

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
of The City University of New York

Meeting of the Committee on Instruction

Tuesday, October 28, 1980

Room 605, Tech Two - 3:30 P.M.

In Attendance: Irwin Berger, Julian Bernard, Mabel Chang, David Diamond, Diana Hadgis, Richard Kor, Eugene Passer, Wallace Sokolsky, and Marian Wise.

MINUTES

The chairperson (W.S.) opened the meeting at 3:30 P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed and accepted. A discussion ensued regarding the Committee's regular scheduled meeting time - 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. Prof. Sokolsky suggested that 3:00 to 4:30 P.M. might be more convenient for themembers. The consensus was favorable and the suggestion was approved.

Prof. Sokolsky suggested that the Committee undertake a review of the Student Evaluation of Faculty Questionnaire, indicating that President Brown has demonstrated interest in the matter. Prof. Kor recommended that we undertake an interval of brainstorming and see what associations might arise.

Prof. Berger indicated it has been his observation that most faculty members find the questionnaire "O.K." (i.e., not objectionable) and might be offended if a new instrument were to be developed. Prof. Chang offered that the present questionnaire is objectionable on the basis that students are subject to mood variations whenever there are periods of controversy or protest on campus.

Prof. Kor recommended that objections to the questionnaire be analyzed point by point so as to provide Dr. Brown with the clearest possible formulation of a viewpoint. Prof. Bernard suggested that one useful frame of reference might be the determination of what our students are actually capable of judging.

Dr. Diamond stated that no measuring instrument would be free of bias. Prof. Chang noted a specific instance of bias when students avoid using the DO NOT KNOW type of response. Students who are chronic latecomers to class ordinarily indicate either that instructors are always prompt or that they are late. In either case, the dawdling student is not in a position to observe or to judge, but expresses an opinion nevertheless.

Prof. Passer suggested that "trick" questions might be designed to help determine the presence of bias. Professor Kor offered the opinion that the judgments of students over a period of years do take on a positive value. Prof. Sokolsky, considering it important to do so, then summarized observations made by Dean Hobbs as to what students' expectations are. They are enumerated here:

1. Students want to know what is required of them.
2. They want to be free to ask questions.
3. They want subject terminology explained.
4. They are concerned about the instructor's office hours.
5. They want to know what the learning lab provides.

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6. They want the instructor to enunciate clearly.
7. They want the instructor to use the blackboard.
8. They want there to be time for class interaction.
9. They don't want to be taught in a condescending manner.
10. They feel the need for many exams.
11. They prefer short-term goals and frequent evaluative activity.
12. They are concerned about the difficulty of taking notes, both in school and from books.
13. They want and need encouragement.
14. They want the instructor to come on time and to teach full-time.
15. They want instruction to be smoothly paced. They dislike dawdling followed by rushing.
16. They don't want concessions; they want to earn their grades.

Several concluding announcements were made:

1. The November 18 meeting will be addressed by Ms. Gorycki. She will be discussing techniques of teaching Spanish rapidly.
2. On December 2, Professors Heller and Morrill will discuss the work of Piaget.
3. An effort will be made to obtain a speaker for the Committee's meeting on December 16.

The Committee adjourned at 4:55 P.M. until our next scheduled meeting - Tuesday, November 18 at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julian Bernard*

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Secretary, pro tem