Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Senate Meeting

Senators Present: Alborn, T.; Badru, L.; Bayne, G.; Bennett, M.; Bergmann, R.;
Borrell, L.; Carrellas, P.; Carey, R.; Carney, J.; Clark, V.; Correa, D.;
DellaPina, M.; DeSimone, F.; Eleyinafe, O.; Farrell, R.;
Fernández, R.; Fletcher, D.; Freedberg, S.; Gálvez, A.;
Larimer, A.; Lawrence, A.; Lizardi, H.; Magdaleno, J.;
Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; O’Connor, N.; O’Hanlon, T.;
Onyedum, J.; Papazian, M.; Peruyero, C.; Philipp, M.; Raaum, R.;
Rachlin, J.; Rotolo, R.; Tananbaum, D.; Troy, R; Warde, B.;
Wilder, L.; Wunder, A.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Akan, A.; Almodovar-Salinas, D.; Amaoma, C.; Artinian, A.;
Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Barnard, J.; Beard, C.; Blot, R.;
Brooks, O.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Cheng, T.;
Choudhary, A.; Deveaux, F.; Di Paolo, M.; Dobson, C.; Duhaney, C.;
Eldridge, D.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fermin, A.; Garçon, M.;
Markens, S.; Martin, O.; Maybee, J.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.;
Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Rice, A.; Ricourt, M.; Ross, S.; Samuels, Y.;
Schlesinger, K.; Schwartz, G.; Sesay, F.; Sibermintz, N.;
Silverman, H.; Sloan, H.; Sokol, M.; Soto, M.; Souare, I.;
Thomas, G.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Twomey, R.;
Voge, S.; Waldo, I.; Whittaker, R.; Zapata, S.; Zermatt-Scutt, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 3:42 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 6, 2011
with the following changes: line 82, should read “the resolution was endorsed and approved
by all three committees;” line 93, should read “we are recommending reactivating...” and line
115, should read “the resolution was moved and approved unanimously with three
abstentions.” The minutes were approved unanimously.
Announcements and Communications—

1. President Fernández reported that at the Council of Presidents meeting, there was discussion about the $40 million in funds being held up in Albany. He added that the chancellor will be meeting with high ranking administrators and was hopeful that some resolution of this issue would be forthcoming.

2. The president reported on a Daily News article concerning a press conference with SUNY’s chancellor, the governor, and the lieutenant governor. The article indicates that the governor supports SUNY’s request on behalf of their Board of Regents to set higher tuition at the four major research campuses. They also announced there would be a number of investments in terms of capital and other funding for these four units, including Stony Brook University, University at Albany and Binghamton University. The University of Buffalo is leading the charge. The elected officials, mostly Republicans, have been pushing very strongly for the University of Buffalo, which they see as an economic engine that would rejuvenate that city. If the legislature agrees to allow them to set tuition, the legislature will always maintain the right to make the final decision. President Fernández believes that if the legislature does this for SUNY, they will likely do it for CUNY as well. The chancellor was very clear that he was not in favor of differential tuition by institution within CUNY.

3. The president reported that for the past year, more than 100 individuals in this community have been involved in John Gardner’s Focus on Excellence (FoE); a study of the transfer student experience. After six months of intense self-study, they are ready to provide their recommendations, particularly the creation of the Transfer Council. Dr. Fernández asked Associate Provost Robert Whittaker to provide more details.

3. Dr. Whittaker reviewed the Focus on Excellence Study Update included in the Senate packet (see attachment I.) He reported that this study is the work of over 100 faculty and staff in nine committees. The result is a review of the whole transfer process at Lehman. The issue of excess credits will be looked at carefully. Dr. Whittaker thanked Assistant Dean Lynn Van Voorhis for her work on this study. Discussion followed. The president concluded by stating that he recently discovered that some graduating students had excess credits due to a change of major midstream and/or the addition of one or more minors.
4. Old Business—

It was agreed to move Item 4, “Old Business” up in the agenda. The resolution to approve the amendment to the governance documents to change the name of Student Conference to Student Legislative Assembly was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved. Professor Duane Tananbaum announced that while there was a quorum present, the required two-thirds majority was not. However, since the resolution passed unanimously in two consecutive meetings in which a quorum was present, the CUNY Board of Trustees will take that as a sign of overwhelming approval.

b. Student Conference—

Mr. Marvin Bennett reported that the last meeting of the Student Conference was postponed due to the “Big Freeze II.” At the final meeting, they will be voting in members of the steering committee who will lead the Student Legislative Assembly for the next term. He also thanked the Lehman College Senate for serving with them.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES—

a. Governance—

1. Professor Duane Tananbaum announced that the Governance Committee would like to withdraw the “Resolution Opposing Proposed Changes in CUNY Bylaws.” Professor Tananbaum reported a couple of weeks ago, that Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, Frederick Schaffer, had suggested numerous revisions updating the language. Currently, in Section 8.6, it states that the faculty shall be responsible for the formulation of policy, etc. Vice Chancellor Schaffer’s original proposal provided that the faculty shall be responsible for policy recommendations. Our authority would be reduced from making policy under Board guidelines to making policy recommendations. This was a substantial change and many were up in arms over this language. The vice chancellor amended his original proposal to now provide: “The faculty at each college, subject to the board, shall be responsible for the formulation of policy.” Therefore, since the original language has been revised, it no longer affects the Senate and we don’t need a motion opposing this change. Part of the context is that this comes at the same time as the battle for the General Education curriculum. Professor
Tananbaum reported that we need to remain ever vigilant about any amendments that take
away the authority of this body.

2. The Governance Committee has been very busy with the Senate elections process.
Everyone should have received ballots. Those ballots are due by the end of this week. Please
make sure to cast your votes. Everyone is eligible to vote.

3. The Committee on Academic Structure met this past Monday to further discuss
restructuring proposals. Most of these involve a change in the name from divisions to
schools. The proposal closest to fruition is the creation of the School of Health Sciences,
Human Services and Nursing, but it is not expected to happen imminently.

4. The next meeting of the Governance Committee is next Thursday, May 12 at 10 a.m. in
Carman 201. Professor Tananbaum thanked the members of the standing committees,
especially the chairs, for their service.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards—

1. Professor Anne Rice presented to the Senate the list of candidates for undergraduate and
graduate graduation for June and September 2011, subject to approval by the registrar. The
list of graduates was approved unanimously.

2. There was also a proposal to change the academic standards on probation, particularly the
change in language from “probation” to “probation warning.” See attachment II. Discussion
followed.

3. Ms. Lisa Moalem, retention specialist, was granted floor rights to clarify the difference
between “probation” and “probation warning.” She reported that when a student’s cumulative
index falls below good academic standing, the student will now be placed on “probation
warning.” The warning period gives students time to improve their grades. If this doesn’t
happen, they will be placed on “probation.” However, since it is not until the spring semester
that students are “caught” and then “dropped,” this extends that time to the following spring
semester. This is to allow students to appeal and for CAEAS to review them. There is not
sufficient time between the fall and spring semesters to appeal and review. Discussion
followed. A motion was made, seconded and approved to amend the resolution language from
“probation warning” to “academic warning.” The resolution was approved unanimously.
4. Professor Rice then presented the new Student Evaluation of Teaching tool as an informational item. She reviewed the new questions in the document, particularly the section on the skills learned by the students in the course. Feedback should be directed to Associate Provost Robert Whittaker. Discussion followed.

5. The report was unanimously approved.

President Fernández left for another engagement; therefore, Mr. Marvin Bennett chaired the remainder of the meeting.

c. **Graduate Studies**

In the absence of Professor Janet DeSimone, Dean Deborah Eldridge gave the report. She presented proposals from the following departments: Counseling, Leadership, Literacy and Special Education; Early Childhood and Childhood Education; English; History; Middle and High School Education; Music; and Environmental and Geographic and Geological Sciences. She also presented informational items from the Department of Middle and High School Education and the Department of Music. The proposals were approved unanimously. The next meeting is in the fall.

d. **Undergraduate Curriculum**

Professor Barbara Jacobson reported she would like to pull the experimental course: LAC (PRS) 349: Latino Political Economy, from the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies proposals. In the past, departments submitted new and experimental courses at the same time. Now they must be submitted separately and will be entered in separate Chancellor’s reports. She presented proposals from the following departments: History; Journalism, Communication and Theatre; Languages and Literatures; Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies; Anthropology’s Program in Middle Eastern Studies; Middle and High School Education; and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The proposals were approved unanimously.
e. Academic Freedom—

1. In the absence of Professor Mario González-Corzo, Professor Michael Buckley reported that the committee met on April 13th and is working on creating a virtual presence on campus. The idea is to create a platform for the Lehman community. The other idea is to serve as a repository of information; a way for the committee to inform the Lehman community and to stay ahead of the curve when policy issues arise. They will also be creating a survey. He expects the survey and website to be completed in the fall.

2. The next meeting is Monday, May 16, time and location to be announced.

f. Library and Communications—

1. Mr. James Carney reported that he attended a technology/security summit. It was an eye opening experience about the amount of data that is out there and the onslaught of attacks against our computer systems on a minute by minute basis. He urged that everyone seriously take all security measures that the university provides, especially concerning student information.

2. The next meeting will take place sometime next week.

g. Campus Life— See attachment III.

h. Budget and Long Range Planning— See attachment IV.

i. University Faculty Senate Report— See attachment V.

New Business—

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Marvin Bennett adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Esdras Tulier