

**President's
Liberal Arts Advisory Group**

NOTES

Thursday, April 4, 2014

<p>Faculty of Arts y-Philip Charrier y-Jim Farney y-Medrie Purdham</p>	<p>Luther College y-Mary Vetter Campion College n -Anna Mudde First Nations Univ. y-Jesse Archibald- Barber</p>	<p>Faculty of Fine Arts y-Randal Rogers n-Christine Vanderkooy</p>	<p>Faculty of Science y-Janis Dale y-Liviu Mare</p>	<p>Faculty of Education n-Lace Brogden y-Marc Spooner</p>	<p>President's Office y-Vianne Timmons y-Stephen King n-Patty Niebergall</p>
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- Review of March 13 meeting notes - ok
- Approval of Agenda – change – History Students' Association representatives decided not to attend
- Discussion of students' decision not to attend. Won't close the door to future consultations with them. Perhaps better idea is to engage with and partner with new Students' Union executive.
- Discussion with staff from Enrolment Services/Recruitment – John Kincaid, Laura Sperlie, Shauna Koester and Michael Paul. What they often hear from parents/students – that they don't see liberal arts as being a skill-building foundation for a career. They see professional programs as direct path to a career. Many students have a passion for different areas of study, but are driven by their parents into professional programs because parents in many cases want to see a definitive path.
- Engaging with parents would be important – but is difficult. How do you get them to campus?
- Guidance counsellors in schools – can have varying impact on students' choices. Often technical advice on applications, scholarships, etc – but not the exploration of alternatives.
- Trend across Canada is toward professional programs. The decision we have to make is: do we go with and gear programs toward this trend? Or do we continue working as we are. Or is there another alternative?
- If parents and students are operating under false assumptions about the relevance of the liberal arts, perhaps we have to uncover and educate them about these false assumptions rather than changing the nature, names etc. of our program.
- We have to be careful, however, to be responsible – to our students and their needs, but also to our disciplines, not compromising them.
- Providing examples of people who have built successful careers out of their liberal arts education is important – but not just grandiose examples. People working around us in the community.
- Discussion with Melissa Dolff and Kayla Schnaus of History Students' Association – on potential partnering on an event to promote liberal arts to students
- Discussion of long-term plans for initiatives, events. One in the fall 2014 for guidance counsellors would be a start. Invitation has gone out to the guidance counsellor co-ordinators. Idea is to have a reception for them, and then a speaker who is relevant to them, related to the liberal arts or what drives this generation of students. Perhaps a couple of speakers – a well-known one, and some local ones. Waiting for input from them on speaker. Student Recruitment may be able to come up with ideas.
- Going forward – develop a two-year plan for events to build on each other. One event per semester, perhaps? We need to identify people to consult, participate in events.
- Perhaps Winter 2015 – an event around connectivity between colleagues on campus?
- Discussion of future meetings – two more this semester?
- Items for next meeting:
 - Perhaps let URSU know we are interested in engaging with them?
 - Mary to provide name of a speaker Bryan Hillis saw
 - Two-year calendar to be brought to consider timing and nature of future events
 - Follow-up with high school counsellors about potential speakers
 - Follow-up with student recruitment about potential speakers
 - Dates to be determined for next meetings