BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of the City University of New York

COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Minutes of the Meeting
12/2/82


The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

The minutes of November 18 were accepted as written.

Professor Pomerantz introduced Dr. Jim Ryan who had come to speak to the Committee about the formulation and funding of a professional development proposal.

Professor Sokolsky, responding to Dr. Polowczyk's request that this Committee give input for a grant to deal with problems of working in industry, teaching in other units of CUNY, etc., advised that the Professional Staff Congress had held workshops to train people in data processing and remedial English. This effort was limited in scope and nothing else of this nature is being planned by the PSC or CUNY.

Dr. Ryan indicated that he will not be in the Grants Office beyond the first of the year, when a newly hired grants professional will be in charge. He said that the Committee would be working with the new grants officer and urged the formulation of a proposal dealing with staff development. Some major areas to be considered are:

1) Retraining of existing faculty.
2) Placing of faculty from CUNY in other institutions or in industry.
3) Counseling out of faculty who wish to leave the institution. These people may be given funds to ease the transition. Dr. Ryan emphasized that it would be difficult to secure funding for this component. He felt there would be more success with grants dealing with retraining and renewal.

Dr. Ryan stated that the easiest place for any of us to move would be within the CUNY system. However, there may be a problem, as faculty in other institutions might feel threatened. He said that it might be easier to move faculty into industry on a temporary basis and that some of the skills of faculty members might be needed in industry. Such faculty would continue to receive salary, they would be released from classes.

The first thing to do would be to find out whether any of our colleagues would be willing to do this. The second step would be to initiate contact with foundations and corporations to see if there is any interest. Dr. Ryan further suggested that a one-page abstract be drawn up stating the problem and the solution; this abstract could serve as a request for assistance. He said he felt that an internal feasibility study would be a good beginning.
Professor Sokolsky suggested government as a possibility. Professor Pomerantz asked Professor Sokolsky to look into the possibilities of going into government. Professor Anderson will look into the possibilities of going into business.

The following subcommittees were also appointed:

Janet Brand, Diane Hadgis, and Marian Wise were appointed to the Subcommittee on Career Counseling for faculty who wish to retire or to seek work outside of the College.

Susan Foreman and Annette Peretz were appointed to the Subcommittee on Retraining and Renewal. They will check out what is being done in other parts of academia, and what we need to do at Bronx Community College.

Dr. Ryan emphasized that the Committee on Instruction and Professional Development must first assess the feelings of the faculty. The needs of industry must also be assessed.

Professor Bates asked about the possibility of setting up an in-house consulting firm. Faculty members from the business departments could interview companies to see what their needs are.

Professor Riley stated that the Chancellor has said that this is what he intends to do. Professor Riley further stated that it was his feeling that many people at the College will interact negatively with the Committee about some of these proposals.

Professor Juechter said that most of us do not want to feel we are being forced into retraining. She suggested that a needs assessment be done and that faculty be asked where they think we should be going.

Dr. Stuchin agreed that a needs assessment should take first priority. Committees can be held as they are and a needs assessment will be done and a questionnaire drawn up.

Professor Sokolsky stated that the proposal should be gotten into shape and given to Dr. Polowczyk so that the Committee could turn its attention to its major function: instruction.

Professor Pomerantz advised that the first workshop next semester will be on testing. Lorraine Diamond will be the speaker.

Professor Juechter emphasized that the faculty has to be sensitized. She said that she had a sample questionnaire that might be revised and put into a different format. It was decided to form a subcommittee to rewrite the questionnaire. The members of the subcommittee are: J. Stuchin, A. Peretz, V. Anderson, and J. Juechter. These four people will meet and will make up questions which they will bring to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be December 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Wise, Acting Secretary