

**Liberal Arts Council**  
**October 7, 2014**

Present: M. Aakhus, M. Dixon, J. deJong, J. Hardgrave, S. Rode, I. Phillips, A. Buck (for T. Schroer), S. Spencer, W. Rinks, MT Hallock Morris, H. Braysmith, R. Gennaro, J. Evey, C. Rivera, E. Wasserman, R. Rowland, K. Oeth, P. Moore, and R. Lutton.

Guest: C. Stambush

The meeting started at 9:02 a.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 15, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

**II. New Course Petitions**

A. Buck introduced the new course petition for SOC 321: Sociology of Aging. It will become an elective for the Gerontology minor. The petition was approved unanimously.

MT Hallock Morris introduced the new course petition for POLS465: Comparative Public Policy. It was offered last year as an experimental course. The petition was approved unanimously.

**III. Administration of Make-Up Examinations**

M. Aakhus reported that some administrative assistants have been asked to proctor make-up examinations in the third floor corridors. He informed chairs that this practice should not continue. He asked chairs also to review policies for make-up examinations and to determine if their faculty would find it useful to have a room scheduled in the LA building for the administration of make-up examinations. We shall discuss this issue again at a future meeting.

**IV. Proposed Political Science Teaching Minor**

MT Hallock Morris described a proposed Political Science Teaching minor that is designed to prepare those students who intend to teach political science at the secondary level. The minor will complement also the History major and education minor. The proposed minor will require twenty-four credit hours, which is aligned with the Political Science minor and it is also the number of hours required to obtain licensure outside of Indiana. She requested that the Liberal Arts Council endorse the proposal before she presents it to the Academic Planning Council. The request for endorsement was approved unanimously.

**V. Southern Hospitality Day Report**

M. Dixon reported that Southern Hospitality Day on October 4 went well, with the exception of the arrival of prospective students and their families fifteen minutes early. M. Aakhus and M. Dixon spoke to the guests upon their arrival. The Liberal Arts information session was especially successful. A group of current Liberal Arts students, some represent their departments on the Liberal Arts Dean's Student Advisory Council and several Ambassadors, spoke to those assembled and answered questions on a range of topics. Several chairs requested the ability to order tablecloths and/or pop-up banners for their departments. M. Aakhus encouraged chairs to order these items if it is within their budgets.

## **VI. Program Assessment Plans**

J. deJong reminded chairs that their updated and/or new Program Assessment Plans are due by Wednesday October 15. She indicated also that several departments have made excellent progress on their plans.

## **VII. *LA Story***

C. Stambush spoke about the production schedule for the next issue of *LA Story*, which will be printed in January 2015. She also solicited suggestions for stories to be included within it. Several chairs offered suggestions. Also discussed was the possibility of producing the summer 2015 issue to celebrate fifty years of the Liberal Arts at USI. For this issue we could increase the number of pages from eight to as many as twelve. Please share with C. Stambush and W. Bredhold any ideas for this issue.

## **VIII. Open Items from Chairs**

J. Hardgrave reported that the History Department will host a guest speaker from Purdue University to speak about World War II and that this event will take place around Veterans Day. He would like to expand the program beyond the lecture and he solicited ideas and the names of additional speakers from others. Several offered suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.