

Liberal Arts Council Meeting

March 4, 2008

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

Guest: Katherine Draughon, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment

Announcements:

The Liberal Arts Research Awards (LARA) proposals will provide course reassignments for Spring 2009. Up to four LARAs are awarded each semester by recommendation of department chairs to the dean. This semester there were four proposals. Voting on the proposals will be scheduled soon.

Due to statistical information suggesting that students perceive a need for improvement in advising, the University Advising Council will be conducting a workshop for a select group of faculty advisors on May 14-15. The dean asked for 4-5 faculty members from Liberal Arts to attend the workshop. Participants will receive a stipend of \$400 for attending. They will then be assigned to relay the information in training sessions to the college's faculty advisors. The dean asked the chairs to recruit candidates within their departments who are available and interested in attending the workshop. Candidate nominations should be submitted to the dean by the next council meeting.

I. Minutes

No minutes were available for approval this week.

II. Institutional Research and Assessment

Director Katherine Draughon reviewed the new system for using course evaluations. Both paper and online evaluations will be offered for the spring semester. All full-time and part-time faculty members should have a USI email address to receive course evaluation information. There will be an online form for requesting electronic evaluations. Anyone who does not return the online request will automatically receive paper evaluations. An informational email will be sent out next week, first to department chairs and program directors and then to faculty members.

For fall 2008, each college will be allowed to add ten questions to the student evaluation instrument. In the future, the ability to add additional questions may be available at the department and/or course level. Student evaluations of teaching are optional in the summer. Instructors who choose to administer student evaluations in summer are limited to on-line delivery only.

The Institutional Research web page has been redesigned and is now easier to navigate. The new University Fact Book is also available and provides information over a ten-year period. Department data for completing program reviews are available in the Fact Book.

III. Course Petitions for ENG 319 and ENG 419

Dr. Hart distributed a clarifying letter about the ENG 310 and ENG 419 course petitions. The LAC requested bringing the petitions back to the table at next week's meeting to allow for time to review the letter. Dr. Hart requested council members to forward any questions concerning the proposals.

IV. Course Petition for CMST 201

Dr. Rinks presented the course petition for CMST 201. A motion was made to approve the petition with specified modifications and seconded. The motion carried.

V. Academic Affairs

A Faculty Development Advisory Board has been created and will be chaired by Karen Sprouls. The advisory board will meet 2-3 times a year (once a semester) and board members will serve two-year terms. Faculty must be tenured or tenure track to be eligible. C. Tew and M. Felton, College of Liberal Arts Faculty Senate representatives, will coordinate the election for the liberal arts board member. Nominees must be available to attend a retreat the first week of June.

The issue of providing USI faculty members to teach in the UE Harlaxton program was discussed. Dean Glassman is not planning to approve faculty member requests to teach at Harlaxton unless it is part of a sabbatical leave.

VI. Around the Table

PSYCHOLOGY – Former psychology major J. Stawick has been accepted into the IU Psychology Program. Psychology major L. Sharrett has been accepted into the University of Kentucky graduate program with a stipend and paid tuition.

ENGLISH – J. Galbus has arranged for former USI student Nathan Fry, Assistant Athletic Director at Harvard University to speak on March 26th at 7 pm in Kleymeyer Hall.

Congratulations to S. Wooden and K. Gillam on the birth of their new baby boy.

DEAN'S OFFICE (Aakhus) – The Stephen Pace lecture is tomorrow at 6 pm in Kleymeyer Hall.

PERFORMING ARTS – D. Craig's musical group Rowan Tree will be joined by the USI choir in concert performing traditional Irish music on March 18th at 7 pm in the Rice Library second-floor reading room.

Twelve Angry Jurors has closed after a successful run in spite of inclement weather that disrupted rehearsal schedules and cancelled one performance.

Theatre major M. Fallon has been accepted at the Ohio University Design School and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The UCC voted to add THTR 251, Acting I to the core.

SOCIOLOGY – The UCC has approved the new Criminal Justice Studies major. It must still be approved by the USI Board of Trustees and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education for possible implementation by this fall.

ART – R. Millard-Mendez received a merit award for his entry in the Arts in Harmony Exhibit at the Arts

Alliance Gallery in Elkhart, MN. He also juried the Evansville Museum High School Show on February 26th.

HISTORY – R. Lohse presented for the LA Colloquia series on Friday, February 29th.

History major A. Henke is a finalist for the Presidential Medal.

COMMUNICATIONS – As part of the CAP program, CMST 101 is being offered at New Palestine High School near Indianapolis and Heritage Hills south of Huntingburg. B. Jeffers reports that the next CAP evaluation is this spring at Evansville North. Harrison High School has also asked to be considered for the program.

DEAN'S OFFICE (Christie) – All changes to the Honors Day program should be finalized this week.