Members in Attendance:
Alexandra de Luise, Queens; Lisa Ellis, Baruch College; Robert Farrell, Borough of Manhattan CC; Jeanne Galvin, Kingsborough CC; Jacqueline Gill, City College; Charles Keyes, LaGuardia CC; Sandra Marcus, Queensborough CC; Keith Muchowski, NYC Tech; Ellen Sexton, John Jay College; Scott Sheidlower, York College; Susan Voge, Lehman College

Prior to talking about items on the agenda, S. Sheidlower asked about the difference between this committee and the LILAC Committee. This question inspired a lively give and take, as some members serve on both committees and there are many shared interests. Without the benefit of formal mission statements to confirm facts, those at the meeting came up with the following:

LILAC is an advisory committee, reports to the Council of Chief Librarians and has appointed members. Curtis Kendrick, University Librarian, is on the committee, as is Lucinda Zoe, Chief Librarian at Hostos CC. It meets under the guidance of CUNY/80th St. It strives to move forward on major initiatives that will bring information literacy to the forefront throughout CUNY.

The LACUNY Instruction Committee is a voluntary committee open to all LACUNY members with an interest in instruction and meets under the guidance of LACUNY. Our agenda is less formal than LILAC’s, with the emphasis being on librarians as instructors, what happens in the classroom, teaching styles and techniques, teaching collaborations, and the role of IL in the curriculum.

1. Update on conference preparations and grant. C. Keyes updated members on the CUNY professional development grant that was applied for, along with A. de Luise, R. Farrell and Scott White of LaGuardia CC (as principal investigators). The grant, if successful, will help support a series of three symposia sponsored by this committee on the theme of information literacy within the curriculum with national speakers already confirmed. They include William Baedke, Betsy Barefoot and Tom Eland.

2. Elections for new chair/chairs. C. Keyes and A. de Luise were unanimously re-elected to serve as co-chairs for one more year.
3. Schedule of meetings for coming year. This topic was tabled until we know the LACUNY Executive Board schedule for 2006/07.

4. New Business. C. Keyes proposed the idea of one or more future meetings being more theme-oriented. He envisions different institutions hosting it on their campus, with librarians from the host institution talking about instruction efforts at their campus, with a visit to see their labs/classrooms. Alternatively, a meeting would consist of CUNY librarians who author articles on instruction, presenting their findings to the committee.

5. Prior to today's special speaker, Bill Wynne of ETS, C. Keyes shared with others that his school will be a beta test site for an online assessment instrument devised by University of S. Dakota.

6. Discussion of article by Stanley Wilder, “Information Literacy Makes All the Wrong Assumptions.” (from The Chronicle Review http://www.bright.net/~dlackey/WrongAssumptions.htm Members had varying opinions on the article and the assumptions made. Some thought that the examples cited in the article pointed to a one-sided vision of information literacy. Others thought the author separated research from skills, thus downplaying students' abilities. Wilder sees a role for librarians as teachers of reading and writing at the reference desk. But librarians also teach critical thinking skills, something strangely missing mention in the article.

Special Event

The meeting was followed by a special presentation by Mr. Bill Wynne of ETS (Educational Testing Services). Light refreshments were served, with thanks to the LACUNY Executive Board.

Correction to minutes of March 24, 2006; under E. Harris, in describing two credit IL elective course with online section, it should be noted that the online section is taught by the Chief Librarian at Medgar Evers. Because of her efforts to market all three sections of the course, E. Harris was able to give her impressions about the online section.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexandra de Luise (Queens College) &
Charles Keyes (LaGuardia Community College)
Co-Chairs