

**Approved Minutes
Liberal Arts Council
Tuesday, April 26, 2005**

In attendance: Dean Glassman, M. Aakhus, Dr. J. Palladino, Dr. T. Hunt, Dr. M. Kearns, Dr. S. Zehr, J. Kempf, Dr. P. Raymond, Dr. D. Herring, Dr. C. MacKay, J. La Mar and B. Christie.

I. Minutes

Minutes from 4/19/05 were approved with minor amendments.

II. LA Building Report

Discussion of the proposed artwork exhibit in the hallway of the second floor continued. Members of the art department feel that the amount of money spent for framing should warrant original works of art rather than prints. The point was also made that the examples of artwork given in the presentation were limited to western European fine art and did not represent other cultures or popular forms of art. Funding for the project is still in question, but would come from Liberal Arts. The council accepts the importance of visual literacy and the need for art in the Liberal Arts Center. However, some alternative suggestions for displaying art were mentioned, such as the use of the second floor display case as the venue for a rotating exhibit and/or having lockable framing on the walls. This would allow the art work to be adapted to various courses being taught in a semester. Dr. Glassman will report the council's ideas to Larry Gries.

III. LAC Committee Nominations – Dr. Glassman

Dr. Hunt presented her schedule for membership rotation on the SLAFDA committee. SLAFDA award recipients are encouraged to serve on the committee and to mentor new applicants. In the discussion regarding departmental representation that followed, it was agreed that the associate dean should be a permanent ex-officio member along with one representative from each of the disciplines, i.e. humanities, social sciences, communications and the arts. Committee members would still serve two-year terms on a rotating basis and would not be eligible to receive a SLAFDA grant while serving on the committee. Representatives for the arts and communications disciplines will be selected for fall.

Committee nominations recommended by the dean are the Student Academic Grievance committee, current representative is Dan Craig, and Student Publications, represented by Dave Black and Jim McGarrah. Dr. Glassman will contact Dan Craig about a replacement or renewal for his position. Dr. Herring and Dr. Kearns will find representatives from their departments.

IV. Faculty Class Time – Dr. Glassman

Dr. Glassman announced that all faculty members in Liberal Arts are required to be in class for the entire amount of time scheduled, in day as well as evening classes. Also, finals should be given on the scheduled day and time they are assigned in the course schedule and this date should appear on course syllabus at the beginning of the semester. These policies will be enforced.

V. Faculty Representing USI – Dr. Glassman

The provost's office received a letter of complaint about a Liberal Arts faculty member who was present for Southern Hospitality Days. The letter was from a parent and complaints were also received from the student ambassadors. The faculty member offered an extremely negative perspective of university procedures for orientation and registration. Dr. Glassman will be sending an email to all faculty members emphasizing the importance of professional behavior and effective service to the students and their families.

VI. Green Book Revision – Dr. Glassman

Dr. Kearns e-mailed to all LAC members a summary of the changes that had been discussed so far by the LAC. The foreign language department will meet today to discuss the changes; however, Dr. MacKay feels they are very close to an acceptable version. The only issue for Communications is the addition of a preface that refers to departmental guidelines. History and Political Science/Philosophy are still uncertain of the term "community service," but Dr. Raymond said the faculty members of his department have agreed to a vote for acceptance. Art still has a few concerns to present. Dr. Palladino reported that the psychology faculty members still want an impartial legal professional to review the final document. The sociology department is in agreement with the current revisions. Dr. Kearns said the English department feels the faculty evaluation process is too complicated and Dr. Glassman said he would work to simplify it. Since this is the last scheduled council meeting until fall, council members agreed to a meeting this summer on one of the advising dates to resolve all final problems.

VII. Classroom Instructional Technology – Dr. Zehr

Last-minute, unforeseen technical breakdowns in the classroom are a serious problem for instructors. Dr. Zehr suggested a program of regular maintenance checks to help prevent last minute malfunctions.

VIII. Academic Affairs Update – Dr. Glassman

The deans and Mary Hupfer met regarding a tuition increase. Enrollment for USI is up again this year and the increased funds went directly to the individual schools with increased enrollment. Enrollment for LA was down. Some departments dropped substantially. Dr. Glassman has a breakdown by department.

Graduate Studies is asking the schools about the policy of having categories of graduate faculty. This policy limits the eligibility of some graduate faculty members from serving on graduate committees. The council agreed that all graduate faculty members should be able to serve on graduate committees.

IX. Around the Table

Dr. Glassman announced from Arlene Fortune that all major check sheets should be updated for summer advising.

This is Dr. MacKay's last council meeting as a chair. She is stepping down at the end of the summer sessions. An interim chair will be appointed for fall. Dr. Glassman thanked Dr. MacKay for her dedicated service.

Dr. Herring announced that enrollment in summer communications courses is up 13% from last year.

The mock trial presented by the political science department was well-attended. Political science students continue to present papers at various conferences.

Joan Kempf announced that invitations for the May 14th retirement party for John McNaughton will be distributed soon.

Interviews with the candidates for Anthropology have been completed.

RopeWalk guest Joy Harjo spoke to a capacity crowd. The candidate for the Director of Composition position will be on campus this week. Dr. Kearns will e-mail the itinerary to LAC members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

Submitted by Bobbie Christie