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**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Senate Meeting**

Senators Present: Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Almodóvar-Salinas, D.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Barnard, J.; Bennett, M.; Bergmann, R.; Blot, R.; Borrell, L.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carrellas, P.; Carey, R.; Carney, J.; Cheng, T.; Clark, V.; Correa, D.; DellaPina, M.; DeSimone, J.; Eleyinafe, O.; Esteves, C.; Fernández, R.; Fletcher, D.; Freedberg, S.; Gálvez, A.; Gilbert, F.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Greenberg, J.; Gross, C.; Haghighat, E.; Hattori, T.; Holloway, J.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jarroll, E.; Jervis, J.; Jitianu, A.; Jones, L.; Kayaalp, O.; Kolb, P.; Larimer, A.; Lawrence, A.; Levitt, J.; Lizardi, H.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Martín, O.; Matthews, E.; Maybee, J.; Munch, J.; Nadeem, S.; Ndukwe, K.; O'Connor, N.; O'Hanlon, T.; Omare, D.; Onyedum, J.; Papazian, M.; Peruyero, C.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Raaum, R.; Rice, A.; Rotolo, R.; Samuels, Y.; Sanchez J.; Schlesinger, K.; Sesay, F.; Sokol, M.; Soto, M.; Tananbaum, D.; Thomas, G.; Totti, X.; Troy, R.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, E.; Wunder, A.; Zapata, S.; Zermatt-Scutt, M.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Abbondanza, R.; Amaoma, C.; Artinian, A.; Bayne, G.; Choudhary, A.; Deveaux, F.; Dobson, C.; Duhaney, C.; Eldridge, D.; Farrell, R.; Feinerman, R.; Fermín, A.; Garçon, M.; Henry, P.; Howze, P.; Iddrisu, A.; Kabat, D.; Lucente, J.; Qian, G.; Rachlin, J.; Ricourt, M.; Ross, S.; Schwartz, G.; Sibermintz, N.; Sloan, H.; Twomey, R.; Waldo, I.; Walkwe, D.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 3:45 p.m.

President Fernández asked to amend the agenda by moving "Old Business" from Item No. 5 to immediately follow Item No. 2, "Announcements and Communications." The amendment to the agenda was approved. President Fernández made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Senate meetings of December 15, 2010, February 2, 2011 and March 2, 2011. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

43 **Announcements and Communications–**

- 44 a. 1. President Fernández reported that last week, the governor and the State legislature, reached
45 an agreement regarding the budget. He said that the details still need to be worked out, but
46 there are some significant reductions. We are trying to implement them with a view towards
47 maintaining enrollment. The deans have been working on this and developing plans. There
48 will be more information coming from the Central Office, over the next few months, about the
49 budget for next year.
- 50 2. Last weekend, the president attended the “Somos El Futuro” Conference in Albany. He
51 participated in a panel with representatives of the State University of New York, the
52 Professional Staff Congress, and the SUNY faculty and staff union.
- 53 3. Finally, the president spoke about the ongoing project, Foundations of Excellence. He
54 expects to have more specific information by the next Senate meeting and a brief report by the
55 next General Faculty meeting in early May.

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57 **b. Student Conference–**

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59 In the absence of Mr. Marvin Bennett, Ms. Yasmin Samuel gave the Student Conference
60 report. See Attachment I.

61
62 **c. Old Business**

63 Professor Duane Tananbaum briefly explained the resolution to amend the Governance
64 Documents and Senate Bylaws changing “Student Conference” to “Student Legislative
65 Assembly.” See Attachment II.

66
67 This resolution was moved and approved unanimously.
68 (N.B., adoption of amendments to the Governance Structure requires the presence of at least
69 two-thirds of all Senators.)

70 **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES–**

71 **a. Graduate Studies–**

72 Professor Janet DeSimone reported on proposals from the Department of History; the
73 Department of English; and the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Literacy and Special

74 Education. There was also one informational item from the Department of English. A motion
75 to approve the proposals was moved and approved.

76 **b. Governance—**

77 1. Professor Duane Tananbaum reported that the lists sent out for faculty nominations to the
78 Senate were out of date, and an email was sent out today with a current list. Faculty can
79 nominate up to 25 people, and after the final election, the committee makes sure that at least
80 one third of the nominations are from Category A, and one third from Category B.

81 Professor Tananbaum also reported on a resolution on General Education, endorsed by the
82 Governance Committee, and the result of the work of that committee as well as the
83 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and the Committee on Advising, Evaluation and
84 Academic Standards. There is one change in the language in the “4th Resolved.” It now
85 reads,

86
87 “The Lehman College Senate supports the activation of university-wide discipline
88 councils to help faculty in both senior and community colleges come to a consensus
89 about the level of work that is expected from students in general education courses.”
90

91 2. One of the concerns is that CUNY’s draft proposal to reduce the General Education
92 requirements might go through anyhow. If that happens, we want as much faculty input as
93 possible. To that end we are re-activating the Chemistry Council, the History Council, and
94 the Psychology Council so that the faculty and these councils can come to a consensus as to
95 the expected level of work in a General Education course. We may have to give full credit to
96 students coming from community colleges without an associate degree.

97 3. CUNY’s proposal mingles together two separate issues: the genuine problems of transfer
98 students and articulation with the whole separate issue of General Education courses.
99 Somehow, it attempts to fix the problem with students earning too many credits, especially
100 transfer students, allegedly, by lowering the number of credits senior colleges can require for
101 part of their General Education.

102 4. There is a problem with some students earning excess credits. However, looking at the
103 data, that problem isn’t any higher for transfer students. This problem is also common for
104 students who change majors, or who can’t get the classes they require in a semester for full-

105 time status to fulfill financial aid requirements. All this time is spent focusing on limiting
106 General Education, but yet this won't fix excess credit problems with transfer students.

107 5. The chancellor, the president, the senate, and the faculty have really worked hard the last
108 15 years to improve quality of education at Lehman College and CUNY. Reducing General
109 Education will lessen this quality, and have a negative impact on the students.

110 6. Professor Barbara Jacobson and Prof. Tananbaum did meet with Student Conference to
111 explain why they are opposed to the proposal by Executive Vice Chancellor Alexandra
112 Logue. Discussion followed.

113 7. Professor Tananbaum, at the suggestion of the president, reported on the specifics of each
114 of the six "resolves" in the proposed resolution. See Attachment III. Discussion followed.
115 The resolution was moved and approved with three abstentions.

116 8. Professor Tananbaum presented the list of Lehman College Senate Committee
117 nominations. Three nominees brought to the Senate Committee at previous meetings are now
118 incorporated with the current slate. Because of vacancies, these three nominees would take
119 their seats immediately: Professor Alyshia Gálvez, Professor Manfred Philipp and Professor
120 Carol Gross. The motion to approve the slate was moved and approved with one abstention
121 and a correction to Professor Alyshia Gálvez's name.

122 9. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be on April 14th at 10:00 in Carman
123 201.

124
125 **d. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards—**

126 Professor Anne Rice reported that in place of the Committee's March meeting, committee
127 members attended a meeting with Vice Chancellor Alexandra Logue. The Committee met
128 again on the 30th of March; at that meeting they approved the change in the probation policy
129 which will be presented at the next Senate meeting. They also voted to support the resolution
130 on General Education. The next committee meeting will take place after the spring break.
131 The committee will address the new tool for student evaluation of teaching, which will be
132 brought to next Senate meeting as information.

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136 e. **Undergraduate Curriculum**–

137 Professor Barbara Jacobson presented proposals previously brought to the senate and
138 discussed on February 2nd and March 2nd, as well as today's proposals. All the proposals were
139 moved and approved unanimously. The next meeting is April 27th in Carman 263 at 12:30
140 p.m.

141
142 f. **Academic Freedom**–

143 There was no report. The next meeting is on April 13 at 3:30 p.m. in Carman B-29.
144

145 g. **Library, Technology and Telecommunications**– See Attachment IV.
146

147 h. **Campus Life and Facilities**–There was no report.
148

149 i. **Budget and Long Range Planning**–See Attachment V.
150

151 j. **University Faculty Senate**– See Attachment VI.
152

153 k. **Report from the Ombudsman**–

154 Professor Orhan Kayaalp reported that the office of the ombudsman handled three cases. He
155 briefly explained the function of the ombudsman as an impartial person who will deal with
156 parties who have problems.

157
158 New Business–

159 There was none.
160

161 ADJOURNMENT

162 President Fernández adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.
163

164 Respectfully submitted,

165 
166 Esdras Tulier