**CUNY Council on World Language Study**

**Minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2012**

**In attendance**: Alicia Ramos, presiding, Fabiola Salek, Eva C. Vásquez, David Cruz de Jesús, Beatriz Carolina Peña, Habiba Boumlik, Lorena B. Ellis, Noëlle Rouxel-Cubberly, Lisa Marie Anderson, Elke 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, Ping Xu, L. Marchante-Aragon, E. Allen, Antonella Ansani, Olga Casanova-Burgess.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

1. Professor Michael Fabricant, the PSC-CUNY Treasurer, announced an upcoming conference on issues related to Pathways. He also gave a talk on issues related to Pathways and the current status of resistance to Pathways across CUNY. Following this discussion, the Council decided to lend its support to a call for a moratorium on Pathways.
2. The minutes of the September 21, 2012 meeting were approved as amended.
3. Jenny Maan Lin, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer’s Report.
4. The Council has a balance of $1,516.36 in its checking account.
5. The Council has a balance of $1,753.84 in its savings account.
6. The Treasurer announced attendees should bring in $5.00 at the next meeting to cover the holiday party expenses.
7. The cutoffs for the BYU Webcape placement exam used at Hunter and John Jay were discussed as BCC will be using the exam as well.
8. D. Popkin announced that the Haitian writer Gary Victor would be speaking at Baruch on Nov. 6. F. Salek announced that on Nov. 8, York was hosting the 24th conference of the Haitian Association. It was announced that on Nov. 12 BMCC was sponsoring the US premiere of a film on an Italian-American theme. The retirement dinner Dec. 7 for Anne-Marie Bourbon was announced, with RSVP to go to Lorena Ellis.
9. At 3:04, Professor A. Ramos, the President of the CCWLS, welcomed Dr. Greet Van Belle, the Director of the new Institute within CUNY, the ILETC (Institute on Language Education in a Transcultural Context). Dr. Van Belle introduced herself and the Institute. She stated that when she became Director the Institute was already in existence, and that her mission is to give it some kind of shape. Some areas that she stated she will be concerned with will be instruction for heritage speakers, research and development, and hybrid teaching. A question and answer session then ensued regarding the contents of the ‘Report on Foreign Language Learning at the City University of New York’ dated January 2012. It was stated that the Council is and has been vibrant and continuously active for many years, and that its members already communicate constantly on important issues. Some of the other topics brought up included concerns that the projects proposed by ILETC are redundant with what is already taking place in CUNY foreign language departments, concerns about the top-down nature of ILETC, both in its creation and in its functioning, the notion of ‘tent-pole’ campuses for certain languages, and also the need to address the study of foreign language as an intellectual exercise and as part of a general education. At the end of this extensive discussion, Professor Ramos, President of the CCWLS, asked whether it was within the purview of Dr. Van Belle to put together a plan of action for the next two or three years for review by the CCWLS. She asked the Director to put together a working document explaining her vision. One suggestion from the CCWLS for the Institute was to offer workshops, since some campuses don’t have the resources for that. Another suggestion was the centralization of testing for exemption in less commonly taught languages. This discussion ended and Dr. Van Belle left at 4:35. It was stated that a link concerning the Institute exists in the CUNY Master Plan.
10. At 4:35 the Council began discussing and editing the application form for faculty development incentive awards. Professor Lorena Ellis stated that she would send the revised form around again for final comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Cummins

Secretary