Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Badru, L.; Barry, M.; Beard, C.; Bennett, M.; Boone, R.;
Bouzalakos, H.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Carney, J.;
Cavallo, S.; Choudhary, A.; Delgado, M.; DeLapina, M.; DeSimone, S.;
Deveaux, F.; DiPaolo, M.; Esteves, C.; Farrell, R.; Feinerman, R.;
Gorokhovich, Y.; Greenberg, J.; Haghighat, E.; Harushimana, I.;
Levitt, J.; Lucente, J.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.;
Olabode, A.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.;
Raaum, R.; Rachlin, J.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.;
Seiger-Gardner, L.; Silverman, H.; Sloan, H.; Small, M.; Soto, M.;
Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.; Wunder, A.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Artinian, A.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Barnard, J.;
Mineka, J.; Ndukwe, C.; Onemola, O.; Peruero, C.; Rice, A.;
Ricourt, M.; Schwartz, G.; Segura, Y.; Shiller, J.; Sibermintz, N.;
Sokol, M.; Tegeder, D.; Thompson, P.; Totti, X.; Twomey, R.;
Zermatt-Scutt, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 3:40 p.m.

President Fernández made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of
April 7, 2010. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements and Communication—

a. 1. President Fernández commented on the New York State budget negotiations in Albany,
noting that there are very few noteworthy developments to report. However, the president
remarked upon Governor Paterson’s use of the “F” word, “Furlough,” to express the seriousness
of the situation. So far though, the budgetary process has not been given the attention it deserves. President Fernández hopes that there will be progress in the near future, and will keep the campus community apprised, both in the Senate and on the College’s website.

2. An upcoming event will be of particular interest to faculty and individuals who have served at Lehman for many years. On May 6, at 11:00 a.m. in the East Dining Room, there will be a memorial service for Senior Vice President Emeritus Glen Nygreen, who passed away a few months ago. A memorial service was already held for Dr. Nygreen, but it was decided that for a person who had done so much for Lehman, and over such a long and distinguished career, a truly special event was merited. Dr. Nygreen was a highly respected administrator, and loved by many. A few alumni, who worked very closely with him, will be speaking at the event, and there will be a small reception.

3. The next meeting of the Senate will take place on May 12. The purpose of that meeting will be to enable the president to share with the Senate the status of the College’s plans to implement the report produced by the Strategic Planning Council. There are a number of developments to report, some the result of work undertaken by members of the President’s Cabinet. At this upcoming Senate meeting, Dr. Fernández will be able to furnish a progress report; more work is needed on the report before it is widely disseminated. In addition to the Senate, he will also report to the General Faculty Committee, and other groups over the next few weeks.

4. Dr. Fernández congratulated those students who are graduating, and especially those who are being inducted into honor societies or who are going to be awarded special recognition. A program honoring these outstanding students will take place on the evening of May 26, the day before commencement. During Scholarship Day on May 12, students will be able to describe their research to the campus community.

b. Student Conference—

Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos, Student Conference Chair— who mentioned that she had been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa— reported that student government elections are under way, so it is important for senators to help raise the number of students who participate. She noted that the Student Conference is seeking to improve last year’s dismal voter turnout: only about 1,000 students out of the 12,000 voted.
REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES—

a. Committee on Governance—

1. Professor Duane Tananbaum reported on the Governance Committee’s concern with the Divisional Curriculum Committees. The provost will be meeting in the fall to discuss this issue with the Undergraduate Curriculum and the Graduate Studies Committees. Any proposed changes in curriculum will now go to the chairs of these Senate Committees as well as the Divisional Committees, so if something gets blocked at the divisional level—which is the Governance Committee’s primary concern—the Undergraduate Curriculum and Graduate Studies Committees will be aware of this and will be able to take appropriate action. To reiterate: the chief concern is not that the Divisional Curriculum Committees will propose ideas that they will try to implement without Senate approval, but rather that these divisional committees might seek to block proposals favored by Senate Committees.

2. The Senate is required to play a role in the process of selecting an ombudsman. Therefore, the Governance Committee presented a slate of four candidates to the Office of Ombudsman for consideration by the Senate: Prof. Deena Bernstein, Department of Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences; Distinguished Prof. Joseph Dauben, Department of History; Prof. Orhan Kayaalp, Department of Economics and Business; and Prof. Fred Phelps, Department of Psychology. Each of the candidates nominated, who must be tenured faculty members, was contacted; each expressed a willingness to serve as ombudsman if selected. After a ballot vote, the Senate selected Prof. Bernstein and Prof. Kayaalp as the final candidates to be presented to President Fernández.

3. Professor Tananbaum next brought up the issue of nominations for faculty membership on the Senate’s Standing Committees. The committees, and their proposed new faculty members are:

- **Committee on Academic Freedom**: Prof. Michael Buckley, Department of Philosophy and Prof. Naomi Spence, Department of Sociology.

- **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards**: Prof. Amanda Gulla, Department of Middle and High School Education; Prof. Elin Waring, Department of Sociology; and Mr. David Rothchild, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.
• **Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning**: Prof. Pamela Ginex, Department of Nursing; Prof. Haiping Cheng, Department of Biological Sciences; and Prof. Vassilios Gargalas, Department of Economics and Business.

• **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**: Prof. Eleanor Campbell, Department of Nursing; Prof. Kofi Benefo, Department of Sociology; and Prof. Immaculee Harushimana, Department of Middle and High School Education.

• **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**: Ms. Debra Faison, Department of Economics and Business; Ms. Jacqueline Aquilino-Jirak, Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Science), Prof. Carol Gross, Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education; and Prof. Wesley Pitts, Department of Middle and High School Education, (who was nominated from the floor).

• **Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum**: Ms. Alice Akan, Department of Nursing; Prof. Barbara Jacobson, Department of Sociology; Prof. Serigne Gningue, Department of Middle and High School Education, and Prof. Yuri Gorokhovich, Department of Environmental, Geographic; and Geological Sciences. Prof. Gorokhovich was nominated to a one-year term, while the other nominees would serve for two years.

• **Committee on Graduate Studies**: Prof. Grace Bullaro, Department of English; Prof. Angela Lebbon, Department of Economics and Business, and Prof. Angela Kelly, Department of Middle and High School Education.

Professor Tananbaum then offered a motion that the Senate accept these nominees (with the exception of the Campus Life and Facilities Committee). The motion was seconded, and approved.

The Senate was asked to choose from three names out of the four nominees to the **Campus Life and Facilities Committee**. The three individuals elected were: Ms. Debra Faison, Ms. Jacqueline Aquilino-Jirak and Prof. Wesley Pitts.

4. The Governance Committee presented a slate of six nominees for the **Lehman College Association for Campus Activities, Inc.**: Prof. Andrea Boyar, Department of Health Sciences, Prof. Grace Bullaro, Department of English; Prof. David Manier, Department of Psychology; Prof. Penny Prince, Department of Music; Mr. Xavier Totti, Department of Latin and Puerto Rican Studies; and Prof. Joy Greenberg, Department Social Work. A motion was submitted that this slate of nominees be accepted, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Senate
will forward these six names to the president; he will then choose three individuals to serve one-year terms.

5. The Governance Committee presented the names of two nominees to the Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation. The two nominees were Prof. Allan Hollander, Department of Music and Prof. Carl Mazza of the Department of Social Work. There were no additional nominations from the floor. A motion to confirm the slate was approved. The Senate will forward these two names to the president; he will then choose one individual to serve a one-year term.

6. The Governance Committee reviewed the proposed by-laws of the new Lehman College Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies, set to commence its work in the fall. Prof. Tomohisa Hattori, chair of the Political Science Department and chair of the Center’s Acting Steering Committee, met frequently with the Governance Committee. The Committee has gone through the by-laws, and suggested various changes—which the Acting Steering Committee accepted. The motion to approve the by-laws was approved.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards—

1. Mr. Ralph Boone presented a list of undergraduate and graduate candidates for May and September 2010, subject to approval by the registrar. The motion to accept the list was approved.

2. The Committee, responding to a request from the Governance Committee, examined the numbers of appeals that had been submitted, and in what categories, and that list was submitted to the Governance Committee.

3. The Governance Committee has also requested that data be collected detailing campus programs that require more than a 2.0 grade point average. The Committee is compiling that list.

4. The Committee also continues to examine the proposal that required SAT scores for incoming freshmen be raised. Mr. Boone then presented admission application data. Freshmen Applications to Lehman College: 13% increase: from 16,100 in 2009 to 18,100 in 2010. Transfer Applications to Lehman College: 26% increase: 4,990 in 2009 to 6,390 in 2010.
c. **Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum**—

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented three proposals from the Departments of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies; the Department of Social Work; and the Department of Sociology, which were moved, seconded and approved. There was also an informational item from the Department of Sociology. Professor Jacobson then presented proposals for changes from the Deans of Arts and Humanities; Natural and Social Sciences; and Education. These changes all relate to the separation of Teacher Education components to specific departments in these divisions and the continuation of academic majors in these departments. Discussion followed and Prof. Jacobson removed the Chemistry Department from the group of changes proposed by the deans; it will be voted upon at a later date. The motion to approve the changes was approved.

2. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 12:30 p.m.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**—

1. Professor Janet DeSimone presented four proposals from the Department of Economics and Business; the Department of Environmental, Geographic, and Geological Sciences; the Department of Middle and High School Education; and the Department of Social Work. In addition, she presented a Letter of Intent from the Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education. There are also changes from the Divisions of Arts and Sciences, Education, and Natural and Social Sciences; these latter changes are the same proposed for undergraduate curriculum; i.e., discontinuing the teacher education component of programs while maintaining academic majors. There were also informational items from four departments: Department of Environmental, Geographic, and Geological Sciences; the Department of Middle and High School Education; the Department of Music; and the Department of Social Work. All proposals were approved unanimously.

2. The next meeting will be sometime in September.

e. **Committee on Academic Freedom**—

There was no report.
Committee on Library, Technology, and Telecommunications—
1. Mr. James Carney reported that the Committee met with Associate Provost Robert Whittaker. The focus was online education. The Committee agreed to maintain a dialogue with Dr. Whittaker so it can continue to inform the Senate and student body on this topic.

2. Mr. Carney also reported that Prof. Janette Tilley, chair of the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities, approached the Committee regarding the layout of computers in the library. The Committee agreed to examine this topic.

3. The Committee received a proposal to examine how e-books are used by faculty: their frequency of use, what faculty members like and dislike about them, and student reactions to their usage (as well as similar classroom technologies). This subject will be examined by the Committee.

4. The next meeting will be on May 6 in the Multi-Media Center. The initial meeting time of 12 p.m. will change to accommodate the students’ schedules.

Committee on Campus Life and Facilities—
There was no report.

Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning—
There was no report.

Committee on the University Faculty Senate—
1. Professor Manfred Philipp spoke on a number of topics, the first of which was the difference of opinion concerning Governor Paterson’s proposed Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. The Professional Staff Congress (PSC) and the United University Professions (the SUNY counterpart) have come out against it. Both groups oppose the Act’s proposed tuition increases as well as differential tuition increases—both by campus and program. (The SUNY University Faculty Senate has expressed favor with the proposed legislation; the CUNY’s University Faculty Senate has not taken a stand.) The CUNY Chancellery opposes differential tuition by campus while supporting differential tuition by academic program.

2. Professor Philipp cited the Faculty Experience Survey and noted that it is available online. Specific data on Lehman College will be presented at the next General Faculty meeting.
3. The topic at the University Faculty Senate Spring Conference, to be held April 30, is “Middle States Review —Opportunities and Pitfalls.” The meeting is full; CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alexandra W. Logue will be making a presentation. Two faculty members at Lehman College—Prof. Rosalind Carey, Department of Philosophy and Prof. Anne Humpherys, Department of English—will serve as discussants.

4. Noting that his term as chair of the University Faculty Senate is soon to end, Professor Philipp said that he will continue to play a role in the organization by serving as an ex-officio member of the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

5. Among the issues to be discussed at the University Faculty Senate May Plenary Session is a proposal to allow community college students to acquire their associate degrees after they transfer to a senior college; many community college students transfer prior to receiving their degrees. This would boost the degree-completion rate of community colleges, which has been criticized. Two community colleges already are utilizing this approach, and it positively effects their graduation rate by between five and ten percent.

6. The University Faculty Senate believes that the misrepresentation of academic degrees amounts to academic misconduct—even if this misrepresentation is not a requirement for a specific academic position.

7. The CUNY Board of Trustees has endorsed governance plans for the School of Professional Studies and the Macaulay Honors College. The University Faculty Senate remains in contact with the Dean of the College, given that College’s Senate did not have a chance to review the governance documents prior to Trustee approval. It should be noted that the Chancellor commented: “This is a living document and can be changed.”

8. Work continues on CUNY’s new community college; an interim founding president will be named soon.

9. CUNY is helping to fund a Nursing Simulation Center at New York University. CUNY will provide the funds to construct the facility, while NYU will be responsible for operating expenses. The facility will be available to all CUNY students.

10. City College has a new president: Dr. Lisa Staiano-Coico. At Bronx Community College, President Carolyn Williams has announced her plan to retire in June 2011.

11. The dispute concerning the PSC-CUNY Awards continues. However, as agreed to by the University Faculty Senate, the Professional Staff Congress, the University Committee
on Research Awards, and the Chancellery, the issue has been moved into labor-
management negotiations.

12. There is a controversy brewing over the use of e-mails in legal discovery proceedings.
The Chancellery has issued a document providing guidelines for “e-discovery,” and the
University Faculty Senate is discussing it. The concern is over the possibility that in a law suit
against CUNY, that might include a CUNY faculty member, that instructor’s e-mail would be
subject to inclusion in the “discovery process” and removed from that faculty member’s
computer.

At John Jay College, where this policy already has been implemented, the Faculty Senate is
advocating that the procedure be modified so that only the dates under consideration, as well as
only the material deemed “relevant” to the suit be part of discovery, therefore limiting any
potential seizures. This is an issue that will be coming up for discussion with the Chancellery.

j. **Old Business-**
   There was none.

k. **New Business-**
   There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Fernández adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier