MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY, APR. 8, 1980

Present: I. Berger, Chairman
        M. Chang, D. Hadgis, K. Howard, D. McCulloch, W. Sokolsky,
        C. Sorge and M. Wise.

Dr. Berger, the Chairman, opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. "Due to the transportation problem (subway and bus strike) we may not stay until 5 p.m. today," it was suggested.

Prof. Sorge reported that Prof. Pitman had been asked by the Bronx State Hospital to set up an in-service education program for nurses. Therefore, she will be very busy until the end of May. However, Prof. Pitman had promised "to provide something very stimulating for the Instruction Committee" when the date of her talk in the Committee is confirmed.

Dr. Berger reminded the Committee that instructors have the option of administering the Student Questionnaire in the Spring semester if they wish to do so. Some question had been raised on the unqualified spring use of the Questionnaire. Perhaps the statement: "if not in the Fall, then the Questionnaire should be used in the Spring" may be considered a possible change.

Dr. Berger then announced that he had sent out invitations to the faculty to add or delete words or questions in the existing Questionnaire. By the end of this month, he hopes that the Departmental Representatives will return all replies or remarks that they received from their Departments.

At 4 p.m. Dr. Chang had to leave for a class. The following account was what transpired during the rest of the meeting as recorded by Dr. Berger.

(1) Dr. Berger reminded the Committee that our Library has many useful tools for faculty and curriculum development projects, e.g. E.R.I.C. (the Educational Digest, Encyclopedia of Education etc.)

(2) It is unsettling to be working in a climate of uncertainty over the future structure of our Committee (to be determined in the new governance plan).

(3) Two motions presented for on-going discussions were as follows:
   (a) Each Department should issue a statement of behavioral objectives, standards, and course of study outline for all offerings (as is presently done in the Nursing Dept. among others.)
   (b) There should be an appropriate required writing component for all courses in the College, and it should be reflected in students' grades.
The second motion is unlikely to be universally welcomed. It is an example of a policy recommendation of substantial educational merit, but it has little chance of implementation (for a variety of good and not-so-good reasons).

Further, the motion (and accompanying discussion of it) is a good example of one of the useful services of the Committee on Instruction to stimulate, excite, prod, dramatize both the obvious and the relatively unconsidered.

It is a consensus of the Committee that even manifestly good policy recommendations should not be imposed on Departments or teachers but that ideas be publicized, explored, endorsed, etc. The decision to adopt recommended techniques or policies should be left to departments and individual teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Mabel L. Chang
Secretary