Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2009


The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes Adopted:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 23, 2009. The minutes were approved with the amendment that lines 134-136 in the Graduate Studies report should read: “Prof. DeSimone announced the need for a new committee member to replace Prof. Timothy Alborn. She nominated Prof. Angela Kelly from the Department of Middle and High School Education as a member. Prof. Kelly was elected.”

Announcements and Communication-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández reported that the Board of Trustees of the City University is getting ready to prepare a budget request. At next week’s meeting of the Standing
Committees of the Board, including the Budget Committee, a budget request will be discussed and approved. This item is important because it will be acted on by the full Board on November 23 and then submitted to the Governor in Albany as CUNY’s formal request for fiscal year 2011.

2. Last Friday, President Fernández learned that the CUNY capital project plan for the following fiscal year will include monies for phase two of the science facility at Lehman College. This is for $195 million on top of what is being done in phase one. Included later on will be some money for equipment, which will be in fiscal year 2014.

3. Earlier in the day, the President attended the first town hall open discussion meeting of the Strategic Planning Council. Discussion centered on the draft of a Strategic Planning Report which has been circulated to department chairs. It’s also available in the library and on Blackboard. A second town hall meeting is scheduled for November 19.

4. President Fernández referred to the college’s enrollment growth. It continues to be strong, and that in itself has required the College to expand facilities, especially since further enrollment growth is anticipated. This, among other things, will involve relocating departments. Lehman’s day care center will have to be moved because the temporary facilities (which have been here for 40 years) will have to be demolished as we move to phase two in construction of the science facility.

5. All in all, it’s positive news for the campus. The President is confident that the construction money will receive high priority because these are funds that put people to work. Major reductions are not expected this year, but it remains to be seen what the budget will be for the following year.

b. **Student Conference**

1. Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos, Student Conference Chair, reported that Conference activities are going well. Membership has increased threefold after the last special election on September 30, and a strong cooperative effort is evident.

2. Ms. Bouzalakos is personally working on helping to create a mandatory women’s study course for all students. There is interest in restructuring the commencement ceremony—perhaps having the event in a place other than the Lehman College field.

3. Another special election is coming up and may possibly increase membership to 52 from the current 24.
REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-

a. Committee on Governance-

1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that he was re-elected chairman of the Governance Committee for another year, and Prof. Rosalind Carey was re-elected as secretary.

2. Given the presence of three new administrators in the Senate by virtue of their positions as an assistant vice president of Institutional Advancement, an associate dean of Arts and Humanities, and an associate dean of Natural and Social Sciences, it is necessary to add six more student representatives, and nine more faculty representatives to the Senate. This way, the balance of one fifth administrators, one third students and one half faculty remains in effect. For the faculty seats, the following candidates were elected from the last election’s list: Prof. Grace Bullaro, Department of English; Prof. David Fletcher, Department of Middle and High School Education; Prof. Keith Happaney, Department of Psychology; Prof. Andrei Jitianu, Department of Chemistry; Prof. Laurentiu Maxim, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; Prof. Milagros Ricourt, Department of Latin and Puerto Rican Studies; Prof. Kevin Sailor, Department of Psychology; and Prof. Heather Sloan, Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences. Since the non-tenured faculty list (Category B) is now exhausted, an election will be necessary to generate a new list from Category B. There are at least three vacancies.

3. The next item was to elect six student members of the Senate with seven students in nomination for the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. This was put aside momentarily for a motion on the floor to elect the students nominated for all the committees other than the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The following students were elected: Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards: Ms. Lola Brooks, Mr. Duane Adams, Mr. Charles Beard, Mr. Venchard Wilson and Ms. Mobria Small. Committee on Graduate Studies: Mr. Duane Adams. Library, Technology and Telecommunications Committee: Mr. Charles Beard, Ms. Algenis Cabrera, Ms. Jane Nopachinda and Ms. Joann Ruiz. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities: Ms. Kelly Calderon, Mr. Miguel Delgado, Ms. Michaelle Garcon, Ms. Abisola Olabode, and Mr. Christopher Calderon. Committee on Academic Freedom: Ms. Anyelina Fermin. Budget and Long Range Planning Committee: Ms. Lola Brooks, Mr. Charles Beard, Ms. Joann Ruiz and Mr. Keith Lewis. Prof. Tananbaum then returned to election to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Ballots were distributed and the
following students were elected: Ms. Claudia Amoama, Ms. Princess Howze, Mr. Marvin Bennett, Mr. Venchard Wilson, Mr. Charles Beard, and Mr. Lamont Badru.

4. The Governance Committee at its meetings on September 30 and October 14 discussed the issues it planned to focus on this year. One of the issues concerns the changes in the amendments to the bylaws in the governance documents. The committee’s hope is to present the revisions to the November Senate meeting for preliminary discussion with a vote at the December meeting. The main change is to reduce the size of the Senate, and that change would go into effect at the next election two years from now. Another point is to concentrate on improved communications between the committees and other bodies within the college. The third issue is brand new this year: the marginalization of the Lehman College Senate. Whether it’s intentional or not, it seems to many that on a number of issues the role of the Senate is becoming more and more marginalized, more and more limited and important decisions are made elsewhere on the campus. For example, the change that was made late last year to Blackboard as an anti-plagiarism system without any discussion with the Senate’s Library Committee. Another example is the introduction this year of divisional-based undergraduate curriculum committees. We’re not clear how those fit in to the existing curricula structure from the departments to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The Governance Committee will be meeting with the Provost in the next few weeks to discuss what she sees as the role of the divisional undergraduate committees. There’s a new strategic plan draft that has been circulated to various groups on campus. We’re concerned that even though we have a Senate Committee on Long-Range Planning and Budget, there was no involvement of this committee, though the Senate has been asked to comment. And there have been others. While each of these proposals individually may not be interpreted as an attack on the role of the Senate, they may have been undertaken without having the Senate in mind. Consequently, the Governance Committee will address what it has labeled as the marginalization of the Senate.

5. The Committee met with Prof. John Mineka, who, at the last meeting, introduced a motion calling for straw votes before formal written votes were taken. He modified his motion somewhat after reading the court decision under which we are bound to operate. The Governance Committee subsequently decided not to recommend the motion. The Committee did, however, share Prof. Mineka’s concern over the lack of confidentiality in Senate balloting. The Special Counsel, Mr. Esdras Tulier, informed the committee that to
the best of his knowledge nobody has ever asked to see the ballots of a given ballot vote.

Prof. Tananbaum then focused on the resulting resolution before the Senate:

“Resolved that the Lehman College Senate resolves that the College’s legal
counsel inform the Senate, through the Governance Committee, of any requests to
examine the written ballots or the lists of yeas or nays on any votes in the Senate.”

Discussion followed. The proposed resolution was tabled for further discussion by the
Governance Committee. The Committee also withdrew another resolution, pending
further discussions with Mr. Tulier:

“Resolved, that the Lehman College Senate resolves that members of the
Governance Committee be provided with copies of the agenda and minutes from
the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee’s meetings in a timely manner, with
the understanding that material exempt from Freedom of Information requests be
removed from such documents.”

6. The Governance Committee has asked the chairs of all the Senate committees to send
their responses to the draft of the Strategic Planning Report by the end of this month so the
Governance Committee can compile their responses and forward them to the Planning
Council.

7. The next meeting of the committee will be at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4 at
a place to be announced.

b. **Undergraduate Curriculum**

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from the Department of Art; the
Department of English; the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological
Sciences; the Department of Health Sciences; the Department of Journalism,
Communication and Theatre; the Department of Middle and High School Education; and
the Department of Philosophy. There are also four experimental courses presented from:
the Department of Art; the Department of Environmental Geographic and Geological
Sciences; the Department of Languages and Literatures; and the Department of Middle
and High School Education. The report was approved.

2. The next meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. on November 11 in Carman 221.
c. **Committee on Graduate Studies**

1. Prof. Janet DeSimone presented two proposals for minor policy changes from the office of Graduate Studies. The report was approved.
2. The next meeting will be in November.

d. **Committee on Academic Freedom**

There was no report. But the next meeting will be held on November 19.

e. **Committee on Library, Technology and Telecommunications**

1. Mr. James Carney reported that at the meeting on Tuesday, October 27 three subjects were discussed: (1) The Lehman 10-year plan as it relates to the committee; (2) Feedback on technology issues from the new Student Conference members on the Committee; and (3) Updates on the Unified Printing System.
2. Mr. Carney stated that on the Ten-Year Strategic Plan, the observation was that the plan is related to technology spoken of in general terms, which in such a draft is not unexpected. The Committee plans to formulate specific recommendations on what elements it would like to see included in the final plan, such as a vision for a unified Information Technology network infrastructure for academic use by faculty and students, as well as maintaining state-of-the-art computing technology.
3. The new Student Conference members were welcomed and were solicited for feedback on technology issues from their perspective. Issues discussed included access to printing, wireless access, and access to software specific to certain disciplines. Specifically, when an instructor plans on utilizing such specialized software (i.e., “JuMP” and “Foodworks”) that they consult with the library and Information Technology staff so that whatever accommodations are needed to have that software available on computers in common areas for students to work on (subject to license availability and funding).
4. Regarding the Unified Printing System, Information Technology is working with the vendor to resolve some outstanding issues with the new system. One problem is the inordinate strain the system is placing on the Library staff which is devoting excessive time assisting students with printing issues. In one remedy, the library has handed out customized literature on how the system works, and the staff is meeting shortly to explore other ways to address this problem.
5. The Committee agreed to plan informal meetings with the Student Conference members to brief them on the work of the committees and background on issues it has been considering.

6. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10 in the Library conference room. At that meeting, Associate Provost, Robert Whittaker, will discuss online learning and Blackboard issues including the new “Safe-assign system.”

f. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**

   There was no report.

g. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning**

   1. Prof. Robert Feinerman reported that the Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee joined with the Budget Committee of the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee for two meetings since the last Senate meeting. At both meetings Vice President Derek Wheeler and Provost Mary Papazian participated in the discussion. At the meeting of September 24, the Committee received an outline of the faculty hiring including the number of positions and in which departments faculty were being hired. The budget is balanced but the bad news is that all the City University Tuition Reimbursement Account (CUTRA) money has been used.

   2. At the meeting held four hours ago, the Committee requested a description of the staff changes in the Executive Compensation Plan (ECP) and the amount of money being spent on executive compensation. Also requested was information on the number of new hires in the Higher Education Officer lines. There’s a question about three new people added to the Executive Compensation Plan, but there is no change in the amount of the money being spent.

   3. The Committee discussed proposals for COMPACT 5, which would be the next big spending plan coming up.

h. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**

   Mr. Ralph Boone was granted floor rights. He reported that the Committee met on October 13, and he was elected chair. The Committee presented one new proposal:
“Resolved, that the admissions standards for Fall 2010 regularly admitted freshman students, currently set at a total SAT score of 900 (Verbal and Math), be modified to a total SAT score 940 (Verbal and Math), with all other admissions requirements remaining the same as those for Fall 2009.”

After extensive discussion, the resolution was passed by voice vote.

i. University Faculty Senate-

1. Prof. Manfred Phillip reported that the 2009 University Faculty Senate Fall Conference on “Funding Public Higher Education” is rescheduled for Friday, December 11. The Senate was informed to use the University Faculty Senate Twitter page, at http://twitter.com/ufscuny for short updates and other items.

2. The University Faculty Senate Spring Conference on “Access to Higher Education in the Health Sciences” took place on May 8 at the Graduate School. The conference was fully subscribed and resulted in interesting discussions.

3. The University Faculty Senate Faculty Experience Survey, an effort by Prof. Kathleen Barker of Medgar Evers College, is now active. Everyone who was on the teaching staff on April 1, 2009 should have received a postcard containing the login information. The funding package needed to execute the survey was provided by Executive Vice Chancellor Lexa Logue. The University Faculty Senate extends its sincere thanks to Prof. Barker for her leadership on the project and Vice Chancellor Logue for her support. The survey is being conducted by Votenet.

4. The new Human {Subjects} Research Projections Program, a document that regulates the activities of the University Institutional Review Boards goes to the CUNY Trustees this month. The University Faculty Senate has met with the Chancellery to help improve the various drafts.

5. The University Faculty Senate has asked the University to outline preparations for H1N1 and seasonal influenza. CUNY units have begun to communicate their preparations to the college communities.

6. The previous effort by the chancellery to establish equivalencies for doctoral academic credentials in faculty hiring has reverted to the practice of establishing such equivalencies for each Personnel Vacancy Notice (PVN).
7. Pursuant to campus-based complaints, the University Faculty Senate has asked the University to examine its implementation of the Workplace Violence Policy. It appears that not all campuses are diligent in making that policy known to the campus community, and not all campuses respond promptly to workplace violence allegations.

8. The University Faculty Senate Faculty Advisory Council for the Research Foundation has met with Research Foundation President Richard F. Rothbard and Vice Chancellor Gillian Small to discuss formal training in research ethics, now demanded by federal funding agencies for people associated with federal research grants. Vice Chancellor Small has introduced that on her web site.

9. The University Faculty Senate Executive Committee is considering measures meant to strengthen CUNY’s academic processes. One suggests making good campus governance an evaluation criterion in the CUNY Performance Management Process used to evaluate college presidents. Another aims at getting the university to do more to confirm the claimed academic qualifications of applicants for teaching and other positions. A third aims at getting the University to respond in a consistent and appropriate manner when employees are discovered to be featuring non-accredited academic degrees, whether or not those degrees are needed for their job title.

10. The Chancellor’s Task Force to study the PSC-CUNY award process is expected to advocate significant restructuring of the grant program. The proposal now under discussion suggests two-tier grants policy, one tier of high value grants subject to significant review and another tier of low value grants subject to less stringent review. The University Faculty Senate has had discussions on this with the Professional Staff Congress (PSC.) Both have membership on the Task Force.

11. It appears that CUNY Compact-related efforts to gradually increase tuition can be expected to continue and that efforts will be made to retain as much of the revenue as possible. The New York State Division of the Budget predicts that the New York State deficit will grow from $2.1 billion in FY 2009 to $4.6 billion in FY 2010 to $13.3 billion in FY 2012. Any undergraduate tuition increase may be limited by the maximum covered by the Tuition Assistance Program. Graduate tuition may increase more.

12. Planning continues for proposed new units in the university. These include a seventh Community College, a school of public health, based at Hunter with consortial faculty members at Brooklyn, the Graduate School, and Lehman. Governance of the new school of Public Health is an issue that is being discussed with the Hunter Senate leadership.
Planning continues for a doctoral level School of Pharmacy to be based at York College. The idea of more college-based professional doctorates was mentioned in the CUNY Council of College Provosts. The consultants engaged for the Pharmacy program suggests high than normal faculty salaries and a $16K in state tuition level.

13. Since June 2007, six CUNY campuses have seen or are seeing changes in the person serving as president. These are Baruch College, Brooklyn College, City College of New York, College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, and Medgar Evers College.

14. Governor David Paterson has appointed Dr. David M. Steiner, Dean of Education at Hunter, to the position of State Education Commissioner.

15. CUNY college enrollment plans were due in the Chancellery on October 14 and inquiries have been made on whether college governance was involved.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier