**Liberal Arts Council
January 20, 2015**

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

Guests: W. Durham and D. Sorrells.

The meeting started at 9:00 a.m.

**I. HLC Reaccreditation (W. Durham and D. Sorrells)**

D. Sorrells offered an overview of the HLC Reaccreditation process, focusing specifically upon how the process is different now than how it has been in the past. He emphasized the University of Southern Indiana’s need to be prepared adequately for the process. He emphasized the importance of the University Mission Statement, and also the College of Liberal Arts Mission Statement. He suggested, for example, that including both on course syllabi as an effective way to ensure that faculty and students are familiar with both. W. Durham also provided information about the data he will be collecting in order to prepare the final report for Criterion 3.

Both D. Sorrells and W. Durham agreed to report again to the LAC later this spring.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of November 11, November 18, and December 2 were approved unanimously.

**III. College of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan Draft**

J. deJong distributed a revised draft of the College of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan and also the Department Assessment Plan Report form. She, M. Dixon, and A. Statham revised the Strategic Plan in fall 2014 on the basis of faculty feedback on the survey administered in May/June 2013. Other strategic plans were consulted as well. She noted that this draft matches goals with strategies and metrics, and that efforts were made to employ metrics that can utilize data already collected by OPRA, the Dean’s office, or even at the department level. She and M. Dixon emphasized that the plan is not a checklist of goals that all departments have to pursue, but reflects the goals that the College of Liberal Arts aims to meet. The Strategic Plan should be regarded as a list of suggestions of what can be done within departments. J. deJong asked chairs to review the draft plan with their faculty and to share any feedback with her and M. Dixon. She added that we hope to approve it by the end of February.

**IV. Faculty Development Workshops for Spring 2015**

M. Dixon reported that a workshop this spring for tenure-track faculty will be scheduled for later this spring. It will focus on the preparation of one’s portfolio for reappointment and tenure/promotion decisions. He requested that chairs submit to him any additional ideas for future faculty development workshops.

**V. Fall 2015 FYE (UNIV101) Staffing**

M. Dixon updated chairs on the meeting that the College hosted in December 2014 for those who taught FYEs (UNIV 101) in fall 2014. At the meeting, instructors discussed what aspects of the course were successful, and which ones were not. This first discussion will serve as the foundation for the development of a more uniform Liberal Arts FYE that will be offered in fall 2015. He also reported that he is working to staff the Liberal Arts FYE sections for fall 2015.

**VI. Commencement Concern**

T. Schroer reported on a concern that had been conveyed to him by a faculty member within his department. Specifically, the concern addresses the decision to allow ROTC graduates to participate in commencement exercises in military attire while all other participants must be dressed in academic regalia. The item was tabled until the next LAC meeting.

**VII. Open Items from Chairs**

Several chairs asked K. Oeth when they will receive student evaluations for their departments. She believes that these will be delivered later this week.

S. Spencer reported that the English Department plans to host a lunch-time reception to honor the recipients of its departmental awards.

**VIII. Announcements**

M. Aakhus reminded chairs that FARs are due to him on Thursday February 19.

He also requested that chairs submit to him by the end of April their merit raise rubrics that will be used starting next year.

H. Braysmith announced that the show Solid Gold: The Art Department Goes on Record,a faculty art exhibition celebrating USI’s 50th anniversary in 2015, opened on January 15 and will remain on exhibit in the McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries until March 15.

E. Wasserman reported on the success of Theatre students at the American College Theater Festival in early January.

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