

**LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 24, 2008**

PRESENT: D. Glassman, M. Aakhus, J. Palladino, R. Priest, S. Rode, E. Wasserman, T. Hunt, J. Kempf deJong, W. Rinks, M.T. Morris
New Member: P. Aakhus, Director of International Studies
Guest: MT Morris, representing the philosophy, political science, and public administration departments.

I. Review Minutes from March 18, 2008

The minutes were reviewed and approved with slight modifications.

II. Distance Education and Hybrid Classes

USI is very interested in developing more distance education and hybrid courses, particularly in the core curriculum; there is help for development. A justifiable argument must be presented to the department chair that the pedagogy for the new course will be enhanced by the distance education or hybrid format and that the course meets the needs of the students. Any scheduled assignment that takes the place of face-to-face contact of 1% to 50% of class assignments is considered a hybrid. Innovation Point at 318 Main Street is a new location that is available for USI distance education courses with 40-45 seats and all technology available; the Armory and Castle High School are also available for distance education. Thirteen per cent of the LA courses for summer session II, 2008, were cancelled due to low enrollment. The history department is offering summer classes scheduled for three days a week and also three online courses. Once these courses are approved there is no further formal requirement to monitor the class. More than 50% (DE courses) require approval from the DE office.

III. Tenure Track Evaluations

The process for evaluating tenure track faculty is being reconsidered by Academic Affairs. If approved, the changes will be outlined in the faculty handbook. Currently, faculty members hired in as tenure track are given a series of one-year contracts and annual performance reviews. In the sixth year, they become eligible for tenure.

Dr. Bennett is in favor of a new proposal that would make significant changes to the current process. Briefly, the changes are as follows:

Newly hired tenure track faculty will receive a two-year contract. Only the FAR will be required after the first year. At the end of the second year, the departmental review committee will make the evaluation and present it to the dean. If the contract is renewed, it will be for another two years with an evaluation by the review committee at the end of that time. If approved, the faculty member will then receive a three-year contract. This reduces the number of contracts from seven to three; portfolios will be done only for these three reviews and the committee will make their evaluation every two years. The FAR will still be done every year.

Positive aspects discussed were less pressure related to deadlines for reviews and fewer meetings for members of the review committees; longer contracts might improve recruitment and retention of new faculty members; new faculty members will have more time to adjust to new environment. Concerns discussed were the possibility of a poorly performing new hire being locked into a two-year contract and fewer evaluations by the departmental review committees. Departments will be able to establish requirements within the parameters of the new process. The initial contract could be conditional, which would allow flexibility if there were serious problems. However, a renewed contract cannot be conditional if the previous contract was conditional. Academic Affairs will not approve that action.

If the new proposal is approved, it could go into effect as early as the fall semester and new faculty will be under the new system. It has already been presented to the Faculty Senate. Current tenure track faculty will be merged into the new system as evaluation dates coincide. Approval was not unanimous by the LAC, thus, the dean will take concerns back to Academic Affairs and give department chairs time to get reactions from faculty members.

IV. Hiring Adjuncts

LAC members were reminded that adjunct faculty cannot be officially hired until their original transcripts, completed application, and vitae are on file in the dean's office. Faculty and staff should contact HR if interested in carpooling. A shuttle bus from the malls on the east side was not approved by the administration. M.T. Morris reported that METS is offering a plan to "park and ride", more information on that soon.

V. Department Name Proposal

R. Priest presented her proposal to change the name of the sociology department to "Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies". Criminal Justice Studies will not be a formal major this fall due to delays in the approval process. This change, and any other formal changes in the CLA, will be reflected in the bulletin revision this year.

Anthropology is included in the new name because it will eventually be a major and the department wants to emphasize the Anthropology track to promote the field and lessen confusion for new students. The motion to change the name as indicated was passed by the LAC.

VI. College Reorganization

A. Philosophy, Political Science and Public Administration

The idea of department re-organization was discussed. With the retirement of a senior faculty member, it is possible to hire a chair for philosophy, thus making the departments separate. Reactions were mixed. The issue is to remain confidential until a decision has been made.

Minor Programs

The CLA currently has five minor programs that are housed in various departments:

Classical Studies, Gender Studies, Humanities, International Studies, and Liberal Studies administered by M. Dixon, S. Williams, S. Darrell, P. Aakhus, and B. West, respectively. These programs are funded by the Dean and are under his administration. In an effort to provide more visibility in the university and structure within the CLA, the Dean proposed the creation of a Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. P. Aakhus will serve as the director and would represent the Center in the LAC. Rationale: all programs would have a voice on the LAC for the first time; there will be little additional cost involved; one of the current administrative assistants will provide staff support; and, possible opportunities to hire FT faculty within these disciplines. Another factor is the retirement of S. Darrell next year. Chairs are asked to provide feedback within the next few days.

VII. Prerequisite Overrides

The registrar's office is considering giving all faculty advisors in all colleges the ability to remove academic holds. The Dean considered this to be acceptable as long as the other colleges contacts Liberal Arts and requests that the holds be removed. Extended Services and UD are allowed to remove LA holds and there are pre-requisite holds being removed for LA majors by other colleges. Administration wants to extend this capability to all colleges. A long list of holds were removed in the CLA last spring. Chairs were asked to review the importance of the current prerequisites. Some LAC members blamed Banner for part of the problem, since many of the prerequisites did not transfer into Banner. Also, pre-requisites are being waived for transfer students whose transcripts have not yet been evaluated. The Dean will report back on this during the summer.

VIII. Academic Affairs

Administration has increased the amount of reimbursement for mileage from 40 to 44 cents per mile. No proposed rate increase for use of university vehicles.

Travel will not approve reimbursements for charges incurred in a country or area under a US travel warning without a waiver. No exceptions will be issued for trips taking students to such an area. There is also a formal policy requiring students traveling together to room with a student of the same sex, unless both parties are married to each other. No faculty members may share rooms.

Extended Services has been restructured.

A. Torres will make copies of proposed orientation dates for summer and spring 2009.

Groundbreaking for the new Business & Engineering Complex will be held on July 10. The new art gallery will open September 7th. The new Ceramics Studio is under construction.

There were 22 searches in LA last year, 15 of which hired their top choice. Five searches for one-year temporary faculty are still open. Only two searches failed – the chair for Political Science and assistant professor of Criminal Justice Studies. The new hires include success in some traditionally challenging positions to fill. Fourteen new searches are scheduled for Fall 2008.

IX. Around the Table

DEAN'S OFFICE (Glassman) - The Liberal Arts Chair Retreat has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2008, due to a schedule conflict with USI.

PSYCHOLOGY- There are two new hires in the department. The textbook J. Palladino co-authored is being translated into Chinese.

SOCIOLOGY – The field school held during the first summer semester was enjoyed by the students and received a lot of media coverage.

MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES – Dr. Rode visited Osnabrück, Germany and discovered opportunities for student and faculty exchange. Osnabrück is one of Evansville's partner cities.

ART- L. Dowhie was selected as the Art Educator of the Year by the Arts Council of Indiana. X. Hu led a large group of faculty members and students on a tour to China. She also accompanied a group of Evansville city officials interested in having a partner city in China. M. Skoglund led a tour group of 25 to Spain and Morocco. V. Poston accompanied a group of 15 students to San Francisco.

HISTORY- M. Dixon won the H. Lee Cooper Award and will make a presentation of his research this year. T. Hunt presented a paper, "Envisioning Terrorists, French Revolutionary...", at the Center for Satiric Images in Brest, France. The paper is scheduled to be published this fall. T. Hunt presented "Envisioning 'Terrorists': English Political Dissenters and French Revolutionaries in English Caricature" at the International Colloquium "Caricature and Religion(s)" hosted by the Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Satiric Images at the University of Western Brittany in Brest, France.

COMMUNICATIONS- Communications is conducting a self-study for accreditation. The distance education courses for communications classes offered this summer filled immediately.

DEAN'S OFFICE-

B. Christie- A proposed schedule has been sent out for bulletin revisions and approved curriculum changes and updates are to be sent from Academic Affairs to colleges in June.

A. Torres- The new staff person in the dean's office is Kim Myers.

M. Aakhus- Orientation and advising is scheduled Friday and Saturday. From 7:30 to 8:30 am on Friday, M. Aakhus will be at Orientation to represent the CLA and answer questions. He encouraged all departments to have someone there to provide information for incoming students.