

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes of the Senate Meeting
April 28, 2010

Present: S. Adhikari, C. Baldenedo, N. Berke, J. Cantwell, L. Cardaio (for J. Michello), F. Egger-Sider, M. Glick, U. Hidle, M. Johnson, R. Kahn, J. Karlen, W. Kurzyna, G. McCormack, L. McShane, S. Mettler, E. Murray, P. Nicolov, A. Pappas, J. Park, , G. Richmond, E. Rivas, I. Shakir, P. Sokolski, C. Sterling-Deer, A. Tardy , L. Teplin, A. Tucker, J. Wynn, (for T. Coogan), B. Yearwood

Absent: T. Albright, A. Allen, M. Garcia, R. Johnson, A. Lazo, R. Levine, P. Pinero, MD Rana, L. Ricketts, G. Walters, Z. Yang

Guests: Vice President E. Ramone Segree

***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 2:25 p.m. in room E 500.

I. Approval of Minutes for March 10, 2010

By general consent, the Senate approved the draft version of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on March 10, 2010, with corrections. All senators listed as present for the meeting participated in this action, with the exception of S.Adhikari, J. Cantwell, I. Shakir, who were not in the room for the vote.

II. Curriculum Committee Report

There was a single item on the meeting’s consent calendar. The Senate voted to approve unanimously a proposal to establish a program in Environmental Science, presented by the Department of Natural Sciences. All senators listed as present voted for approval of the proposal, with G. McCormack not voting and S. Adhikari, J. Cantwell, and I. Shakir not present for the vote.

Presented by Prof. John Shean, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee.

III. Report by the Chairperson

As a preface to his report, Chairperson Kahn explained the circumstances that had necessitated his reworking of the day’s agenda. He thanked Vice President Segree, who had agreed to take the time previously planned for a discussion of issues concerning the present state of affairs in the Counseling Department, with Vice President Katopes scheduled to take part in the discussion. Mr. Kahn said that he hoped V.P. Katopes would attend a future meeting to address issues that were characterized by several senators over the course of this meeting as urgent and substantial.

IV. Presentation by Vice President Segree

Mr. Segree began by saying that the level of involvement among alumni of community colleges was subject to what he believed are serious misconceptions and myths. He said that our alumni were far more closely identified with their two-year alma mater than is commonly believed. He tried to dispel the notion that a student who graduates first from a community college and then receives a bachelor’s degree from a four year institution feels a connection to the four year college primarily. He went on to outline what he sees as progressive steps that are being taken to make the bonds between alumni and

LaGuardia as strong as possible, leading to a sustained relationship on the part of many alumni with the college. He named the initiatives being taken in this direction: Student Recruitment, Internship and Cooperative Education Experiences, and Career Advising and Networking. He painted a positive picture of the future of the college's outreach to alumni, and singled out a recent reunion event involving the students from the first ten years of LaGuardia's history as a case in point that demonstrates the great desire that exists for renewed ties with the school on the part of a great many alumni, a large number of whom are easily contacted due to a sophisticated database. At the conclusion of his talk, he was warmly thanked by the members at the meeting for coming at such short notice with such an optimistic report, which promises to enrich the college experience for many graduates.

Report by the Chairperson (continued)

Following the presentation, Mr. Kahn continued his report. He advised those who were in favor of adding more qualified counselors to try to have this item placed on the Strategic Plan. Other pressing issues might be handled this way as well, in his opinion. He introduced the issue of the school's policy regarding children on campus who are brought by parents who must bring them and do not have them in day care. Mentioning the widely divergent policies that exist to deal with this issue CUNY-wide, he requested senators to consult on this with their constituencies, so that some Senate response might be created in the future. He concluded with a brief explanation of a coded list of items that were on the recently published Faculty Satisfaction Survey conducted by the University Faculty Senate. (This list and the lists generated by groups in the next item are attached to these minutes.)

V. Review of Reports Generated at Previous Meeting by Separate Groups.

The Chairperson requested that the chair of each of the Committee on Faculty and the ad hoc group comprising HEOs, Civil Service employees, and alumni representative report on their individual meeting held on April 7.

Senator Rivas reported for the latter group, focusing on the detailed list of points they had drawn up regarding the issue of evening services. She placed particular emphasis on the group's suggestion that each area/department post office hours for evening students on doors, and the notion that bringing uniformity to hours of evening service might not be possible or even necessary. She reported that the group had also questioned how many students were seen by the Registrar's Office during the evening segment, and which of the Registrar's service were sought at these hours. They also noted a discrepancy between hours of availability between the Registrar's and the Bursar's offices.

On matters pertaining to the Senate's operating procedures, Sen. Rivas reported that the group had expressed impatience with what they see as a chronic pattern of lateness to meetings, and urged better attention to being on time to allow for early obtaining of quorum, especially at meeting announced as having a heavy agenda. She also conveyed the group's desire for actual Senate meeting time to be left as is, and to set aside a number of discrete dates that would be used for meetings of the individual groups.

Senator Egger-Sider, the Chairperson of the Committee of Faculty, also read the faculty group's list of items into the record of the meeting. She reported that the group

particularly wanted it to be known that faculty reserved the right to report directly to the Senate, as well as to formulate its own agenda, and that faculty senators wanted the questions that appear in the section of their report relating to the situation of the Counseling Department be shared with Vice President Katopes in advance of his visit to discuss said matters. There was also considerable interest expressed at the meeting of the faculty committee in the creation of a Budget Committee with real oversight abilities, particularly in the scrutiny of the management of the 7% of the College's monies that were non-salaried and unallocated beforehand.

VI. Old Business. None.

VII. New Business. None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Kurzyna
Secretary
College Senate