

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes of the College Senate Meeting
September 25, 2013
E500

Present and Voting:

Claudia Baldonado (Adult & Continuing Education), Loretta Capuano Vella (At-Large Instructional Staff), Monica Ekiert (Education & Language Acquisition), Hugo Fernandez (Humanities), Rosann Ippolito (At-Large Instructional Staff), Valerie Jones (At-large Instructional Staff), André Keeton (Social Sciences), Charles Keyes (Library), William Kurzyna (Faculty Council), Anthony Lugo (Administration), Mahdi Majidi-Zolbanin (Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science), Adhiambo Okomba (Communication Skills), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Arlene Peterson (President's Office), Michael Philogene (Business & Technology), Philomena Purification (Student), Eneida Rivas (Institutional Advancement), Justin Rogers-Cooper (At-Large Instructional Staff), Suzanne Rosenberg (Health Science), Nancy Santangelo (Alt. At-Large Instructional Staff), Noam Scheindlin (English), Patricia Sokolski (Academic Affairs), Lynne Teplin (Counseling), Burl Yearwood (Natural Sciences), Jenny Zhu (Information Technology)

Guests:

Claudette Gray (Administration), Joselyn Izurieta, Allia Matta (English), Gary Richmond (Humanities)

Meeting called to order at 2:52 p.m. by Charles Keyes, Chairperson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- i) Minutes from May 29, 2013 approved with amendments.
 - (a) Yay-24; No-0; Abstention-1
 - (b) **MINUTES APPROVED**

II. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

- i) No Curriculum Committee report at this time.

III. OLD BUSINESS-(Chair exercised Chair's prerogative to amend agenda and prioritize agenda items)

- i) Chairperson reminded members that new Senate term begins Oct. 23.
- ii) Chairperson reminded members that old membership terms would expire and elections would be held for new terms during the first six weeks of the 2013 Fall semester.
- iii) Chairperson informed members that no future meetings after the Oct. 23 meeting would be held in E500 due to space limitations (location TBD).
- iv) Chairperson informed members that the scheduled May 28th meeting would be held only if business requires.

Motion made by Senator Hugo Fernandez, 2nd by Senator Rosann Ippolito, to approve 2013-2014 Calendar:

- (a) Yay-26; No-0; Abstention-0**
- (b) MOTION SUCCESSFUL**

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER ISSUES

Motion made by Senator Burl Yearwood, 2nd by Senator Hugo Fernandez, to endorse findings and renew mandate for Ad-Hoc Committee for 2013-2014 Academic Year:

- (a) Yay-26; No-0; Abstention-0**
- (b) MOTION SUCCESSFUL**

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- i) The Chair informed the membership of the resignation of Senators Rochelle Spencer and Dr. Sandra Hanson.
- ii) The Chair informed the membership of the election of Noam Scheindlin as Senator of the English Department and Allia Matta (alt.).
- iii) The Chair informed the membership of the re-election of Claudia Baldonedo as Senator of the Adult and Continuing Education Department and Tony Allicino (alt.).
- iv) The Chair informed the membership of the re-election of Patricia Sokolski as Senator to Academic Affairs.
- v) The Chair informed the membership that the Senate website has been successfully migrated to Ektron and should be available next week.

V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL SYMBOLS (The Rainbow Flag and "Safe Spaces")

- i) The Chair informed the membership that the Executive Committee sees the issue in two parts:
 - (a) Expression, and
 - (b) Protection
- ii) The Chair informed the membership that he conducted research on the issue; particularly concerning the rainbow flag and its representation of display.
- iii) Members spoke very passionately on the issue. Among the issues raised by members were:
 - (a) The issue of inclusion vs. Exclusion
 - (b) The history of the Hall of Flags/Hall of Nations as an antiquated 18th Century concept
 - (c) The lack of safe spaces on campus
 - (d) Identity and the importance of representation to students/staff/faculty
 - (e) The origins of the hall and reasons for its existence, etc.

The Chair stated the following question:

“Should the College Senate revise the original intention of the LaGuardia Community College’s International Hall of flags, which was to only display flags representing the countries of origin of the students, staff, and faculty of LaGuardia Community College?”

Motion made by Senator Hugo Fernandez, 2nd by Senator Adhiambo Okomba, to table the question until Oct. 23, 2013:

- (a) Yay-18; No-3; Abstention-2**
- (b) MOTION FAILS**

Motion made by Senator Zolbanin, 2nd by Senator Noam Scheindlin, to amend the question:

- (a) Yay-9; No-9; Abstention-5**
- (b) MOTION FAILS**

Chairperson Charles Keyes calls original question :

“Should the College Senate revise the original intention of the LaGuardia Community College’s International Hall of flags, which was to only display flags representing the countries of origin of the students, staff, and faculty of LaGuardia Community College?”

- (a) Yay-11; No-7; Abstention-7**
- (b) MOTION FAILS**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Quorum lost 5:12p.

Respectfully submitted,



André Keeton
College Senate Secretary &
Senator, Social Science Department