**Liberal Arts Council  
February 24, 2015**

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

Absent: K. Oeth, R. Lutton, R. Rowland.

The meeting started at 9:02 a.m.

**I. Curriculum Petitions**

ARAB325: Introduction to Arabic Literature. S. Rode introduced the new course petition. The petition was approved unanimously.

INST201: Culture Shock. C. Rivera introduced the new course petition. The petition was approved unanimously.

**II. CLA Advisory Board**

M. Aakhus noted that as stated within the College of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan, we intend to establish a College of Liberal Arts Advisory Board. J. deJong provided an overview of the purpose of the board, which would be comprised of leaders external to the university. She added that we aim to create the board this spring and host a first meeting in late April or early May. She solicited ideas concerning the advisory board from chairs. She also noted that individual departments might wish to consider establishing departmental advisory boards. W. Rinks, MT Hallock Morris, and I. Phillips noted that their respective departments currently have advisory boards. S. Spencer stated that he believes the board should deal with the college’s vision and he observed that it could enhance community connections as well as connections with alumni. He also requested that a statement outlining the board’s purpose and function be drafted. J. deJong noted that she is currently drafting one and that she intends to circulate it at our next meeting.

M. Stoll stated that the creation of a departmental advisory board constitutes an undue burden upon small departments that have few alumni who remain in the region after graduation. J. deJong noted that no department is required to establish a departmental advisory board.

**III. CLA Web Sites**

M. Dixon distributed a Google Analytics report on visits to the College of Liberal Arts web pages. He reminded chairs to review their departmental web pages in order to ensure that content is up to date. Each department has at least one administrative assistant and faculty member who can update content. Several chairs requested that Danielle Norris be invited to a future meeting to explain the data contained within the report.

**IV. Budget Updates**

M. Aakhus announced the order in which chairs ranked the faculty requests that had been submitted earlier this month. The rankings will be distributed electronically later today. He also noted that no date has been set yet for the budget hearings.

**V. Open Items from Chairs**

M. Aakhus reminded chairs to submit completed profile sheets to R. Lutton by Wednesday March 4.

He also requested that chairs submit to him the names of any graduating seniors who might be potential reflections speakers at commencement exercises in May.

He also reminded chairs that our Assessment Day meeting will take place on Tuesday March 24 in UC East 2217, from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Each chair will present (approximately 10 minutes) on the assessment activities of their department during the past year. There will be time for questions following each presentation.

J. deJong reminded chairs that the annual Toast to the Arts will take place on Friday March 6 in Carter Hall. The event is sponsored by the Society for the Arts and Humanities, and will raise monies to help both students and faculty.

**VI. Announcements**

E. Wasserman announced that *Picnic* opens tomorrow in the University Performance Center and that it will run through Sunday March 1.

I. Phillips announced that the Social Work Research Expo, with silent auction, will take place on Monday April 27. The Social Work Department is now accepting donation of items for the auction.

W. Rinks announced that the Communications Department will host more than one hundred students on campus for High School Media Day on Friday February 27. He also urged chairs to read the article currently on the USI home page that details the accomplishments of and awards won by several students who work in the USI’s radio station, The Edge.

S. Rode announced that the World Languages and Cultures Department will host a lecture tomorrow, Wednesday February 25, to celebrate Chinese New Year. Dr. Haiwang Yuan (Western Kentucky University) will deliver the lecture, “Cultural Diversity in China,” in Kleymeyer Hall at 1:30 p.m.

M. Stoll announced that a benefit reading of the Vagina Monologues will take place on Wednesday February 25 and Friday February 27 at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Willow Tree, a local organization that provides support for women who have experienced sexual or domestic violence.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.