

LEHMAN COLLEGE

Minutes of General Faculty Meeting April 22, 2015

Meeting presenters:

- 1) Professor Vincent Prohaska
- 2) Provost Morrobel-Sosa
- 3) President Fernández
- 4) Senate Representative Professor Tananbaum
- 5) Faculty Governance Leader Representative Professor Prohaska
- 6) UFS/ PSC Representative Professor Philipp
- 7) PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund Representative Professor Fenton

CALL TO ORDER: Prof. Prohaska called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm.

- 1) Prof. Prohaska opening remarks: (for further information refer to powerpoint: “agenda 4-22-15”)
 - a. General Announcements: Minutes and reports from the February meeting have been posted on the Lehman College website.
 - b. University Faculty Senate Election: Over the next few days, there will be a notice sent out for the election of University Faculty Senate representatives. Noted that the number of nominees was especially high this year making for a great election. Additionally, the elections will be completed electronically this year.
- 2) Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee and Sexual Assault Subcommittee report from Vincent Zuchetto:
 - a. Announced the nominees for the Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee
 - i. Prof. Boyar, Prof. Maldonado, Prof. Kluger, Prof. Jitianu, Prof. Tananbaum, Prof. Sloan
 - b. Announced the nominees for the Sexual Assault Subcommittee
 - i. Prof. Mazza and Prof. Boyar
 - c. Called for the nominations to be moved, the motion was seconded, and all were in favor.
- 3) Characteristics of a Lehman Graduate Exercise coordinated by Prof. Prohaska: (refer to handout: “characteristics 3-14-15.pdf”)
 - a. Reminded meeting members that a group of faculty has been working to draft a document indicating the characteristics of a Lehman College Graduate. He asked that meeting participants work with a partner or a group and read through the characteristics that have been generated, discuss the characteristics with their colleagues, and write down responses to the following prompts on the back of the Characteristics of a Lehman Graduate handout:
 - i. What did you like about this draft?
 - ii. What did you dislike about this draft?
 - iii. What did we leave out?
 - iv. What needs to be deleted?

- v. What can be changed?
 - b. Meeting participants collaborated in groups for approximately 15 minutes.
 - c. Prof. Prohaska noted the need for this conversation to continue beyond the meeting and introduced Provost Morrobel-Sosa who would provide further detail.
- 4) Provost Morrobel-Sosa Report: (for further information refer to the website - <http://www.lehman.edu/engage/>)
- a. Presented the website (see above) and explained that this page would be used to further the discussion regarding the characteristics of a Lehman graduate. Specifically, the page explains how the concept came to be, describes the initial contributors, and their history with the project. The page provides a visual flow chart of the Lehman graduate with information on the three E's (Educated, Empowered, Engaged).
 - b. Introduced Ideascale a tool for the collaborative sharing of thoughts and ideas. Faculty and staff were urged to click on the Ideascale link (found on the above webpage) and post ideas and comments regarding the characteristics of a Lehman graduate. Students will comment as well.
 - c. Presented two short videos and summarized each.
 - i. The first video was taken from a 2007 Anthropology classroom in Kansas State University. Provost Morrobel-Sosa noted that there is no doubt Facebook use during lecture has increased from 2007 (when the video was filmed) to today.
 - ii. The second video was taken from the Design School of Stanford University. The school undertook a project to understand how campuses in an online environment will thrive in the future. The project asked students to consider what they wanted to do and be. The result was a class called "Designing your Stanford." Provost Morrobel-Sosa connected this project with Ideascale and asked that participants contribute ideas on Ideascale that indicate how Lehman students' characteristics indicate the type of learning that happens in the classroom.
 - d. Presented a Prioritization update:
 - i. The academic and administrative programs provided summary evaluations. The Steering Committee is now assessing these evaluations and completing a second evaluation that will be presented in a summary document to the President between the 10th and 15th of May. The President will then comment and make those comments public.
 - ii. *Question Asked:* When will we know the President's final recommendations?
 - 1. *Answer:* Final recommendations will be announced in September.
 - iii. *Question Asked:* Will there be faculty input?
 - 1. *Answer:* As this question was asked several times, Provost Morrobel-Sosa stressed that collaboration occurred during the entire prioritization process. Responded to the concern that some of the data was created in silos by reminding the audience of the Prioritization process. Specifically, programs were evaluated, not individual departments. The chair and departmental faculty collaborated, the information was then given to the two task forces

comprised of members acting as institutional advocates. These members were advocates for specific departments. Provost Morrobel-Sosa also indicated that this process has been implemented in over 350 institutions.

5) President Fernández's Report:

- a. CUNY Compact: Reviewed the concept of the CUNY Compact. Over the years there has been a reduction in emphasis and funding for higher education that, in turn, has driven costs up and has brought tuition to new heights. Recalled that tuition was once \$625 per semester.
- b. Annual Basis Funding Model: Noted that this model for funding in New York State is similar to that used in other states. The fundamental problem with this model is it does not allow us to invest in multi-year projects.
 - i. Gave an example of one problem that arises from this annual-based funding: "Every five years SUNY and CUNY, by state law, are required to submit to the Regents a 5-year plan of what we intend to do. However, the 1-year funding model does not allow the university to come up with long-term commitments and we end up improvising."
 - ii. Stressed the importance of predictability in the amount of money being budgeted for CUNY campuses. Specific to Lehman, projects such as creating a school of nursing with new facilities and increasing faculty from 19 to 32 would require guaranteed resources.
 - iii. Advised that we all open up and talk about these issues to both our students and elected officials. Our students and students' families are, for the most part, uninformed and need to understand what is at stake. As a university, President Fernández stressed the importance of doing a "better job with philanthropy, entering partnerships, cost sharing, and [with] being innovative and creative."

6) Senate Report by Prof. Tananbaum:

- a. The Senate meeting will take place next Wednesday April 29th, 2015, during which members will approve the Graduation list. A quorum is needed for the vote, so attendance is important. Prof. Tananbaum asked that Senators bring their ID cards as well.
- b. The first round of the election for at large Faculty Senators has concluded. An email soliciting votes will be sent out in the next day or so from Vice-President Magdaleno's office.

7) Faculty Governance Leaders Report by Prof. Prohaska (for further information refer to document: "Governance Leaders Report 4-22-15.docx").:

- a. Recalled that the recent New York State budget did not fund mandatory increases and that there is expected to be a 3% to 5% budget cut at the Senior Colleges next year.
- b. Noted that CUNY is considering a new policy regarding when faculty members can assign their own books as required textbooks in the classroom (for further information refer to document: "Draft Comments on Textbooks.docx"). This new policy implements certain restrictions. Prof. Prohaska asked questions be sent to him directly.

- c. Noted that there is also a CUNY report on Doctoral Programs in the Sciences available for the public (for further information refer to document: Reccomendations on the Organization of the Doctoral Programs in the Natural Sciences – Report and attachments.pdf.)
- 8) University Faculty Senate Report by Prof. Philipp: (for further information please refer to powerpoint: “GenFacUFSReport-4-22-15.pptx”)
- a. Discussed the upcoming UFS conference to be held May 1, 2015. The theme is Globalizing Education and currently the conference is oversubscribed, indicating it is a popular topic. The Chancellor is set to attend as well.
 - b. Reminded attendees of the requirement by the State to have an experiential learning requirement on SUNY and CUNY campuses.
 - c. Noted that the UFS Committee on Higher Education in Prisons will be meeting May 1, 2015 and May 5, 2015 and the Advisement Counsel for the Research Foundation will be meeting as well.
 - d. Summarized the Public Report on the Sciences: There has been a call for an increase in the number of Masters programs and Masters programs with an admissions process that is controlled by faculty.
 - e. The Board of Trustees Committee of Student Affairs voted to change documentation so that two faculty members and two alternative members would be required.
 - f. Summarized the status of different awards including the Feliks Gross Endowment Award that has been awarded to a Lehman student, and a new Henry Wasser Award that will be awarded in the fall. Additionally, the Stewart Travel Awards that have been given to faculty are in process of being distributed to various institutions through CUNYfirst.
- 9) PSC Report by Prof. Philipp: (for further information please refer to powerpoint: “PSCReportGenFac-4-22-15.pptx”)
- a. Announced management has made no salary offer and that the budget does not include increases in mandatory costs.
 - b. PSC CUNY Chapter news: During Chapter meeting, the Lehman Athletics Director explained the new finding that students who engage in athletics have a higher graduation rate because of an increase in mentoring. Prof. Philipp noted that this information was similarly described in a separate Faculty Governance Meeting.
 - c. Prof. Philipp, along with other PSC members in the Bronx, met with Bronx Assemblyman to discuss the budget. The ballots for the main officers are due April 29th, 2015 and will be counted on April 30th, 2015. Prof. Philipp informed the audience that Steve London would be stepping down, and Barbra Bowen would be staying on board.
- 10) PSC Welfare Fund update by Prof. Fenton:
- a. Summarized a recent change in insurance coverage. New York State has taken over the cost of basic coverage for contingent faculty, relieving much of the financial burden placed on the PSC Welfare Fund. Without this burden, the PSC will now give contingent faculty the same benefits as full time faculty and will now “have the opportunity to help retirees that have hit the Medicare donut hole.”
- 11) Prof. Prohaska final announcements:

- a. Called for additional comments or question. *There were no additional comments or questions.*
- b. Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm