Minutes
LACUNY Instruction Committee
February 24, 2006
Room 415, Newman Library
Baruch College

Meeting called to order at 2:08 p.m.

In attendance:

Dawn Amsberry (LaGuardia), Robert Farrell (BMCC), Charles Keyes (LaGuardia), Anne Leonard (City Tech), Sandra Marcus (QCC), Steven Ovadia (LaGuardia), Clay Williams (Hunter)

C. Williams gave synopsis on instruction at Hunter College. This included the fact that there is a new Associate Chief, Luis Gonzalez who is in charge of the branch libraries and a new Dean of the Education Department. The Hunter Library is now teaching one-off instruction sessions in approximately 30% of English 101 courses and 85% of the required graduate level Education Foundations course in the Education Department. Hunter is also creating a database of faculty email addresses to be used for outreach especially with adjunct faculty. Partnering with the English Department has improved outreach and brought more classes into the library for instruction. Hunter is also interested in soliciting suggestions for instructional technology that could facilitate library instruction.

R. Farrell stated that the BMCC library has established a very good connection with the Speech Department and has been in discussions to get a mandatory library instruction session in all sections of a basic skills speech course. They will be looking at student research project bibliographies as a vehicle to assess the library instruction outcomes. BMCC is also considering using the Hostos Community College model (as described in earlier committee meetings by M. Laskin of Hostos CC) of creating drop-in instructional workshops for students.

A. Leonard reported on the acquisition and installation of NetOp on the instruction machines at City Tech. R. Farrell and S. Marcus described ways this workstation control software could be used to reinforce classroom instruction.

C. Keyes opened discussion on the putting together a conference focusing on information literacy and stated that Chief Librarian Jane Devine (LaGuardia) is very supportive. Issues about funding, organization, format, scheduling, and participants were discussed. C. Keyes stated he would investigate avenues of funding and report back to the Committee.

D. Amsberry, R. Farrell, and S. Ovadia led a discussion of Meola’s article, “Chucking the Checklist,” which highlights several areas of teaching Web evaluation. Issues that came up during the discussion involved quantitative versus qualitative approaches to teaching evaluation. One difficulty that was discussed was how to develop and hone students’ inductive skills if they’ve never been given a framework to begin with. The discussion also emphasized the importance of reinforcing evaluative skills throughout the college curriculum.

Next meeting scheduled for March 24, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., Room 415, Newman Library, Baruch College.

Meeting adjourned 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Charles Keyes
Co-Chair
LACUNY Instruction Committee