**CUNY Council on World Language Study**

**Minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2012**

**In attendance**: Alicia Ramos, presiding, Fabiola Salek, Eva C. Vásquez, David Cruz de Jesús, Beatriz Carolina Peña, Habiba Boumlik, Lorena B. Ellis, Roxana Delbene, Noëlle Rouxel-Cubberly, Lisa Marie Anderson, Eeke Nicolai, Debra Popkin, Maria Enrico, Elena Martínez, Oneida M. Sánchez, Francisco Montaño, Laurel Cummins, Alexander Lamazares, María G. Hernández, Maan (Jenny) Lin, A. Meléndez, K. Eckhard Kuhn-Osius, L. Soto-Fernández.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm.

1. The members in attendance introduced themselves.
2. The minutes of the May 11, 2012 meeting were approved.
3. Jenny Maan Lin, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer’s Report.
4. The Council has a balance of $1,715.27 in its checking account.
5. The Council has a balance of $1,752.08 in its savings account.
6. The Treasurer announced that she will make requests at the next meeting for this year’s payments.

d. In conjunction with the Treasurer’s Report, Debra Popkin announced the upcoming NECTFL Conference to be held in Baltimore. She announced the $200.00 dues necessary for the Council to continue to serve on the Conference’s Advisory Board. Debra Popkin also announced that the Conference is seeking submissions for workshops and panels and recommended this venue for junior colleagues.

1. Alicia Ramos, President, gave the President’s Report.
2. **PATHWAYS:**
3. The President reported on the request to EVC Alexandra Logue, sent out in May, for a credit/hour waiver, accompanied by data, and copied to the Board of Trustees, and on the correspondence that had ensued.
4. The Council discussed at length the recent events at QCC over a vote on credits and hours for composition classes taken by the English Dept., and the threat of reprisals that the vote elicited from the administration at QCC. A letter from the QCC Foreign Languages Dept referencing these events was discussed. Among other things, the letter expressed the dissatisfaction members of the QCC FL Dept felt that circumstances had forced them to vote against their best pedagogical judgment in matters of credits and hours.
5. Different campuses reported on the current credit/hour status of their lower-level language courses:
6. BMCC – their courses have lost both a credit and an hour, but are the only courses the College has in Flexible Core A (World Cultures)
7. Lehman – the courses have gone down in the following way: 101 went from 4/4 to 3/4. 102 went from 5/5 to 3/4.
8. York – the courses will be at 3 credits, 4 hours (they used to be at 4/4).
9. QCC – the College will not pay for the 4th hour
10. BCC – the courses have gone from 4/4 to 3/3 but the College will fund out of its internal budget a 4th conference hour for the first two semesters of all the languages
11. CSI – the 1st course will be at 3/3, the second at 3/4 due to the flexibility of the College Option.
12. A discussion took place over faculty governance at the level of the CUNY-wide committees charged with approving courses in the different “Buckets”.
13. It was suggested that language departments create new courses for Pathways parallel to existing ones, in order to preserve best practice courses among our offerings.
14. There was some discussion of the possibility that the College Option may be subject to approval by CUNY Central.

**II. Institute on Language Education in a Transcultural Context (ILETC).**

The President reported on this new CUNY Institute initiative. The Council asked about the effect the Institute would have on FL study at CUNY. The President reported that José del Valle, head of the ILETC Advisory Board had been invited to speak to the Council at this meeting but was unable to attend; the new Interim Director Greet Van Belle would be invited to our next meeting.

**III.** **Seal of Biliteracy.**

The President was consulted via e-mail on the new “Seal of Biliteracy”, which was approved by New York State over the summer; California also approved a “Seal of Biliteracy” earlier this year.This seal will identify on the high school diploma or transcript those students with “proficiency” in more than one language. More specific information is needed on how students will actually acquire this academic distinction and how it may impact post-secondary foreign language study.

**IV. UFS work on creating an alternative system (to Pathways) to improve transfer at CUNY**

The President gave an update on this work, and in this context, announced the conference October 12 at John Jay on a sensible transfer alternative to Pathways.

1. Under ongoing business, Alexander Lamazares announced that BCC has purchased the Brigham Young WebCape placement exam, and that BCC is interested in knowing if other campuses use the exam, and if so, if they might share information on cut-offs used for different courses. Representatives from Queens, Hunter and John Jay said that they use the exam and offered to share cut-off numbers. The importance of a writing sample for heritage speakers in administering placement exams was brought up.
2. Francisco Montaño asked if travel funds for conferences could be made available for a few Graduate Teaching Fellows. Alicia Ramos mentioned that there is a reimbursement form for GTFs for travel which comes from the Awards Committee.
3. The Technology Committee’s report was given – members of the CCWLS were urged again to sign up on CUNY Commons.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Cummins

Secretary