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LACUNY Multicultural and Diversity Roundtable Meeting Minutes, November 2005

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Minutes – Multicultural & Diversity Roundtable of LACUNY – November 4, 2005 Meeting

Held at NYCTT.

Present: Madeline Ford (Lehman); Gereldine B. Herbert (BxCC); Román A. Santillán (CSI); Kenneth Schesinger (LaGCC); Scott Sheidlower (York); Tess Tobin (NYCTT)

Absent:

Excused: Martha Corpus (Brooklyn); Monica Berger (NYCTT)

Meeting called to order at approximately 10:30 A.M.

1. Elections

Co-chairs: Madeline Ford and Tess Tobin

Secretary: Scott Sheidlower

All officers elected unanimously.

2. Mission Statement

Approved as amended by committee as follows:

“Multicultural” is broadly defined to include ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

The purpose of this Roundtable is to enable libraries, library faculty, and staff and to reach out to diverse populations. Enhance knowledge to work effectively with diverse populations through programs, workshops, and discussion forums. Increase library resources and services to diverse communities within CUNY. Promote recruitment and retention of underrepresented diverse populations into the library profession.

It was noted that the definition in the first statement is broad and not meant to be exclusive of any group or community even if they are not mentioned in it.

Kenneth said he would present this statement to the LACUNY executive committee that afternoon.

3. Madeline presented an announcement of CUNY’s “Diversity Projects development Fund” (a grant given through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Faculty and Staff Relations). The committee, after looking at the due date of the

grant , November 30, 2005, decided that it was too short a time in which to come up with a proposal from the roundtable. We all agreed to think of projects to submit next year.

4. We discussed possibly running a Spring 2006 morning workshop and settled on the following dates as our preference: Friday, March 24th (first choice); or Friday, March 31st (second choice). Several topics and speakers were suggested. Among them were: recruitment and staff development (Nettie Seabury from SLA; Betty Turock), how a diverse workforce helps our students (Sandra Kitt at the American Museum of Natural History), cultural considerations of the reference interview and circ desk (Marie Radford). Also suggested was a program on alternative databases such as Ethnic Newswatch. It was further suggested that we reach out to the reference roundtable or another committee of LACUNY to co-sponsor this event with us.
5. It was suggested we find a professional reading and create a blog to discuss it.
6. It was suggested we create a sub-group to locate resources either from other CUNY colleges or from the web and create a webpage with links to good resources on multicultural topics, culturally diverse user services and collection development, and recruitment and retention of a multicultural workforce.
7. The next meeting of the roundtable will be Friday, December 16, 2005 from 10-12 in the conference room, A544 of the library at NY City College of Technology.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Sheidlower