

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**LatCrit Board Meeting**  
Sunday, October 9, 2005  
Meeting Commenced 9:36 a.m.

Please get comments to Beth by Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, [lyon@law.villanova.edu](mailto:lyon@law.villanova.edu).

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**1. Initial Attendees**

Steve Bender

Frank Rudy Cooper

Roberto Corrada  
Nancy Ehrenreich  
Angela Harris  
Beth Lyon  
Margaret Montoya  
Charles Pouncy  
Hugo Rojas  
Mary Romero  
Martín Saavedra  
Frank Valdés  
Charles Venator Santiago  
Robert Westley

## **2. Board Meeting Date and Time**

Decisions:

A. The board will next meet at AALS in Washington, D.C., over dinner on Saturday, January 7, and for two hours in the morning on Sunday, January 8.

B. At the January meeting, we will finalize the schedule for next October's conference/board/retreat meetings.

Discussion:

The board meeting should take place before or during the conference. One possibility is to hold 2 meetings, once at LatCrit conference and once at AALS. Mary can't miss another Monday of work for the post-LatCrit meetings.

Length of the board meeting is generally 2 to 6 hours

We've tried before conference – people don't come or arrive late, they are distracted, also it would conflict with the junior faculty workshop.

It would be Thursday morning with Wed. travel.

It could be Thurs. afternoon.

There could be a truncated meeting at the Conference.

At AALS, no LatCrit stuff before Saturday morning nor after Sunday afternoon.

Luxor Hotel contract for Sunday night – we will be finishing late Sunday night – working dinner, done at 9 Sunday night.

AALS runs Wed-Saturday

We need 4 hours – Saturday dinner if no SALT dinner, and quick meeting Sunday morning.

Sunday is wide open.

Virtual participation in board meeting:

Need to include southern and non-law participants; possibility of virtual participation. Otherwise it would over time become exclusionary and skewed.

Web-conference is better than phone, but you would need computer, web-cam.

Twice per year travel for southern board members would be hard this year because there were heavy administrative expenses this year. This year's administrative expenses were inflated by one-time expenses: intellectual property, website.

We could defer this discussion until then.

Motion to table this discussion until AALS. Agree to meet at AALS and decide the schedule for next October.

### **3. Role and Timing of the Retreat**

Decision: to decide about role and timing of the retreat at the January meeting.

Discussion:

Proposals: collapse – 1 day, done after dinner tonight

Board meeting is public, so it could work to collapse retreat into board meeting.

9-noon Sunday – board

lunch

at 1, begin retreat

decisions made at retreat that should be made in the context of a board meeting

Goals of Retreat - Long term planning, cultivating people we want to bring into the community.  
How to achieve both goals.

As treasurer, Steve has had to skip parts of the post-annual conference board meeting – to respond to master accounts, negotiate with hotel, finalize conference issues, put together treasurer's report, deal with after-conference receipts.

A lot of board members are involved with conference planning

Sunday morning is a good time to pull new people into the next year's conference, though they may be asleep.

Problem with current format: being away from campus and family too long.

Getting notes for the checklist from the retreat has been hard.

There have been other discussions about programs at the retreat that didn't include the board but that should have.

That creates two sets of decisionmakers: board, and retreat.

It's a matter of corporate governance – corporate culture needs to change.

Two board meetings are preferable because once only at conference is not enough time.

Collapse retreat into board meeting or on same day as board meeting.

Continue to hold officer retreat.

One day board meeting.

Consensus may be developing to hold:

Project meetings at the conference.

Board meeting at conference.

Retreat being separate from board meeting.

Saturday lunch:  
Hold the project team meetings at the lunch  
Appoint rapporteurs to the board meeting

Problem with this plan: need for synergy of reports – so that project teams will know what the others are doing.

Someone on the board should be working with every single project team  
To allow for approval of monies being spent – someone here for the discussions  
Project team people report to the board.  
Reports can be put up online.  
Oral project team reports at board meeting.

#### **4. Number and Status of Projects**

Decision: Between now and the AALS meeting, we should review the projects and close out the ones that are no longer going forward. Board coordinators for each project should report in January.

Discussion:

Evolutionary process – steering committee – all projects undertaken with board approval and with involvement and affirmative consent of steering committee.

Some projects have been non-operational for a couple of years. Some have been saying that we should drop inactive projects from the portfolio.

Between now and the AALS meeting, we should review the projects and close out the ones that are no longer going forward. We should be nimble about responding to projects that have not continued.

Brochure is printed every year, and costs money. It needs to be an updated and concrete statement of the projects.

#### **5. Interdisciplinarity: need for faculty development to include non-law academics**

Issue raised, no discussion or decision.

#### **6. Open or Closed Board Meetings**

Decision: at the January board meeting, we will make a decision about how to handle non-board member participation at board meetings. Mary will bring information about how other groups handle board meetings.

Discussion:

Board meetings should be presumptively closed. The purpose of having closed meetings is to allow private, free discussion of projects. We need a larger discussion how many projects we have.

It's opting in when you have SALT nomination – who would come is not necessarily who you want. Most people would never come to a board meeting unless you asked them to come – they are people you want to have on your board.

If we need to seriously consider the portfolio, we can close the door.

We expanded the board to make the people who were active on the teams on the board, to close the gap between project people and board members.

Board meeting can have executive session but exclusion can be problematic. Be careful about policy of exclusion.

We're used to the corporate form and its attributes.

Conference offers ample opportunity for frank discussions. The board meeting is made in a context.

We've had closed meetings a couple of times, some of them long.

We can always go into a closed session when we need to.

We don't want to become a corporate board.

We *are* a corporate board – we have liability, we have to make informed decisionmaking. Board members have to give informed consent.

Having an open board allows us to make informed decisionmaking.

In the humanities, business meetings are open and board meetings are closed. American Sociological Association, AAAS, Law & Society, many groups have a business meeting.

Business meeting – people can make proposals – get a feeling of what people are thinking. It's open to everyone and is often the most interesting part of the meeting. Separate board meeting that is closed.

The big difference is whether you invite open participation.

Sea change in how we run the organization. How that model of running the organization works. Let's make this decision at AALS to discuss it. Gather information from other organizations. Not a decision to make lightly or quickly.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Administrative expenses:

IP protection - \$6000-\$7000 expended

It's actually \$5,380.

Significant costs for third party payments to register marks

Attorney fees are approx. \$3700

Attorney is continuing to monitor and talk with people at PTO about their questions.  
Website: \$1000 for Camilo's reimbursement  
And another \$500  
Officers' and Director's insurance: application for a bid was submitted a couple of months ago but we haven't heard anything back from them.  
Papers they needed to formulate a bid/amount for us were sent in.  
Last year's conference – we ended up making a few thousand dollars.  
This year the meals were high.  
The dinners were over \$70 including tax.  
A/V extremely expensive.  
Corkage, hospitality suite.  
Hopefully we won't be at this caliber hotel again.  
We won't make or lose more than a couple thousand: we're between making \$5000 and losing \$3000.  
LatCrit XII may be as expensive.

It's not really a treasury-building proposition and probably won't be in the next two years.

We need to meet with Gil and his team at AALS in DC.

Certificate of Deposit: Steve came to us with a request for \$50,000 year and a half, at 2 percent interest rate.

A couple of months later, March, Steve realized interest rates were going up on the main account, but it was a blended interest rate – hard to see whether it included the CD. The CD hadn't been obtained. The bank said the request for a CD had been kicked back by the bank's main office b/c there was no corporate resolution signed by the board.

**Motion 1: to create a 50,000 one year CD. at First Bank at market rate**

Approved, No opposition

Luis Mariano – owed us 40,000, which includes 10,000 for both of last south-north exchanges. We just billed him a few months ago.

US Bank has jerked Steve around. Tried to impose substantial charges on us – Steve got them all reversed. Asked them to move from 1.34 to 2 percent.

Roberto wants to change banks to First Bank. It's under shadow of Wells Fargo so the service is exceptional.

Any bank wants to deal with one treasurer.

Steve is technically not the treasurer now, he is the co-chair. But Steve is still on the conference issues. Angela, Mary and Roberto are on the account.

**8. Board Leadership Issue arising from Switch in Conference to the Fall**

**Motion 2: Make Officer Transitions in December and Extend Officer Term**

Approved, no opposition

Point of information: Technically Steve will become co-chair in January.

Discussion:

Treasurer and Secretary transition – needs to happen on a fiscal/annual year basis, so officer transition should happen at the AALS meeting.

Roberto will continue secretarial duties and Steve will continue treasurer duties through December.

**9. Check approval and signing policy**

Decision: for Roberto to propose a policy at the January meeting.

Discussion:

With email we have a written record of approvals.

In the hurly burly of signing these checks, policy of email approval by all co-chairs sometimes falls by the wayside.

Existing policy - \$1000 or more, 2 out of three co-chairs

Virtual access to bank account – any board member can see the money flows without controlling them

Approval for a particular project budget – separate approval process – makes people feel uncomfortable that approvals have to come at both levels – discomfort with using one’s own credit card knowing that additional approval is needed. It is necessary to formalize the resource allocation process.

The need for a check on what people

It has been approved, before co-chair signs check, but presumption is that there is no question.

Now: 1200 plus all co-chairs approve

For *everything*, 1 co-chair to sign the check

Annual resource allocation process – we have not been able to operationalize.

**Five minute break**

*Sylvia Lazos and Raquel Aldana joined the discussion*

**10. LatCrit XI**

Decision: The theme will relate to immigration and global playgrounds. Sylvia and Raquel provided an updated draft theme description for the call for papers and are waiting for comments.

Discussion:

2 issues:

1. call for papers

substantive theme – immigration, linked w/US as declining superpower

2. local themes – panel for each local theme – connected to intellectual movement

U.S. war on terror – response to real or perceived threat by United States

Attempt to control the entire global market – consequences for global migration – conceiving the tie – the reaction that the US is taking to real and perceived threat in role as an empire

Sylvia – think about it as an impact – tie is not that close – challenge to neo-liberal policy

Theme we should continue with – global level – superpower issue

Local level – immigration

Need to tweak the draft to make the theme and the connection clearer

Impact of declining US empire on these issues

That would be a plenary on question of current direction of US global hegemony and how that will affect immigration

Theme of empire in decline would be a different theme – creates artificial militarized borders

Migration and labor – perception of more empire – Iraq and Katrina

Having states militarize their borders – focus on border and empire

After Empire: Immigration, Labor, etc. makes it more timely and topical

The UNLV folks are focused on immigrant work force

First plenary – global issues, then devolve to local issues

Start with provocative: borders and immigration: how does declining empire affect flows? Anti-immigrant sentiment can be seen as reaction to disintegrating empire.

Immigration is a hot issue in labor right now.

What flows are being stopped.

Disintegration: the human. Connection to disintegration of empire is still in question.

Empire trying to assert itself against globalization/multilateralization that it can't control?

Local impacts of immigration, transformation of local/southwest landscape – pressure from borders, etc. Want to highlight how a city is and has been changing. How a city used to be a national destination is now a global city. We're hooked on immigrants, it's an addiction.

Sumi: Consider starting with last paragraph. I've seen a lot on the after-empire theme – that would be less attractive. Pursuit of pleasure and overindulgence and need to subordinate those who supply that pleasure.

Tigres del Norte – vamos a las vegas – song by Mexican immigrants – they’re pursuing the dream

Historical playgrounds – Cuba and Tijuana, New Orleans, Cancun

A number of LatCrit scholars, including Richard Delgado have been absorbed in thinking about exotic locations and playgrounds

Working and Living in the Global Playground

Bread and circuses – making us consume, to be gluttons so that we don’t see, Empire ties into that

Commodification of human beings – explicit in Las Vegas – human trafficking, food labor, sex industry

Encourages over-consumption – the spectacle blinds us

Façade and the back – the comfortable façade and the reality of the backstage – you see the hotel, but not the undocumented and trafficked workers, propped by

Frontstage and backstage – Goffman, sociology

Interesting session – Tom Nazario – gap between rich and poor – increasing divide

Exporting desire for consumption

Immigration and global playground – is exciting

What’s feeding the over-indulgence

Failure on war on terrorism – clash that is operating – the decline of an empire

Recent international labor attorney conference in Ciudad Mexico – attorneys in Canada – recruiting workers in Mexico to come to Canada

Yes on 5 prop – Vegas unions were fighting this – competitive with CA casinos – now having to compete with casinos in CA

Has the dynamic of labor in Vegas

Mercedes Castillo, president of LALSA

Although Boyd gaming – provided chairs – not an issue

Logistics for call for papers:

We want to be able to make it available at the annual meeting

SALT meeting, SALT dinner, hospitality suite.

Roberto will send a conference planning manual to Sylvia and Raquel

Big November 1 mailing is planned

Most of it should be done – we can give more feedback later in the meeting.

Email – who wants to work for LatCrit XI –

Add Sylvia and Raquel to LatCrit XI

Planning Committee:

1. call for papers
2. keynote
3. One signature plenary theme panel
4. One opening roundtable

## **11. Membership Structure and Conference Registration Fee Proposals from Mary**

### **Motion 3: Membership**

Adopt Membership model with sample 3 categories, with further discussion about amounts at the next board meeting.

Unanimously passed

### **Motion 4: Conference Fees**

Adopt Sample 3, and Mary will bring back the numbers in January

Unanimously passed

Discussion:

Treasurer can't also do membership work

People in different situations – we should have a tiered system.

Not understanding that the registration includes the food

You lose people when you want people to engage

One fee – then we're all here together

Registration fee

People don't understand what the conference fee entails

Membership is a way for people to buy in and contribute to the enterprise

Can we make donations to the Jerome Culp Memorial

LatCrit is only asking for service

But for people with more complicated situations – they know how to write a check

Membership administration can be handled externally – as a fee

An integrated person –

Q: Would membership be tied with Clave?

What do you get as a member?

L&S you get a L&S publication

Scholarships are only open to members – if you only charge students \$15, then they are members

Membership stuff is done through a press – Johns Hopkins University Press tracks Asian

American Studies. American Studies also does the press.

Dave Chavkin is a SALT volunteer who focuses on membership.

Co-chairs don't have particular tasks assigned to them. There are two positions that need to be used more substantively.

Secretary position – can that position that w/co-chair emeritus and co-chair elect – is it undermandated

The big difficulty with the secretary position now is that they should get corporate contracts – those are kept centrally – if the secretary were doing that, it would not be an undermandated position – if secretary is doing everything they should be doing under bylaws, plus special projects -

## **Lunch Break**

UNLV contributing toward food – registration pays for food – registration includes meals and hospitality suite and materials and T-Shirt

Re: Conference Registration, we don't want ambiguous/vague definitional elements we'll be bogged down defining categories

If you've paid your membership fee, deduct membership fee

Keying registration fee to income as opposed to status

Simplification is key

Cutting out informal process of giving breaks on registration – shuts people out – also is more work for conference planers

Ensure discretion regarding our budget

Travel and hotel are enough of a barrier to overparticipation – not giving

1-2 practicing lawyers come per year, they are not high earners, they often ask for a break b/c they are solo or public interest

Institutional Support – is a vague concept

1/2 of entrants paid late fee – significant revenue there

## **12. Co-Chair Election**

### **Motion 5: Elect Co-Chair**

Unanimously passed

Discussion:

Nancy Ehrenreich is the candidate, we have her statement. She is the only candidate.

## **13. Board member transition**

### **Motion 6: to Increase the Board by One Member and to Appoint Charles Pouncy**

Unanimously passed

### **Motion 7: Co-Chair Emeritus is Chair of Nominating Committee**

Unanimously passed

Decision: Frank and Beth will make a transition report at the next meeting.

Discussion:

Everyone is either here or has a valid excuse for not being here – 2 issues – should we vote not knowing whose term is over to roll over those whose term has expired –  
Need to figure out whose terms are expired – we don't have a good sense of when people started – it is broken down in the notebook

Against rolling people over – it is a prized activity

We can tell from participation in the conference that this is part of professional identity

Behooves us to bring in new people

Makes sense to have new people – how do we bring in new people – don't roll over old members  
Conference organizers are traditionally involved in the board

1. Bylaws say that if you're a board member and miss two meetings in a row then you're not a board member

2. Last year we didn't stagger the terms

3. In the last 2 or three years – we have developed a list of basic board commitments – we need to follow that up

4. Whose terms are up – do we want board members to do a one page statement – all kinds of things are coming up

There are 14 of the 20 members of the board present

We do not have empty slots now, according to our bylaws

Now:

16 of 21 board members are here.

The following members are not here:

Belkys Torres

Berta Hernández-Truyol

Carolina Stefoni

Tayyab Mahmud

Guadalupe Luna

Frank will come with proposal for staggering board members

Sheet of paper – minutes of board meeting at LatCrit VI – staggered the terms

It says whose term is what

Nomination and election process – bylaw requires a call to the community, circulate platform statement by a certain date – that is an act of affirmative inclusion and transparency

Get information to the secretary – Frank will help out with that process

It matters when there is a problem – in SALT co-presidents are consulted when you have to ask someone to get off the board – a process where secretary consults with the co-chairs in order to do that

Secretary handles the transition report - Beth

Packet – let us know if interested in being on the various committees

It can go onto the membership form

#### **14. Email lists**

Decision: Beth and Charles will be cc'd on everything about listservs and the sending of any formal documentation.

Decision: Info-Services project team includes Beth, Belkys, Charles, Roberto

Discussion:

It should be in one basket.

It's part of finalizing the web transition.

Yahoo is not private.

For now, secretary can set up a distribution list – a list of the emails of everyone on each entity.

People can save the list, or access it on the website

Whole list on the website

Conference group

Beth and Frank will take care of this.

We need an understanding right now:

With respect to text stuff - Beth and Charles should be included in any discussion about technology – listserv.

#### **15. Conference Planner**

Decision: to tell Karen that we won't need her next year b/c we have a special model, but that we'll contact her about the following year.

Discussion:

UNLV doesn't need a conference planner.

This was our first year to have Karen – bad year to judge her services because she was having to staff the conference tables

We can do everything Karen did among ourselves – for next year, Sylvia does not want to have a conference planner – overseeing details of food is most of what she does

LatCrit XII – FIU Miami

There was miscommunication about room configuration, food, other issues

Karen is good at what she does but we are a different breed of animal

Everyone has their own specialty – they do it every year

The important thing is to have two people working on the conference – one central person through whom all info flows – that person is in on every conversation but is not bothered with details of other things

Part Time Administrative assistant – 15,000-20,000 per year, plus 2500 for travel. Big commitment. Ron Mize wants to help with website project – could be part of negotiation with Cornell – not just with tech stuff, other LatCrit issues – student assistant, not necessarily continuous.

Conference planning – conference calls, live chats

Luis Mariano had said that he might be interested in discussing the relationship between InterAmericana's like L&S's with Amherst. A faculty slot that is a visiting thing. Different members of the board or co-chair would visit each semester or year. Administrative assistant whose job would be significantly this. That person would be support for Clave. Now is a good time to follow up.

Yanira is here now, so that's supportive.

In the interim, doesn't it make sense to authorize funds for student assistant for one of the co-chairs?

10-20 hours per week. Follow-up on things – send a reminder that conference call is at this time. Many of us can get RA time. RAs have turnover and need training.

At UM they created the LatCrit program as a secretarial assignment, giving secretary one less faculty member. Co-Chairs might be able to do that.

Not everyone gets secretaries. This is a lot of work not to have a secretary. Allocate funds to support Mary. Mary will make a proposal in January. LatCrit Student Fellows program. Menu of possibilities.

## **16. LatCrit XII**

Charles' dean will be at AALS and we could meet with him there.

## **17. Archives:**

Decision: Roberto will follow up with University of Denver to serve as the archive.

ASU Chicano Research Center – they are only limited to only southwest, Mexican American – she will work with identifying some sites.

Cornell would be interested

We want an institution that has a strong presence or materials that are race or Latino related – part of a larger collection – willing to put some \$\$ into advertising

Roberto is proposing University of Denver – we have huge archives – right across street from law school

We are forming a Latino Center – interdisciplinary in focus – Latino professors all over the school – school has \$\$ for four new Latino chairs in various departments

Charles will digitalize it.

## **18. Board Member Project Team Coordinators**

### **Motion 8: Board Will Request that all Project Teams Identify a Coordinator**

Passed unanimously

Decision:

Board Project Assignments

Co-Chairs:

Steve Bender: Annual LatCrit Conference  
Angela Harris: Student Scholar Program/Jerome Culp Lecture  
Mary Romero: Clave, Membership

Co-Chair Emeritus:  
Frank Valdés: South North Exchange, CGC, Clave

Co-Chair Elect:  
Nancy Ehrenreich: Grants, Monographs

Other Board Members:  
Sumi Cho:  
Frank Cooper: Faculty Development Workshop  
Roberto Corrada:  
Berta Hernandez Truyol: Non-Government Organization & International Advisory Committee  
Guadalupe Luna:  
Beth Lyon (Athena): Membership  
Tayyab Mahmud:  
Pedro Malavet: Symposium  
Margaret Montoya: NLLSA, P20 (Educational Pipeline)  
Charles Pouncy:  
Hugo Rojas: Monographs  
Martin Saavedra:  
Carolina Stefoni:  
Belkys Torres: E-Letter  
Charles Venator Santiago: Web/CD/Information Technology  
Robert Westley: CJC/International Comparative Colloquium

Discussion:  
CGC project team – Frank would like the board to direct that all project teams identify a coordinator – arranges conference calls, keeps copies of emails, keeps copies of everything  
Board should ask all project teams to identify

### **19. Conference Checklist**

Please send notes on the checklist to Mary

### **20. Closed Session on CGC**

#### **Motion 9: Board Resolution on CGC and University of Baltimore (UB)**

Decision: This will be followed up, if necessary, with a letter from the co-chairs, and then a letter from the treasurer.

**Partial List of Handouts:**

LatCrit Membership Form  
LatCrit Conference Registration Form  
Conference Planning Checklist Draft  
Conference Planning Checklist Draft Comments  
ABA Foreign Summer Programs – Revised Criteria (effective 8/1/2003)

**Agenda items held over for next board meeting:**

Board Transition – Frank and Beth  
Project Reports  
Critical Global Classroom  
LatCrit XI  
Role, Existence and Timing of Retreat  
Closed vs. Open Board Meeting  
Role of Co-Chair Emeritus and Co-Chair Elect  
Nominating Committee Membership – Frank and Roberto  
Administrative support for Mary Romero  
Archives  
Community Development Externship  
Compact Disc Distribution

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