

**College of Liberal Arts Council**  
**Feb. 5, 2008 meeting minutes**

Members present: Information not available

Members absent: Information not available

**1. Welcome, Chair Alejandro Cáceres**

Cáceres called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of Dec. 4, 2007, meeting minutes**

Motion to approve by Netzley. Seconded by Rodriguez. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Cáceres congratulated Prof. David DiLalla on being hired as the new associate dean of CoLA. He next introduced guest speaker Virginia Rinella, Director of SIUC Pre-major Advisement Center.

**3. Guest Speaker – Virginia Rinella**

Rinella described the history, goals and objectives of UNIV 101, the freshman course designed to help with retention and community building among new students. According to the last research data, 92% of students return in the second semester and 72% in the third. She said that this course is taught by faculty from across the campus, and it helps with transition as well as transformation. A common syllabus is used, and faculty can also talk about their own disciplines in this class. She encouraged CoLA Council members to consider teaching this course, which is usually in addition to the normal teaching load.

Cáceres described his positive experience of teaching this course. Hutton added that training is available for faculty who want to teach this course, and that students appreciate the ways in which this course helps them change and transition into college culture. Rinella added that faculty who teach this course have reported that they learn much themselves and are able to network and connect with other faculty across campus.

Schoof inquired what kind of administrative support is available for UNIV 101. Rinella explained that the course is still a part of the freshman experience, and that it would be helpful if resources were available to hire one person to coordinate that. Ludwig inquired if the course is required, and Rinella said that it's an elective, and students are recruited through the SOAR program, academic advisors and promotional materials.

Cáceres thanked Rinella for her time and for sharing her knowledge with the Council.

A short discussion followed about inviting Todd Sigler, SIUC Director of Public Safety, to speak at the next general meeting. Cáceres said that Sigler could shed more light on campus emergency procedures and other related matters. The Council agreed to invite him.

**4. Committee Reports**

Academic Policy – Gray reported that the committee recommends approving the proposal from the CoLA Dean's office for a Global Studies minor. The committee found the proposal amenable. The Council voted unanimously to approve it.

Promotions – No report

Teaching and Learning – No report.

Grievance/Selections & Election – Rodriguez went over the changes that the combined committees suggest for amending the operating papers. The changes concern three areas. First area: inclusion of language on appointment of an interim CoLA dean, especially during the summer when the Council is not in session. After discussion, it was decided that CoLA Council executive board members along with CoLA chairs and directors should be consulted by the provost in the case of a summer vacancy (see handout on proposed changes for specific change/addition of language)

Next area: composition of CoLA Council. The combined committee suggests moving from an election to a selection process. Department chairs would select a representative for two years. Each CoLA unit would have one representative. This switch would do away with the college wide election which is currently the procedure. Sloboda inquired about the reason for the switch. Rodriguez explained that under the current model, all units are not represented.

The Council decided that the final changes would be voted on according to issues. Third area: Vaux noted that there is also a need to include language on how to appoint an interim CoLA associate dean. Ludwig inquired of any other positions need to be included. Some discussion ensued about whether the hiring procedure for the position of assistant to the dean should also be included in the papers, but the idea was rejected since this is an AP position and members felt that the dean should be able to have more of a say in that decision.

Hutton inquired when these changes would be effective. Cáceres explained that the Council would vote on the changes this semester, but they would not be effective until they are approved by the Provost. This means that the elections this year will be according to the old language/rules. Rodriguez said that he would send out the proposed changes to all Council members by email, and Cáceres suggested that the Council should vote on these changes at the March general meeting.

**5. Dean's Remarks, Alan Vaux**

Dean Vaux noted the accomplishments of the SIUC debate team that has been winning major tournaments. He also congratulated DiLalla on being hired as the new associate dean.

He next encouraged faculty to attend the all-college meeting with the Chancellor, check the public safety web site for emergency procedures that faculty need to be aware of, and attend the WAC related workshops that have been organized as a result of last year's work by the Council. Finally, Vaux reported on the state of fundraising for CoLA, which is at a 130% of the target. He encouraged faculty to think of novel and sustaining ways to raise funds in the future.

**6. Associate Dean's Remarks, David DiLalla**

DiLalla said that he is looking forward to continuing his work as associate dean. He reported on the state of hiring; encouraged faculty to use the time spent on updating CVs at this time of the year to note particular accomplishments that can be used to make a case for the college's accomplishments with higher administration; and he noted that the web based file sharing system is now in place.

**7. Dean's Office Business, Anita Hutton**

Hutton reported on the meeting of talented CoLA students with the dean and chancellor; the upcoming open house on Feb. 18; and the Living Learning Communities program related to residence halls that CoLA is participating in.

**8. Old Business**

None

**9. New Business**

Cáceres reminded the Council that a new Chair and Vice-Chair will have to be elected for the next academic year, and requested nominations for the March general meeting.

**10. Announcements**

None

**11. Adjournment**

Adjournment at 7:35 p.m. Tornado alarm!

Submitted by Nilanjana Bardhan/Vice-Chair (2007-08)