

Liberal Arts Council Meeting

April 22, 2008

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

I. Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available for approval this week.

II. Honors Day Debriefing

Attendance was slightly down from previous years. In the past we held Honors Day on Sunday; the chairs would like to return to this tradition. In the future, if the Communal Studies Award is awarded to someone outside the University, then the award will not be presented at Honors Day. Keep information limited on the students: major(s)/minor(s), hometown, and a brief accomplishment. If honorees receive a College or University Wide award, the chairs need to provide the dean with information different from what the chair will present. We need to ensure we have all of the Presidential Scholars listed before the program goes to print.

III. Commencement Exercises

Commencement will take place at Roberts Stadium on Sunday, May 11th. It is mandatory for all fulltime faculty to attend in academic regalia; no non-academic regalia is to be worn, faculty should look reasonable and professional. If a faculty member cannot attend, approval needs to be given by the Dean. 1-Year temporary faculty are invited to attend.

For the December 2008 Commencement, there is a great deal of interest in the continuation of using the PAC. The University is considering splitting it into two ceremonies with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Attendance at December Commencement is optional.

IV. Summer Class Schedule

Chairs should be watching the enrollments for the summer schedule and encouraging students to sign up for those classes with low enrollment. There is a major initiative to increase summer enrollments. Currently enrollments are up in summers 1 and 3 but down in summer 2. Our normal class space in the Rice Library will not be available for summer 2009 because of the UC expansion.

V. Fall Book Orders

Fall deadline for submitting book orders is past and there are a number of faculty who have not submitted an order. The chair is to check with new incoming faculty as to the desired books for a course, then let their AA know if a desk copy is needed. It is in our best interest to get book orders submitted in a timely manner in case there are problems.

VI. Service Learning Inventory Questionnaire

A. Statham will be invited to our next meeting in order to clarify what is needed on the Service Learning Inventory Questionnaire. The FAR will be revised to add a section on service learning to get the information directly from the faculty.

The chairs requested the dean develop a calendar with proposed due dates for ongoing and new initiatives.

VII. Student Travel Requests

Students interested in traveling with faculty have several options for seeking travel funds, including SGA, Rob Parrent, their honors societies, Dean Glassman, and possibly the Society for Arts & Humanities. Directors, Faculty, and Students are not to ask the Provost for funding. The Provost wants the deans to prioritize the Colleges' events, so all funding must go through the deans first.

VIII. Fulbright Scholar Opportunities

The call for proposals for Fulbright Scholars runs March 1st through August 1st. www.cies.org

IX. Academic Affairs

This week was a Deans only meeting. Salary increases are almost finished. Faculty should receive contracts for next year soon. The Higher Learning Commission will be back on campus soon for a site visit because the University added the Doctorate of Nursing Practitioners program. The Criminal Justice Studies program will go to the Board of Trustees on Friday for approval, then hopefully to the state this summer. Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville (GAGE) has a partnership with USI. They now have a location downtown and will offer classes focused on economic development activities. The dean asked the chairs to have faculty advisors encourage students to apply for national awards such as the Goldwater Fellowship and Rotary Scholarships.

X. Around the Table

ENGLISH – Thursday, April 24th at 5 PM in Kleymeyer, Ropewalk will host two poets, Edwards and Brown.

PSYCHOLOGY - Ten psychology students presented at the Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference the previous weekend. A. Mark sponsored Mood and the False Memory Effect by Shannon Knight; Eyewitnesses, Friends or Foe: The Comparison of Eyewitness Testimony and Circumstantial Evidence on the Perception of Guilt by Samantha Malcomb; Perceptual Grouping of Facial Features in Visual Search Field Task by Megan Tuley & Rachel Slevin; and The Effect of Context Color on the Recall of Paired-Associates by Laura M. Lamkin. J. Palladino and C. Bloom sponsored SDIQ-R: Sleep and Dreams Information Questionnaire- Revised by Lynda Sharrett. J. Evey sponsored The Advantage of Fear: Rapid Identification of Threatening Shapes by Rachel C. Slevin & Megan Tuley. S. Hall sponsored Comfortable Beauty: Private Sector Hiring Versus College Campus Hiring by Sarah Skinner; Music and Math: The Distraction of Background Music on Mathematical Performance by Stephanie LaFree; Effects of Different University Settings on Burnout in College Students by Jenna Cox; and The Effect of Noise on Task Performance by Erica L. Hall.

MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES - 180 students and 35 teachers participated in the Language Bowl. Schools came from as far a Corydon, Kentucky to participate.

PERFORMING ARTS – The USI Womens and Chamber Choirs will perform Sunday, April 27th at 3 PM at the Old North Church. The choirs will head to Ireland May 12th to the 20th to perform music researched and arranged by D. Craig. D. Craig received the Faculty of the Year award given by the students. C. Young was invited to design the lights for a dance company out of Miami with an extended invitation to travel a week in Ecuador.

SOCIOLOGY – T. Schroer and C. Rose attended the Midwest Sociology Society and Southern Society. A student traveled with adjunct M. Mosher and presented a paper. S. Williams and R. Priest presented papers in Las Vegas. N. Banerjea presented at the last LA Colloquium this past Friday. M. Strezewski will be offering field school for the first time since 1972. This is a 6 hour course with no prerequisites. The department has redesigned its website and it is now broken down into three areas. Gender Studies has a new brochure.

DEAN'S OFFICE (Aakhus) - Eyekamp Quartet will be here Wednesday, April 23rd at 7 PM.

ART –R. Millard-Mendez received an award in Oklahoma. He has plans to exhibit in every state. John David Mooney finished his art project with a lighting ceremony last Wednesday night. Ray-Chen was a visiting artist for ceramics and was here last Sunday and Monday. Tonight Soo Hostetler will give a lecture on motion graphics at 7 PM in RL0017.

HISTORY - The Scavone Awards in Medieval Manuscripts and Culture will hold its annual lecture and awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 23 at 6 pm in Rice Library 0017. P. Aakhus, Director of International Studies, will present her winning project on translating the medieval work by Chretien de Troyes, *The Knight with the Lion*. A dramatic reading of portions of the poem will be given by Performing Arts students Brandon Eck, Kensington Blaylock, Josh Lenn, and Rachel Schenk, with a special appearance by L. Leibowitz as “the Giant.” A reception will follow the presentation.

The Indiana Classical Conference, an association of university classics professors and high school Latin teachers, held its annual meeting at USI on April 4 and 5. M. Dixon of the history department coordinated this well-attended conference which was hosted by the USI Classical Studies minor.

Andrea Henke, who was recently named one of the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Students, has been hired for a full-time position by the National Parks Service. Because of her past work with the Parks Service and her outstanding academic record, she has been hired at an advanced level beyond the normal entry level position.

Brian Heaton (History, '07), who graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA, has been accepted into the Indiana University Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences beginning fall 2008.

COMMUNICATIONS – W. Durham and K. Braselton, from our Communications Studies program, participated in the North Central Communication Association Conference in Madison Wisconsin.

From Student Organizations, Kyle Knight received the Silent Inspiration Award and C. Tew received Advisor of the Year for their work with the Society of Professional Journalists and on the Free Speech campaign. [Presented April 16 at the Student Leadership Awards & Recognition Ceremony.]

And the SPJ sponsored its last event of the year Monday night by bringing in Stephen Key, general counsel for the Hoosier State Press Association, to deliver an interactive session for students entitled “What You Don’t Know About Public Access Laws Can Hurt You.”

Also our new internship program with the Evansville Courier and Press which began this semester has grown from 2 student to 4 students effective Fall Semester. Journalism students work for a semester at the Courier and the paper pays up to 15 hours of their college tuition the next semester.