

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes of the Senate Meeting
May 26, 2010

Present: S. Adhikari, C. Baldonado, N. Berke, J. Cantwell, T. Coogan, F. Egger-Sider, M. Glick, U. Hidle, R. Kahn, J. Karlen, W. Kurzyna, R. Levine, G. McCormack, L. McShane, S. Mettler, J. Michello, E. Murray, P. Nicolov, A. Pappas, G. Richmond, E. Rivas, S. Sanchirico (for J. Cantwell until 3:30 p.m.), P. Sokolski, C. Sterling-Deer, L. Teplin, P. Sokolski, A. Tucker, B. Yearwood, S. Yee (arrived after 3:40 p.m.)

Absent: T. Albright, A. Allen, M. Garcia, R. Johnson, A. Lazo, J. Park, P. Pinero, MD Rana, L. Ricketts, A. Tardy, G. Walters, Z. Yang

Excused: M. Johnson

Guests: M. Baston, L. Beaky, S. Hanson, P. Katopes, G. Mellow

***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.*

Chairperson Kahn called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. in room E 500.

I. Approval of Minutes for April 28, May 12, 2010

By general consent, the Senate approved the draft versions of the minutes of the Senate meetings held on April 28 and May 12, 2010, each with corrections. All senators listed as present for the meeting participated in this action.

II. Report from the Chairperson

Chairperson Robert Kahn announced that incoming SGA President Sandra Yee would replace the former SGA representative on the Senate, Ms. Isis Shakir.

Mr. Kahn asked for volunteers to staff the Committee of Elections.

He yielded the floor to Associate Dean Michael Baston, who announced the name of his office would change back to the Division of Student Affairs.

The Chairperson resumed his report, and gave credit to the work of the members of the Senate who had assembled a list of issues and concerns that have gained consensus support, and recommended that they be placed on the Strategic Plan. His proposal to perform this action was seconded and unanimously approved.

In preparation for the scheduled agenda items dealing with the Strategic Plan and the continuing discussion of recent developments affecting the structure of the Cooperative Education Department, Mr. Kahn requested that speakers avoid overlap, and that separation of issues was needed.

In his summary of a meeting he and other campus leaders had recently had with President Mellow, he reported that he had made a statement about the proposed restructuring of the Cooperative Education Department that emphasized the following points:

- 1) The proposed change contradicts traditions of the College;
- 2) The process employed bypasses faculty input; and
- 3) The result could potentially weaken a key service to students.

S. Mettler, also present at that meeting, seconded Mr. Kahn's major points and attested to the high level of attention they were given by the President.

III. Curriculum Committee Report

There were several curriculum items presented. Discussion was held concerning one course, and after brief explanation of some of the concerns raised, it was placed in the group presented for approval. It was moved and seconded to adopt all items on the Senate consent calendar simultaneously as presented. The full group of items was approved by unanimous vote. This included:

New Course Proposals:

HUM 144, Musicianship I, HUM 173, Blues, Rock and Jazz Ensemble, HUM 193, Popular Percussion Ensemble, HUT 122, Introduction to Design for the Theatre, HUT 127, Rehearsal and Performance, HUT 210, Theatre: Pre-history to the Renaissance, HUT 211, Theatre: Renaissance to Modern Times—presented by Department of Humanities
ELS 211, Spanish Literature I, ELJ 250, Japanese Literature in Translation—presented by Department of Education and Language Acquisition

Revised Course Proposals:

ENA 099, Basic Writing I, ENG 099, Basic Writing I, ENC 101, Composition I: Introduction to Expository Writing, ENZ 099 ACT/CAAW Preparation Workshop—presented by Department of English

Experimental Course Proposals:

MAT 094, Extended Elementary Algebra I, MAT 096E, Extended Elementary Algebra II, MAT 097, Intensive Beginning Algebra—presented by Department of Mathematics, Engineering and Computer Science

Presented by Prof. John Shean, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee

IV. President Gail Mellow's Report on the Strategic Plan.

In her yearly visit to the Senate to present the Strategic Plan for the upcoming year, President Mellow described the process that went into its creation, placing emphasis upon her sense of the improved communication and interfacing between individual departments and divisions and the administration that determined the content and focus of the Plan. In response to her call for Senate input, she was presented by Chairperson Kahn with the list earlier approved, and here summarized:

- 1) Counseling—greater attention to coherence, communication;
- 2) Evening/weekend services—must be clearly surveyed, strengthened where needed;
- 3) Adjunct concerns—needs for increased office space; development of a long-term perspective on service to the College;
- 4) Other needs for space—Student Senate; Alumni Association; Faculty Lounge.
- 5) Inquiry into early shutting down of registration;
- 6) More cybercafés, based on their popularity.

The President acknowledged common agreement around the issue of enhanced counseling, and said that the reported communication problem was being addressed.

On the issue of evening services, she urged the Senate to look into concrete ways of reallocating the scarce funds that do exist from day operations to those areas of night and weekend service most obviously in need of reinforcement. She made a clear charge to the

Senate to advise more forcefully on all of the activities in its purview. She endorsed the proposed creation of a Senate Finance Committee as a step in this direction.

President Mellow stated that all constituencies of the College have need of additional space, and pointed out the large scale expansion that has long been a work in progress, one that was providing more space each semester, particularly with the added areas such as the B-Building atrium. She counseled patience and adroit, creative use of new space as it emerges.

She informed the group that the priorities at present dictated that new cybercafés take a second place to such vital concerns as the effort to make all classrooms “smart classrooms.”

In response to several questions from the floor, President Mellow made the following points:

- 1) In relationship to the discussion of the Counseling Department, she said that she will see that counseling is embedded in the Achieving the Dream plan;
- 2) She would give support to initiatives that improve adjunct life, and make office space for adjuncts a priority;
- 3) She wants to clear up existing misconceptions surrounding the proposed reorganization of Co-op, stressing that it is a plan designed to strengthen the presence of Co-op rather than eliminate it, as some have misinterpreted recent events. She wants the Department to attach itself more closely to other departments, while maintaining its own department identity. Vice President Katopes added that it remains as a department, with a chairperson and a P&B. He said that his words at the prior meeting had been misconstrued, and that he is clearly committed to the Cooperative Education Department, but has been petitioned by several areas to find new ways to administer co-op, to accommodate the needs expressed by these divisions; his perspective on co-op is to create synergy and fresh initiatives by giving the disciplines a greater stake in the process by which co-op is enacted; he believes that collaboration between divisions and disciplines is for the greater good of the students, ultimately.

In the Senate dialogue that accompanied this rationale concerning the constitution of cooperative education in the future, several faculty senators questioned the efficacy of following the course of action described, saying they saw the possibility of a weakening of co-op services due to fragmentation and loss of coherence. Mention was made of the fact that our own co-op model is praised by other colleges, and set as an innovative standard. There was also opposition to the process involved in these decisions, which failed to create an open-ended atmosphere.

V. Presentation of Letter to the Secretary of Education for Senate Approval

Chairperson Kahn put before the Senate a letter addressed to the Secretary of Education petitioning for stronger regulations governing the widespread loan activities connected with for-profit colleges nation-wide. Following a brief discussion, motion to send the letter was approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. Creation of Committee of HEOs/Civil Service/Alumni

The motion to create such a committee was seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote.

VII. Creation of Budget and Finance Committee

Following a discussion of the logistical problems created by the various formulae proposed for a balanced number of members from all constituencies, it was decided

and approved by unanimous voice vote to set this task before the Committee on Committees. The new committee would begin work in October, 2010.

VIII. Old Business.

There was a motion made to continue the practice of paying stipends to student senators for attendance at Senate meetings. Following debate that centered on how effectively such stipends work as an incentive, and questioning of what should motivate a student to serve on Senate, a vote was taken. The vote yielded 14 yes votes, 2 no votes, and 7 abstentions, causing the practice to be discontinued for the following academic year.

P. Nicolov distributed a handout listing a variety of places to go and call in case of a crisis, which he said was in reply to statements made at the prior meeting regarding availability of counseling services.

IX. New Business. None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Kurzyna
Secretary
LaGuardia College Senate