

LA Council Meeting Minutes

20 February 2020

APPROVED

Present: O. Armeanu, K. Arwood, C. Baker, J. Beeby, S. C. Blair, A. Buck, W. Durham, J. Hardgrave, S. Hughes, J. Kiesel, A. McKibban, M. Nguyen, K. Oeth, M. Roberts, T. Schroer, S. Vogl-Bauer, S. Rode, E. Wasserman

Dean Beeby opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes – 23 January 2020

Minutes approved with change of wording.

II. Curriculum Items (M. Roberts)

C. Baker proposed the following curriculum program modifications:

SOCW 241: Social Work Intervention (pre-req modification) – The BSW Program will no longer require students to take PSY 21. The program requests that BIOL 105 be a pre-requisite or corequisite for SOCW 241.

SOCW 341: Social Work Policy (co-req/pre-req modification) – The BSW Program would like to add POLS 102 as a pre-requisite or co-requisite of SOCW 241.

S. Vogl-Bauer motioned to approve the proposed curriculum item modifications, S. Rode seconded, and all members voted in favor.

J. Kiesel proposed the following curriculum proposals:

ENG 381: Medieval World Literature (deletion) – ENG 381 has not been offered in the past ten years, therefore English proposes to delete this course.

ENG 382: Literature of the Bible (deletion) – ENG 382 has not been offered in the past ten years, therefore English proposes to delete this course.

S. Rode motioned to approve the proposed course deletion, S. C. Blair seconded, and all members voted in favor.

III. Administrative Announcements and Updates (K. Oeth)

K. Oeth noted that the class schedule proof will be released tomorrow rather than today due to campus-wide internet issues that occurred yesterday.

Human Resources will now provide a benefits packet when candidates visit campus rather than holding a 30-minute meeting.

Julie Minette is the English department's administrative assistant.

The Social Work administrative assistant position has posted.

IV. Announcements and Updates (M. Roberts)

Midterm grades and non-attending withdrawals are due on Monday. Please be present in case faculty need to be contact.

M. Roberts will attend a conference in D. C. to discover new ideas for the UNIV program.
Summer book adoptions are due on March 6, 2020.

On Monday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., a CLAFDA and LARA workshop will be held in LA 2031. The focus of the workshop will be on the application process. A question and answer session will be offered. All junior faculty are encouraged to attend.

M. Roberts noted that the signature of the Chair will no longer be required for CLAFDAs.
J. Beeby clarified that faculty can apply if waiting on IRB but cannot start until approval is granted.

V. Announcements and Updates (S. Hughes)

S. Hughes announced that new desk chairs will affect the cap size in several rooms in the Liberal Arts building:

LA 2002 - 30 seats
LA 2004 - 32 seats
LA 2024 and LA 2028 - 32 seats (down from 40 seats)

CETL will be compiling the annual Faculty & Staff Scholarly and Creative Works report for works and accomplishments in 2019. The annual report provides a snapshot of the contributions of USI faculty and staff and is a resource to identify expertise. S. Hughes requests that Chairs send a word document, with the listing of the requested works in alphabetical order by individual, via e-mail by the end of the day on March 4th. Example of works include publications, conference presentations, and external grants.

VI. Announcements and Updates (J. Beeby)

J. Beeby thanked the Council for attending the townhalls, and the President's meeting regarding enrollment.

FARS have been impressive so far, though J. Beeby encouraged Chairs to ask for an update or more detail if any FARS are lacking in detail.

The Board of Trustees will vote on sabbaticals in March.

The Social Media minor will be in effect in the fall semester.

J. Beeby will hold meetings with faculty by rank after spring break.

The Strategic Planning Committee has started their SWOT analysis which analyses strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the university. The information has been quite transparent. Any questions regarding the strategic plan can be directed to J. Beeby or Trent Engbers.

Several goals for enrollment and retention include developing better data analytics, offering more scholarships to students, providing additional help for transfer students, and engaging with students

within a 100-mile radius – specifically those with a HS GPA of 2.7 – 3.0. Students who get the Rice scholarship tend to graduate more than students who do not.

A. Buck inquired if the university has considered “re-imagining” open houses, to which J. Beeby responded that the cap has increased so that more students can attend. Additionally, faculty are encouraged to engage with students. J. Hardgrave commented that their department integrates current students to talk about their experiences at USI, providing insight to the cultural and social aspects of being a student here.

There is no update on the budget but there will be a “State of the University” meeting held by the President in April.

VII. Open Times for Chairs

Matsel and Topper Global Community Scholarship (O. Armeanu): Ellen Topper and their husband created a new scholarship for the Liberal Arts College that does not involve Award Spring. The scholarship is for \$1000 to use in the fall or spring for students who are studying abroad. This will be a cash award and will not appear on the student’s account. K. Arwood will be asked to put this new scholarship on the Liberal Arts web page.

K. Arwood: Send March and April events to K. Arwood.

The Toast to the Arts RSVP deadline is February 21. Faculty can purchase tickets for \$75. Currently there is no additional discount given if faculty donate to the auction.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.