

Liberal Arts Council Meeting

October 23, 2007

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

I. Approval of Minutes from 10/16/07

Minutes were reviewed and corrections cited. T. Hunt moved to approve the minutes as corrected and was seconded by J. Palladino. Motion carried.

II. LA Colloquium Coordinator

B. Hart nominated S. Hoeness-Krupsaw for the position of LA Colloquium Coordinator to begin in Spring 2008. Council members were in agreement that Dr. Hoeness-Krupsaw be asked to accept the nomination.

III. LARA Process

The deadline to apply for the Fall 2008 LARA and CLAFDA awards have passed. The evaluation committee members for the CLAFDA are M. Aakhus, K. Carter, B. Hart, C. Harison, J. Kempf DeJong, and C. MacKay. The committee is currently reviewing the submitted proposals. A discussion developed regarding the relatively low number of proposals that were submitted for CLAFDA and LARA development opportunities. The LA web site has a calendar of all application deadlines and award information.

Council members reviewed the LARA evaluation process. Five proposals were submitted. Copies of each proposal were distributed to the department chairpersons for review. Department chairpersons will be asked to rank the proposals at our next LAC meeting.

IV. New Course Petition PHIL 366

J. Evey presented a new course petition (PHIL 366) developed by M. Stoll. The LA Curriculum Committee discussed minor changes to the course description and syllabus. Following discussion, T. Hunt moved to approve the petition with the changes included and J. Palladino seconded. The motion passed and the new course is scheduled to be offered in Fall 2008.

V. LA Curriculum Subcommittee – Art 231 and Art 313

The subcommittee has not had enough time to review the course petitions for Art 231 and Art 313. The committee will report to the LAC at the next meeting.

VI. Grades and Blackboard

The dean inquired of department chairs if they have noticed an increased number of student complaints concerning the prompt return of grades from tests and assignments. Dean Glassman reported a rise in the number of students coming to the dean's office concerning this matter. The dean encouraged the use of Blackboard to facilitate the communication of academic benchmark feedback to students. A discussion among chairs identified that differences exist in grading strategies among departments and among courses including the use of student portfolios that may not provide benchmark feedback to students until the final

grade. The dean questioned the evaluative process of courses that have no benchmarks during the semester and urged council members to speak to faculty about returning exams and assignments as soon as possible. The dean expressed interest in reviewing courses that provide no benchmark grades to students prior to the final grade assignment.

VII. Strategic Plan/Economic Development Taskforce

Monday is the Academic Planning Council meeting at which deans will be asked to respond to task force issues. Items on the agenda for Liberal Arts will be the maintenance of the core curriculum and requests for new programs in criminal justice (BA/BS major) and communications (MA). Other new liberal arts programs that are on the Academic Planning Council are baccalaureate degrees in Arts and Heritage Management, Anthropology and Music.

VIII. Academic Affairs Update

There was no meeting this week. The dean asked that the LAC review the following Academic Planning items:

- A. A graduate program in Communal Studies. T. Hunt asked that this item be kept on the books until a new director is hired.
- B. A baccalaureate degree in Arts and Heritage Management. No department has been designated to house the degree.
- C. A baccalaureate degree in anthropology. M. Strezewski is working on the curriculum and staff requirements.
- D. A minor in Theatre Education. A proposal has been developed, but must be approved by the state.
- E. A graduate program in English. The English department has chosen to wait on discussions of the graduate program until a new chair has been selected.

IX. Around the Table

W. Rinks – RTV is negotiating to have USI basketball games shown on a regular television station.

M. Strezewski – Sociology department is proposing a departmental name change to the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Department.

J. Kempf DeJong – Special thanks to Silvia Rode for her help in bringing the Dutch artist to USI. Their presentations are: Wednesday, Oct. 31 Artist Lecture and slide presentation by Dutch painter, Jacqueline Kooter @ 7:30 pm in Kleymeyer and Thursday, Nov. 1 Artist lecture and slide presentation by Dutch photographer, Jan Theun Van Rees @ 7:30 pm in Kleymeyer

Joseph D'Uva has art work on exhibit in "Ritual Habitual" at the Albertine Monroe-Brown Gallery in the Richmond Center for the Visual Arts at Western Michigan University.

Art and Culture Tours planned by USI art faculty: Michael Aakhus--tour to Mexico over spring break, Margaret Skoglund--tour to Spain and Morocco in May, Virginia Poston--tour to Berlin in May, and Xinran Hu--tour to Beijing and other sites in China in May. The tours are open to students, faculty, and community members.

E. Wasserman – The repertory project, featuring “She Stoops to Conquer” and “The Crucible” on a rotating schedule, starts this Thursday evening. Everyone is urged to take the opportunity to attend one or both productions. Instructors who require class attendance will receive a complimentary ticket.

J. Evey – The Berger Lecture is this Thursday at 7 pm in Mitchell Auditorium.

T. Hunt – Don Pitzer was honored by a reception and dinner at the Red Geranium Restaurant in New Harmony, hosted by USI alumnus John Lawrence. At the dinner, Dr. Pitzer was presented with a wooden cabinet in the shape of a Harmonist door created by John McNaughton. He was also presented with one of only two known copies in English of *Thoughts on the Destiny of Man*, published by the Harmonists in 1824. Dr. Pitzer donated the book to the College of Liberal Arts which has placed the book on loan to Historic New Harmony.

Jon Carl (BS 1995 – social science secondary education) was named Indiana’s “No Child Left Behind” American Star of Teaching 2007 for his innovative class “Feel the History”. He was also named one of “20 Educators to Watch” in 2007 by the National School Board Association.

B. Hart – Humanities faculty members traveled to Chicago with special funding provided for faculty development.

J. Palladino – Three members of the psychology department, led by Sid Hall, conducted a session on “Getting into Graduate School” for approximately two dozen psychology majors on October 12. The department website has been updated to feature “Points of Pride” which highlight faculty accomplishments such as presentations, invited public addresses, publications, and national and regional awards.

M. Aakhus – On November 16th Old National Bank is hosting the “Art for Life” auction featuring works by K. Waters, J. D’Uva, R. Millard-Mendez, and M. Aakhus. Cost to attend is \$35 going to a worthy charity.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:24.