



MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING, WED. MAR. 14, 1979

Present: I. Berger, Chairman
M. Chang, F. Donnangelo, M. Glass, G. Hobbs, D. McCulloch,
E. Passer, M. Pollack, A. Pomerantz, S. Ritterman, I. Ronson,
P. Schira, W. Sokolsky, L. Squitieri, K. Walsh and M. Wise.

The meeting began at 3:15 p.m. Dr. Berger gave out copies of a magazine to those who arrived early. He said that some of the English Department students were subscribing to the magazine for their use.

Dr. Chang reminded the Committee that the previous four sets of minutes of the Instruction Committee had to be approved. The minutes were for the following meetings.

Nov. 14, 1978
Dec. 12, 1978
Feb. 14, 1979
and Feb. 28, 1979

After duplicate copies of the above sets of minutes were circulated, it was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as distributed.

Discussion then ensued on the kinds of subjects that may be used for future Staff Development Workshops. The following were suggested.

- (1) Classroom Atmosphere and Noise
- (2) Testing
- (3) The Effects of New High School Diploma Standards on Future BCC Students
- (4) The Student Questionnaire: Does It Make the Teachers Sitting Ducks?

The Chairman then asked if those present had already received copies of the Draft of Reorganization Proposal. Prof. Sokolsky announced that he will be at the Faculty Caucus the next day to discuss changes regarding that document. The meeting will be held in Room 228 from 12:15 to 1:55 p.m.

Dr. Berger concluded that "the fruitfulness of our Committee is the varied and instant reaction to anything that comes up. This quality would be lost if not all the Departments are represented."

At 3:45 p.m. the Chairman welcomed Dean Hobbs to talk about her program on Retention of Students, a program in which several members of the Instruction Committee were participating. "Last spring, due to the guidelines of CUNY 2000 out of 8800 BCC students were on probation," said Dean Hobbs. Probation Workshops were developed and later students were broken up into smaller groups. By the fall of '78, 1903 were still on probation. Some students tried to avoid remediation and programmed themselves into failure. The PWP-99 classes were then developed. Seven sessions were scheduled per semester, in which the first two sessions were controlled by counsellors

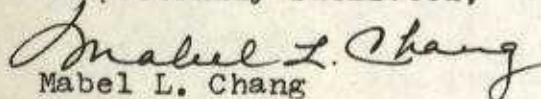
and the rest carried out by faculty members who volunteered.

A question-and-answer period followed. Prof. Sokolsky suggested a "minor crash course on the education of the body" with an examination on brain-damage possibilities of unsuccessful students. Dr. Ronson pointed out that the "devastating and deadly environment" of Bldg. Tech II may have contributed to the health problem of the students who had to stand the noise of the ventilation fans all day." Prof. Ritterman asked if there was any speedy and fool-proof method to check if the students had taken the remedial courses before they take certain regular courses. Dean Hobbs concluded that "the students bring their world on their backs when they come here," but, "we are trying" said Dr. Donnangelo.

At 4:40 p.m. Ms. Kathleen Walsh, Coordinator for Operational Management, Planning and Systems, talked on "certain points of misinformation about instructional space." Firstly, Ms. Walsh pointed out, some environmental problems are design problems which the College can not correct. There was a Master Plan designed five years ago on Rehabilitation of the Campus. The noisy fans of certain classrooms in Bldg. Tech II can not be cut off because of the building codes. "Four classrooms in Language Hall are still available and Begrish Hall is being used by the Math, Physics and Biology Departments," continued Ms. Walsh. Lastly, Ms. Walsh asked any one who had problems with lack of chairs and desks (but not erasers, because they are Departmental supply problems) to let her know at extension 231. "Many of these problems are remediable," said Ms. Walsh. Similarly, problems of over or under heating, office mess and blackboards may be transmitted to her for solution and improvement. It was noted before the meeting was over that snow-removal had improved since the early days of the University Heights campus.

At 5:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Mabel L. Chang
Secretary