

LAC MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2008

Present: D. Glassman, M. Aakhus, J. Palladino, S. Spencer, E. Wasserman, S. Rode, J. Evey, J. deJong, R. Priest, P. Aakhus, T. Hunt, W. Rinks, A. Torres, and B. Christie.

Announcement

D. Glassman announced that he has received twelve LARA applications, the largest number ever submitted during his tenure. Continue to encourage faculty members to apply for these awards. Council members were also reminded of summer sabbatical opportunities for both junior and senior faculty members, including the Excellence through Engagement from the Provost's office. The Dean urged all LA departments to pursue the many opportunities for faculty development offered by USI.

Michael "Brody" Broshears, Director of University Division has contacted the Dean about scheduling a time to address the Liberal Arts Council at a future meeting.

I. Approval of Minutes from 10/21/08

The minutes from 10/21/08 were reviewed and approved as amended with one abstention.

II. Student Advising Discussion (continued from last week)

The Dean made the observation that freshmen who enter LA in the fall and attend the orientation/registration process often experience long waits for advising and registration in LA. Discussion included that the orientation process puts little emphasis on the importance of new students connecting with a faculty advisor right away. Some departments use orientation primarily for registration and assign advisors later in the semester. Others connect students with an advisor right away. Most agreed that the current process needs improving. Suggestions include revising the fall orientation by providing information about the major and related career options as well as introducing faculty advisors and giving advisor office locations. The Dean currently has the opportunity to address students during orientation sessions in Rice Library and he will emphasize the importance of the advising relationship. Each department could host a "hospitality room" after the orientation session as the LA "first class" portion of the day and provide information, introduce faculty and upper class students in the major, and generally "connect" with the new students. It was also noted that registration holds could be used to encourage students to meet with an advisor.

III. Academic Planning Council Update

The request to approve the BA and BS in Criminal Justice Studies was sent to the Indiana Department of Higher Education in August, but it did not make the agenda for October. It is expected to appear for approval on the November agenda; we expect it will be approved for classes beginning Fall 2009. The minor program in Theatre Education was approved by the APC. The proposal for a BA and BS in Arts Heritage Management is again going before the APC for approval. W. Rinks and W. Durham have been working hard to complete the proposal for the graduate program in Communication. It received approval from the APC last March. The final proposal will be ready to present in Spring 2009 and the program implemented in Fall 2010.

The graduate program in Communication and undergraduate programs in Anthropology and Arts and Heritage Management, along with undergraduate degrees in geography should be added in the 2009-2011 biennium. New program proposals in LA should be presented to the Dean first. New graduate programs that might undermine an existing undergraduate program will not be considered.

IV. T&P Faculty Evaluation Materials

Tabled again due to time constraints.

V. No Academic Affairs Meeting this Week

Wrap Up

There will be no LAC meeting for the next two weeks, Election Day being November 4th and Assessment Day occurring on November 11th. W. Rinks gave a brief synopsis of two new course petitions for Communications; copies were provided previously for COMM 477 and 497. NOTE: A motion was approved electronically with a unanimous vote on 11/6/08.

Two new programs for the Art Department have been approved by a preview committee. The Dean has some concerns that need to be addressed before further approval is made.

There is a rumor in LA that tenure-track faculty may select a 2-2-3 reappointment schedule this year. That option has not yet been approved and is not in effect at this time.

The Dean is currently working on second-year evaluations for tenure-track faculty.

Around the Table

Performing Arts

The Department of Performing Arts will open its Repertory Theatre Project on November 6, 2008, with *Waiting for Lefty* and November 8, 2008 with *Much Ado About Nothing*. Students and actors from the professional actors' union will be performing together in these productions.

E. Wasserman will meet students at Mount Vernon High School on November 5th for "High School Career Days." To date, 88 students have signed up with an interest in Performing Arts.

Art

K. Waters and C. Roth attended the biennial conference of MACAA (Mid-America College Art Association) in Indianapolis on October 16-18. They also attended an organizational meeting at Herron School of Art and Design for the Indiana chapter of the Feminist Art Project.

M. Aakhus will present a lecture for the Day of the Dead at the Evansville Museum. The Day of the Dead exhibition opened on October 26 and will run until January 11 with a reception on December 6.

J. D'Uva had an article accepted for publication in the upcoming Mid-America Print Council Journal. The article is on the topic of Zacatecas, Mexico and MESEOGRABADO, a print studio in Zacatecas.

L. Dowhie and R. Millard-Mendez had their pumpkin designs featured in the Sunday Courier & Press this week. R. Millard-Mendez is in a one person show in Oakland City where he will present a lecture on his work on November 11 at 4:00 pm.

M. Aakhus, J. D'Uva, and K. Waters had art work accepted into the Midstates Art Exhibition at the Evansville Museum. In addition, two art alumni, Jerome Duerson and Laura Walker, and a current USI art student, Clinton Bosler, also had art work accepted in the show. The juror is Rutger Brandt, owner, Galerie Mokum, the Netherlands' oldest art gallery. The exhibition is December 7, 2008 – January 18, 2009.

History

D. O'Grady, instructor of History, published the article "The Great Evansville Bingo Riot – 1945" as the featured story in the fall 2008 edition of the *Evansville Boneyard*. He also spoke on this subject as the featured guest on the WNIN radio program "Tri-State Matters" on October 17 2008.

Philosophy

ML Stoll took students to the Central States Regional Ethics Bowl at Marion College on November 1 – we placed 8th.

Political Science and Public Administration

WR Mack will be on our local NBC station all evening on November 4th discussing election coverage.

MT Hallock-Morris published "When It Works and Where it Fails: Spatial, Temporal, and Budgetary Constraints to Civic Environmentalism" in the December 2008 edition of *Social Science Quarterly*.