**Liberal Arts Council
November 18, 2014**

Present: M. Aakhus, M. Dixon, J. deJong, J. Hardgrave, S. Rode, T. Schroer, W. Rinks, MT Hallock Morris, H. Braysmith, R. Gennaro, J. Evey, C. Rivera, E. Wasserman, K. Oeth, and P. Moore.

Absent: I. Phillips, S. Spencer, R. Rowland, and R. Lutton

Guest: L. Bennett, President

The meeting started at 9:00 a.m.

President L. Bennett addressed the Liberal Arts Council concerning enrollment and budgetary issues. She noted that the decline in enrollment has created challenges to the university budget. She added that early numbers for fall 2015 enrollment are encouraging, but cautioned that we shall not know what the enrollment figures are until the fall 2015 census day. President Bennett believes that USI’s advertising and branding campaign is working and making a difference. We have decreased the number of conditionally admitted students, and this is a position that will not change. As the student profile has risen, we need to continue offering courses that require rigor.

President Bennett also reported that USI’s budget proposal for the 2015-2017 biennium has been submitted to the Commission for Higher Education. USI is performing well for every metric that has been established. She noted that the budget contains requests for some one-time funding. She stated also that the USI Capital Campaign is doing well, and it will be essential for seed monies to springboard new programs.

President Bennett also said a few words about USI’s upcoming fiftieth anniversary, and several of the planned events associated with it. She thanked chairs for their involvement in the process that has generated USI’s environmental scan.

W. Rinks asked if the budget hearing process will proceed as usual this spring. President Bennett stated that we shall, as it is always a good idea to go through this process.

E. Wasserman requested information on the possibility of offering prospective out-of-state students in-state tuition as a recruitment tool. President Bennett encourages the development of recruitment “pipelines” and she stated that she believes we have opportunities along the I-64 corridor.

W. Rinks also noted that many chairs have been trying to encourage students to register for classes during priority registration, but that many students with holds have been unable to do so. President Bennett agreed that this was problematic and noted that we must move away from the practice of using holds in a way that prohibits students from registering during the priority registration period.

S. Rode requested that something be done to make accurate faculty listings on web pages. President Bennett agreed that this should be explored and she asked M. Aakhus to raise this issue at the Provost’s Council.

J. Evey asked what steps had been taken to replace the director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. President Bennett noted that she has discussed this with Provost Rochon and will follow up with him.

President Bennett departed at 10:18 a.m.

Announcements

M. Aakhus reminded chairs that administrative assistants must not be asked to proctor make-up examinations.

He also announced that the College of Liberal Arts and the Multicultural Center will sponsor “Nelson Mandela’s Life and Legacy” with events on Wednesday November 19 and Thursday December 4. He hopes that this will become an annual event. Please let M. Aakhus know of any faculty interested in planning next year’s event.

R. Rowland will distribute to chairs by tomorrow spreadsheets listing those students who have yet to register for spring 2015 classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.