

Liberal Arts Council Meeting April 7, 2009

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

I. Minutes

The minutes from 3/17/09, 3/24/09, and 3/31/09 were reviewed and approved as amended.

II. On-line Class Technology

D. Willett, the director of USI Instructional Technology Services, gave a presentation on alternatives to traditional classroom courses. The transition to Blackboard 8 was discussed. Summer courses will be in Blackboard 8; it is available now for faculty to begin transfer of courses. Blackboard 7 will remain up at least through Fall. Another new tool, Adobe Presenter (formerly known as Breeze), is for the use of animation and adding your voice to Powerpoint presentations. Some classes are using clickers to interact with students. Faculty may borrow clickers to see if it is something to be used in the classroom. IT is looking at software with the ability to focus on a student's information throughout a program of study. D. Willett would like feedback on how a system like this could be applied to academics. IT is located in FA41, and the staff would be happy to help any faculty interested in developing technology for the classroom.

III. Course Modification Petition: ENG 490

S. Spencer responded to all questions previously expressed toward this petition. Courses ending in 0 or 99 are repeatable but do not have to be. The English faculty would prefer this course be non-repeatable. All approved the petition.

IV. Academic Affairs Update

There will be 17 faculty up for tenure and promotion next year, which is more than in previous years. This may require those faculty up for T&P to have information ready to submit earlier in the fall term.

Liberal Arts is the only college without a T&P committee. Chairs were asked to consider whether or not we should have a T&P committee at the College level.

Next year we will start the 2, 2, 3 track. The current tenure-track faculty will be moved into this new system. The Deans will meet to discuss this further and plan where current faculty will fall in the rotation. Those in the 4th or 5th year will not be affected by the new system.

Summer class enrollments are up over last year: summer 1 – 6.4%; summer 2 – 7.4%; and summer 3 – 18.8%. We may see a greater need for introductory courses in the fall based on this trend and the economy.

In the fall we will have titles of Contract Assistant Professor and Contract Associate Professor for those full-time Instructors with a terminal degree. Chairs should talk to the Dean if requesting such a change in title.

The advising trainers need to update Shelly Blunt on what Liberal Arts has done for advising. A future meeting will include discussion of advising issues. The Dean will send information to the Chairs that he received on Pott College's advising training.

V. Around the Table Dean's Office

The Dean met with his student advisory group and discussed Honors Day. They want W. Rinks to read all awards. They like the suggestion that the students from a single department be called to the front at one time to receive awards. After all awards are announced, the crowd would be asked to applaud to recognize the award winners. Changes will be implemented next year.

Political Science

Three of our faculty presented at the Midwest Political Science Association last weekend. O. Armeanu was a discussant for the panel entitled "Mass Politics Beyond Elections: Civil Society and Social Movements in Post-Communist Countries" and she was a co-presenter for "Strategic Effects of Electoral Rules: Testing the Impact of the 2008 Electoral Reform in Romania". W.R. Mack presented "The Voting Response of the Congressional Border Caucus to Post-9/11 Border Issues". M. Faber presented two papers: "Critical Congressional Elections: A Time Series Analysis of Partisan Realignment in the United States" and "The American Frontier as State of Nature." M. Faber also chaired the panel entitled "The Conditions of Civic Virtue."

Performing Arts

The Theatre Program is hosting the Brownie troop this afternoon (April 7) on their fieldtrip to visit Mallette to get an idea of how a theatre operates going into production. The faculty as a whole has volunteered to speak with the troop.

Communications

The following faculty members were at conferences presenting papers and/or serving on panels last week: K. Bonnell and R. West at the Southern States Communication Conference; K. Braselton and W. Durham at the National Communication Conference in St. Louis; and L. Howard at the Midwest Political Science Conference in Chicago.

Modern & Classical Languages

The Academic Language Bowl will take place on April 22nd.

Center for Interdisciplinary Studies

Leah McGinnis won a Fulbright Scholarship to Spain.

Art

J. D'Uva took 6 students to the Southern Graphics Council Conference (a printmaking conference) held at Columbia College in Chicago last week.

On Sunday at the Awards Ceremony and Opening for the 39th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition around \$8500 in Scholarship, Merit, and Purchase Awards were presented to talented art students.

Psychology

J. Schuster presented "Developing Culturally Appropriate Early Intervention Screening Tools: A Normative Dilemma" at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development last weekend in Denver, CO.

M. Felton's Psychology of Gender classes held the Clothesline Project last week – the project displayed shirts under the bridge to educate the public about violence against women. It supported the Walk a Mile in her Shoes project.