

**Approved Minutes
Liberal Arts Council
November 21, 2006**

Present: D. Glassman, M. Aakhus, J. Palladino, T. Hunt, S. Zehr, J. Galbus (for M. Kearns), C. Barber, S. Wolfe, W. Rinks, K. Waters, A. Torres and B. Christie

Guests: M. Hamington, and C. Harison

Meeting was called to order at 8:33 am.

II. Course Modification Petition - GND 333 – Hamington

M. Harrington was present to represent the Gender Studies Council in a request to modify the title and course description for GND 333. A motion to accept the petition was approved.

III. Classroom Peer Evaluation of Tenure-Track Faculty – Glassman

The dean expressed concern over the low number of peer evaluations submitted in portfolios for some tenure-track faculty, particularly new faculty members. He stressed that peer evaluations are an important activity for providing junior faculty with helpful feedback and constructive information to assist them in developing their teaching excellence. Dean Glassman recommended that the department chair and all faculty members of an evaluation committee visit at least one class for each tenure-track faculty member each year. Discussion by the LAC included the importance of not restricting the evaluative process to only the lecture aspect of teaching, but to include other assessment methods and student participation. Dr. Zehr emphasized the importance and value of self-evaluation, which is provided in the faculty member's portfolio essay. It was noted that the CLA has no consistent process for peer evaluations of tenure track faculty. The History, Art and English departments have created forms for use by their faculty for classroom evaluations and will make them available to interested chairs. The dean concluded the discussion by acknowledging that the evaluation of teaching is a complex activity that should rely on a variety of evaluative data that reflects input from peers, students, and the faculty member him or herself.

IV. New Course Petition – HIST 454 – Hunt and Harison

A motion to create a new course, HIST 454, was approved.

V. Dropping Classes – Zehr

Dr. Zehr expressed concern over a disconcerting number of students dropping classes at midterm. Some reasons offered by the chairs included many students have jobs that compete with classes for time and energy; students can now register for classes without first seeing an advisor; the state requires social science teaching majors to carry a 2.75+ GPA; and financial aid for students can be dropped if a GPA drops below a certain level. No action was proposed on the issue.

VI. Ivy Tech Program Articulation Agreements – Glassman

The dean outlined the legislatively mandated charge of creating articulation agreements between all Indiana 4-year public higher education institutions and Ivy Tech. The basic plan specifies

that students will be able to complete their first 62 hours of the major at Ivy Tech and complete the remaining 62 hours at USI. Not all LA major programs will be able to have articulations.

Academic Affairs – Glassman

1. The Faculty Senate plan for the academic year has been set.

Around the Table

M. Aakhus – Three LA faculty members (Shannon Wooden, Hilary Braysmith and Paul Raymond) have been awarded CLAFDA grants. One additional award is pending further consideration. Chairs were asked to encourage their faculty to submit Spring applications.

J. Palladino – Searches for psychology vacancies and a chair for Modern and Classical Languages are continuing.

K. Waters – The art program's Holiday Ceramics Sale is scheduled for December 4 and 5 in the UC. The department's Print Invitational will be held at the New Harmony Gallery beginning December 2. This year's Madrigal Feaste is scheduled from November 30 through December 3. Tickets can be purchased from Bobbie in the dean's office. The theatre program's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was a success.

S. Wolfe – Dr. Michael Dixon was named Indiana's Classics Director of the Year. The traditional Foreign Languages Holiday Sing is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 at 3:30 pm. in FA 1.

C. Barber – A former USI Political Science student who is now a Foreign Service officer will be a guest speaker in class.

S. Zehr – The sociology search committee has short-listed 5-6 candidates to fill the two sociology positions.

T. Hunt – The History Honor Society inducted 9 new members this fall, a record high. A total of 17 history student nominees will attend the Honor Symposium. A new history course "History of the Middle East" will be offered for the first time in Summer II, 2007.

A. Torres – A reminder that the Christmas breakfast will be held at the Pie Pan on Thursday, at 8 am. There will be a van leaving from USI for any who need a ride.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.