 10 registered will be cancelled. Any online class will easily make the cap.

Around the Table

History –D. Lynn presented the paper “Framing Women: American Communists, the Women's Charter and the Equal Rights Amendment debate, 1936-1938” at the Organization of American Historians conference in Seattle, March 26 – 28.

Social Science Secondary Education major Aaron Schmitt was named one of five “Outstanding Future Educators” from USI for the 2008-2009 academic year. This award is given by the Indiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; USI can nominate up to 5 program completers. The award recipients were chosen from recommendations from faculty and university supervisors. These students will be honored at a banquet in Indianapolis on April 17.

On March 28, USI hosted the regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society. Undergraduate and graduate students from USI, the University of Evansville, Purdue University Calumet, and Eastern Illinois University were on a program that included 20 student papers and a keynote address by William Bartelt, author of *There I Grew Up: Remembering Abraham Lincoln's Youth* (2008). USI students who gave papers were Allen Wolf, Megan Milligan, Janis Du Bois, Marissa Warren, and Brittnei Herron.

Modern and Classical Languages - The Department of Modern and Classical Languages has completed its search for an assistant professor of Spanish. Dr. Manuel Apocado Valdez will be joining the department in fall 09.

Art - The 39th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition at USI will open in the new Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center / Palmina F. And Stephen S. Pace Galleries on Sunday, April 5, from 2-4 pm with the Awards Ceremony at 3 pm. From over 300 entries, around 130 works from USI art and design students were chosen for the show. The exhibition is open Monday – Friday from 10am – 4pm, April 6-29, 2009.

R. Millard Mendez is in a 2-person show with Doug Calisch at the Jasper Art center. The opening is this Friday from 6 – 8 pm.

A public art installation on the quad is being planned by the Art Department for the last week in April.

R. Millard Mendez and H. Braysmith are collaborating on the project with USI art students.

Performing Arts - Students receiving summer employment offers with professional theatre: Kevin Bickweremert with Utah Shakespeare Festival Erica Becker with Lexington Children's Theatre Tawni Morningstar with Westport Theatre in Connecticut.

The USI Chamber Choir and Women's Choir have been invited to sing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 next year with the Evansville Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra. Participating will be the members of the University of Evansville choirs and the Owensboro Philharmonic Chorus.

The USI choirs are also in conversations with the Galway Early Music Festival and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin for possible performances in Ireland in May 2010.

Political Science and Public Administration – Two of our MPA students earned grants for independent study projects. Linda Bailey was awarded \$860 for “Community Disaster Preparedness Mitigation Study” under the direction of Dr. M. Hallock Morris. Adam Balbach was awarded \$900 to work with Dr. K. Draughon on his project “Does Active Parenting Increase a Child’s Tendency to Be Involved in Civic Duty as an Adult?”

Communications - *The Shield* received four awards at the Indiana Collegiate Press Association ceremony on Saturday (that’s two more than we expected). Here is a break down:

1st Place Best News Feature

Jon Webb for [“You gotta get a grip”](#)

2nd Place Best Non-Deadline News Reporting

Travis Snyder for [“3.986 GPA = Magna Cum Not Enougha”](#)

3rd Place Best Special Issue

The Roach edition (40th Anniversary)

3rd Place Best Staff Editorial

“Shield endorsements”