

Approved Minutes
Liberal Arts Council
April 19, 2005

Present: Dean David Glassman, Michael Aakhus, Dr. Joseph Palladino, Dr. Tamara Hunt, Dr. Michael Kearns, Dr. Paul Raymond, Joan Kempf, Dr. Dal Herring, Dr. Carol MacKay, Jo Ann La Mar and Bobbie Christie.

Guests: Dr. Ronda Priest in Dr. Zehr's absence and Larry Gries.

II. LA Building Committee Report – Gries

Professor Gries from the English department presented a proposal to place a collection of fine art reproductions on the walls of the second floor of the Liberal Arts Center. The collection would represent the development of art through history and would serve to promote cultural literacy within the school. The prints would be secured to the walls with lockable frames. The plan anticipates funding from donors for the works displayed, with the possibility of making additional copies of the reproductions available for purchase. Due to the time limitations of the proposed agenda, discussion was tabled until next meeting.

I. LA Council Minutes

Meeting minutes from April 5 and April 12 were approved with minor modifications. Dr. Glassman confirmed that there is no deadline for the chairs to return the articulation agreements with VU, however, Dr. Ed Jones is setting up meetings this summer for USI chairs to meet with their corresponding persons from VU. A date has not yet been announced.

III. Faculty Committee Election Process – Dean

Dr. Glassman sent an email showing which university committees will have vacancies for Liberal Arts representatives. Discussion about the process resulted in the current LA faculty senate representatives being asked to initiate a call for nominations to fill vacancies on the various faculty senate committees and to complete the election process by the end of next week. Dr. Glassman asked for department chairs to send nominations for the advisory committees to him for recommendations to the provost and president.

IV. Green Book Discussion – Dean

Dr. Glassman reiterated that discussions of the Green Book revision will continue until all departments are in general agreement. Professor Kempf said the art department faculty members are more receptive of the changes made at the last meeting, which included concern for possible legal implications, a preface which refers to individual department requirements and expectations of anticipated amendments process.

Dr. Kearns had reviewed the wording in defining “scholarship” which had raised issues for art faculty members after the last discussion, but found the wording to be the most appropriate. Professor Kempf said she encouraged the art faculty members to contact Dr. Kearns or Dean Glassman with proposed changes in wording. Dr. Hunt noted

that the word “scholarship” is portrayed as a threat to the primacy of teaching. She stated that departments in LA support scholarly activity for all contract faculty and this needs to be emphasized in positive language. “Support” is the key word. Discussion followed in which it was agreed that “full-time” should precede “contract faculty” for clarification.

Dr. MacKay also suggested that the heading “Professional Activity” on page 16 of the Green Book should be struck out, since it is not consistent with the university handbook which states that presenting papers, professional grants and awards should fall under “scholarly activities”. To be consistent, scholarly and professional activities should be combined into one category (see page 24 of the Green Book). The dean requested that a distinction between scholarly and professional activities be made on faculty vitae, portfolios and annual reports.

A suggestion was made by Professor Kempf to change the term “planning agreement” on page 7 to “annual faculty plan”. Another suggested change in wording was proposed for “quality of interchange” under “advising” on page 13. Discussion was divided on this issue and the dean asked all chairs to discuss the point with their faculty and report back to him. The final change that was agreed upon was to strike the last sentence in the opening paragraph on page 13. It was also suggested that alphabetizing the list on pages 15-16 would prevent perceived priorities in the items listed.

V. Graduation – Dean

Graduation is Sunday, May 8, at Roberts Stadium from 3 – 5 pm. Students must be there by 1:45. Faculty should meet in room 2 no later than 2:15 pm and don full regalia. Dr. Glassman relayed the message from Charlie Harrington that all faculty members are expected to attend commencement and any absences need to be reported. The contracts for full-time faculty members end at 5 pm on graduation day. Mandatory attendance has not been required before and was questioned by several present. Dr. Glassman said he would contact Charlie Harrington and clarify. Dr. Kearns asked if it is appropriate for faculty members to wear honors items. Dr. Glassman will find out.

VI. Art, Music and Theatre Update – Dean

Dr. Glassman reviewed the proposal and after meeting with Michael Aakhus, will forward the proposal to Dr. Bennett’s office and request a meeting with the provost.

VII. Academic Affairs – Dean

The mandatory class attendance policy from Charlie Harrington’s office is for developmental courses only, to include: GENS, MATH 100 and 101 and ENG 100. GENS and MATH courses are going to follow mandatory attendance guidelines. Dr. Kearns is working with Charlie Harrington to resolve issues that English has with the mandatory attendance proposal.

Thursday, April 21, is the date for the spring faculty senate meeting. The time is 3 pm in Mitchell Auditorium.

Dr. Glassman encouraged faculty submission of grant proposals to the NSF. Anyone interested in applying should contact Dr. Glassman immediately for information about an advising session in August to help faculty members put together proposals. These grants for undergraduate institutions are easily accessible and can provide generous funding.

Dr. Bennett asked for all department chairs to scan the SIS screens for summer schedules to check for filled classes. Enrollment for summer semesters is up between 3% and 9%, which is resulting in a number of closed classes. Please make schedule changes as soon as possible if additional summer classes are needed.

VIII. Around the Table

Dr. Hunt has the information about vacancies on the SLAFDA selection committee and will forward it to all chairs and the deans. Recipient of the Bancroft Prize in American History, Alan Dawley, will present to students on Thursday, April 21 at 9 am in Forum II, "The Search for Progressive Internationalism". A public presentation is scheduled at 6 pm in Kleymeyer Hall, "Illusions of Global America".

Dr. Herring had questions about LAC meeting during finals week and merit raises. Dr. Glassman said nothing has been decided on budget issues until the official budget is released, probably in May. He also noted that the new Business Building is back on schedule.

Professor Kempf reminded everyone of the lecture this evening at 7 pm in Kleymeyer Hall by James Reidhaar from Indiana University. He will speak about New Media. The art department has students presenting in the RISC Showcase on Saturday.

Dr. Raymond announced the Pre-Law Club is presenting a mock trial on Thursday at 7 pm.

The English department is sponsoring the *Red, White, Black and Blues* event this Thursday at 2 pm in Kleymeyer Hall. Also, the RopeWalk Reading Series is hosting poet, Joy Harjo on Thursday at 8 pm in Forum II.

Sociology has the third and final candidate for the anthropology vacancy arriving on campus next week. Dr. Priest also announced that two sociology majors are presenting in the RISC Showcase on Saturday.

Michael Aakhus also has two students in the RISC Showcase on Saturday. Dean Glassman expressed his wish to recognize those LA students participating in the RISC presentations by sending them a personal letter or email. He asked the chairs to forward that information to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.

Respectfully submitted by Bobbie Christie.