

## Liberal Arts Council Meeting

September 18, 2007

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

### **I. Minutes Approval**

Minutes from the LAC Retreat on 8/24/07 were reviewed and modified as necessary. T. Hunt moved to approve the minutes as amended. J. Palladino seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### **II. Schedule Development**

B. Christie outlined concerns of the college's administrative assistants regarding the number of last-minute changes to the Spring and Summer '08 schedules. The Banner system requires that changes to any course results in the need to change from three to five different screens. Chairs described a variety of reasons why they have needed to make ongoing schedule changes including adjunct faculty working around changing work schedules, new faculty expertise, and accommodating faculty needs for rooms with necessary technology. Drs. Hunt and Palladino outlined their departmental systems of multi-year scheduling. The dean emphasized that department chairs are ultimately responsible for developing schedules that best suit the needs of their department and that are sensitive to past enrollment trends.

### **III. CLAFDA**

The deadline for CLAFDA submissions is October 15<sup>th</sup>. M. Aakhus serves as the non-voting chairperson of the CLAFDA Committee. He reported the need for two vacancies to be filled. Current members are W. Rinks, C. Harison and K. Carter. E. Wasserman nominated J. Kempf deJong to represent the fine arts area and S. Rode nominated G. Latorre. Both nominees were voted unanimously to fill the two vacancies. Terms are for two years.

### **IV. NSF Workshop**

Departments in the social sciences are encouraged to attend a workshop scheduled to be held on the Butler University campus in Indianapolis on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will provide information on the types of research NSF funds and the process for submitting research proposals. The dean will furnish funding for a van to make the trip, although the workshop starts early on Friday morning and may require an overnight stay. Registration deadline is September 28<sup>th</sup> and the dean asked those interested in attending to let him know as soon as possible.

### **V. New Faculty Mentors**

The dean discussed the Liberal Arts faculty mentoring program for new faculty. This year the college has 22 new faculty. J. Evey noted that a past dean had developed a written policy that outlined the responsibilities of both the mentor and mentee. The dean said he would locate the document and send it around to the chairs for review and revision, if needed. Some department chairs felt that mentors should be required to have some type of training, but there were no definitive suggestions for what the training would consist of.

## **VI. Faculty Searches**

The dean requested chairs of departments that have faculty vacancies to initiate their faculty searches. It was suggested that search committees arrange a meeting with HR to review search policies and procedures. Two departments will seek to fill chair positions, English and Philosophy, Political Science and Public Administration. Candidates for department chair must meet with the provost as well as the deans. There will be approximately 13 faculty searches in LA this year.

## **VII. No Academic Affairs Meeting This Week**

There was no academic affairs meeting this week from which to report.

## **VIII. Other Announcements and Business**

\*Three people were honored at the Founder's Day celebration on campus yesterday. This event was hosted by USI Faculty Senate and Staff Council.

\*The dean will work with Mrs. Kleymeyer to set the guidelines for a new LA scholarship.

\*The LAC unanimously voted to endorse the new graduation check-out form and all chairs expressed their gratitude for the assistance A. Fortune provided in developing the new form.

## **IX. Around the Table**

D. Glassman- The RopeWalk reading was very good, but not well-attended. The chairs were asked to encourage all faculty members to support all events sponsored by the college.

B. Hart- The next LA Colloquium is Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, and will feature N. Reid of the English department.

M. Aakhus- More accolades for the RopeWalk reading and a reminder of deadlines for faculty development opportunities.

J. Evey- Work has begun for the next Ethics Bowl which will be held in November.

S. Rode- Modern Languages is sponsoring a Columbus Day event on October 8<sup>th</sup>, featuring a Salsa band.

R. Priest- A department welcome party took place on Saturday. A new Anthropology brochure has been designed. A Sociology/Anthropology Club is being formed. Steve Williams has a chapter coming out on Amazon Women.

J. Kempf deJong- The faculty art show is still showing at the Evansville Museum. The works of R. Millard-Mendez are being featured at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. C. Armstrong is working with students on the design for competition between USI and UE that is sponsored again this year by Toyota. On-line voting starts October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Art Club corn booth will again be at the Fall Festival this year.

E. Wasserman- Today marks the arrival of the new Equity stage manager for the next USI Theatre production. Eric Otto has been a tremendous help in promoting the Theatre Program. His office will offer assistance to any department interested in building a higher profile for what they have to offer.

T. Hunt- C. Harison will have an article published in the October 7<sup>th</sup> issue of *History & Memory*. The title of the article is "The Paris Commune of 1871, the Russian Revolution of 1905, and the Shifting of the Revolutionary Tradition".

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.