

Liberal Arts Council Meeting
January 29, 2008

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

I. Minutes

The minutes from 1/15/08 were reviewed and approved with minor modifications.

II. Budget Request Presentation – Communications

Dr. Rinks presented the number one budget priority for the communications department as a tenure-track assistant professor of communications with specialization in communications studies. Partial funding for this position will come from adjunct salary savings by increasing the student cap for sections of CMST 107.

III. Budget Request Presentation – Art

Prof. deJong presented the number one budget priority for the art department as a tenure-track assistant professor of art with specialization in photography.

IV. Budget Request Presentation- Psychology

Dr. Palladino presented the number one budget priority for the psychology department as a tenure-track assistant professor of psychology with the ability to teach research methods.

V. Budget Request Presentation- Philosophy/Political Science/Public Administration

Dr. Evey presented the number one budget priority for the philosophy, political science and public administration department as a tenure-track assistant professor of political science with specialization in the legal system and public administration.

VI. Budget Request Presentation- English

Dr. Hart presented the number one budget priority for the English department as a three-year renewable contract instructor position in English to teach writing and humanities courses.

VII. Budget Request Voting Guidelines

The dean distributed a summary of the projected cost estimate for converting a staff position to faculty in the Department of Performing Arts. He also commended the chairs for their excellent budget presentations.

The top budget request for all nine departments will be ranked by the chairs and serve as the LAC recommendation to the dean. At the next LAC meeting, the dean will present the chairs' rankings and his own prioritization of budgetary requests.

VIII. Criminal Justice Program Curriculum Petitions

Dr. Priest presented a program petition and course petitions for the proposed new major in criminal justice studies. A motion to approve the petitions was made and seconded. After considerable discussion, Dr. Hunt moved to table the motion until suggested modifications were made to the petitions. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 6-3. Dr. Priest will make the requested changes and present the petitions for approval at the next LAC meeting.

IX. Academic Affairs

Dr. Glassman discussed the Indiana Voluntary Assessment Initiative. The dean announced that a list of departmental assessment strategies, similar to the ones recently reported by the chairs of each department, will be due annually on April 15th.

USI is the number one user of the Major Field Tests and administers them each year. The Academic Affairs Council discussed the use of MFTs and the relative importance of their use on an annual basis. A suggestion was made that the MFT be administered less frequently with other alternative assessment methods used during the “off” years. The dean asked for input from the chairs.

X. Around the Table

ART: USI art graduate Paula Van Hoy is having his MFA thesis exhibition at Syracuse University this week.

USI art graduate Liz Fuhrman Bragg has accepted the position of Registrar at the Evansville Museum.

HISTORY: For the second consecutive semester, social science education majors are volunteering their services to help local students prepare for the “We The People” competition in April.

COMMUNICATIONS: A new internship for a news photographer at Channel 14 was received.

The department also received approval from the Scripps Howard Foundation for two paid internships worth \$4,000 each which can be used anywhere in the U.S.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.