

**Liberal Arts Council Meeting**  
**October 16, 2007**

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

**I. Minutes from 10/2/07**

After discussion and a few minor corrections, W. Rinks moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by J. Palladino. Minutes were approved with corrections.

**II. Liberal Arts Colloquium Coordinator**

T. Huerta sent a report to the dean outlining the recent activities of the LA Colloquium. In the report she asked to be excused from serving as LA Colloquium Coordinator beginning Spring 2008. LAC members will poll their faculty for nominations and present their nominees at the next council meeting for a vote.

**I. Faculty Search Information**

The dean distributed a handout of general guidelines for faculty and administrative recruitment that was developed by Human Resources. Search committee chairs should review the document and share its information with their committees. It is the responsibility of department chairs to keep faculty members up to date on all search rules and procedures.

**II. Part-time Faculty and HR Documentation**

It is the current university policy that official graduate transcripts are required for all full and part-time faculty to be on file in the Human Resources Office. A list of faculty that do not have official graduate transcripts on file were distributed to the LAC chairs. The chairs were instructed to assist their faculty with compliance to the policy. No part-time faculty will be hired next semester without an official transcript on file.

**III. Variable Lighting in Classrooms and Other Building Issues**

Some faculty members have raised concerns about the lighting of internal classrooms in the Liberal Arts Center and have requested that dimmer switches be installed. The cost of the dimmers for the fluorescent lighting is estimated at \$2,800 for each classroom. The LAC decided, instead, to invest in mounting indirect lighting on the back walls of classrooms that would plug into existing outlets.

T. Hunt requested that framed artwork be hung on the walls of the north side of the third floor. The dean will work with the associate dean in identifying and hanging the art.

R. Priest suggested the possibility of USI art students painting murals on the bare walls in the LA computer labs. The dean said any art work to cover a wall would have to be done on canvas.

**IV. Liberal Arts / SGA Town Hall Meeting**

Each year the SGA sponsors a town meeting for each college. The date for the Liberal Arts

meeting is Wednesday, November 28, in Kleymeyer Hall at 4:30 pm. The dean charged all department chairs with attending the meeting to answer questions. There will also be a university-wide town meeting in November. Angela will send out reminders.

#### **V. Academic Affairs Update**

The provost continues to urge the deans to encourage department chairs and faculty members to make nominations for the new and part-time faculty teaching awards. Faculty members are considered “new” if they have been here 1-6 years and multiple nominees from all departments are possible. The nomination deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Joe Wingo in Institutional Research has been developing incentives to increase the student response rate for online course evaluations. Some changes for this semester include: 1) the course name will appear in the subject line of the email that is sent out to students; 2) two reminders will be sent out, the second sent only to those students who have not completed the evaluation; 3) the reminders will be sent out between 8 and 11 pm; 4) a more visible marketing campaign that will place ads in the Shield, yard signs around campus, and announcements on the closed-circuit televisions.

There are two important changes for Assessment Day. Testing will be held in three buildings only – Health Professions, Rice Library, and Liberal Arts. This has resulted in fewer proctors being required. Also, the three times for testing have been weighted differently so that more students will be participating in the earlier sessions. The dean has requested that the major field testing be online.

To offer more opportunity for part-time faculty development, the provost has established funding for part-time faculty travel. An email should be forthcoming. The qualification requirements are: must be currently employed at USI; limited to one trip per fiscal year only; candidate must complete a travel request; candidate must be an active participant in the conference/event being attended, i.e. presenter, speaker, officer, panel or workshop participant, etc. The maximum amount available is \$400 for domestic travel and \$600 for international travel. Part-time faculty who wish to attend an event in the summer must be committed to teaching in the fall.

The new graduation check-out form that A. Fortune and others helped develop was discussed. The Academic Affairs Council voted to accept the form for use throughout the university. Commencement for the fall semester will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, the week before the end of finals.

#### **VIII. Around the Table**

**J. Palladino** – A. Mark is the co-author of a review chapter in the *Handbook of Stereotyping and Prejudice*. The title is “The Self-Regulation of Prejudice”.

L. Sharrett (undergraduate) will present at the Southeast Conference on the Teaching of Psychology in Spring, 2008.

Dr. M. Handelsman, University of Colorado, Denver, and J. Palladino will re-establish their column, "On the Light Side" for Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. Cartoons for the column will be drawn by D. Hubbell.

**B. Hart** – S. Wooden organized an interdisciplinary informational forum, "So You Wanna Go To Grad School", that was held Tuesday, Oct. 9, in LA 1016. The event, which included representatives from English, History, Art, Social Work, Psychology and Political Science who were there to answer questions about graduate school, was well attended.

The next RopeWalk reading will be November 5<sup>th</sup>, featuring Gary Gildner.

This evening at 7:00 pm in Kleymeyer Hall, B. Hart, in cooperation with the department of International Programs and Services will moderate a showing of the film, *Two Jaspers*, about hate crimes committed in Jasper, Texas.

**M. Aakhus** – The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana is opening their new gallery on Main Street with a digital art exhibit on October 19, at 6:00 pm.

**T. Hunt** – T. Lonngberg, curator of history at the Evansville Museum and instructor of history at USI presented "Answering the Call: Evansville and the LST" on Sunday, October 14, at the Evansville Museum.

USI History graduate J. Meece (2005) received an MA from Ball State University in anthropology. His master thesis was nominated for the Distinguished Thesis Award and he is currently working as a staff archaeologist and lithic analyst for Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc, in Hurricane, WV.

The history department has entered into a new partnership with the EVSC in arranging mentoring opportunities for history students with local middle and high school history classes. These include the West Terrace Middle School's after-school history club, preparation for the "We the People" competition at West Terrace Middle School, McGary Middle School, and Plaza Park Middle School, and general mentoring in US and World history at Harrison High School.

**J. Evey** – The 2007-08 Berger Lecture, titled "**The Fetus and Fundamental Rights**", will be presented by Joan Callahan, professor of philosophy, and professor of gender and women's studies at the University of Kentucky on October 25 at 7 pm in Mitchell Auditorium.

A. Torres and J. Evey are writing guidelines for the selection process for the Berger Lecture.

J. Evey obtained a lot of useful information at the NSF workshop and has a number of power point presentations from the workshop that will be available to all faculty members. All departments that qualify for NSF grants are encouraged to apply. Small equipment grants are funded at about 50%.

J. Evey also attended the Teaching and Assessment conference and reported to the LAC that the majority of faculty in attendance carry 4/4 teaching loads.

**R. Priest** – Students are still needed to conduct interviews for the Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Impact Study. Interviews will start in November and qualified students will be paid for their work. Anyone interested in participating should contact R. Priest before October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**J. Kempf DeJong** – L. Dowhie, J. McNaughton, and D. Hubner were recognized for their public artworks at Central Library with a reception in their honor on Oct.4.

Britanny Gray, art history student, was accepted for study abroad next semester in Spain.

The printmaking works of J. D’Uva are on exhibit at Mc Comb College in Clinton Township, MI.

USI art students won the USI vs. UE Scion design competition at the Fall Festival. C. Armstrong was the faculty advisor.

**E. Wasserman** – The theatre repertory project opens next week with “The Crucible” and “She Stoops to Conquer” in rotating performances.

**W. Rinks** – G. Cooper attended the PRSSA National Conference and participate in workshop sessions.

J. Morris and D. Black attended the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters College Conference and Job Fair in Indianapolis.

A public service announcement created by W. Rinks and D. Black is now airing on WNIN.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.