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LACUNY Junior Faculty Research Roundtable Meeting Minutes, August 2009

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MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2009 MEETING
LACUNY JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE
August 25, 2009, 3:00 pm
Hudson Room, Borough of Manhattan Community College

Members in Attendance:

Maura Smale, NYCCT (co-chair)
Jill Cirasella, BC (co-chair)
Mark Aaron Polger, CSI
Phyllis Niles, BMCC
Susan Thomas, BMCC
Kanu Nagra, BMCC
Sandy Urban, YC
Christina Miller, YC
Ann Matsuuchi, LAGCC
Linda Wadas, BMCC
Dorothea Coiffe, BMCC
Sarah Laleman Ward, HU
Reabeka King, KCC
Robin Brown, BMCC

We began the meeting with our traditional housekeeping, including reminding members that the email list and wiki are available for collaboration and discussion. Also, while we'd originally thought that the subgroups would be an ideal space for requests for readers to review article drafts, members can also post a call for readers on the main email list.

Next we heard from Dorothea Coiffe about the Oral History project she and Austin Duffy have worked on (and presented on at the LACUNY Spring Membership Meeting). Dorothea shared her experiences and future plans. Jill Cirasella also mentioned a note from Beth Evans, outgoing LACUNY President, suggesting another retired CUNY librarian if others are interested in participating in the Oral History project: Barbara Dunlap (former LACUNY and CCNY archivist). If you're interested in participating, please contact Jane Fitzpatrick, incoming LACUNY President: jfitzpatrick@gc.cuny.edu

For much of the rest of the meeting we discussed the results of the JFRR poll that ran over the summer. The first poll question involves the group's name, and whether it should be changed from Junior Faculty to Untenured Faculty. The poll results were in favor of using Junior Faculty, by a vote of 14-4. We agreed to keep the current name and to revisit the suggestion in the future if desired.

The second poll question addresses how often the JFRR should meet. The results were: Bimonthly: 7; Four times/year: 7; Three times/year: 2; Two times/year: 2. After discussing the differences between meeting every other month versus twice per semester, we agreed to keep our current bimonthly schedule. It seems like having bimonthly meetings allows members the flexibility of attending meetings when it's most convenient or the programming is of interest. If meeting attendance drops off we will reconsider the meeting schedule and reduce the number of meetings.

We heard briefly from Sarah Laleman Ward about the new LACUNY Mentoring Roundtable. Untenured faculty who wish to participate will be paired with a seasoned CUNY librarian at another college in a mentoring relationship focused on research and scholarship. We'll post the call for mentees to the JFRR email list when it comes out.

The remaining two questions solicited suggestions for programming for the JFRR this year, and ideas for improving the roundtable. Between the poll and suggestions made at both the June meeting and this one, we came up with lots of ideas! Briefly, they include:

- Research methodologies for librarians, quantitative and qualitative, statistics, designing user studies and finding user groups, etc.

- Conference presentations: how to find conferences, public speaking tips, creating an article from a conference presentation, etc.
- Grantwriting, not just for PSC-CUNY but general tips and how to find grants
- Publishing in books, writing book chapters, editing a book, joining journal editorial boards, etc.
- Prioritizing, time management, juggling projects, etc.
- Topics for projects/articles, brainstorming, sources of inspiration, etc.
- Scholarly collaboration between library faculty at different CUNY campuses and also between librarians and non-library faculty

We made tentative plans for the next two JFRR meetings, which will either be in Sept and Nov or in Oct and Dec (watch for a Doodle poll on the list soon). Our first meeting, tentatively titled "Jumpstart Your Research," will get the new academic year started off by focusing on sources of inspiration for research projects and time management strategies. For our second meeting, we plan to bring in one or more speakers to discuss qualitative methodologies. If you have suggestions for speakers on either topic (or future topics), please let Jill and Maura know.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Maura Smale, City Tech