

LEHMAN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty
Wednesday, May 11, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Manfred Philipp, Chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. He reported there was one item, not on the agenda, which was the election of the College Disciplinary Committee; Professor Andrea Boyer, Professor Nancy Maldonado, Professor Alan Kluger, Professor Andrei Jitanu, Professor Duane Tananbaum, and Professor Heather Sloan. The motion to conduct the election as one group was moved, seconded and approved. The members were elected unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of February 16th were submitted and approved.

2. Agenda for Meeting. The agenda for the meeting was submitted and approved.

A.President's Report. (1) The President reported that this is the end of the academic year and a busy time for all of us. He said, If I had to summarize 2010-2011, I would say; busy and challenging. If I had to project for next year, I would use the same adjectives, and maybe emphasize the second one. One of the issue now being discussed as part of the budget which is the 40 million dollars that is being held up in tuition to be counted as revenue b/c of debates that have nothing to do with CUNY. It is pushing an agenda that they believe is the best for the state of New York and it needs to be free from some of the current restraints on SUNY and CUNY. We have a debate about tuition. There's a national debate. I read about legislators in the state of Washington, have allowed tuition to be set by local universities across the state of Washington. Texas is very concerned about the cost of the degree and what it takes and what the state has to invest in the actual cost of educating a college state. Texas is looking for a degree that only costs \$10,000. Which begs the question, what is the level of quality of this education? **(2)** In local and national press, there is a debate going on about the role of higher education. The focus has been two year degrees, community colleges and the role they play. He said my sense is that there will continue to be a debate about this, and that it will run several years. We will have to have a real tuition debate. In CUNY, there's always a cohort who will argue it needs to be free again. This is not sustainable given what we give have. This is a difficult debate. This is something we need to really think about. Tuition must play a role, but it has to be adjusted gradually and sensitively. I would hope and would expect a longer debate. I am in principle opposed to increases, but other sources make up for that. We cannot experience a decrease in quality and services. This is not a popular subject, but it is essential that as faculty and staff think seriously about this. We can't have other people making the decision for us. We are however focused on our new building, new ideas about expanding programs, because growth must be an integral part of any institution. We can continue to move in directions

that make sense to us. These are challenging times. He concluded by saying, higher education is changing rapidly. We must be a serious participant in this debate. And we must have a say.

B. Report of Provost Mary Papazian (1) Announcements. Ms. Papazian reported that first she would like to acknowledge all the faculty who we were able to recognize today and thank all the people who came out to support their colleagues. Second, the Board of Trustees has officially approved our recommendation to rename our academic divisions into schools. She also said that beginning in July 1, we will have the School of Health Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Education, Continuing and Professional Studies and the School of Natural Science and Social Sciences. With that of course we continue to have discussions of future schools with an ad hoc committee of the Senate. We are looking to moving forward on the School of Health Sciences, and the School of Business. This will take some time and we are considering how that might move forward. We're taking the long view and they're may be short term challenges, but we hope to make these changes. We have honors convocation on May 19th, I would like to encourage the presence of faculty at this event. Commencement on June 2nd, we really like to have faculty presence. Our speaker is Billy Collins. We are in good company. Mr. Collins is also speaking at the White House. We continue to make progress in smaller areas. One of those is the automation of the PAF process. We process 600 of these forms every semester. This has been a tremendous collaboration. We're running the pilot now, and it will become college wide in the fall. This ensures people are paid on time, and make life easier. Finally, a brief report on The Foundations of Excellence. Briefly, we have completed the work and summed up our recommendations; we are developing a transfer council and transfer center. The transfer council is an advisory body. **(2) Student Evaluation of Teaching Form** that we have now has been around for 40 years. We put a group together to look differently at teaching. This process began in 2008 with a sub-committee led by Dean Deborah Eldridge. They did a tremendous amount of work and developed a draft instrument. In the fall of 2009, we took draft instrument to a chair workshop. We had a very inter-active meeting. This resulted in a tremendous amount of input, and it was completely revamped. It was piloted in a group of classes, and used with the more traditional instrument. There was even more feedback and more changes. Professor Kevin Sailor very helpful, and offered to do an evaluation of the pilot. He suggested a randomized pilot. In the fall of 2010, a randomized pilot began. We presented this in January at the chair's retreat, and got more additional feedback. In the spring, we did another randomized pilot, across 50 classes, and across the disciplines. We now we have the official approval, and will begin in the new academic year. We are going to continue to tweak the language. There are some on-going activities. The approval of the form is to approve the new instrument. It is designed to be used with a soft ware program, but now we will be using just the paper copy because the culture has to be changed. We have to come up with a three year plan to obtain meaningful feedback online. However, we will use the software for the fully online courses. The results will be shared with PBF and faculty. The next question is how do we want to use this? Thirty years ago, it was approved that all student evaluations be available to students. Certainly, we haven't addressed this as a college. Do we want to make these available to students, and how would we make this available to students? It's a more efficient

reporting of the results and offers different aggregates of information. Fundamentally it is a two page form, but it really is a shift in perspective from teaching to student learning. One of the things we found in randomized sampling is students write more which is the most helpful feedback from students.

C. Report of Vice President Vincent Clarke. (1) The first chart shows what has happened with our resources, and a projection for next fiscal year, minus the impact of 40 million dollars. Over the past three years, the college has lost approximately 5.6 million in spending power. OTPS is down by 40%, temp services down by 12%, and PS regulars down 5%. None of those reductions in personal services is the result of lay-offs, but people left those positions, and we froze those funds. The reserve is the CUTRA account, the surplus. Over the years, we've had to dip into that reserve by 16%. Our projected end of the year balance is \$250,000, but our revenue has taken a slight upturn. We're not where we'd like to be. We'd like to end the year with \$800,000 in the CUTRA account. Every CUNY college is expected to end the year with 1% reserve.

A short discussion followed.

D. Report of Vice President Rene Rotolo. (1) The Science Facility is moving along well, now that the weather is nice. The exterior envelop is being installed, starting with the brick. On the interior the corridor hallway finish floor is installed and the interior ground face block walls are installed, and metal studs for walls are being installed. **(2) Property Acquisition on Villa Avenue** which was intended for the nursing program. The Archdiocese of New York, who is the owner of the property, submitted a contract with restrictions that have been rejected by CUNY and the College. The Archdiocese will not agree to a contract without restrictions, so we have ended talks. Adjacent properties that we considered previously are twice the price and we will need to purchase two properties to allow us to build the square footage needed to be comparable to the property on Villa Avenue. **(3) The Child Care Center**, the project architect has submitted 100% contract documents for review and sign off to proceed to fabrication and construction on the building. Location is in an underutilized area between Schuster Hall and Davis Hall. The building is modular that will be built in a factory in Pennsylvania and shipped to the colleges as "boxes" which are then lifted into place on the foundation which is formed on the site. The architect has designed a building who form and scheme complement existing surrounding buildings. The project will be completed and ready for occupancy in January 2012.

E. Report of Juan de la Cruz. (1) As the Chair of the Faculty Committee on Elections, he reported on the state of the 2011 electoral process. He reported that we are running this procedure to fill a vacant spot for the University Faculty Senate for the expiring terms of one Senator to represent full time faculty and two alternate senators to represent full time and/or part-time faculty through May 2014. These positions will fill the vacant spots of Professor Julia Maybee (full time), as well as Professors Eleanor Campbell and Helene Silverman (both alternate senators). On behalf of the committee, he expressed his gratitude to them for their service. **(2) Also he reported that they advertised these openings through all possible channels;** including voice-mail, list-

serve, and inter-office mail. The goal of this announcement is to reach all those interested in serving our academic community, and at the same time, to increase the level of faculty involvement in this important forum. In the first stage of this course of action, the committee received a sufficient number of nominations for the senate seat for full-time faculty, and very few nominations for the alternate part-time senate seat. Although it reached almost all of our colleagues, we had a very limited number of nominees this year. He said that a possible explanation for this may be the multiple elections for different committees across our college occurring at the same time. More clarification of the diverse choices and more dissemination of the information will be required to increase participation and motivate service. **(3) The nomination for full-time faculty and part-time faculty included representatives from several academic departments.** Four of our full-time colleagues are standing for election. There are two from the Department of Nursing and one from the Music Department. Mr. de la Cruz wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the closing day to cast votes was today, May 11th. **(4) He reminded everyone there was still time to cast their vote.** All of the votes will be counted in the presence of our Elections Committee and the winners of this selection will be announced on May 17th. As faculty members, he concluded, we have to make sure that we are truly represented in this forum, and most importantly, that our voices can be heard. He wished to thank Professors Badillo and Ethan for taking the time in their busy agendas to help facilitate this process. He also wished to thank Professor Philipp for his support and advice.

F. Governance Committee. Report of Professor Duane Tananbaum. The main two things the senate focused on this year were; (1) **implementing the change in governance document**; reducing the size of the senate. Our senate had 138 members, meaning we needed 70 for a quorum, and this became more and more difficult to achieve. Changes to this were overwhelmingly approved last year. The senate is now limited to 102 members, however the same ratio has been preserved; 50% faculty, 30% students, and one sixth would be administrators. The governance committee will meet to count and tabulate the votes for the new senate committee members. The results will be announced next week. (2) **The other item was the draft resolution proposed by Executive Vice Chancellor**, allegedly to deal with the transfer problem, but which in reality it sought to do this by limiting Gen Ed requirements. The governance committee, the curriculum committee, CASE, and various senate committees, worked together to draft a strong resolution opposing this change. We recognized that there was a transfer problem, but pointing out that reducing the Gen Ed requirements would not resolve transfer problem, and would in many ways, reduce the value of a CUNY degree. I'm proud to say this resolution was passed unanimously with three abstentions. The senate also appointed a committee on academic structure.

G. PSC Report from Helene Silverman. (1) **For the local chapter**, vote to support the Lehman Senate Resolution on General Education approved on April 6th. For resolutions on the Pathways Initiative go to www.cunyufs.org/a. Vote to request an accounting to the faculty through FOIA of the cost of new hires, both instructional and administrative, including ECP appointments, since January 2009. Direct the Chapter Chair to request a more aggressive approach to the rodent problem on campus. She closed this portion of

the report with a few comments on adjunct non-rehiring. **(2) For CUNY-Wide PSC.** There are rallies to support more funding for CUNY from both the State and the City. Follow online at www.psc-cuny.org. Finally, despite the controversy, Tony Kushner was awarded an Honorary Degree from John Jay College.

H. Report by Manfred Philips. UFS Report for the Lehman College General Faculty, The School of Professional Studies' (SPS) new **on-line baccalaureate degree in psychology** for those who have dropped out of college (a so-called "completers" degree) was approved by the Board on May 2nd. In an unprecedented action, the Board of Trustees first tabled the proposed John Jay **honorary degree for the playwright Tony Kushner** and then, at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board on May 9, confirmed the honorary degree. UFS Chair Cooper, with the support of the UFS Executive Committee, had written to object to the Board's action. The Chancellor has implicitly blamed the John Jay college president for not advocating for Mr. Kushner at the meeting of the Board. The University will give an **honorary degree to former Schools Chancellor Klein** at the commencement ceremony of the Macaulay Honors College (MHC). Bernard Spitzer, the father of the former governor, will also be given an honorary degree. According to the MHC press release, Klein instituted "*a comprehensive reform strategy that ... resulted in significant increases in student performance.*" Klein is now CEO of the News Corporation's Education Division. The News Corporation is the corporate parent of Fox News and the Wall Street Journal. On Monday May 2, the Board went through the first reading of **proposed CUNY Bylaw revisions**. Vice Chancellor Schaffer, in response to concerns raised by the UFS and others, has changed the proposed revisions in several significant ways. The language change making college senates advisory and not determinative was removed. The deletion of the GC governance structure was also reversed. The university-wide debate about the Chancellor's **Pathways Project** continues. The UFS had resolved that that the issues of **articulation and general education requirements are dealt with separately**. The UFS has also resolved to support a 30+16 pattern, giving the senior colleges at least 16 general education credits in a baccalaureate curriculum, the rest to be provided by the community colleges in the case of transfer students. The UFS has also asked that **technical improvements be made in electronic student advisement software**, including TIPPS. A large number of senior and comprehensive, college senates have resolved to stop or delay the process. One community college senate has voted to oppose the linkage of transfer with any reevaluation of General Education curricula. Many academic departments, mainly at Brooklyn but also at other colleges, have passed resolutions opposing the Pathways project. Three CUNY Discipline Councils have also spoken against the Pathways project. All this is posted at <http://cunyufs.org/A> Last night at the Plenary, the Chancellor defended the **proposed restrictions on the size of Gen Ed** by claiming that the proposals would allow students to seek out the courses that they deemed best for them. He also decried high-credit majors, (such as those in the natural sciences) without naming those majors. He discounted the efficacy of future changes in TIPPS. At the UFS Conference mentioned below, a student representative gave an example of this when he proposed that it was "*not necessary for business students to learn about natural selection.*" A **university-wide petition drive** has been mounted in order to oppose the Pathways proposals. This has, as this writing, 911 signatures and can be signed at

<http://tinyurl.com/67rqtcf> The **national secretary of Phi Beta Kappa** wrote to oppose "... *intrusions into [faculty] professional prerogative and responsibility.*" The full text is posted at <http://www.cunyufs.org/A/PBKLetter.pdf> There continues to be **no evidence of flexibility by the Chancellery** in their basic 36+6 or 30+6 outline of General Education courses in CUNY. The best information that the UFS has is that a **University Student Senate resolution supporting the Chancellor's Pathways plans failed due to a lack of a quorum.** The issue has been covered in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and other media outlets, including the NPR. The **UFS Conference on General Education and Faculty Authority: CUNY's Future**, was held at John Jay College on Friday, April 29. Panelists included Phil Belcastro of BMCC, Francisco Fernandez at Hostos, Pamela Mills at Hunter, Kevin Sailor at Lehman, Francisco Soto at CSI, and Emily Tai at QCC. The conference voted to endorse the two April 12 UFS Resolutions on General Education and Transfer, opposing the Chancellor's Pathways Proposal. The chair of the University Student Senate and other student representatives also attended. One student representative spoke against General Education requirements, saying that students did not want to take courses not related to their major and gave as an example that he thought it was unnecessary for business majors to learn about natural selection. **The New York State Senate continues to decline to support CUNY's prior 5% tuition increase.** That will mean an over \$40 million cut to CUNY's senior colleges that will come in the next fiscal year. This comes on top of over \$300 million in state cuts to the University. It continues to be unclear how some senior colleges will avoid the termination of staff, since the state has not provided money to replace the lost tuition revenues. Three CUNY colleges, Lehman included, are projected to have essentially zero CUTRA at the end of the Fiscal Year. The **CUNY Assessment Task Force** is closer to completing its deliberations. A value-added assessment instrument has not yet been selected. Such an instrument is the CLA, which had been piloted at Lehman. **The UFS Plenary last night re-elected Prof. Stefan Baumrin of Lehman to an at-large position on the UFS Executive Committee.** Also re-elected was Prof. Emily Tai of QCC. Kay Conway of BMCC, Philip Pecorino of QCC, and Jay Weiser of Baruch were elected, replacing Michael Barnhart of Kingsborough, Campbell Dalglish of CCNY, and Kathryn Richardson of NYC Tech. Prof. Tai is the Editor of the Senate Digest, Prof. Weiser is the chair of the UFS Legal Affairs Committee, and Prof. Conway is the chair of the UFS Community College Caucus. By a unanimous (or perhaps nearly unanimous) vote this last Monday, the **Graduate Council remanded to committee a proposed Bylaw change** that would have removed the member of the Graduate Council Executive Committee who is elected by the Graduate School faculty who are elected to the UFS. That member is Prof. Baumrin of Lehman. The proposed Bylaw change would have also restricted the right of student members to be Council committee officers. On behalf of the Graduate Council Executive Committee, Prof. Martin Burke of Lehman spoke against the proposed Bylaw change. The CUNY Academy of Humanities and the Sciences is preparing to hold elections for officers. **Prof. Susan O'Malley has announced that she will not run for re-election as President.**

Calendar Items:

- UFS Chair Cooper met with VC Hershenson on April 25.

- The UFS Budget Advisory Committee met with Vice Chancellors Sapienza & Shaw on Friday May 6.
- The CUNY Academy's Felix Gross Awards were given yesterday in the GC Skylight Room.
- CUNY's Jonas Salk Awards will be presented this morning, Wednesday, May 11 at Baruch College.
- UFS Chair Cooper meets with the Computer Science Discipline Council on May 13.
- The UFS Information Technology Advisory Committee meets with Vice Chancellor Dobrin and CUNY CIO Cohen on May 19.
- UFS Chair Cooper meets with Assemblywoman Debra Glick on May 20.
- The Faculty Advisory Council for the Research Foundation meets on May 25.
- The CUNY Board Committees meet on Monday June 6 and then again on August 29.
- The Public Hearing of the CUNY Board takes place on Monday, June 20.
- The CUNY Board meets on Monday, June 27

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Ann Slugoeki
Lecturer, English Dept.