

City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

Meeting Minutes

Library Association of the City University of
New York

2009

LACUNY Junior Faculty Research Roundtable Meeting Minutes, January 2009

LACUNY

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/lacuny_meeting_minutes/218

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).
Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2010 MEETING
LACUNY JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE
January 22, 2009, 10:00 am
BMCC Library, S404

Members in Attendance:

Maura Smale, City Tech (co-chair)
Jill Cirasella, Brooklyn (co-chair)
Robin Brown, BMCC
Alycia Sellie, Brooklyn
Christina Miller, York
Sandy Urban, York
Ann Matsuuchi, LaGCC
Dorothea Coiffe, BMCC
Helen Georgas, Brooklyn
Jennifer King, Lehman
Susan Thomas, BMCC
Reabeka King, KBCC
Amy Ballmer, Grad Center
Cynthia Tobar, Grad Center
Robert Farrell, Lehman
Rebecca Arzola, Lehman
Linda Wadas, BMCC
Harold Gee, Baruch

We started the meeting off with a few of our usual announcements:

- Let us know if you're not on the email list and would like to be
- Remember the wiki! (<http://jfr.pbworks.com/>) Feel free to use it to develop resources, for collaboration, however you'd like
- March meeting: Emerald Author Workshop, March 17, 2010, afternoon, details TBD
- This is a contract renewal year, and there's a meeting at the union for library faculty next week: Tuesday, January 26th @ 6-7:30pm (PSC Office - 61 Broadway)
- Maura and Jill will be stepping down as co-chairs of JFRR at the end of the semester, so we'll have an election for new co-chairs at the May meeting. Think about running for co-chair! It's a great group and a nice addition to the "service" part of your vita.

This meeting's theme was collaboration, so we started off with Susan Thomas (BMCC), who spoke about her collaboration with Anne Leonard (City Tech) on their project to study scholarly and creative work of library faculty in areas outside of library/information science.

Susan began by discussing the many positive aspects of collaboration with a colleague. She and Anne were friends before they worked at CUNY, and it's nice to work on a research project with a friend. They took the time to settle on a topic that they both find really interesting, which has made their work more enjoyable. Susan and Anne work best when they can meet in person, rather than speak over the phone or collaborate via email (though of course everyone is different).

It's important to decide how to divide the research and writing work. Susan and Anne are splitting everything equally, though different arrangements are also possible. Everyone agreed that deciding in advance how to split the work helps the collaboration function smoothly and avoids surprises later. Also keep in mind the order of authors on the final article/writeup. Generally the first author spot is more prestigious; where you and your collaborator are in the tenure and promotion process may help you decide on author order.

Susan did mention a few caveats re: collaboration. It can be difficult to coordinate finding time to work together in person, which can mean that collaboration on an article will take longer than writing one individually. Keep that in mind when looking at your vita -- if you need to get an article out quickly, then collaboration might not be best for you at that point. It can also be difficult to sustain motivation when working with a partner, especially if schedule fluctuations interrupt the flow of your work. Deadlines can help (as they can when working alone, too).

When it's time to actually write the article, again there are a number of ways to approach the task. Some collaborators prefer to sit together and compose text at one or two computers, while some prefer to divide up writing by section and combine them to create the article. Other approaches exist, too: having an "idea" person and an "execution" (writing) person, or one person to write the article and the other to revise it. Again, the key seems to be setting those expectations in advance so neither partner feels like s/he is taking on an unfair share of the work.

After the lively discussion about collaboration, Maura Smale (City Tech) did a quick demonstration of the new CUNY Academic Commons. The AC is a new website built by the CUNY Committee on Academic Technology to facilitate collaboration for faculty on individual campuses and across CUNY (Maura's on that committee).

The website is built on two main applications: WordPress multiuser for blogs, forums (discussion boards), and social networking; and Mediawiki for the wiki. The Commons is visible to everyone, but only CUNY faculty and staff can create accounts and use the site's features. Once you create an account you can fill out your profile (think Facebook, but more professional), which is great for finding other like-minded folks in CUNY. Any Commons member can also create a blog or a group. Groups can be public (any Commons member can join) or private (you need to request membership from the group admin). Each group has its own forum; in a private group the forum posts are only visible to group members. The wiki side of the Commons is completely public, and any Commons member may create and edit pages.

Right now the Commons has mostly been shown to administrators, so many of the members and groups serve administrative purposes. Also, many of the groups are online versions of groups that currently exist offline, like LILAC (the Library Information Literacy Advisory Committee). But this is really a space for faculty, and Maura encouraged everyone to sign up and join in! Create a blog about your own research project, something you're working on at work, or anything at all. Create a group about something that interests you, or join one of the groups that have already been created.

To sign up for the Commons, visit <http://commons.gc.cuny.edu> (and please feel free to ask Maura if you have any questions).

Finally, Robert Farrell (Lehman) spoke a bit about library faculty contract issues. Our contract is up for renegotiation this year, and many library faculty (junior and senior) have been discussing the issue of parity with classroom faculty. As we all know, classroom faculty do not teach during the summer (or, if they do, they receive additional pay), while library faculty are in the library all year with between 4-6 weeks of annual leave, far less time than classroom faculty receive. This disparity is a serious impediment to research and scholarship for library faculty. (Of course, the junior library faculty are very grateful for the pretenure reassigned time they've been granted!)

Robert noted that the counseling faculty won the right to their summers off in the last

contract, and pointed out that library faculty are now the only faculty with 6 weeks (max) of leave. This is troubling on many levels, not least of which is that standards for tenure and promotion are rising, and it is difficult for library faculty to accomplish scholarly research with the amount of leave we are granted. Robert also mentioned that there are local models for library faculty working a classroom faculty schedule, including Long Island University and Suffolk County Community College.

A library faculty meeting is coming up next week at the PSC headquarters, so if you are interested in discussing this further please try to attend. Also, please get in touch with Robert if you'd like to be kept in the loop on parity issues as the PSC moves into negotiations with the university for the next contract: rfarrell1211@yahoo.com

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Maura Smale, City Tech, and Jill Cirasella, Brooklyn College