

CUNY COUNCIL ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held February 24, 2006 at 2:00 PM, Baruch College

One Bernard Baruch Way, 55 Lexington Avenue @ East 24th Street

Department of Modern Languages Faculty Lounge

Vertical Campus, 6th Floor, Room 6-210

PRESENT:

Anne-Marie Bourbon (QCC), Lorena Ellis (QCC) Giulia Guarnieri (BCC) Jenny-Lin Martinez (QCC), Unsook Park (JJC), Debra Popkin (Baruch), Oneida Sánchez (BMCC), Liliana Soto-Fernández (JJC), Elizabeth Starčević (President, CCNY), Catherine Theobald (CSI), Carmen Valle (City Tech), Gloria Waldman (York), Alan Wallis (BMCC)

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM

1. Welcome from the President.

2. Anne Marie Bourbon made a motion to recognized Eda Henao's good work. Accepted.

3. Minutes of the February 24, 2006 meeting were corrected and approved.

4. **Treasurer's report.** The balance of the CUNYFL checking account is \$2,220.09

5. President's report:

a. Elizabeth Starčević mentioned that New York State Board of Education has \$65,000 for assessment in foreign languages. For more information go to Eleonard@mail.NYSED.gov

b. New York Education. The Government of the State of New York is funding college education at non-public institutions while it is cutting fund to public institutions. CUNY Council on Foreign Languages does not oppose education in non-public institutions; however, it feels that public sector has to fight for public institutions.

c. Barbara Bowen urges faculty to write to your college President to push for a contract. Chancellor Goldstein received a salary increment of 40 %.

d. A conference on socio-linguistic will be held at the Graduate Center on April 6 and 7.

6. Discussion.

a. Lorena Ellis took up again a suggestion stated in the previous minutes regarding the implementation of a CUNY Council award to honor members for outstanding contribution to the field. Her candidate for it was Dorothy James (Hunter College). While everyone agreed with this decision, Anne-Marie Bourbon suggested the possibility to recognize active members also. Gloria Waldman proposed to have one life-time and one active award which could be for a part-time or a full-time faculty.

b. It was recommended that CUNY Council pay for the membership/registration of one member who is presenting at ACTFL. A discussion followed as to whether CUNY Council should also pay for a member presenting at MLA. Debra Popkin and Lorena Ellis agreed that ACTFL should be given preference because this organization is about pedagogy. However, Lorena Ellis indicated that this decision should be made on a yearly basis. Gloria Waldman brought up the possibility of rotating organization and recipient so that different members of the Council get the opportunity to participate in these most important and edifying conferences and workshops. **Conclusion:** This year CUNY Council voted unanimously to fund a member presenting at the ACTFL.

c. George Otte wants more representation in SCORE. CUNY Council feels it is more important to get someone in curricula because not many people in SCORE have a sense of good language requirements. Otte is aware that CUNY Council wants to participate. Members were urged to find out who is their campus representative to SCORE.

d. Liliana Soto-Fernández informed about the University Wide Faculty Senate Committee on Disability Web-site not having anything about foreign languages. She will send information to all chairs suggesting sending someone to a workshop to help update Web-site.

e. Debra Popkin will represent CUNY Council at Northeastern Conference. She will bring up on-line courses

and assessment.

7. **Assessment.**

- a. Laura Callahan (CCNY) brought what she did in one class: a third semester Spanish course. The debate is between accuracy and communication “communicanesse”. She allows communication to rule. Callahan said that students do not do well in fill in blanks, and to create with the language is what is important.
- b. Soto-Fernández (JJC) maintained that accuracy was needed to achieve full communication. She inquired if the Regent’s rules were used. The answer was no.
- c. Guarnieri (BCC) talked about the oral aspect of her exams. At BCC Italian and Spanish final examinations have a ten minutes oral component that is 50% of the mark. Students prepare a previously assigned topic and answer relevant questions at the time of the exam. Guarnieri also mentioned that at BCC, professors avoid writing on the board as much as possible to promote oral communication. Starčević brought up the unfairness of oral only instructions for those who are visual learners.
- d. Soto-Fernández and Ellis have students leave a telephone messages on their telephone as the oral component of their final examination.
- e. Nuria Morgado (CSI) explained what she does in her course Written Composition Spanish IV. This is a course for majors. She gives the course guidelines at the beginning of the semester. During the semester, small parts of the curriculum are tested. During the next to the last week of class, there is an examination that tests the ability to communicate, not the grammar.
- f. Next meeting, Jennifer Eddy and Mauricio Santoro will speak about assessment.

Respectfully submitted by:

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