

LaGuardia Community College  
**Minutes of the Senate Meeting**  
**March 9, 2011**

**Present:** C. Baldonado, C. Bolden (3:20PM), S. Sanchirico (for J. Cantwell), A. Chisholm (for O. Chen), F. Egger-Sider, M. Ekiert, Hector Fernandez (4:15PM), Hugo Fernandez, M. Glick, P. Goodson, U. Hidle, R. Kahn, L. Capuano Vella (for R. Levine), G. McCormack, L. McShane (until 3:15PM), S. Mettler, C. Gray (for E. Murray), P. Nicolov, A. Okomba, A. Pappas, P. Paramo, M. Samra (2:50PM), P. Sokolski, L. Teplin, M. Wong, T. Coogan (for J. Wynn), B. Yearwood, N. Berke (for Y. Zhang), J. Zhu (3:55PM).

**Guests:** M. Baston, R. Butler, P. West

**Absent:** S. Adhikari, O. Chen, R. Chowdhury, R. Das, H. Kuan, A. Madi, J. Michello, M. Qi, E. Rivas, G. Walters.

**Excused:** D. Escobar, C. Sanchez-Narvaez.

***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 2:28 PM in room E 500.

## **I. Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2011**

By general consent, the Senate approved the draft version of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on February 9, 2011. All senators listed as present for the meeting participated in this action.

## **II. Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Kahn announced that the Senate was making progress on several fronts:

1. **Tutoring:** At the next meeting of the Senate, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Professor Gordon Tapper and colleagues from Middle States will give a presentation on "tutoring" at the College.
2. **Math Lab:** Thanks to the tenacious efforts of Student Senator Diana Escobar (who could not be at the Senate along with C. Sanchez-Narvaez as they spent the day in Albany with Jose Orengo to convince legislators to reverse budget cuts to community colleges), the Auxiliary Funds Committee provided \$30,000 for the functioning of the math lab this academic year. The original budget for the math lab was \$45,000. This money will address some problems such as overcrowding and not enough tutors.
3. **Office Space:** Student senators have been petitioning for an office on campus for quite some time. The Administration gave them M-104A for that purpose.
4. **Children on Campus:** CUNY has just drafted a policy for children on campus which has been circulated among all senators. This renders the Senate's own drafting of such a policy unnecessary at this time. Chairperson Kahn will inform Vice-President Katopes that the Senate does not need to go further.
5. **General Education:** The URL for this CUNY-wide discussion is <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ue/degreepathways.html>. There is a link to the CUNY draft resolution on the left. The Chancellor convened a task force and charged it with the creation of a common general education framework across broad disciplines, consisting of a maximum of 36 credits. This has been a long standing issue: community colleges would like to see their students simply transfer as juniors. But with the requirement set at 36 general education

credits, this could translate, for community colleges, into our students transferring prior to graduation. There is a monetary component to this issue. How do our students transfer without a loss of credits?

Several colleges have already responded with resolutions of their own, in particular, Baruch, Brooklyn, City College.

After a lengthy discussion, it was felt that the faculty of LaGuardia should take a stand on this issue. The matter will be taken up by the Senate Committee of Faculty.

### **III. Curriculum**

All of the following curriculum items were approved unanimously by roll call vote:

#### **Course Proposal approved at the Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Committee:**

##### **Department of Natural Sciences**

Revised Course Proposals:

SCC 202, General Chemistry II

#### **Course Proposals approved at the Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Committee:**

##### **Department of Natural Sciences**

SCC 201, General Chemistry I

SCC 205, Introduction to Chemistry

Informational item:

##### **Department of Health Sciences**

Experimental Course Proposal: SCX 119, Clinical Practicum II

### **IV. Achieving the Dream**

Renee Butler, Assistant Dean, Student Development, Student Affairs, and Professor Paul West, MEC, presented to the Senate the accomplishments of the initiative *Achieving the Dream* up-to-now. The powerpoint presentation consisted of LaGuardia's student success goals by 2017-2018, what was learned in 2009-2010 (% of active students who dropped out from a Fall 2004 cohort which has been followed until Spring 2010), and the introduction of "My LaGuardia Journey."

### **V. Judicial Processes**

Acting Vice-President Michael Baston gave an overview of the judicial processes at LaGuardia Community College. The overarching message he wants students and faculty to take away is: connect students to the best support at various critical times; the perspective is educational. How do we help student help themselves? The goal is to make them better advocate for themselves. A question and period followed the presentation where plagiarism and cheating were raised, the need for some type of mediation before "trial," someone like a "public defender."

### **VI. Crisis Counseling**

Again, Acting Vice-President Baston and Renee Butler, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs, described what the future of crisis counseling at LaGuardia Community College might look like. As the initiative *Achieving the Dream* showed, services of this type are provided in a fragmented manner. There is a cadre of professionals in Student Affairs and another one in Academic Affairs. How is this redundancy dealt with?

Student Affairs will roll out in mid-April its new Student Behavioral Intervention Team (SBIT) which will allow for a central structure to identify, report, and respond to behaviors of concern. In addition a new software called Kognito is being installed to provide faculty training in making student referrals for counseling. One training software package is for faculty and staff while another one is for students. However, if a student is in crisis, whether medical, extreme distress or agitation, the first call is to Public Safety. All Public Safety Officers are part of SBIT.

Meeting adjourned at 4:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine Egger-Sider  
Secretary  
College Senate

***Nota Bene:*** The Senate approved this final version of these minutes during its meeting of March 23, 2011.