

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
of The City University of New York

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION - FEB. 29, 1972

Present: I. Berger, Chairman  
D. Canty, M. Chang, R. Donovan, D. Frank, N. Gore, H. Hermo,  
A. Hirshfield, W. Hynes, A. Lessard, J. Ryan, S. Wilkofsky  
and M. Wise.  
Student: W. Washington

The meeting began at 2:30 p.m. with a report by Prof. Hirshfield on his participation in the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the President to work on a student questionnaire. The following were the high points of that meeting.

- 1) There were 7 or 8 students representing the entire student body.
- 2) Most of the students seemed to lack knowledge of what a questionnaire is.
- 3) If evaluation is to be comprehensively done, it would mean some 30,000 questionnaires per semester if each instructor is evaluated only once.
- 4) The problem of administering the questionnaire is enormous, with regard to timing, method of control, source of control, anonymity of the students, length of the questionnaire, method of evaluating the collected data etc.

Members of the Instruction Committee who were present voiced the following questions and comments.

- 1) Computer read-outs result in lack of subtlety.
- 2) Negative comments should be explained to avoid capriciousness.
- 3) Should the collected information be confidential or not?
- 4) Should there be room for treating certain questions as "irrelevant" in the eyes of the instructor?
- 5) How do we guard against backlash?
- 6) Can the students omit answering certain questions if these questions seem "irrelevant" to them?
- 7) How should the questions be weighted? Singly? Or in groups of questions?
- 8) Space for "suggestions by student" should be provided at the end of the questionnaire page, perhaps as a tear-off.
- 9) How can anonymity in criticizing be reconciled with the principle of democratic procedure?
- 10) How can we achieve free expression of opinion and yet have identification of who is answering the questionnaire?

Dr. Berger, the Chairman, concluded the meeting by announcing the following dates, and distributing a leaflet on "The Debasement of Liberal Education" by Morris B. Abrams.

Mon. Mar. 6 - Meeting with Innovation Center, 3-5 p.m.  
(Faculty Cafeteria, Main Building)

Tues. Mar. 7, and 21 - Committee on Instruction meeting,  
2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Room 20, Fordham Center)

Before the meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. the minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mabel L. Chang*  
Mabel L. Chang  
Secretary

MLC:r  
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