

LaGuardia Community College  
**Minutes of the Senate Meeting**  
November 30, 2011  
Pool Side Café

**Present:**

Richa Agarwal (Student), Haider Ali (Student), Tony Allicino (Adult and Continuing Education alternate for Claudia Baldonado), Paul Anderson (Student), Jermaine Brewer (Student), Ye Chen (Student), Ifthakharul Chowdhury (Student), Timothy Coogan (Social Science alternate for Jennifer Wynn), Monica Ekiert (Education & Language Acquisition), Randy Fader-Smith (Division of Institutional Advancement alternate for E. Rivas), (Hector Fernandez (Business & Technology), Hugo Fernandez (Humanities), Marcia Glick (At-large Instructional), Xiachen Guo (Student), Unn Hidle (Health Science), Rija Iqbal (Student), Reem Jaafar (At-Large alternate for R. Ippolito), Robert Kahn (At-Large), Charles Keyes (Library), Lu Liu (Student), George McCormack (Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science), Sally Mettler (Faculty Council), Howard Motoike (Natural Sciences alternate), Eileen Murray (Division of Administration), Pablo Navia (Student), Farhod Nozirov (At-Large, Adjunct), Adhiambo Okomba (Communication Skills), Maximilien Petrus (Student), Mohammed A. Pramanik (Student), Patricia Solkolski (Humanities), Rochelle Spencer (English), Lynne Teplin (Counseling), Burl Yearwood (Natural Sciences), Jenny Zhu (IT)

**Excused:**

Rosann Ippolito (At-large Instructional), Claudia Baldonado (Division of Adult and Continuing Education), James Cantwell (Cooperative Education), Loretta Capuano (At-large Instructional), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Eneida Rivas (Division of Institutional Advancement), Jennifer Wynn (Social Science)

**Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Nurper Gokhan, Dr. Shara Sand, Dr. Lily Shohat, Dr. Joanne Pierre Louis (all of the Social Science Department)

***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.*

Meeting called to order at 2:30 p.m. by R. Kahn, Chairperson

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from previous Senate meeting, with corrections, unanimously approved.

**II. Curriculum Committee Report**

The Social Science Department's proposal for an Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree in Psychology (approved at the November 17 meeting of the College-wide Curriculum

Committee) was pulled out of the consent calendar for discussion on the floor and a separate vote to address issues raised by Senators L. Teplin and R. Kahn.

The curriculum items approved at the November 17 meeting of the College-wide Curriculum Committee that remained in the consent calendar were approved unanimously by roll-call vote. The items were:

### **Cooperative Education Department**

- **Revised Course Proposal:**
  - CEP 201, Cooperative Education Internship

### **Education and Language Acquisition Department**

- **Revised Course Proposals:**
  - ESC 099: Accelerated Composition for Select Readers
  - ESR 097: ESL II for Select Readers

### **English Department**

- **New Course Proposal:**
  - ENG 288: Writing and Literature Major Internship
- **Revision of Curriculum:**
  - Writing and Literature A.A. Degree

### **Health Sciences Department**

- **Informational Item:**
  - Change in Grading Standards for Nursing Program

### **Humanities Department**

- **Informational Item:**
  - Elimination of Liberal Arts: Social Science and Humanities - Philosophy Option (code 378)
- **New Course Proposal:**
  - HUP 275: Landmarks in Philosophy
- **Revision of Curriculum:**
  - Philosophy A.A. Degree

### **Social Science Department**

- **Revised Course Proposal:**
  - SSA 103: Introduction to Archaeology

The issues of concern regarding the Social Science Department's proposal for an Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree in Psychology brought to the floor by Senators R. Kahn and L. Teplin centered on the inclusion of SCB203 and SCB204 (Anatomy and Physiology I and II). These concerns were:

- Demand for SCB203 is very high as it is a ‘gateway course’ for allied health majors. Making it a requirement for another major would overwhelm the limited number of seats available.
- Students without a science background will have a very difficult time with the course content.
- No other CUNY psychology program requires anatomy and physiology.
- A neuroscience course should be developed as the focus of psychology is on the workings of the brain.

These issues were addressed by Professor Lily Shohat, Chair of the Social Science Department and other psychology faculty from that department (Professors Gokhan, Pierre-Louis, and Sand.) The points they made to maintain the integrity of the program as presented were:

- During the program creation process, section availability issues had been discussed with Interim Assistant Dean Ann Feibel and then Chair of the Natural Sciences Department, Professor John Bihn. They concurred on the inclusion of the two courses.
- The high drop-out rates for SCB203 can be attributed to the fact that if allied health major candidates feel they will not get an ‘A’ they will drop the course. Psychology majors are only required to maintain a ‘C’ average.
- There are plans to develop a course in neuroscience in the future.
- Psychology comprises areas in the social and biological sciences. A concrete grounding in the biological sciences is necessary to understand the pathology of psychological disorders.
- Psychology is a very competitive field. It is a disservice to students if they are given an idea that science is not part of psychology.
- It is better to find out at an early stage in one’s academic career whether one can handle the science requirements so that alternative majors can be considered.
- Faculty have an ethical obligation to prepare students for the more rigorous and competitive environments of a four-year college program.

The following Senators made additional comments:

- B. Yearwood stated that SCB203 seat availability will improve as additional biology and chemistry labs come on line.
- A. Okomba stated a program’s rigor may be directly proportional to a student’s motivation. As LaGuardia is a pedagogical innovator we should encourage rigorous programs.
- H. Fernandez (Humanities) stated that rigor is good and creates value for students’ tuition.

The proposal for an Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree in Psychology passed on a roll-call vote: 30 for; 2 against (M. Petrus and R. Kahn).

### **III. Chairperson’s Report**

R. Kahn dispensed with the Chairperson’s report to allow the presentation and discussion of the remaining agenda item.

#### **IV. Results on Brainstorming to Set the 2011-2012 College Senate Agenda (See addendum to these minutes for the list of items referred to) - R. Kahn**

R. Kahn distributed the list of finalized items. Floor was open for discussion and comments on the items

- **Committee of Faculty items**
  - Item #1
    - Should include all extended day students (weekend students)
    - Adjunct faculty should be added to the item.
  - Item #3
    - E. Murray stated new, proactive exterminator has been contracted.
  - Item #4
    - Check the CUNY Pathways site for updates
  - Item #10
    - R. Kahn felt movement on this item should be held off in order for the results of previous Senate discussion and votes to take effect.
  
- **Committee of Students items**
  - Item #6
    - Sandra Dickenson offers sessions for faculty.
  - Item #12
    - E. Murray stated that E. Rivas will present on the cost savings the new bookstore contract will bring.
  
- **Committee of HEOs/HEAs/Civil Service/Alumni items**
  - Items clarified. No additional comments on the list.

#### **V. New Business**

D. Borington announced extended Library hours during finals week.

D. Borington lauded E. Murray for her service to the Senate and the College and congratulated her on her retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Keyes  
Secretary and Senator, Library Department

## **Addendum to the College Senate minutes for the November 30, 2011 meeting**

### Brainstorming 2011-2012

#### Committee of Faculty

1. Expand access/hours of services for evening students.  
Action Plan: Inventory services and hours of service and discuss with key administrators.
2. Expand technical support for ePortfolios and evening hours for STMs.  
Action Plan: Discuss with Dean Eynon and CTL staff.
3. Increase evening security.  
Increase extermination for rodents.  
Share concerns regarding classroom temperatures and air quality.  
Designate space for faculty lounge.  
Discuss plans for accommodating peaceful protest.  
Action Plan: Discuss with VP Elliott and his staff.
4. Get a full report on LaGuardia's response on Pathways Initiative from LaGuardia Co-Chairs.  
Action Plan: Invite Co-Chairs to report or to discuss how reporting will occur.
5. Streamline student services.  
Action Plan: Committee of Faculty asked to discuss and become more specific.
6. Gather information on how classrooms are assigned/scheduled.  
Action Plan: Invite Registrar and staff to discuss.
7. Elicit information on future plans for the Campus Radio Station.  
Action Plan: Invite VP Baston to discuss problems and plans.
8. Update computers in smart classrooms and computers and software in faculty offices.  
Action Plan: Invite VP Saltiel to discuss campus technology plan.
9. Gather information on the duties and responsibilities of the Provost's position.  
Action Plan: Ask Committee of Faculty to submit questions to President Mellow.
10. Improve counseling of coop students so more beneficial internships.  
Action Plan: Discuss at Senate with Coop Dept. and Business/Tech Dept. representatives.

#### Committee of HEOs/Alumni/Civil Service

1. Improve use of GroupWise and VoiceMail (including etiquette, out-of-office, non-business chat, reply to all).  
Action Plan: Ask IT and Telephone Services to issue reminders.
2. Address workload issues for HEOs (e.g., preserving lunch breaks, preserving time away from work).  
Action Plan: Discuss with campus union representatives.

3. Seek a professional development workshop for HEOs to cover such issues as how one obtains merit increases or a change in title and how the HEO Screening Committee operates.  
Action Plan: (1) Refer to Professional Development Committee. (2) Discuss HEO Personnel Review Committee with VP Elliott.

### Committee of Students

1. Extend hours of C-107 and Math Lab.

Action Plan: Include in discussion of services and hours.

2. Relieve pressure to increase tuition and fees by cutting non-essential items in the budget.

Action Plan: Ask Budget and Finance Committee to identify potential cost savings.

3. Increase resources for disability services.

Action Plan: Ask Matthew Joffe to discuss services provided and needed.

4. Increase resources for sign language interpreters.

Action Plan: Ask Tony Allicino to discuss services provided and needed.

5. Provide more opportunity for students to major in Nursing.

Action Plan: Ask Rosann Ippolito to address admissions requirements for the Nursing program.

6. Provide accent reduction assistance for both faculty and students.

Action Plan: Ask President to provide accent reduction services in strategic plan and budget.

7. Make results of student evaluations of faculty available on the internet.

Action Plan: Ask President to institute a new policy.

8. Decrease racist behavior by faculty and student perception that they are treated in a racist manner.

Action Plan: Ask College to conduct focus groups or surveys to probe student experiences and perceptions and to develop a plan to counter any negative results.

9. Receive further reports on the Pathways Initiative.

Action Plan: Invite Co-Chairs to report or describe how reporting will occur.

10. Insure that student senators receive agenda and minutes at least one week before meetings.

Action Plan: Executive Committee to work harder to achieve.

11. Arrange to have student senators and other student leadership groups added to GroupWise.

Action Plan: Discuss with VP Saltiel.

12. Reduce book pricing.

Action Plan: Ask SIC to remind students about opportunities to save money on textbooks.

13. Consider problem of non-transferability of CPE 101.

Action Plan: Ask Coop Department to discuss the issue.