Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
April 9, 2008


The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of March 5, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Change in order: Motions were made and approved to change the order of presentations. Old Business was moved to lead the Standing Committee reports, and the University Faculty Senate report was moved to follow the Governance Committee report.
Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández announced that the Master Plan of CUNY for 2008-2012 is being finalized. A draft of the plan was shared with groups on the campus for input. The Master Plan is the document that has to be submitted every five years to the Regents of the State of New York. Once approved, it is the document that guides the budget requests and drives the agenda for CUNY as a system.

2. Today at the Council of Presidents meeting, President Fernández saw some interesting statistics on the CUNY Alert System. This system, implemented by many universities, is designed to notify students by cell phone of an emergency on campus. The cell phone system is quite expensive, but CUNY petitioned to be part of New York State Alert, which was approved. Thus far, 8.9% of the students have enrolled; the goal is to have about 30% enrolled. Faculty and staff are also encouraged to sign-up.

3. Regarding the State Budget, the legislature is expected to vote today—late by a few days. Some of the cuts were restored, such as a $650,000 SEEK appropriation. CUNY did very well in terms of the capital budget: $1.3 billion in comparison to $980 million that had been recommended. Funding for Phase II (design) of the Science Building at Lehman was included. There’s also another $250 million for a category known as critical maintenance, for an aging infrastructure.

4. It’s always possible that in mid-year we’ll have additional reductions. On the plus side, this spring we received some additional funding that enabled us to address pressing needs such as sprucing up the college and purchasing additional technology. Overall, and in spite of the budget problems that the State is undergoing, we expect that next year will be a stable one. We will be still hiring faculty, and as the Chancellor says, we want to implement some version of the COMPACT. Obviously no significant new monies and no tuition adjustments are anticipated, though some reserve monies from CUNY will be available to help us in this year. The short-term problem was $18 million while the long term problem depends upon what happens with the State economy. President Fernández will be attending a CUNY conference and a major luncheon for elected officials on April 26. When the dust settles on the budget, we expect to learn more. The City budget comes out May 2 and while we are not affected significantly, we do have requests for capital money from the City to assist us with some of our projects.

5. There’s a major new CUNY initiative called Summer in the City that will be unveiled shortly. For a number of years we have been promoting the notion that, to make progress on the degree, students should take advantage of summer school. CUNY wants to bundle all its colleges so as to become much more competitive in attracting CUNY and non-CUNY students. It’s more of the campaign to brand CUNY and to become more competitive with other institutions.
b. Student Conference-

1. Student Conference Chair Ms. Nusrat Chowdhury pointed out that the bylaws have not been updated since 1974; they will be revised and presented to the Senate for approval.

2. One source of student complaints is the limited library hours, forcing students to use other facilities.

3. Messrs. Justin Simmons, Adnan Hirad, Jason Jeremias, and Ms. Nusrat Chowdhury met with Mr. Scott Dames regarding means to maximize scholarships.

4. The Conference met with a representative for the office of Students with Disabilities and discussed systematic improvement of accommodations on elevators and the use of brail on signs.

5. Specific responsibilities were assigned to members of the Steering Committee as follows: Mr. Jason Jeremias, Publicity Officer; Ms. Rovna-Lyn Joseph, Office Manager; and Mr. Angel Vitello, Secretary.

6. A vote was taken for the amendment of the by-laws which have not been changed since 1974. All were in favor.

7. The Conference reviewed the new Biology, Art, and Theatre courses. It was noted that the Theatre course will require students to attend a number of Broadway productions.

8. The committee recommends a Dean’s list award for each semester of satisfactory merit as opposed to one cumulative award.

9. In the Open Forum, various issues were raised such as students paying for printing again; whether the withdraw clause is fair, and scholarships.

10. The next meeting will be held on April 16 in Room 112.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-

a. Old Business-

1. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee submitted the following Resolution: Whereas on February 6, 2008 the Governance Committee of the Lehman College Senate referred to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee a proposal to reorganize the Department of Sociology and Social Work into the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Social Work and; Whereas on February 13, 2008 the Department of Sociology and Social Work voted to approve the reorganization of the Department into the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Social Work, effective July 1, 2008 and; Whereas after deliberation the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee voted on February 20, 2008 to endorse the proposal; be it

Resolved that the Lehman College Senate approve the reorganization of the Department of Sociology and Social Work into the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Social Work; and be it further

Resolved that the programs and courses in Sociology be transferred to the newly established Department of Sociology; and be it further

Resolved that the programs and courses in Social Work be transferred to the newly established Department of Social Work.
The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Discussion was open to consider the Resolution regarding Admissions Requirements for Transfer Students, First-Time Freshman, and changes to the Basic Skills Requirements for Mathematics. Prof. John Mineka offered two amendments to the Resolution, both of which were seconded:

Amendment One: Replace Section B of Minimum Requirements for Freshmen with: From Fall 2009 entering students must have a CAA average of 80 or higher. In addition, a required SAT score will be phased in over a period of years: from Fall 2009, entering students must have a combined SAT of at least 800; from Fall 2010, they must have a combined SAT of at least 850, and from Fall 2011 must have a combined SAT of at least 900. The amendment failed to carry.

Amendment Two: Add to the paragraph following section B: A Senate committee to rule on exceptions to the admissions criteria shall be established, consisting of four faculty, two students and an administrator. The amendment failed to carry.

3. President Fernández called the question on the original Resolution, namely, that the Lehman College Senate approve the Recommended Admissions Criteria for Transfer Students (effective Fall 2009), the Recommended Changes to the Basic Skills Requirements for Mathematics (effective October 1, 2008), and the Minimum Requirements for Admission as a First-Time Freshman (effective Fall 2009), in the Report of the President’s Advisory Committee on Reassessing Access and Excellence at Lehman College.

The Resolution was approved with one abstention.

a. Committee on Governance

1. Professor Duane Tananbaum said the Governance Committee met on March 27 and discussed the Bell Schedule but decided not to bring a motion before the Senate at this time.

2. The Committee nominated student John Figueroa to the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities. A motion was made to that end and Mr. Figueroa was elected.

3. Prof. Tananbaum provided a complete slate of Senate Committee nominations for 2008-2010 for the approval of the Senate:

   Committee on Academic Freedom
   Prof. Jessica Shiller
   Prof. Michael Buckley

   Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards
   Prof. David Rothchild
   Prof. Xavier Totti
   Prof. Amanda Gulla

   Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning
   Prof. Haiping Cheng
   Prof. Janet Munch
A motion was made to accept the slate of nominees. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

4. Nominations for Faculty membership in the following related entities were presented:

Lehman College Association for Campus Activities (a one-year term)

Prof. Andrea Boyar
Prof. Grace Bullaro
Prof. Mario Gonzalez-Corzo
Prof. Judith Duncker
Prof. David Manier

A sixth person will be nominated at the next Senate meeting on April 30. Meanwhile, the above five nominations were voted on and unanimously approved. The President will select three of the six nominees.

Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation (a one-year term)

Prof. Richard Blot
Prof. Daniel Bautista

The above nominations were voted on and unanimously approved. The President will select one of the two nominees.

5. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be held April 16 at 4 p.m in Shuster 179.
b. University Faculty Senate.

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the Chancellery has submitted materials to the New York State Department of Education relating to the CUNY Board of Trustees decision to give Hunter and City College joint degree status in the Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Physics Doctoral Programs, to give Hunter College Joint Degree status for the Doctorate in Public Health, and to establish a Doctoral Program in Engineering at City College. The existing engineering programs at the Graduate Center continue, presumably, until the last student graduates.

2. The materials submitted to the NY State Education Department quote from a report on the natural sciences doctoral programs that states that for CUNY to continue to excel in the sciences in an increasingly competitive environment, resources must flow to the high quality programs, specifically those at Hunter and City College, which do the bulk of doctoral education university-wide in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and physics. Having CUNY’s submission to the NY State Education Department quote this passage may have negative implications for funding models for the science academic departments that do not participate in doctoral education joint degrees, such as Lehman. No college senate has spoken to the joint degree issue other than Hunter, City, and the Graduate Center.

3. Moving associate programs from John Jay College to community colleges has begun. John Jay is moving from being a comprehensive college to a four-year senior college. Its associate programs in forensics and criminal justice are among the first to be approved at Hostos Community College. This will lead to a tighter association between community colleges such Hostos and John Jay.

4. The Chancellery has provided the University Faculty Senate with a draft of a CUNY conflict of interest policy which was discussed at the April UFS plenary. Members of the UFS Executive Committee and the UFS Legal Affairs Committee will meet with Vice Chancellor Shaffer and his staff this Friday to suggest revisions in the proposed policy. Prof. Philipp learned that the CUNY Research Foundation plans to modify its conflict of interest policy to more closely adhere to the new CUNY policy. The policy is expected to be on the agenda at the June meeting of the Board of Trustees.

5. The Chancellery has provided the UFS with a draft of the CUNY Master Plan. A copy has been distributed to campus governance leaders in order to get back comments that can be
reported to Vice Chancellor Botman by April 21. The college presidents are charged with
doing the same on their campuses.

6. As Lehman has already done, several college senates and councils are revising their
governance plans. Prof. Philipp encourages governance leaders to consult with the UFS on
these draft plans, well before they come to the CUNY Board committees where UFS
representatives will vote for or against these revisions. It is important that revised plans
maintain and enhance faculty influence in college governance.

7. Former UFS Chair Susan O’Malley has been elected President of the CUNY Academy of
the Humanities and Sciences. Prof. Sandi Cooper, another former UFS chair, continues as
treasurer. The Academy’s Higher Education Seminar Series continues; the most recent
seminar was by Mary Nolan of NYU’s History Department, speaking on The University
Against Itself. The UFS Spring Conference scheduled for this month has been cancelled.

8. Market conditions have had a continued impact on CUNY’s $159 million investment
portfolio. The composite return on equity investments over the last three months was
-12.27%. This was below the S&P 500 benchmark of -9.68%. The overall composite three-
month return for all investments was -7.46%. The Board Committee on Fiscal Affairs
yesterday summarily withdrew from one poorly-performing investment fund.

9. CUNY’s tax levy budget will likely be reduced from that proposed by former Governor
Spitzer. The effect of the change in governors on the proposed CUNY and SUNY Compacts
for Higher Education is uncertain.

10. Prof. Philipp reported earlier that Governor Spitzer had significantly reduced CUNY’s
five-year capital request. The capital budget for community colleges is further diminished by
New York City’s failure to provide matching funds for funded State projects. The
Chancellery has encouraged community colleges to concentrate their capital requests to
those projects that already have State funding. The UFS has obtained a list of these State
projects.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson introduced proposals from the Department of Health Sciences that
includes establishing a program in Exercise Science. There also were proposals from the
Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre, and one proposal from the Department
of Political Science. Also, there was one informational item, an experimental course from the
Department of Biology. The report was approved.
2. The next meeting will be held on April 30 in Carman 221 at noon.

d. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards**-

There was no report.

e. **Committee on Graduate Studies**-

1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported one informational item, an experimental course from the Music Department. He also reported on a proposed new course from the Department of Health Sciences and one new course from the Political Science Department.

2. He reported on a proposed change concerning academic probation. It revises the wording in the graduate bulletin to state that graduate students with 9-17 graduate credits completed, and whose grade point average falls to 2.5 or lower, can continue in their graduate program only upon successful appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee. A second proposal from the Office of Graduate Studies is in regard to continuation. It points to the specific continuation requirements listed under different departments. The goal here is to address students’ attention to continuation requirements which have become more rigorous in several of the new professional programs.

3. Also proposed is a Master of Science in Business with Specialization in Finance, Marketing, or Human Resource Management. International business was withdrawn from the original letter.

4. The report was approved.

5. The next meeting will be April 30 at 1 p.m in Shuster 106.

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom**

There was no report.

g. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**-

1. Mr. James Carney was granted floor rights and presented several informational items. He said guest presenter Associate Provost Robert Whittaker talked about the current initiatives and goals in General Education to promote and track student information literacy.

2. Guest presenter Professor Susan Voge of the Library presented on the iSkills Assessment Test which Lehman, along with other select CUNY campuses are initially presenting to evaluate the information literacy skills of our students. The test measures a student’s cognitive and technical skills and the ability to use digital technology, communication tools and
networks. Specific evaluations are returned to the students while results are aggregated for institutional use on a comparative scale.

3. Guest presenter Professor Sandrea DeMinco of the Library and committee member Professor David Fletcher spoke about Information Literacy initiatives in the Education program.

4. The Committee agreed to continue to monitor information literacy initiatives and issues and to periodically report to the Senate.

5. Chief Librarian Professor Kenneth Schlesinger spoke about the electronic reserve system which would enable instructors to have copyright-cleared documents scanned and made available via the internet for student course work.

6. The Student Technology Survey was ready for publication when it was recommended that the projected survey being created by the Lehman Website Development Committee be combined under one survey. This is being done now and within days should be ready to be launched.

7. Mr. Carney said that a new e-mail system will be available for students (not faculty) in August.

8. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29 in the Library Conference Room.

h. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities -

There was no report.

i. Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning -

There was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier