

**LaGuardia Community College
Minutes of the Senate Meeting
January 6, 2010**

Present: S. Adhikari, A. Allen, M. Conde (for M. Johnson), T. Coogan, F. Egger-Sider, H. Fernandez (for G. Richmond until 3:10 p.m.), M. Glick, U. Hidle, J. Karlen, W. Kurzyna, R. Levine, L. McShane, S. Mettler, E. Murray, P. Nicolov, A. Pappas, J. Park, P. Pinero, M.D. Rana, O. Richard, G. Richmond (after 3:10 p.m.), E. Rivas, S. Sanchirico (for J. Cantwell), C. Sterling-Deer, A. Tardy, L. Teplin, A. Tucker, Z. X. Yang, B. Yearwood

Absent: T. Albright, N. Berke, M. Garcia, R. Johnson, A. Lazo, J. Michello, L. Ricketts, P. Sokolski, G. Walters

Excused: C. Baldonado, R. Kahn, G. McCormack, I. Shakir

Guests: A. Feibel, R. Butler

***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. Unless otherwise noted, the Chairperson abstains from all votes.*

Vice Chairperson Glick called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in room E 500.

I. Approval of Minutes for November 11, 2009 and December 9, 2009

By general consent, the Senate approved the draft version of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on November 11, 2009, with corrections. The draft version of the minutes for the meeting of December 9, 2009 was approved with no corrections by general consent. All senators listed as present for the meeting participated in this action.

II. Report from the Chairperson

As substitute for Robert Kahn, Vice Chairperson Marcia Glick announced that an invited guest asked to represent some of the issues concerning adjuncts at the college would not be able to arrive for the meeting due to traffic problems. She submitted a detailed list of the major concerns that she was able to compile from the contributions of a number of people who responded to her request for such items. She asked senators to share the list with their constituencies, so that a future allocation of Senate time to these issues might be as productive as possible. Sally Mettler suggested Faculty Senators discuss the list of concerns at upcoming faculty meetings.

III. Curriculum Committee Report

There were several curriculum items presented; the first group had all been placed on the Senate consent calendar as they were sent out prior to the meeting. A second group required a vote to allow them to be placed on the agenda without the full period of time required by new consent calendar guidelines regarding proper submission of curriculum items. Listed below are the items along with corresponding Senate action. It was moved and seconded to adopt all items on the Senate consent calendar simultaneously as presented. This included:

Revised Course Proposal, ELE 203, Language and Literacy in Childhood Education – Department of Education and Language Acquisition

Revised Course Proposal, ELE 204, Language and Literacy in Early Education– Department of Education and Language Acquisition

Revised Course Proposal, ELN 120, Foundations of American Education–Department of Education and Language Acquisition

Program Change Proposal for Childhood Education– Department of Education and Language Acquisition

New Course Proposal, CPN101, Applied Community Research—Department of Cooperative Education

Articulation Agreement with John Jay College pertaining to the A.A. degree in Writing and Literature—English Department

Proposal to Delete the Joint Accounting/Computer Option of the Accounting Major—Department of Business and Technology

The following group of curriculum items was voted on following a motion by Senator Pappas to require a vote by the Senate to approve their inclusion. Following a discussion which centered on the issue of whether or not these items would be fairly postponed in the case of a clerical error by the Secretary in the creation of the agenda for the meeting, though they were submitted in a timely fashion, the body voted 27-1 for including the items on the agenda, with A. Pappas voting no. The vote to approve all items in the group was 27-1, with A. Pappas voting no. The items were all submitted by the Veterinary Technology Program:

Revised Course Proposal, Principles of Exotic Animal Medical Care, SCV 220

New Course Proposal, Full-Time Clinical Internship, SCV 234

Revised Course Proposal, Principles of Animal Control, SCV 150

New Course Proposal, Part-Time Research Internship, SCV 231

Revised Course Proposal, Research Animal Technology, SCV 201

Revised Proposed Vet Tech Curriculum, AAS Degree

Revised Course Proposal, Vet Lab Techniques, SCV 213

New Course Proposal, Veterinary Pathophysiology, SCV 247

New Course Proposal, Pharmacology and Toxicology, SCV 247

Revised Course Proposal, Veterinary Radiography, SCV 212

IV. Guest Presentation on the Achieving the Dream Initiative

Ann Feibel and Renee Butler, co-directors of the Achieving the Dream Initiative, delivered a comprehensive, detailed report on the preliminary work being done by the team they have assembled to promote the need for a university-wide, dedicated mission towards achieving significantly higher retention and graduation rates. The speakers were principally there to relay information about the project to members of the Senate, and to emphasize the urgency with which the administration of CUNY regards the need to push the “stuck needle” of statistics reflecting graduation rates. They elaborated upon the goals and operating philosophy of Achieving the Dream, stressing the need for a rethinking of the way basic skills programs are configured, the desirability of improving the social climate on campuses as a way towards improving outcomes and a more holistic way of relating to students as individuals. From the question and answer session that followed, some of these concerns and observations emerged:

Faculty wanted to see a higher percentage of senior faculty on the roster of the Initiative; there was a concern that unrealistically high percentage goals for future graduation rates might reduce support for the endeavor; some student senators questioned the way placement and exit exams such as ACT were structured, regarding them as too large a hurdle in too many cases; and a theme developed related to the way the schools see the role of parents and other family members. A point was made that we often dismiss these potential support networks too readily, interpreting them as part of the stress and pressure that prevents our students from finishing their degrees. It was suggested that the Initiative team explore ways of enhancing the positive contributions that students’ families can make. Ann Feibel disputed the notion that this negative attitude towards family and outside relationships was widespread, pointing to the work she always did as a chairperson of a department in the area of tapping into the strengths close family ties can bring.

Old Business.

E. Murray followed up on earlier inquiries about the timetable for the availability of the new registration calendar, reporting that this calendar is expected to be done by February, with the dates and other information referring to the Fall I, 2010 semester. L. Teplin asked that work now be started on getting key registration information to counselors at a more advanced stage.

New Business.

A. Pappas questioned the steep rise in the prices of beverages dispensed by the College's vending machines. He said that such decisions that affect students' tight budgets should be ultimately approved in Senate. E. Murray outlined the protocol followed on such decisions by the Campus Affairs Committee. There was general agreement that this issue needed discussion at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Kurzyna
Secretary
College Senate