



Hadgis, A.

MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY, MAR. 25, 1980

Present: I. Berger, Chairman
M. Chang, M. Glass, D. McCulloch, H. Sirota, W. Sokolsky,
C. Sorge and M. Wise.

Before the meeting began at 3:30 p.m. members who were present talked informally on the problems of the changing student population of CUNY. Several members volunteered their suggestions in dealing with this problem: for example: having two types of courses for a certain subject - one being college-type and transferrable, the other being "non-serious" and made for "terminal" students. Another suggestion was to cut down on the number of chapters to be taught as the student population found it harder and harder to pass the course.

Dr. Berger, the Chairman, informed the Committee that Dr. Stuchin is part of a committee to promote staff development activities. Dr. Stuchin spoke to the Business and Commerce Department, reviewing basic techniques for introducing textbooks, chapters, lessons, assignments etc.

Prof. Sokolsky represented the Committee on Instruction at a meeting evaluating faculty response to the last staff conference day. A report will be forthcoming. Dr. Stuchin asked for someone on our Committee to act as a liaison with her committee. Dr. Glass expressed an interest.

The next topic of discussion was the question of our faculty changing techniques to better suit our present students. There is increasing pressure on teachers to adapt; there may be an undeserved implication of a lack of flexibility or creativity on the part of the teaching faculty. Acknowledging that there may be some exceptions, and endorsing a continuing search for professional improvement, the Committee affirms its belief that BCC faculty members are impressively hard-working and dedicated. Faculty and staff may be doing as well as may be expected within the circumstances. Results, however, are sometimes discouraging. Can the College become more effective? Can computer assisted instruction, for example, be helpful in some disciplines? We will continue to investigate new ideas, tempering our explorations with the thought that innovations may not be more effective than traditional methods, and that doing things differently may not always lead to better results. Some changes or adaptations have already taken place. One is that some courses have been simplified or contracted.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Prof. Sokolsky presented an impressive technique or formula for helping students in any course. At the opening of class, he explains to his students the basic conditions and techniques needed for learning: (i) motivation, (ii) good health, (iii) proper physical environment, (iv) overview or skimming, (v) re-reading following certain criteria (vi) verbalizing, and (vii) confirmation by review.

Respectfully submitted,

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