

College of Liberal Arts Council
MINUTES for November 3, 1009

In attendance were Dean Alan Vaux, Associate Dean David DiLalla, and Assistant to the Dean Anita Hutton; and Council Members Lourdes Albuixech, Aaron Allehoff, Steven Belletire, Douglas Berger, Anne Chandler (Chair), Krassimira Charkova, Frank Chipasula, Michael Drobysh, Christina Gould, Billie Hagemeyer, Meera Komarraju, Kara Lawrence, Kristie Lipford, AKM Mahbub Morshed, Ken Mulligan, Bill Phelps, Orion Poulin, Dan Silver, Matthew Therrell, Makayla Trotter, and John Warren.

The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. with greetings from the Chair. A motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes was made and duly seconded. Reports from the Dean's Office made note of upcoming campus and community events. Members were reminded to attend, if possible, the campus visits of the candidates for the Chancellorship. The process of forwarding CoLA's Outstanding Teacher and Scholar as nominees for the University-level awards was described.

Under Old Business, the Chair welcomed Makayla Trotter, an undergraduate representative from Geography; the Council still needs one more representative from the Arts and Humanities. Steve Belletire, Chair of the Communications and Collegiality Committee, summarized the status of the launch process for CoLA's Facebook page: specific content is still under consideration. A fuller report will be made at a future meeting.

From 6:15 to about 7:15, guest speakers informed the Council about campus services that help students in crisis.

Makahla Shurtz, a graduate assistant in the Office of Transitional Programs, explained the procedures and stipulations involved in students' withdrawal from courses at various stages of the semester. The process has been changed this year to encourage more input from faculty, to tighten the conditions under which a no-fault withdrawal is permissible, and to limit abuses of the system. (The new form also covers the situation of a student's needing to add a course in which s/he had mistakenly thought s/he was enrolled.) Under the new procedure, information is solicited from faculty *before* the student's claim is verified by Transitional Programs. If the faculty member has no information at his/her disposal about the merit of the claim, Transitional Programs will simply proceed with the verification process. If the student has been advised by an instructor to drop a course after the first eight weeks of the semester, the instructor is asked to confirm that request in writing. Ms. Shurtz also reminded faculty that if a student anticipates a lengthy absence due to a family or health crisis, Transitional Programs can only provide a blanket memo to the student's instructors *before* the period of absence begins. The Retroactive Academic Action Petition form is available at <http://www.registrar.siu.edu>. For further information, faculty are encouraged to contact Ms. Shurtz or Christine Stillwell, another graduate assistant in Transitional Programs.

Barbara Elam, Wellness Coordinator of SIUC's Stress Management Program, reviewed the range of student health services available on campus. She described the relationship between the Wellness Center, which tends to provide short-term (6-session) health counseling for

students – often, initiated by students who are having trouble concentrating on schoolwork – and the Counseling Center, which helps students with more severe problems over a longer term. A counselor there is always available for walk-in care of students in need. (The misapprehension that most students have problems with academic performance, substance abuse, violence, or STDs needs to be dispelled.) The Student Health Assessment Center, separate from the Health Center itself, is housed at the Student Center and provides students and faculty free consultation with a nurse, without appointment. Faculty are encouraged to keep using the Saluki Cares service, which routes students in crisis to the appropriate health service. It is hoped that soon Saluki Cares will have a paid, full-time staff, but for now, its volunteer team, including Ms. Elam, is handling inquiries. The Wellness Center staff deliver some 600 talks per year to get the word out about available services. Faculty needing to cancel a particular class can engage Wellness Center staff to present health information to students during class time.

Questions and comments from Council members were interspersed through both talks.

Under New Business, about 15 minutes were devoted to follow-up questions and discussion concerning last month's presentation by the directors of the Saluki First Year program. Dean Vaux expressed enthusiasm for the program, asserting the College's long-term interest in being involved. He mentioned practical concerns, such as instructor compensation and room availability, which will need to be worked out. The basic plan is that to meet CoLA's projected quota of some 25 sections of the new freshman seminar, most CoLA departments will be asked to cover one section each. The learning goals and procedures set forth by SFY have been forwarded to department chairs.

Under Announcements: Owing to time constraints, the Chair requested that Unit Reports for this month be deferred to next meeting. Kara Lawrence announced that her colleague Bill Phelps will serve in her stead during her maternity leave. Christina Gould announced Philosophy's upcoming Building Bridges Conference, November 13-14. Frank Chipasula announced the publication by SIU Press of his edited collection, *Bending the Bow: An Anthology of African Love Poetry*. An accompanying exhibit is currently at the University Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.