

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of the City University of New York

COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Minutes of the Meeting of March 1, 1984

Present: Professor A. Pomerantz, Chairperson; Professors Alpert, Anderson, Forman Hagis, Sokolsky, Stuchin, Weiman, Whitcomb, Wise.

Excused: Professor McCulloch

Announcements: Professor Pomerantz informed the Committee that Dean Polowczyk has agreed to make available the \$75.00 for the application fees for three National Outstanding Teacher Awards. Further discussion revealed that the Divisional Coordinators would be willing to choose from their respective divisions the individual most worthy of the award.

Professor Alpert announced that legislation which will grant TAP Awards to part time students in the colleges and universities of New York State have cleared both the New York State Senate and Assembly and is awaiting the Governor's signature.. This legislation was strongly endorsed by the membership of the New York State Senate's Higher Education Advisory Committee at its Annual Meeting of January, 1983 in Albany. As a member of this committee Professor Alpert lobbied for this legislation throughout last year as previously reported to the Committee on Instruction.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of February 16th were accepted with the following correction: On page 1 under Announcements, item 3 should read: " A Subcommittee of the Committee on Instruction will be involved in the selection of participants in the ISR grant if the proposal is funded".

Subcommittee Progress Reports: Subcommittee on new BCC Technology - Diana Hadgis and Susan Forman discussed the projected panel discussion on personal computers set for April 5, 1984, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in Room TT 228. It was emphasized that the intention of the event was to discuss various personal computers marketed by IBM, Radio Shack, Apple, etc. and to explain differences between these products.

It was suggested that our event may be "iffy", since, for example, it is possible that IBM would not come on together with Apple.

Chairman Pomerantz expressed the hope that by the next meeting we could firm up arrangements with the various computer manufacturers.

Subcommittee on Faculty Awards: Thirteen criteria were suggested by Professor Sokolsky in judging teaching excellence. Several members of the Committee raised the question of how to measure these criteria.

Professor Sokolsky suggested the use of both student evaluations and peer evaluations. Focus was then directed to the question of student evaluation and its value and validity. In this discussion it was pointed out by Professor Pomerantz that a teacher who is doing 3.5 or above in his or her student evaluations would certainly appear to be doing a reasonable job.

The question of fairness was raised in connection with evaluation of teachers some of whom had predominately lower level courses as contrasted with others who taught higher level courses. It was further suggested that the list of criteria be examined and discussed further by the members of the committee.

Subcommittee on Faculty Questionnaire: A motion was made by Professor Forman and voted by the Committee to ask the Dean to answer questions which at least 25% of the respondents were unable to answer (i.e. answering them with the response "Don't Know"). It was further agreed that the list of questions be revised and resubmitted to the entire Committee for approval.

The subcommittee for the information bulletin submitted a report which was accepted by the Committee on Instruction as corrected. The Chairman of the Committee on Instruction will send the questions to Dean Polowczyk with a covering letter. He will request the Dean to reply to the Committee on Instruction so that this Committee can issue an information bulletin.

Dr. Stuchin reported on two grant proposals for staff development for which Dr. Sue Wilcox is still looking for sources of funding. The first is Faculty Options (FOCUS), wherein the faculty can improve their skills or change their career. It was reported that the Carnegie Foundation was not interested in this. The second proposal is the ISR training program for which additional funding support is being sought.

Professor Pomerantz began a discussion of another form of student evaluation of faculty that is produced by Summa Information Systems.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis d. Alpert

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