

Liberal Arts Council Meeting

April 14, 2009

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

I. Minutes for Approval 4/7/09

A motion to approve the minutes from 4/7/09 was made by W. Rinks and seconded by J. Palladino. S. Spencer asked for clarification of titles for contract assistant and contact associate professor as presented in the minutes. Minutes were approved as corrected with one abstention.

II. Online Class Technology and CLA Initiative Debrief

The Dean asked for questions and comments regarding the presentation last week by Dana Willett of IT. He shared comparative reports of online courses being taught at other institutions and at USI, noting that USI has the lowest figures for online courses. T. Hunt provided a summary of paper presentations on online teaching that she attended. She noted that the conference presenters stressed that the interaction between professor and students is of highest priority for classroom success and course completion.

Reactions to the presentation by D. Willett at last week's meeting were mixed. T. Hunt suggested a college-wide meeting be called to discuss DE and best practices for creating and maintaining a successful online course.

The Dean's current initiative for the College of Liberal Arts is to develop approved online versions of LA introductory core courses for each department (100 and 200 level) and to offer at least one section each semester.

III. Program and Course Modification Petitions: Anthropology

ANTH 261 is now Intro to Archaeology as part of a change from a single introductory course in anthropology (ANTH 101) to three more specialized introductory courses, i.e., Introduction to World Cultures (ANTH 111), Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH 112), and Introduction to Physical Anthropology (ANTH 113).

The program modification proposes new requirements for the anthropology minor without change to the total number of hours required. Approval of the program modification petition was tabled by the dean until he can discuss it further with M. Strezewski.

IV. Program Modification Petition: International Studies

This petition reflects the changes in Anthropology courses as noted above. W. Rinks moved to approve the modification and the motion was seconded by J. Palladino. A vote passed the motion.

V. Day on the Bus, August 11th

This is an opportunity for interested faculty members to meet with Evansville businesses and city officials about shared interests in economic development and opportunities for collaborative initiatives between USI and local businesses and organizations.

VI. LA Faculty Space Issues

The Dean quelled rumors that the South Annex is going to be razed prior to the completion of the new Business and Engineering Center. Adjunct faculty members who had moved from the South Annex to the Science building last year are moving back to the annex tomorrow. Contract faculty will need to share offices during the 2009-2010 academic year. All tenure track faculty will have individual offices. This faculty office space shortage should be corrected after one year.

The Dean met with the USI space committee to discuss the office space shortage in liberal arts. He presented two proposals to the committee: 1) Take possession of the space that will be vacated by the engineering department in the Tech Center when they move to the new B&E Center. (This would provide offices for Theatre, Music, and Theatre Management to join Art in the Tech Building.) 2) Take possession of partial space on the third floor of the Orr Center that will be vacated by the College of Business when it moves into the B&E Center. The Orr center offices would accommodate a large Liberal Arts department such as English or Communications, or two or more smaller departments.

VII. Summer and Fall Class Schedules and Enrollments

Department chairs and program directors were urged to use strategic planning for the next two semesters by being proactive in monitoring class enrollments, using student list serves to encourage majors and minors to register early.

The Dean is placing an ad in the paper to recruit adjunct faculty for Liberal Arts. Most departments requested a listing in this ad.

VIII. Around the Table

Communications - R. Jeffers and R. West will take 16 advertising students to the American Advertising Federation's National Student Ad Competition this week in Southfield MI (a Detroit suburb).

Psychology – Dr. Amie McKibban has accepted our offer to join our faculty in Fall, 2009 as an Assistant Professor. Her PhD in Community Psychology is from Wichita State University. She will be teaching the Research Methods sequence, introduction to psychology and community psychology.

Seven of our students will present their research at the Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference on April 18. The students' research was supervised by Dr. Evey, Dr. Hall, and Dr. Mark. The Mid-America UPRC was founded at ISUE in 1982 and will return to our campus in 2010.

English – Norman Minnick is presenting tonight, April 14, 2009 at 5pm for the RopeWalk Reading Series. The event is in Kley Meyer Hall.

Theatre – USI Theatre production of "Meet Me in St. Louis" opens this week to sell-out crowds. There will be two matinees during school hours.

History – “Feel the History,” an historical documentary film-making class created and taught by Jon Carl ('95, Social Science Secondary Education) is one of three recipients nation-wide of the *National School Board Journal's* Magna Awards. The honor recognizes innovative programs that advance student learning and encourage community involvement in schools. Carl was the 2009 College of Liberal Arts Alumnus in Residence, and he teaches “Feel the History” as a dual-credit course with USI.

Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies – Three students presented their research at the International Pacific Sociological Association this past week. An additional student presented her work at the RISC showcase. The following department faculty members also presented over a dozen papers at regional, national, and international conferences over the past week: A. Buck, M. Mosher, R. Priest, C. Rose, T. Schroer, and S. Williams.

Political Science and Public Administration - MT Hallock Morris was the lead on the METS project presented today to Major Weinzaphel and the METS staff. The data was collected in a service learning project last fall in the Political Science methods course and the MPA students assisted with a second survey.

Art – V. Poston presented a paper entitled "Populist Allusions in the Primaporta Augustus" at the Midwest Art History Society conference, April 4, 2009.

R. Millard Mendez has work in a juried exhibition "Death is Easy–Comedy is Hard" in CA.

K. Waters has work in the National Invitational Postcard Exhibit in Las Vegas which opens on April 24. Her work represents the state of Indiana.

L. Dowhie has work in an invitational exhibition as part of the conference for the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) at Mesa Community College in Arizona. He also accepted a position on the Development/Advisory Board for NCECA.

Modern and Classical Languages - D. Moeller-Sahling organized the annual AATG Teachers of German Immersion weekend in Bloomington, Indiana. The workshop will take place April 23 – 25, 2009.