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LACUNY Junior Faculty Research Roundtable Meeting Minutes, December 2008

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2008 MEETING
LACUNY JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE
December 16, 2008, 3:00pm
Library Conference Room, Baruch College

Members in Attendance:

Maura Smale, City Tech (co-chair)
Jill Cirasella, Brooklyn (co-chair)
Kathleen Collins, John Jay
Karen Okamoto, John Jay
Austin Duffy, John Jay
Mark Aaron Polger, Staten Island
Julie Graves Krishnaswami, Law School
Jay Bernstein, Kingsborough
Catherine Stern, LaGuardia
Sara Marcus, Queensborough
Reabeka King, Kingsborough
Jin Ma, Baruch
Harold Gee, Baruch

First, we discussed planning a program in the Spring semester with the LACUNY Professional Development Committee. The topic is Institutional Review Boards -- which projects may need the approval of your campus IRB (and why), and how to navigate the process smoothly. We proposed a couple of dates in February and will post more information to the email list when we have it. If you'd like to help with planning or have any ideas for the program, please contact Anne Leonard (NYCCT) or Sara Marcus (QCC), co-chairs of the Prof Dev Committee, at aleonard@citytech.cuny.edu or smmarcus@qcc.cuny.edu; or Maura Smale or Jill Cirasella, co-chairs of the JFRR, at msmale@citytech.cuny.edu or cirasella@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Next we tackled the subgroups. While many JFRR members have expressed interest in creating these small (6-8 members, max), subject-specific groups for discussion of possible research topics and help reviewing article drafts, we have yet to figure out a way to really get them off the ground. A few suggestions were discussed, and the idea with the most traction seems to be to create a subgroups wiki. This space could be used for collaboration in whatever way each subgroup prefers, from keeping a current list of members to active discussion. Maura and Jill agreed to draft a subgroups wiki by mid-January, and will let the group know when the wiki is live. A current list of subgroups was circulated so that all present could modify their subgroup selections if desired.

Some members expressed interest in a process with more accountability than the subgroups, with writing/research targets and firm deadlines. Maura and Jill remind everyone that the research pact arrangement is just such a process, and encourage any members who wish to enter into a research pact to email their requests to the list. We can also create a "research pact subgroup" -- please contact Jill or Maura if you're interested in this kind of subgroup.

Maura and Jill also remind everyone that the email list is not just for announcements. Please feel free to post questions, requests for folks to review your research idea or article, or any other items of interest on the email list.

Next, Austin Duffy briefed us on the ACRL/NY program "Publish Not Perish," held at LIU Brooklyn on Friday, December 12th. Just before our meeting, JFRR member Susan Thomas emailed the list to share her positive experience presenting at this program, and noted that

agreeing to present had really helped Susan and Anne (who are working on a project together) to focus on their research.

Other helpful suggestions offered by the group included:

- trying to spin a presentation into an article (and vice versa)
- using the thesis required for a second masters degree to generate article topics

We spent the last half of our meeting in our usual informal discussion of our research interests, experiences, questions, and anxieties. Among the useful advice offered:

- Consider taking 1/2 days for RT if it proves difficult to schedule full days. This may work particularly well if you have to travel for a meeting or to do research at other libraries.
- Try to leave a *little* space on your plate at all times, because it's hard to know when something will pop up that you can't decline.
- Many members enthusiastically recommend the PSC-CUNY program "Survive and Thrive on the Tenure Track," which typically runs midway through the Spring semester of each year.
- A lively discussion took place about how to avoid talking yourself out of your research ideas. Remember that the email list is available for these discussions, too!

Finally, the JFRR would like to congratulate Jay Bernstein (Kingsborough), who has just been granted tenure! He is currently in the process of applying for promotion to Associate Professor. Well done, Jay!

Books/articles suggested by members at this meeting include:

"Year 2 on the Tenure Track"

<http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2008/11/2008111901c.htm>

"In Search of New Frontiers: How Scholars Generate Ideas"

Chronicle of Higher Education, Dec. 19, 2008 (available in LexisNexis)

How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing
by Paul Silva (2007)

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

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