**Liberal Arts Council
January 27, 2015**

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

Absent: S. Spencer, P. Moore, and R. Lutton.

The meeting started at 9:02 a.m.

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

M. Aakhus opened discussion of the draft College of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan that had been distributed previously. Several chairs asked questions about specific points and offered a few general remarks. Others asked who will be responsible for doing all of this. J. deJong responded that the plan is an articulation of the College of Liberal Arts’ goals and objectives and that neither every department nor every faculty member is responsible for doing every thing within the plan. M. Dixon added that many of the strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan will be pursued by the Dean’s office and, if achieved, will benefit all faculty within the college. H. Braysmith suggested that the plan be prefaced with a preamble that explains this to faculty. J. deJong noted that she and M. Dixon are currently drafting a preface to the plan.

**II. Commencement Issue**

Discussion of the commencement issue raised and tabled at the January 20 meeting was re-opened. Several chairs noted that this was an issue of equity, while some claimed to have no concerns regarding the practice that permits ROTC students participating in commencement exercises to wear military attire. The consensus among chairs was that this issue should be submitted to the Faculty Senate as a formal charge.

**III. DARS/Degree Works Issues**

T. Schroer reported on some issues that he has encountered with transfer students and how some of the coursework they have completed is not counted as a specific USI course. J. Evey noted also that she has discovered that DegreeWorks counts the hours of repeated courses and that this has created some problems with students nearing the completion of their degrees.

**IV. Announcements**

M. Aakhus reported that the Provost’s Office is attempting to update all articulation agreements with other institutions. He requested that chairs with any articulation agreements send that information to the Dean’s office and to S. Blunt.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.