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**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2010**

Senators Present: Adams, D.; Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Badru, L.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Barnard, J.; Barry, M Bennett, M.; Boone, R.; Bouzalakos, H.; Calvet, L.; Carney, J.; Cavallo, S.; Choudhary, A.; DeSimone, S.; Deveaux, F.; DiPaolo, M.; Eldridge, D.; Farrell, R.; Feinerman, R.; Freedberg, S.; Galvez, A.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Graulau, J.; Greenberg, J.; Gross, C.; Haghighat, E.; Harushimana, I.; Holloway, J.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jervis, J.; Kabat, D.; Kleiman, S.; Larimer, A.; Lerzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Lucente, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E; Mineka, J.; O’Hanlon, T.; Olabode, A.; Onemola, O.; Papazian, M.; Peruyero, C.; Raaum, R.; Rachlin, J.; Rice, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Seiger-Gardner, L.; Sibermintz, N.; Silverman, H.; Sokol, M.; Tananbaum, D.; Tegeder, D.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Troy, R.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.; Zermatt-Scutt, M.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Amoama, C.; Artinian, A.; Bard, A.; Beard, C.; Blot, R.; Borrell, L.; Brooks, L.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Cabrera, A.; Calderon, K.; Carey, R.; Cheng, T.; Delgado, M.; DellaPina, M.; Esteves, C.; Fernández, R.; Fletcher, D.; Garçon, M.; Gilbert, F.; Handel, L.; Hattori, T.; Jarroll, E.; Jitianu, A.; Jones, L.; Kayaalp, O.; Kolb, P.; Lewis, K.; Magdaleno, J.; Maybee, J.; Miles, K.; Munch, J.; Nadeem, S.; Ndukwe, C.; O’Connor, N.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Ricourt, M.; Schwartz, G.; Segura, Y.; Shiller, J.; Sloan, H.; Small, M.; Soto, M.; Twomey, R.; Villar, F.; Wunder, A.;

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Due to the absence of President Ricardo R. Fernández and Professor Manfred Philipp, the meeting was called to order by Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos, Student Conference Chair, at 3:40 p.m.

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Ms. Bouzalakos made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of March 3, 2010. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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Announcements and Communication-

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- a. In the absence of President Ricardo R. Fernández, Provost Mary A. Papazian gave his report.
1. CUNY is forming a committee on evaluating tobacco usage policy. It will be a large committee, and will be comprised of stakeholders from all over the CUNY system.

41 2. There has already been a great deal of work completed in the process of establishing a new
42 CUNY community college. That work continues, and there is now an ongoing search for a
43 founding president. This individual will begin the actual process of shaping the new institution,
44 with input from faculty. Simultaneously, CUNY is seeking to hire eight founding faculty
45 members to join with the new president in responding to the many issues involved in developing
46 the system's newest community college—which is slated to open its doors two years from now.
47 The Senate will be hearing more about this project as work continues.

48 3. Enrollment throughout CUNY is robust. For the entire system, it is up by about three percent;
49 of course, every campus is not growing at that rate. Some colleges, especially those in
50 Manhattan, are capped at current enrollments because of size constraints. In fact, for the first
51 time, CUNY may halt admissions around May 1. Also under discussion is the creation of a
52 waiting list for students who want to attend but are blocked by an enrollment cap. This is new
53 territory for CUNY; there is a desire to cope with higher levels of student demand while also
54 remaining conscious of educational quality. CUNY has determined that three percent growth
55 this year—supplementing the eight percent expansion the system experienced last year—is all
56 the system can handle effectively, particularly in a tight budget time when it is difficult to
57 increase support—buildings, faculty, etc.—that are needed to provide a quality education to
58 greater numbers of students. Here at Lehman, we appear to be in good shape. We have made a
59 transition in regard to higher admission standards, and are beginning to respond to the
60 recommendations of the Strategic Planning Council to raise admissions standards further in fall
61 2011.

62 4. A new CUNY committee has just begun to meet focusing on theatre and the arts. The New
63 York City theatre community is very interested in engaging college students more actively, both
64 on- and off-Broadway. They have asked CUNY: “What can we do? We want to work with you
65 to create a program that engages students.” CUNY responded positively to this request, and
66 established a group, which recently held its initial meeting, to explore possibilities. It is expected
67 that some pilot programs will be developed, and we at Lehman will be discussing whether we
68 want to participate in this initiative.

69 5. The budget-related “soap opera” in Albany continues and no State Budget has been issued yet.
70 We have no confidence at this point of what the final budget numbers will be. We do not
71 anticipate an expansive budget; in fact, CUNY has asked Lehman to be quite conservative in its

72 budget assessments for the next three years. We will submit to CUNY a three-year forecast, and
73 they will let us know what is realistic in terms of hiring and spending. Our budget situation is
74 fine for this year, and with some planning and prudent decisions, we should be all right for next
75 year as well. However, we are quite concerned about the third year: the stimulus money will be
76 gone and the State has not figured out how it is going to deal with all of the shortfalls in its
77 revenue. So we have to plan, over the next two years, for the last year in the three-year cycle.
78 As we outline the budget for next year, one area that will require tightening is adjunct
79 expenditures. We spend approximately \$9 million per year on adjunct costs. This is in keeping
80 with the tremendous enrollment growth we have experienced, but it is not sustainable in the
81 short- or long-term. So we are looking to reduce the adjunct budget next year by approximately
82 four-to-five percent, or about \$400,000 out of a \$9 million budget. We are working with the
83 deans to figure out where the targets should be; the Budget Office has been very helpful in
84 providing expenses per department and per program, enabling us to make decisions that will
85 have the least impact on our programs and on our students' ability to take the courses they need
86 to ensure progress and graduation. We hope to have numbers fairly soon so we can begin to
87 finalize schedules for the fall.

88 6. The Strategic Planning Council issued its report. A smaller group has met to develop the
89 Council's recommendations into a framework, with goals, objectives, and action items. The
90 President hopes to have a discussion on this framework at the Senate meeting in May that had
91 been listed as "optional." The president's hope is that the business of the Senate can be
92 completed at its April 28 meeting and that a substantial amount of time at the May 12 meeting,
93 now definite, can be devoted to reviewing and generating feedback on this framework.

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95 b. Student Conference-

96 1. The report of Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos, Student Conference Chair, consisted of her reading
97 into the record a quote from Tom Blair:

98 "Silence is one of the great arts of conversations, as allowed by Cicero himself, who says,
99 'There is not only an art but an eloquence in it. A well-bred woman may easily and effectually
100 promote the most useful and elegant conversation without speaking a word. The models are
101 scarcely more variable than the models of silence.'"

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104 REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-

105 a. Committee on Governance-

106 1. Professor Duane Tananbaum described a new policy of exchanging the draft minutes of
107 committee meetings among committee chairs—and when appropriate, with the full
108 committees. This way, each body gains a sense of important developments on the other
109 committees, and everyone shares a better sense of the broader picture. The hope is that an
110 exchange of committee notes will improve communication and enable chairs to deal with
111 issues that arise in a timely fashion—before they reach the Senate floor.

112 2. The Governance Committee is in the process of soliciting nominations for the position of
113 College Ombudsman. An e-mail was sent from the Provost's Office urging the nomination of
114 up to four individuals. On April 28, the committee will present to the Senate a slate of
115 candidates to be voted on. The Senate will then submit those individuals it selects to the
116 president, who will make the final decision. This is how nominations are specified in the
117 governance documents. We would hope to change this process in the future, but are operating
118 under their requirements now. The Ombudsman will serve a two-year term, so there will be
119 sufficient time to make the nominating and selection process clearer and simpler for the next
120 election.

121 3. We expect to release an e-mail in the next few days soliciting nominees for membership on
122 Senate committees. This process needs to be completed by the end of the academic year. To fill
123 Senate vacancies among untenured and assistant professors—and lecturers—we are seeking a
124 list of these individuals from Human Resources.

125 4. The committee met with the provost and the chairs of the Undergraduate Curriculum and
126 Graduate Studies Committees to discuss the divisional curriculum committees. The provost
127 presented a flow chart, which has since been distributed to all faculty members. The
128 Governance Committee continues to have concerns about this new process.

129 At the meeting with the provost, also under consideration were the draft bylaws for the Center
130 for Human Rights and Peace Studies. A few suggestions were made in regard to the Center's
131 governance.

132 5. At the committee's meeting tomorrow, one topic will be the proposed new Student
133 Governance Association bylaws and what needs to be done to make these fit with the Senate's
134 governance documents and bylaws. The meeting will take place at 9:15 a.m. in Carman 201.

135 b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards-

136 1. Mr. Ralph William Boone informed the Senate that his committee has taken under
137 advisement the president's and provost's intention to bring before the Senate a proposal that
138 Lehman's SAT entrance requirement be raised to 970 for fall 2011 admission. We have been
139 collecting data: SAT scores across New York State and in the Bronx, as well as long-term
140 testing trends. The perennial subject of *access versus standards* came up for discussion and
141 was very well represented by the students who came to our meetings to make their thoughts
142 known.

143 2. We were also asked to look at department grade point average requirements—some are at
144 2.0, some at 2.7, some at 3.0—required of students to proceed on in their studies. We were
145 asked by Governance Committee members to examine this situation to determine if it was
146 “getting out of hand,” and will issue a report shortly.

147 3. The Governance Committee also asked us to assess how many appeals were lodged, and in
148 what categories, and we are working to elicit this information.

149 4. The next meeting will take place on April 28 at 2 p.m. in the Library Tree House, 3rd floor.
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151 c. Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum-

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153 1. Professor Barbara Jacobson presented curriculum changes from the Department of
154 Biological Sciences; the Department of English; the Department of Health Sciences; the
155 Department of History; the Department of Journalism, Communication, and Theatre; the
156 Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies; and the Department of Political
157 Science. There were also experimental courses in the Department of Journalism,
158 Communication, and Theatre and the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies
159 as informational items. The report was moved, and approved unanimously.

160 2. The next meeting will take place on April 21 at 12:30 p.m. in Carman 221.
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162 d. Committee on Graduate Studies-

163 1. Professor Janet DeSimone presented proposals from the Department of History and the
164 Department of Middle and High School Education. The report was moved, and approved
165 unanimously.

166 2. The next meeting will take place on April 12 at 11 a.m. in Carman B20

167 e. Committee on Academic Freedom-
168 There was no report.

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170 f. Committee on Library, Technology, and Telecommunications-

171 1. Mr. James Carney updated the Senate on the CUNYFIRST project. He noted that there were
172 still problems with the system, and he would keep the Senate updated on its installation at
173 Lehman.

174 2. The College, Mr. Carney noted, continues to introduce more and more “smart classrooms.”

175 E-mails are periodically sent out describing which classrooms in which buildings have been
176 upgraded. To be placed on the list of those receiving these communications, contact Mr.

177 Migdio Domínguez, assistant manager of Information Technology Resources, at

178 migdio.dominguez@lehman.cuny.edu.

179 3. Lehman College has appointed Ms. Alyson Vogel as its associate director for online

180 learning. Ms. Vogel will attend the next committee meeting to discuss how the College will

181 proceed with monitoring and informing the community about the rollout of various elements of
182 Blackboard—and any problems with Blackboard that arise.

183 4. The committee was asked to look into the issue of degree audit availability. This is not now
184 available on the web, but as of May 1 will be, in a phased way. Students must realize, however,
185 that this online information does not take the place of meeting with the Registrar and engaging
186 in graduation checks.

187 5. The committee was given a tour of Lehman’s new Multimedia Center; on April 23, there
188 will be a special event to announce officially the availability of the Center to the entire college
189 community. Committee members were quite excited about the capabilities that the Center

190 brings to Lehman and want to emphasize that they are available to every sector of the College.

191 To learn more about the Multimedia Center, please contact Mr. Carney or Mr. Jerold Barnard,
192 manager of Media Technology Services and Information Technology Resources.

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194 g. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-

195 1. Professor Janette Tilley reported that the Committee met with Vice President Derek C.

196 Wheeler and senior members of the Public Safety Department to review why the

197 announcement of the College’s closure during the snow storm early in the semester was not

198 effectively communicated. The problem stemmed from the failure of the CUNY Alert System

199 to communicate the College’s closure in a timely manner; that issue now has been resolved.
200 Professor Tilley pointed out that CUNY Alert is actually a statewide notification system.
201 However, there was also discussion of why the banner announcing the closure took one hour to
202 be posted on the College’s website.

203 2. Ms. Rene Rotolo, assistant vice president for Campus Life and Facilities, provided
204 information to the Committee that assures that there is budget coverage for the second phase of
205 the new science facility.

206 3. The next meeting will take place on April 21 at 3:30 p.m. in Shuster 325.

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208 h. Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning-

209 Professor Robert Feinerman reported on a meeting of the joint faculty-Senate Committee on
210 Personnel and Budget. Vice President Derek Wheeler reported to the group on this year’s
211 budget, and as Professor Feinerman described it, the budget was essentially a “wash,” with
212 income and expenditures matching, which makes for a good year. For next year, until the State
213 resolves its budget issues, the College cannot develop a firm budget.

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215 i. University Faculty Senate-
216 There was no report.

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218 j. Old Business-
219 There was none.

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221 k. New Business-
222 There was none.

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224 ADJOURNMENT

225 The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier