

**Liberal Arts Council**  
**February 4, 2014**

Present: M. Aakhus, T. Bordelon, M. Dixon, T. Schroer, J. deJong, J. Hardgrave, S. Rode, I. Phillips, S. Spencer, J. Evey, W. Rinks, M. Hanka (for MT Hallock Morris), C. Rivera, R. Gennao, E. Wasserman, C. York, P. Moore, and B. Christie.

The meeting started at 9:00 a.m.

**I. New Course Petitions**

ENG 227. S. Spencer introduced the petition for ENG 227: Literature and Popular Culture. The proposed course emphasizes the connection between Shakespeare and popular culture, but other topics that have connections with popular culture could also be taught as ENG 227. The petition was approved unanimously.

COMM488. W. Rinks introduced the petition for COMM488: Diversity and Mass Media, which has been taught previously as JRN 499: Special Topics. Several questions were asked regarding the designation of this 400-level course as a diversity-embedded experience within the Core 39. The petition was approved unanimously.

RTV 358. W. Rinks introduced the new course petition for RTV 358: Advanced Digital Audio Production. It will be a course for the proposed Digital Video Production minor. The petition was approved unanimously.

**II. Honors Day 2014/Recognition of Departmental Honors Societies (I. Phillip)**

I. Phillips expressed a desire to recognize more meaningfully departmental honors societies at the College of Liberal Arts' Honors Day. Six departments within the College of Liberal Arts currently have active honors societies. Some questions were asked about the amount of time this might add to the ceremony and if we have enough space to accommodate those students who might attend. C. York will check on this and the question will be considered again at a future meeting.

**III. Advising, Degree Works, and Spring Orientation**

M. Dixon noted that all departments will need one faculty member trained to use Degree Works for the first orientation session, which is scheduled for March 27. There will be a training session on Thursday March 20, and each department should forward to him the name of one faculty member who will attend the training session.

M. Aakhus also noted that the College of Liberal Arts still seeks two faculty members to serve as designated advisors. Several questions were asked about the time commitment required of these faculty advisors. M. Aakhus asked chairs to consult with their faculty to determine how many hours would be appropriate for a one-course assigned time per semester. He requested that the name(s) of interested faculty be forwarded to him.

#### **IV. Departmental/College Web Sites**

J. Hardgrave and S. Spencer expressed concerns about our web presence and the out of date material and information contained on our web sites. They noted the challenges that this situation creates when attempting to recruit new students. E. Wasserman noted that IT can enable one person in a department to update information on a web site. Chairs requested that this be done for all departments. T. Bordelon also noted that Danielle Norris is now the contact person for the College of Liberal Arts.

#### **V. Open Items from Chairs**

T. Schroer reported that some faculty members have expressed concern about the voice lessons that take place in LA 3025. M. Aakhus will look into ways to improve soundproofing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.