

AGENDA  
College Senate Meeting  
**October 26, 2011**  
**Room E-500**  
**2:15 p.m.**

**I. Approval of Minutes --- September 21, 2011**

**II. Chairperson's Report**

**III. Curriculum Committee Report**

- Business & Technology Department:
  - o New Course Proposal:
    - BTI 151, Business Exploration Internship
    - BTI 202, Business Internship II
  - o Revised Curriculum for Business Management AAS, International Business Option
  
- English Department:
  - o Informational item: Deletion of Option in Writing and Literature
  
- Health Sciences Department:
  - o Revised Course Proposals:
    - SCL 114, Parent-Child Nursing-PN
    - SCL 119, Medical-Surgical Nursing-PN
  
  - o Letter of Intent for the Dual/Joint Degree between LaGuardia Community College and Herbert H. Lehman College
  
  - o Informational Item:  
Deletion of Option in Human Services/Child Development
  
- Natural Sciences Department:
  - o Letter of Intent for Dual/Joint Degree Program: Associate of Science for Forensics (at LaGuardia) leading to the Bachelors of Science in Forensic Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

**IV. Election of Officers**

## **V. CUNY Pathways Project**

- On page 3 below is a proposal that Janet Michello (Chair of the LaGuardia Faculty Council) and Bob Kahn (Chair of the LaGuardia Faculty Senate) have made about forming a committee to frame a unified response from LaGuardia. On pages 4-5 is President Gail Mellow's response to the proposal.
- Information about the CUNY Pathways Project can be found at <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/degreepathways.html> or search “Pathways” on [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu)

## **VI. Old Business**

## **VII. New Business**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

***Light Refreshments will be served.***

Proposal for the formation of a LaGuardia Common Core Committee:

TO: Donavan Borington, President of the Student Government Association  
John Shean, Chair of the College Curriculum Committee  
Gail Mellow, President of the College

FROM: Janet Michello, Chair of the LaGuardia Faculty Council  
Bob Kahn, Chair of the LaGuardia Faculty Senate

Much has been said and written about the CUNY Pathways Initiative that proposes to identify a “Common Core” of 30 credits of general education courses that community college students could readily transfer to senior colleges. There are differing opinions on the initiative itself. But, there appears to be a widespread sense that the process is too compressed and fragmented. A draft proposal is to be presented on November 1, with just two weeks for faculty, staff, and students to react before a final proposal is crafted and presented on December 1.

Our campus representatives – Valerie Taylor-Haslip (Nursing), Scott White (Library), and Elizabeth Beck (Student) – are working hard to make informative presentations and solicit campus opinions through such mechanisms as a blog and an upcoming online jam. We strongly encourage campus participation and commend their efforts.

However, beyond individual messages, the people of LaGuardia need to weigh in as a community – with, as much as possible, a unified and focused message that can have a greater impact in the CUNY-wide deliberations.

For that reason, as leaders of the Faculty Council and College Senate, we have discussed our options and are proposing that a college-wide committee be formed to review the individual messages gathered through the blog and jam and develop a LaGuardia Position Paper on the November 1 draft by November 15. We are following a pattern that has already been established at the College of Staten Island where a college-wide committee has been formed.

We propose the following membership for the LaGuardia Common Core Committee:

- 2 members of the Faculty Council
- 2 members of the College Senate
- 2 members of the Student Government Association
- 2 members of the College Curriculum Committee
- 1 member of the Administration (selected by the President of the College)

Please let us know at your earliest convenience whether you endorse our approach and will be joining us in designating members for the proposed committee.

cc: Valerie Taylor-Haslip, Scott White, Elizabeth Beck

President Gail Mellow's Response to the proposal for the formation of a LaGuardia Common Core Committee:

Dear Bob and Janet,

I am pleased that the Faculty Council and the College Senate are focused on the Pathways Project. This initiative has an unprecedented opportunity to streamline transfer for our students. And, once the initial 30 common core general education credits are established, Pathways may provide an opportunity for renewal and a re-commitment to the other 30 credits in many of LaGuardia's degree programs. The Pathways Project may be a mechanism for re-asserting the professional autonomy which should be afforded to community college faculty on the appropriateness of curricula for their students in preparation for transfer and careers – a stance which I strongly endorse.

In that light, I am in total agreement that beyond individual messages, the people of LaGuardia “need to weigh in as a community – with, as much as possible, a unified and focused message that can have a greater impact in the CUNY-wide deliberations.” That is why I am so pleased that Professors White and Haslip have created an innovative and highly democratic process to gather and synthesize the collective voice of the College.

The nature of the process proposed by Professors White and Haslip is perhaps not widely understood, leading to the misstatement in your letter to me that they are collecting “individual messages.” Let me explain.

A jam is an asynchronous, online, facilitated and moderated dialogue. Its purpose is to allow for deep engagement, thoughtful exploration of ideas, and open exchange of opinions and resources. It is open to all faculty and all students, making no distinction between full and part time faculty, and including students as full discussants. Since statements are attributed to individuals, differences and similarities (for example between applied and liberal arts faculty, or between students and faculty) can be recognized and acknowledged.

The jam's asynchronous nature allows many to participate, at their convenience, over the course of the dialogue, and to have the luxury of thought and reflection on each other's perspectives. Because all dialogue is digital, the analysis of the transcript produces a highly nuanced document that is a true synthesis of everything that was discussed. Both the qualitative analysis and the transcript itself can be used for future reference as Professors White and Haslip participate in CUNY-wide deliberations. So, as a first step I hope that the College Senate and Faculty Council strongly encourage their members to participate.

A jam is direct democracy in action – allowing faculty and students to speak for themselves, and promoting an unprecedented level of real engagement in dialogue. The synthesis provides a powerfully unifying voice for a large group. The use of a jam for creating a unified and focused message on the Pathways Project will demonstrate, once again, that LaGuardia Community College is a pioneer in innovations which support an engaged intellectual community.

I endorse your proposal that a college-wide committee be formed to review the individual messages gathered through the blog as well as to summarize the dialogue from the jam. Further, I agree with your proposal to develop a LaGuardia Position Paper on the November 1 draft by

November 12, as below, based upon an assessment of all input, with particular emphasis on the qualitative assessment of the jam dialogue. I will ask Professors White and Taylor-Haslip to Co-Chair this committee and Elizabeth Beck to serve as member, and follow the schedule outlined below. I agree with your suggestion that the Committee include: 2 members of the Faculty Council, 2 members of the College Senate, 2 members of the Student Government Association, 2 members of the College Curriculum Committee. As the process of analyzing a jam can be intensive, I will leave the final number of participants in the analysis up to the Co-Chairs.

Again, thanks so much for your interest and leadership on this issue.

Gail

#### Draft Schedule

1. Draft of Pathways "Common Core" distributed November 1
3. Feedback accepted from campus at large. November 1-11
2. Online Jam. November 7-8.
3. Professors Taylor-Haslip and Scott White Co-Chair ad-hoc Committee on the Common Core to analyze and synthesize responses. November 9-11.
4. Response document released November 14. Document to be reviewed by President Mellow and designees.
5. Edited document released to campus and forwarded to Pathways November 15/16.
6. Further responses forwarded to Pathways through review period.
7. Final draft of Pathways "Common Core" released December 1, 2011.