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LACUNY Junior Faculty Research Roundtable Meeting Minutes, August 2008

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MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2008 MEETING
LACUNY JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE
August 29, 2008, 3:00pm
Library Conference Room, Baruch College

Members in Attendance:

Maura Smale, City Tech
Jill Cirasella, Brooklyn
Dorothea Coiffe, BMCC
Kathleen Collins, John Jay
Linda Wadas, BMCC
Jennifer King, Lehman
Catherine Stern, LaGuardia
Austin Duffy, John Jay
Jessica Hernandez, Lehman
Junior Tidal, City Tech
James Watson, Bronx CC
Jennifer Tang, Hostos
Shea Taylor, City College
Harold Gee, Baruch

For the first part of our meeting we welcomed Sharon Swacker, Head of Collections and Acquisitions at City Tech, who spoke to us about the many different kinds of leave time available to us.

Sharon began by reminding us that we should all have a copy of the contract -- if you don't have one, speak to your PSC-CUNY rep.

Article 15 in the contract is workload leave -- the reassigned time for tenure-track library faculty. If you started between 9/2002 and 9/2005 you have 15 wks/yr. and post-9/2005 you have 30 wks/yr. All leave must be taken within the first 5 yrs of your tenure track. This leave is required, and does include funding for a replacement for the time you're on leave.

Article 25.4 is professional reassigned time for scholarship and professional development, with up to 5 wks/yr of leave available to all librarians. This is not an entitlement -- you must apply for this leave and have it approved by your library's P&B committee as well as the college's P&B committee. The professional reassigned time form is available on the CUNY OLS website. Originally there were supposed to be 50 slots/yr for this leave, spread between the colleges, but have never filled them all. Could theoretically take this leave before you are tenured, but since there's workload leave you probably would not be able to get this leave, too. All instructors, tenure-track and non (includes lecturers), are eligible for this leave, except for substitutes (who are considered temporary and thus aren't eligible for any leave).

Someone asked if professional RT can be used to finish a 2nd masters degree? The rules are vague, but the feeling seemed to be that it was unlikely, but could vary at the local college level.

Article 25 concerns sabbatical leave. You must have completed 6 yrs with the college to request sabbatical. Usually is taken in 6 month increments. While you don't earn vacation time on sabbatical, you do earn sick leave. Approvals also go through library P&B and college P&B.

A Scholarship Incentive Award is given to those needing to finish a degree, book contract, etc. Instructors and lecturers can apply, as well as tenure-track/tenured faculty. Only 25% of salary is provided (thus this is not a popular leave).

PSC-CUNY Grant: favors junior faculty. Classroom faculty sometimes use this to buy themselves out of teaching a course, and we could do that too, though it's probably a better idea to time it to coincide with workload RT or professional RT.

Annual Leave: very straightforward. Starts with 4 wks, increases the longer you're at your college.

Sick leave, also called temporary disability, and the new parental leave regulations: parental leave varies widely by college. At City Tech, you get 6 wks paid with a doctor's note, more if you're on bedrest. Article 16 addresses childcare leave, up to 3 semesters unpaid, needs to be renewed each semester (and time to tenure is bridged). Family Medical Leave Act (federal law) is 12 wks unpaid. New contract stipulates 8 weeks paid, but it's unclear how that will be handled since it's new. Sharon suggests that you start by talking to PSC-CUNY first -- Clarissa Weiss @ the union office, or your chapter chair.

Bereavement leave, not in the contract, varies widely between colleges. Check with your HR. Not an entitlement.

Bottom line: don't take "no" right away -- ask someone else! There's often wiggle room. If anyone has questions, ask your campus PSC-CUNY rep or please feel free to email Sharon at sswacker@citytech.cuny.edu.

After thanking Sharon for her time, we moved on to some group business. Jill and Maura discussed plans to turn the group into an official LACUNY Roundtable, and that they believed we need a name, mission statement and co-chairs to move forward. A draft name and mission statement were passed around, discussed, and approved. Jill and Maura were voted in as co-chairs. They will send the name, mission statement and co-chairs to the group listserv and incorporate any further feedback.

We then discussed the discipline-specific subgroups we'd set up following the member interest survey in June, 2008. Arts & Humanities has grown to 6 members, which is likely close to the limit for a well-functioning group. Some members expressed confusion about the "General" subgroups. The chairs explained that those were the members who had expressed interest in getting feedback on article drafts but had *not* selected a subject area of interest. It was suggested that these subgroups be renamed Library and "This-n-that" (for interdisciplinary or otherwise hard to define subjects). The chairs will bring this idea back to the listserv for further discussion.

With the short amount of time we had remaining, there was a brief discussion on time/space management strategies. The chairs brought copies of two recent articles on the subject:

Do You Really Not Have the Time? (David Perlmutter), on the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* website: <http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2008/08/2008082201c.htm>

Promoting Writing Among Nontenured Faculty (Pamela Palmer and Chris Matz), in *CRL News*: http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2006/june06/ALA_print_layout_1_375507_375507.cfm

Maura also recommended "Being Wired or Being Tired: 10 Ways to Cope with Information Overload," by Sarah Houghton-Jan, in *Ariadne*: <http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue56/houghton-jan/>

We talked in a general way about how to find time to keep up with the field. Some prefer articles to blogs, some mentioned that blog posts (because of their length) can often be shoehorned into small chunks of time, like at the reference desk. Blog consensus (i.e. seeing the same item mentioned on many blogs) was also mentioned as a way to pick out issues that seem worthy of attention.

We also discussed places to work outside from our homes and offices. The NYPL's Performing Arts Library (esp. the top floor) and Humanities & Social Sciences Library (esp. the Map Library) were both suggested as conducive to work.

The chairs remind all members to please feel free to continue this discussion and start new ones on our listserv. Anyone interested in joining the listserv, please contact the chairs for an invitation.

Our next meeting is Friday, October 17, 2008 from 10am-noon in the 4th Floor Library Conference Room at Baruch College. In the first half of the meeting, special guests Beth Evans (LACUNY president) and Jane Fitzpatrick (LACUNY VP and author of the book *Mrs. Magavero: A History Based on the Life of an Academic Librarian*) will talk about the publishing possibilities that spring from oral histories and invite JFRR

members to participate in a LACUNY oral history project. The second half of the meeting will be devoted to open discussion about our research strategies, topics, requests for feedback, and whatever other topics our members bring up.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Minutes submitted by Maura Smale, New York City College of Technology