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2004

LACUNY Instruction Committee Meeting Minutes, November 2004

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MinutesMinutes
LACUNY Instruction Committee Meeting
Baruch College, Newman Library, Room 415
November 5, 2004, 2 pm- 4 pm

Members in Attendance:

Alexandra deLuise, Queens
Anne Leonard, City Tech
Mickey Laskin, Hostos
Susan Voge, Lehman College
Jeff Wayne, Borough of Manhattan
Kenneth Schlesinger, LaGuardia
Clover Steele, Medgar Evers College
Katherine Parsons, Bronx
Sandra Marcus, Queensborough
Remi Castonguay, LaGuardia
Edward Owusu-Ansah, Staten Island

Meeting commenced at 2 pm.

Members welcomed Susan Voge of Lehman College back from a sabbatical leave.

As could be expected of a post-elections meeting of information specialists, an exciting discussion evolved on the November presidential elections, with members overwhelmingly agreeing on the growing need for librarians to play a proactive role in shaping the critical information seeking behavior of citizens in a democratic society. In that same spirit, LACUNY president, Kenneth Schlesinger of LaGuardia Community College, reminded members of the fine job being done by the LACUNY Legislative Committee under the new and reinvigorated leadership of Lisa Ellis. The committee, Kenneth announced, currently has a small membership and is looking for new members. Kenneth noted that CUNY librarians could have input in the legislative process by educating political leadership, and can mobilize and agitate as well. Kenneth also made the observation that new CUNY Librarian, Mr. Curtis Kendrick, could be the public face of CUNY in terms of lobbying for state support and library resources.

Kenneth also noted that LACUNY was working on events involving meetings with local legislators in New York. An infomercial featuring Senator Chuck Shumer in the Baruch College Library was in the works. There was also a planned LACUNY meeting coming up at City College on January 21, 10 am -12, featuring a town hall-like public discussion of library-specific issues. The agenda and approval by Executive Council was still pending. Kenneth hoped LACUNY could have an event for each month.

Kenneth reminded members of the December 10 winter membership meeting, at which Rebecca Adler, Francine Egger-Sider, Louise Fluk, Suzanna Simor, Susan Voge will all present on "Fellowship Leave: Sabbaticals for CUNY Library Faculty." The event will be held at the School of Social Work, Hunter College, 129 East 79th Street (Lexington Avenue), Room 1010, from 2:30 pm-5 pm. Prof. Sharon Swacker of City Tech will be the moderator.

Miriam Laskin of Hostos inquired if anyone knew of current progress on the PSC contract. Nobody knew much, but members noted that the meeting with Barbara Bowen at Hunter did successfully put librarians in the picture for discussions, and would likely properly address the issue of reassignment time for junior faculty. This prompted a discussion of sabbaticals as well, on the issues and difficulties surrounding its request, granting, and attendant expectations and the impact of those expectations.

On the proposed Libraries' Information Literacy Advisory Committee (LILAC), Sandra Marcus observed that it would be in order if the body addressed work already began by the Tutorial Working Group, completes and launches an

information literacy tutorial that could be used by all CUNY campuses and that would have an ALEPH component as well.

On the possibility of a topic for a March event to be organized by the Instruction Committee, members offered several observations, though no commitments were made. Assessment emerged as the single most pressing issue, and the search for best practices appeared to have more advocates. Miriam informed members of a Hostos-wide assessment instrument that includes the library. Those working on the instrument are experts in creating assessment tools and the work is still in progress. Data mined from evaluation forms filled out by students is available for the past three years. At LaGuardia the curriculum committee established seven content areas for evaluation, including research and information literacy. The question of how to evaluate one-hour sessions still remains unresolved. Sandra noted that teacher return might be the best indication of the quality/value of instructional sessions.

The scope of emerging issues and the passion with which members committed to their discussion left virtually no time for dealing with agenda items such as discussing guidelines/modules used for teaching and provided by some members prior to the meeting for constructive comments. Decision on other matters of engagement was also tabled for the next meeting.

Next meeting dates will be (from 2 pm - 4 pm on each occasion):

Friday January 28, 2005

Friday March 4, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

Submitted by:
Edward Owusu-Ansah
Chair