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**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 7, 2007**

Senators Present: Afrani, D.; Alborn, T.; Albelda, V.; Bailey, M.; Banoum, B.; Barnes, C.;
Bonastia, C.; Boone, R.; Brown, K.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.;
Carry, E.; Chowdhury, N.; Collado, M.; Daci, H.; Decker, C.;
DiPaolo, M.; Dixon, S.; Domínguez, A.; Efthymious, J.; Em, C.;
Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Fleitas, J.; Fletcher, D.; Ganjian, I.;
Georges, C.; Gonzalez, M.; Gottlieb, M.; Graulau, J.; Haghighat, E.;
Happaney, K.; Harushimana, I.; Holloway, J.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.;
Jervis, J.; Joseph, R.; Kleiman, S.; Kulagina, K.; Kunstler, R.; Levitt, J.;
Lowenstein, D.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; Mazza, C.;
Merzel, C.; Mineka, J.; Morales-Diaz, A.; Munch, J.; O'Hanlon, T.;
Pant, H.; Papazian, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Philipp, M.; Pierre, K.;
Polirstok, S.; Prohaska, V.; Ramos, R.; Reid, A.; Rice, A.; Sailor, K.;
Salamandra, C.; Salvatore, R.; Silverman, H.; Tananbaum, D.; Tilley, J.;
Tramontano, W.; Troy, R.; Verdejo, V.; Watson-Turner, S.; Wheeler, D.;
Whittaker, R.; Wilder, E.; William, L.; Xia, Z.; Zucchetto, V.; Zuss, M.;
Zwiren, M.

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Senators Absent: Ajasin, G.; Amaechi, C.; Biggs, J.; Bodden, L.; Bullaro, G.; Clark, D.;
DeRoo, Z.; Enweronye-Okiro, P.; Esteves, C.; Ezeh, S.; Fiol-Matta, L.;
Folsom, C.; Garanin, D.; Gbenga, A.; Hsueh, T.; Hurley, D.; Jeremias, J.;
Johnson, A.; Jones, L.; Khalili, J.; Lacson, J.; Lopez, M.; Lopez, R.;
Myrie, D.; Negron, V.; Niedt, P.; Nnaji, C.; Palaj, M.; Phillip, B.; Qian, G.;
Rose, J.; Swinton, S.; Tabachnikov, A.; Tabing, M.G.; Taveras, F.;
Tegeder, D.; Trimboli, S.; Totti, X.; Tsiamtsiouris, J.; Voge, S.

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President Ricardo Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

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1. Minutes Adopted

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A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of October
17, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved.

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Announcements and Communications

39 **2a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-**

40 **1.** The bulk of the President's report was addressed to an issue of significance to the
41 University, to the city, to the country, and to the world. That issue is sustainability. Last
42 summer The Mayor proposed a plan that was developed over several months. One of the goals
43 is to reduce the carbon footprint in the City of New York by 30 percent by the year 2017. To
44 achieve this, every agency has been asked to put together a plan to determine what each agency
45 can do to achieve this goal. CUNY has moved forward with a CUNY Task Force on
46 Sustainability. President Fernández requested floor rights for Assistant Vice President Rene
47 Rotolo.

48 **2.** Ms. Rotolo reported that the University will reduce the carbon footprint by 30 percent by
49 2017. To achieve this goal, the CUNY Sustainability Project and the CUNY Task Force on
50 Sustainability were created. It is CUNY's goal to incorporate sustainability into the fabric of
51 the University by integrating sustainability into the curriculum, supporting research and
52 partnering with civic and business leaders. CUNY will carry out its responsibilities to its
53 students, and the broader citizenry of New York City by using lessons learned through the
54 study of sustainability to improve their lives and to promote economic development
55 opportunities for the future. Environmentally responsible CUNY will need college-wide
56 support to develop and implement the college plan. Four phases are envisioned:

57 **Phase I:** Create a Campus Sustainability Council which must be completed and submitted to
58 CUNY by Thanksgiving. There is no limit in size of the Council. The composition must be
59 faculty, staff and students, either with expertise in sustainability or directly connected to the 21
60 CUNY Task Force Committees or the eight key areas of sustainability or with a deep interest
61 in the subject.

62 **Phase II:** Lehman College must submit a campus draft plan to the CUNY Task Force by April
63 2008.

64 **Phase III:** The College must deliver the campus final plan by September 2008.

65 **Phase IV:** Implementation of the Campus Plan begins October 2008.

66 Anyone interested in the project is invited to email Ms. Rotolo at
67 rene.rotolo@lehman.cuny.edu or call at extension 8226.

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692b. Student Conference-

- 70 1. Ms. Valerie Verdejo, Vice Chair, reported that the Bell Schedule was discussed and the
71 following proposed: evening classes should start at 6 p.m. as opposed to 6:15 p.m.; Friday
72 classes are a good idea; a two-day schedule is preferable to a three-day schedule; schedule 3-4
73 hour classes on Fridays; more classes on Saturdays and Sundays should be offered; and that the
74 required 10 minute breaks for every 100 minutes of class be enforced.
- 75 2. The Tiering System is of concern and the Conference believes more background
76 information should be disseminated on campus. The students need to be informed and to
77 understand the ramifications for Lehman College; the standards should be changed and raised;
78 the Student Conference will actively contact other "Tier 2" schools to become aware of their
79 stance on the issue; there will be a petition sent to the Chancellor of CUNY, and the student
80 senators agreed to research the topic further.
- 81 3. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28 in the Music Building.

82 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

83 **3a. Committee on Governance**

- 84 1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum, Chair, reported that the Committee has a number of items for
85 discussion and resolution today. First, the Governance Committee nominated Mr. John
86 Figueroa to serve as a student representative on the Budget and Long-Range Planning
87 Committee, and Ms. Valerie Verdejo for the Campus Life and Facilities Committee. The
88 nominees were approved unanimously.
- 89 2. At the last meeting, when the Iraq war resolution was voted on, there was not a call for the
90 abstentions so we have no way to know the total number of senators present at the time of the
91 vote; all we know is that 24 voted in favor and 18 against for a total of 42. For this body to
92 transact business, we need more than just a majority of those present or a majority of those
93 voting in favor. According to the Perez decision, a majority of the whole body is necessary.
94 There are 108 seats in the Senate so for a motion to carry in a recorded vote there must be 55
95 votes or more in favor; votes against, and abstentions, all work against something being passed.
96 Even if there are 70 people present and the vote is 50 to 20 on a resolution, that resolution
97 could not be considered passed because it is not a majority of the entire body (55 votes)
98 needed. Before we transact any business we have to count to determine if we have a quorum.
99 This is why it is imperative for incoming Senators to sign the attendance sheet which is our

100 legal record, proving that we had a quorum for each and every Senate meeting. Meetings of the
101 Senate have always been and will continue to be open to the public. People who are not
102 Senators and wish to address the Senate are accorded floor rights. If we have a quorum, we can
103 still pass items and resolutions by voice vote if it's unanimous or very close to unanimous. For
104 example, if we know we have 70 people, and on a voice vote it becomes apparent, that there
105 are only two or three negative votes and no abstentions, then we can assume that an item is
106 passed. But for anything that is close or controversial, we will now need to take a roll call vote.
107 Senators will have to put their name on a ballot and vote "yes" or "no" or "abstain." (Under
108 these rules, abstaining is equivalent to voting "no".) At the last Senate meeting, there was a
109 resolution on the Iraq war, which was up for discussion and a vote. Everything up to that point
110 in the meeting had been approved by voice vote unanimously; there was a quorum for
111 everything up to the Iraq war resolution and everything was a valid, binding action of the
112 Senate and incontrovertible. We had a recorded vote, on the Iraq war resolution, but perhaps
113 since the abstentions were not asked for, the vote indicated less than a quorum which made any
114 action taken by the body null and void. The Governance Committee thus decided to bring the
115 vote back to the Senate one more time, only in a meeting where there would be a quorum and
116 everybody was clear on what the voting procedures were. The Governance Committee has
117 divided the resolution into four separate parts as was done at the last meeting. Discussion
118 followed. Ballots were then distributed on the motions as follows:

119 **First motion:** Be it resolved that the Lehman College Senate calls for an immediate end to the
120 Iraq war and the return of all American military personnel from Iraq. And urges Congressional
121 representatives from both parties (especially those from New York State) to undertake to end
122 the war and occupation of Iraq by legislative means, including reduction of the appropriations
123 for the war. 41 yes; 44 no; 9 abstentions. The motion failed.

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125 **Second motion:** Resolved that the Lehman College Senate urges the members of Congress
126 (particularly our own New York State representatives) and the Bush administration to expand
127 the appropriation for Iraqi refugee humanitarian aid and increase the quota of Iraqi refugees
128 admitted into the U.S. 39 yes; 21 no; 14 abstentions. The motion failed.

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130 **Third motion:** And be it further resolved that the Lehman College Senate calls on our own
131 and other university communities to promote free and informative discussion, possibly
132 including teach-ins or the history of the war in Iraq, the war on terrorism, the causes of
133 terrorism throughout the world, and the possible development of multilateral, long-term
134 solutions to Middle East problems. 61 yes; 8 no; 5 abstentions. The motion was approved.
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136 **Fourth motion:** And, be it further resolved, the Lehman College Senate calls for maintaining
137 the American tradition of open discussion of political issues and for increased vigilance against
138 efforts to suppress dissenting views and civil liberties: 60 yes; 9 no; 5 abstentions. The motion
139 was approved.

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141 The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be on the Monday after Thanksgiving,
142 November 26 at 2 p.m. in Shuster 179.

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144 **b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**

145 There was no report.

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147 **c. Undergraduate Curriculum –**

148 Prof. Barbara Jacobson reported that recommendations to the Senate today come from the
149 Department of Anthropology, the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre, the
150 Department of Biological Sciences, and the Department of Environmental, Geographic and
151 Geological Sciences. Also, there was an informational item, and experimental courses from the
152 Department of Anthropology, the Department of Journalism, Communication, and Theatre, and
153 the Department of Biological Sciences. The report was approved unanimously.

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155 **d. Committee on Graduate Studies-**

156 **1.** Prof. Timothy Alborn reported on two experimental courses from the Department of
157 Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences, and a Letter of Intent from the
158 Department of Economics, Accounting, and Business Administration for a Master of Science
159 in Business with a specialization in finance, marketing, human resources management, or
160 international business.

161 **2.** A proposal for extending the time limit for earning a Lehman College Master's degree from
162 five years to seven years was put before the Senate. Discussion followed. The proposal was
163 withdrawn for further consideration by the Graduate Studies Committee.

164 **3.** The next meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee will be Tuesday, November 20 at 11
165 a.m. in Carman 201.

166 **e. Committee on Academic Freedom-**

167 There was no report.

168 **f. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

169 Floor rights were requested for Mr. James Carney. He reported that the next meeting will be on
170 Tuesday, November 13 at noon in the Library Conference Room when the committee will
171 evaluate all the preliminary surveys on technology, and a draft will be available at the next
172 Senate meeting.

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174 **g. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

175 There was no report.

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177 **h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

178 1. Prof. Eric Delson, reported that in the last meeting of the Committee, there was a discussion
179 of the CUNY COMPACT. He explained that this is an agreement with New York State to fund
180 all of CUNY's basic expenses plus making additional funds available each year for specific
181 targeted purposes; in turn, those funds would be incorporated into the following year's base
182 budget. With the first two installments of the COMPACT, Lehman has received over \$3
183 million, applied to such categories as new faculty and staff lines, facilities improvements,
184 additions to student services and information and technology upgrades.

185 2. The new Lehman College budget for COMPACT funding for next year was requested by
186 CUNY Central less than three weeks ago and is due there on Friday. In the last week the
187 college administration has taken the proposal from CUNY Central and made some allowed
188 modifications, which were presented to the committee today by the four Division heads. In
189 brief, a total of \$4,586 million dollars is requested with major allocations as follows: full-time
190 faculty and support, \$1.99 million; full-time STEM faculty, \$753 thousand; campaign for
191 Student Success, \$803 thousand; research supplies, equipment, library- \$98 thousand; student
192 services (mainly counselors), \$310 thousand; workforce development, \$80 thousand;
193 information management, \$190 thousand; and facilities upgrade and Environmental, \$363
194 thousand.

195 3. The next committee meeting is planned for December on a Friday or Wednesday at 2 p.m.

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199 **i. University Faculty Senate-**

200 **1.** Prof. Philipp reported that the issue of senior college admissions criteria is being referred to
201 the campuses. Campus governance bodies will be expected to determine how they wish to act
202 on the admissions changes that have been requested by the Chancellery. Last month the
203 University Faculty Senate distributed a copy of a letter from Executive Vice Chancellor Selma
204 Botman on this topic; it details the intended changes in admissions requirements. The
205 University Faculty Senate Legal Affairs Committee has been active in considering the legal
206 and governance aspects of these changes.

207 **2.** The Governor's Commission on Higher Education will hold a series of public hearings:
208 November 15 at Nassau Community College; December 5 at CUNY from 3-6 p.m.; December
209 11 at the University of Rochester; and on December 13 at SUNY Binghamton. While CUNY
210 faculty members may wish to testify it is difficult to do so because of lack of background
211 information. Likely subjects are funding for CUNY, the COMPACT, and the Tuition
212 Assistance Program. It should be noted that the University Faculty Senate Executive
213 Committee has voted to support the CUNY COMPACT.

214 **3.** The Natural Science Doctoral Program restructuring continues, and advertising for the
215 programs is now going out. The detailed changes in governance that the Chancellery envisages
216 are only now being considered by Ad Hoc committees in each program. These Ad Hoc
217 committees, will report to the Doctoral Program Executive Committees. The joint degrees
218 proposed last spring in the City College and Hunter College Senates have not been presented to
219 the Graduate Council of the Graduate Center, which would share in the joint degrees. The
220 Natural Science Doctoral Program Executive Committees are also discussing detailed
221 proposals. Governance changes, if any, will apparently be delayed until 2009. The University
222 Faculty Senate monitors the process closely since this is a university-wide academic issue that
223 University Faculty Senate representatives to Board Committees will be expected to vote on.

224 **4.** Construction of the proposed CUNY Advanced Science Research Center and another
225 building on the City College campus have been on hold since the spring of 2006 due to the
226 dispute with the NY Structural Biology Center. Construction-induced vibrations are said to
227 potentially interfere with operation of the research equipment in the center, a consortium of
228 NYC area universities.

- 229 **5.** The University Faculty Senate Fall Conference will take place on Friday, December 7 from
230 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hunter School of Social Work.
- 231 **6.** The CUNY Academy will soon hold elections for its Board of Directors and its leadership.
232 Two candidates have declared their interest in the position of President of the Academy, and
233 candidates have expressed their interest in other positions. Nominations are still open.
- 234 **7.** In the last month, the University has announced adding nearly 800 new full-time faculty,
235 including substitutes. When substitutes are factored out, and when replacement hires are also
236 factored out, an analysis of the data suggests that new, non-substitute, non-replacement
237 professional hires might really be only 36 over the last year. Yet, some preliminary numbers
238 may indicate net new hires in the 200s. It is expected to be made clearer by the end of
239 November.
- 240 **8.** Data presented to the University Faculty Senate since the September Plenary show that all
241 but one of the senior colleges have large amounts of unexpended State funds in their CUTRA
242 accounts ranging from 2-7 million per campus. Community Colleges have unexpended funds
243 in their reserve accounts. While it is essential to keep certain reserves, large amounts of
244 unexpended tax-levy funds weaken the argument that CUNY needs more State support.
245 Reserve and CUTRA account funds can be used for any academic purpose such as faculty
246 salaries and travel, teaching supplies, teaching equipment and so on. CUTRA monies cannot
247 be used for large capital items such as a rooftop air conditioning unit.
- 248 **9.** The University's Intellectual Property Committee, chaired by Executive Vice Chancellor
249 Botman, has not met since April 2006. After consultation with the Chancellor, the University
250 Faculty Senate has recently replenished the membership of the Committee, but decisions as to
251 what inventions to support and what inventions are to be released to faculty inventors are
252 apparently being made by one person in the administration.
- 253 **10.** The CUNY School of Journalism is considering a change in its governance structure. The
254 University Faculty Senate will monitor and comment on this process, since University Faculty
255 Senate representatives to CUNY Board Committees will vote on anything that comes to the
256 Board.
- 257 **11.** The Chancellor has asked college presidents to deliver budget plans by November 9. The
258 Presidents are to solicit input from elected faculty representatives. This was discussed at
259 Friday's meeting of the campus faculty governance leaders.

260 12. The ERP, the system that will subsume CUPS, SIMS, and other computer-related
261 functions, is now called CUNY First. The first CUNY First application to go "live" will be the
262 General Ledger, to be launched on July 1, 2008:. CUNY plans an emergency notification
263 system while SUNY is now doing a pilot on some of their campuses. There will be a
264 minimum of two administrators on each campus who will have the ability to log in and send
265 emergency messages.

266 13. Microsoft Windows Live is reported to be the new student email system. Four colleges
267 will use this initially, and the rest are expected to begin in January. The Honors College is
268 already using the system for freshmen.

269 **OLD BUSINESS**

270 There was no old business.

271 **NEW BUSINESS**

272 There was no new business.

273 **ADJOURNMENT**

274 The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



Esdras Tulier