

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes of the Senate Meeting
April 6, 2011

Present: S. Adhikari, C. Baldonado, C. Bolden, J. Cantwell, A. Chisholm (for D. Escobar until 3:30PM), F. Egger-Sider, M. Ekiert, D. Escobar (3:30PM), Hector Fernandez, Hugo Fernandez, M. Glick, P. Goodson, R. Octaviano (for U. Hidle), J. Ianni, R. Kahn, L. Capuano-Vella (for R. Levine), A. Madi, G. McCormack, L. McShane, S. Mettler, J. Michello, E. Murray, P. Nicolov, A. Okomba, A. Pappas, P. Paramo (3:35PM), M. Samra, C. Sanchez-Narvaez, P. Sokolski, L. Teplin, M. Wong, T. Coogan (for J. Wynn), B. Yearwood, N. Berke (for Y. Zhang), J. Zhu.

Guests: K. Anderson, M. Blackman, S. Cuellar, D. Ducat, M. Frank, J. Gantzer, J. Karlen, V. P. Katopes, M. Napolitano, V. Peters, B. Polnariiev, M. Rodriguez, Y. Seo, J. Shean, C. Stewart, F. White,
Absent: O. Chen, R. Chowdhury, R. Das, H. Kuan, M. Qi, E. Rivas, G. Walters,

***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 2:30 PM in room E-500.

I. Approval of Minutes for March 23, 2011

By general consent, the Senate approved the draft version of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on March 9, 2011 as amended. All senators listed as present for the meeting participated in this action except Senator Paramo who had not yet arrived.

II. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Kahn announced that the Liberal Arts Social Sciences & Humanities curriculum proposal had been pulled out of the consent calendar.

He then gave an overview of the procedures of the discussion regarding Cooperative Education. He announced that the Senate would not vote on the curriculum proposal itself until the entire discussion regarding the future of Coop at LaGuardia is finished. This discussion could continue at the April 27th Senate meeting. He invited J. Ianni, the Senate parliamentarian, to also act as a time-keeper during the discussion. He asked all senators to keep the tone of the discussion civil and the content substantive. He regards this as an opportunity for a college-wide discussion of Cooperative Education at LaGuardia.

III. Curriculum

All of the following curriculum items were approved unanimously by roll call vote except for P. Paramo who arrived late.

Course Proposals approved at the March 24th College-wide Curriculum Committee:

Department of Education and Language Acquisition

New Course Proposal:

ELJ110, Intensive Japanese 1 & 2

Department of Humanities

Change in General Education Requirement

Department of Social Science

Letter of Intent for the A. A. Degree in Psychology

Prof. J. Gantzer (ELA, Chair) and M. Rodriguez (Humanities, Chair) presented the proposed revisions to the Liberal Arts Social Sciences & Humanities Curriculum which makes the Coop internship optional because it was pulled out of the consent calendar. The three credits of the Coop internship have been moved to unrestrictive elective. They handed out a sheet summarizing the changes between the current curriculum and the new proposed one. This is attached to these minutes.

A lengthy discussion ensued after this initial presentation by the two chairs. There was a concern voiced from one of the senators that this proposed curriculum actually offers less flexibility to students in the choice of courses. The issue of transfer was also raised: coop internships don't transfer easily to other CUNY colleges. They articulate with certain specific programs. The issue of day v. night student was raised: why is the Coop internship optional for night students and not day students who, nowadays, are just as likely as night students to already have a job? When you first register, you are labeled day or night student and that category cannot ever change. Would students still opt for coop if it was no longer a requirement and it was changed into an unrestrictive elective? Some senators felt that liberal arts students are the least prepared for the workforce and would probably benefit the most from a coop internship.

IV. Discussion: Future of Coop at LaGuardia

The initial presentation was by three members of the Cooperative Education Department, Professors D. Ducat, M. Frank, and F. White (Chair).

Prof. D. Ducat addressed the value of the cooperative education internship as an educational practice. In 1992, 17% of students completed an internship whereas in 2008, 50% did. The New Community College will have an internship requirement. When internships are not mandatory, it signifies to students that the college believes internships are not that important.

Prof. M. Frank talked about the history of Coop at LaGuardia: it went from a Division with 20 faculty members in 1985 and 3 required internships for all day students to a department with 7 faculty members and only 6 required credits.

Prof. F. White, chair of the Cooperative Education Department, gave an overview of the value of internships and what the requirements of an internship are: 25 hours/week, concurrent seminar, learning objectives, site/phone visit, employer evaluation, final essay, final evaluation conference with faculty advisor. Nowadays, each faculty in the Cooperative Education Department teaches 5 classes and deals with internship walk-ins. She showed a student placement report for Fall I 2010.

A question and answer period followed which touched on the same issues brought up for agenda item III. Vice-President Katopes gave a PowerPoint overview of Cooperative Education at LaGuardia. He mentioned the President's Task Force on Redesigning Cooperative Education which gave a final report in December 2002 and outlined best practices: clear linkages between experiential learning and discipline-specific content areas was one of the most important recommendation according to V.P. Katopes. We can no longer afford "One size fits all."

The Cooperative Education Department underwent a Periodic Program Review, as all departments do, which was then looked at by an exterior consultant. Many charts with statistics were shown: 25% of eligible students participate in internships nowadays. In 1975, 2,563 students were placed out of 4,507 students or 57%. In 2009, 1,441 students were placed out of 18, 449 students, or 8%. Many academic programs are taking responsibility for their own internships such as in allied health, engineering, vet tech. V.P. Katopes presented a new internship model for Business and Technology, English, and Education and Language Acquisition departments. He welcomes any response from faculty to make the coop experience more valuable for students.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business

The Committee of Faculty handed out a resolution regarding the general education and transfer proposal that comes out of the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs. Please share this with your colleagues, bring it up at the next departmental meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine Egger-Sider
College Senate, Secretary

Nota Bene: The Senate approved this final version of these minutes during its meeting of April 27, 2011.