

**LaGuardia Community College
Minutes of the Senate Meeting
22 JANUARY 2003**

Present: J. Barrios, K. Boudhan, V. Bruno, J. Cantwell, E. Carrasquillo, D. Davidson, J. Devine, P. Dillon, M. Glick, J. Grumet, C. Hiraldo, J. G. Ianni, E. Johmann, W. Kurzyna, J. Kydd (for C. Baldonado), T. Litvay-Sardou, J. Michello, E. Murray, M. Perez, G. Richmond, E. Rivas, P. Rocha, O. Sang, L. Sardell

Absent: M. Alam, M. Almamun, D. Bravo, E. Charlotin, H. Chowdhury, O. Cruz, P. Figueroa, I. Hardin, M. Lasso, K. Morshed, M. Napolitano, R. Octaviano, F. Ojeda, M. Rahman, M. Razzak, T. Ruddock, G. Salazar

Excused: R. Abbas

Guests: J.C. Balcazar, P. Caicedo, M. Cox, Y. Kim, O. Vega

Chairperson Ianni called the meeting to order at 2:26 p.m. in room E-500.

I. Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the draft version of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 8 January 2003 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report from the Chairperson

A. Chairperson Ianni noted that an article in the 15 January issue of the *New York Teacher*, a publication of the United Federation of Teachers, reported that the Board of Regents extended the policy of offering remediation only in the CUNY junior colleges until 1 June 2004. The matter will be considered again at that time for the following five years.

B. The Chairperson briefly discussed longer-term Senate work involving monitoring the ideas of the Presidential Task Forces. President Mellow introduced these items to the Chairperson in a meeting on 9 January 2003. The Senate Committee on Program Effectiveness will be involved in much of this activity.

C. The Chairperson briefly discussed the logistics for the 5 February 2003 Senate meeting that will be held in the E-Building Atrium beginning at 2:30 p.m.

III. Academic Standing Committee Report

The report of this committee was deferred because of an emergency in Sandra Hanson's family. A suggestion was made to send a card to Sandra Hanson through the Chairperson on behalf of the Senate. By general consent, this suggestion was adopted.

IV. Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the 2003-2004 LaGuardia Community College Academic Calendar

The Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Josias Barrios, Emily Carrasquillo, and Eileen Murray, reported that issues about the calendar that were of concern to the Senate had been addressed by the administration. Olga Vega reported that the administration had no problem accommodating recommendations from the Senate. In the future, she would send the Senate a copy of the tentative academic calendar.

It was moved and seconded that the revised 2003-2004 Academic Calendar as presented by Olga Vega on 22 January 2003 (see Exhibit I) be approved, with the proviso that the Co-operative Education Department may change its cycle dates throughout the entire calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Open Forum on ACT Surveys

The Senate conducted an Open Forum on the ACT Surveys to which Yun Kim, the college's newly hired Knowledge Manager, was invited. Senators reported on concerns of their various constituencies based on the results of the Surveys.

- A. Concerns were expressed that classes are too big and teachers do not have enough time to meet with and help students, especially students who need extra help. Adjuncts do not have enough office hours. Students are sent to tutors, but there are not enough tutors to go around. Staff and faculty do not come to student events; this tells students that they are not valued.
- B. Concern was expressed that students need to be shown that what they are learning in classes is relevant to industry. Also, students need more exposure with their instructors in mathematics courses; i.e., more contact hours. Perhaps there should be an extra course between Algebra and PreCalculus since students need to develop tools for the abstract thinking required in upper level mathematics coursework.
- C. It was reported that the survey was very useful in discussing student issues between the Counseling Department and President Mellow. Students were neutral about advisement, on the Surveys; but we could improve student happiness, by having more advisement programs, like the current advisement fair.
- D. It was reported that the Reading part of the ACT Placement Test has become problematic for students and teachers because teachers are not sure how the test is made up or graded; for example, why do different paragraphs have different numbers of answers? It would be helpful to get item analyses. It was reported that while the ACT passing rates are low, according to the College Outcomes survey, students felt that LaGuardia contributed significantly to their language skills development.
- E. It was reported that we need to reinforce skills that teach students to be active learners. Giving more research papers and cutting down on absenteeism will help students become more responsible for their educations. Also, ENG101 has 30 students and each student writes 5 to 6 papers plus revisions; this means that teachers do not have enough time to work with all the students individually, and there are not enough tutors in the writing center.
- F. It was reported that the credit/non-credit collaborative system is not in place, and we need a new initiative to negotiate this problem.
- G. It was also reported that students are given the message that technology is very important, although in many classes there are not enough computers to go around. Also, facilities are not always as clean as they could be; e.g. unwashed blackboards and unclean bathrooms (which should be reported). Some improvements have already been changed because of student input. For example, the bookstore vendor has been changed to Barnes and Nobles, which we hope will improve service; and a cafeteria consultant has been hired to inquire into student and faculty needs and wants.
- H. Yun Kim suggested that the survey return rates were much higher when given by teachers in classes, rather than when they were done independently. So, we need faculty support to give and collect data. In the new student survey, we will ask students what

their aspirations are; we can use that as a base for measuring student successes rather than limited to using the graduation and transfer rates.

The Senate Executive Committee will examine if there are any issues that are within the Senate's jurisdiction, either as referrals to subcommittees or for direct consideration by the Senate.

VI. Old Business

No old business was presented at this meeting.

VII. New Business

No new business was presented at this meeting.

VIII. General Announcements

Chairperson Ianni announced that the inaugural mid-winter induction ceremony of the LaGuardia Phi Theta Kappa Chapter would take place on Friday, January 24, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the Poolside Cafeteria.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Grumet
Secretary
College Senate

Nota Bene: This final approved version of these minutes incorporates corrections made at the Senate meeting of 5 February 2003.