

**LaGuardia Community College  
Minutes of the Senate Meeting  
January 27, 2010**

**Present:** S. Adhikari, C. Baldoneda, N. Berke, J. Cantwell, M. Conde (for M. Johnson), T. Coogan, J. Diaz, F. Egger-Sider, H. Fernandez (for G. Richmond.), M. Glick, R. Johnson, R. Kahn, W. Kurzyna, R. Levine, L. McShane, S. Mettler, E. Murray, P. Nicolov, R. Octaviano (for U. Hidle), A. Pappas, J. Park, M.D. Rana, E. Rivas, P. Sokolski, L. Teplin, A. Tucker, B. Yearwood

**Absent:** T. Albright, A. Allen, M. Garcia, A. Lazo, P. Pinero, L. Ricketts, G. Walters, Z. Yang

**Excused:** J. Karlen, I. Shakir, C. Sterling-Deer, A. Tardy

**Guests:** R. Elliott, T. Hladek

*Nota Bene: For each action summarized in these minutes, the set consisting of those senators who participated in the action forms a subset of those listed as "Present". The specific vote of each senator that participated in an action is contained in the summaries*

Chairperson Kahn called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. in room E 500.

**I. Approval of Minutes for January 6, 2010**

By general consent, the Senate approved the draft version of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on January 6, 2010, with corrections. All senators listed as present for the meeting participated in this action, except T. Coogan, J. Park, MD. Sohel Rana, and B. Yearwood..

**II. Report from the Chairperson**

Chairperson Kahn spoke on three issues. He cited the benefits of the presentation made by V.P. Richard Elliott at an earlier meeting, with the caveat that, in these times of a significant reduction in available operating funds, members of the college community orient themselves towards the good of the mission of the College seen as a whole, rather than defending parochial interests. He used as an example what he saw as ACE's college-wide benefit, thus its entitlement to consideration for funding on a relatively large scale.

Mr. Kahn turned his attention to an announcement of his first appearance as Senate Chairperson at an upcoming quarterly meeting that would bring together leaders of the LaGuardia Senate, the University Faculty Senate, PSC CUNY, Faculty Council, and President Gail Mellow to discuss issues of current importance. Mr. Kahn asked for Senate input in determining the issues he would bring before this meeting.

The Chairperson also promised to report at the next meeting, February 10, on the progress he saw being made to implement the items on the brainstorming list that emerged out of the new senate administration's first meeting.

**III. Curriculum Committee Report**

There were two curriculum items presented, both of which had been placed on the Senate consent calendar as they were sent out prior to the meeting. Listed below are the items along with corresponding Senate action. It was moved and seconded to adopt both items on the Senate consent calendar simultaneously as presented. The items carried by a vote of 25-0.

**New Course Proposal, MAE 107, Manufacturing Processes** – Department of  
Mathematics, Engineering & Computer Science

**Letter of Intent to Establish Associate Degree in Healthcare Management**  
**Presented by Prof. John Shean, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee**

#### **IV. Guest Presentation by Vice-President Richard Elliott, Reporting on the Economic News Regarding LaGuardia's Operating Budget.**

Vice-President Elliott returned to the Senate to broaden the knowledge of senators regarding the complex matters of new building, sustenance of adequate personnel, and future planning that must be seen against the backdrop of a greatly reduced operating budget. He announced that he was changing the focus of his talk in the light of immediately announced cuts directly affecting the College. He acknowledged the harshness of the immediate future that the newly announced budget cuts would surely create, but said that the Governor had made an effort to ameliorate the situation faced by LaGuardia in specific terms. He spoke confidently of the future, and said that his belief was that a hiring freeze of non-faculty employees would be sufficient to shore up the deficits on its own. He spent a substantial amount of the presentation highlighting what he saw as lesser-known aspects of the College's financial structure that are capable of producing revenue on their own, seeing these stand-alone revenue streams as a potential further firewall against budgetary crisis. His talk was supplemented by a report by T. Hladek that focused upon explaining the mid-year report that was provided to senators. He put particular emphasis upon the "balancing act" between encumbered and unencumbered items that were a key to an understanding of the way Tax levy works.

The Vice-President added that the plan to take possession of the remaining areas of the former DeVry Building remained in effect. He cautioned that large sums of money would be needed to renovate the building to the point where it could be considered a 21<sup>st</sup> century educational public space.

In response to questions from the floor, the Vice-President said that decisions on the allocation of funds were made by applying directives mandated in the Strategic Plan. Asked what percentage of a student's total educational costs is paid for by tuition, and how this compares with other public institutions, Mr. Elliott said that he would have Institutional Research prepare a breakdown.

#### **Old Business.**

E. Murray followed up on earlier matters regarding the issues of textbook-pricing policy at the college, and the recent sharp hike in the price of soft drinks dispensed by vending machines on campus. She informed the Senate that there were initiatives in place for bringing more control over such issues as negotiating with the bookstore, a branch of Barnes and Noble, over options to stay with earlier editions of assigned textbooks, to avoid buying "bundled" textbooks/software cds, and increased efforts to get all academic departments to set aside free textbooks for student use. The person in charge of the textbook policy as well as pricing of food and beverages is Tony Lugo, and she asked that problems in these areas be brought to his attention at once. She distributed copies of food and beverage prices on campus compared favorably to outside vendors, and explained that the contracts for such items were necessary to follow, once negotiated. M. Glick brought up the problem of used book buyers who operate on campus and buy copies of Instructor's Editions of textbooks used in our courses. She said that this causes such editions to become easily accessible to students, compromising the evaluation of many students' work.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Kurzyna  
Secretary  
College Senate