Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, September 1, 2010 Senate Meeting


The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 3:43 p.m.

President Fernández made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Senate meetings of April 28 and May 12, 2010. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements and Communication—
a. 1. President Fernández welcomed all students, faculty, staff, administrators, senators and visitors interested in the business conducted at the Senate to the new academic year. He introduced Vice President for Administration and Finance, Mr. Vincent A. Clark. He stated that Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Mr. Ronald
M. Bergmann was away from campus today but expected him to be present at the next senate meeting where senators and others can meet him. Both administrators are a significant addition to the senior staff.

2. In the matter of the State budget, President Fernández reported that the legislature approved the budget for the University; overall $75.5 million for the coming year. There will be no tuition increase; however, this may be revisited after the fall election. In light of the budget situation, the College was mandated to reduce its budget by 2.5%. The College was also required to set aside 1.25% of the budget in a reserve account. Depending on how the fiscal year progresses, these funds may or may not be available to be spent. This is a total reduction of 3.75% of the budget. Many things have been affected except the hiring of faculty. The College made 29 new faculty appointments. There is a wonderful crop of talent. The president is pleased that faculty is coming from all over.

3. President Fernández stated that enrollment continues to be a work in progress. The College is maintaining a steady pace. Our enrollment target was increased by 2%. Enrollment is holding up considering that the College has increased its admission standards. Overall, enrollment is holding up due, in part, to increased retention. The College is on track to continue increasing its standards. We will present recommendations to the Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards later this month for discussion and action.

Yesterday, the president participated in the Weeks of Welcome activities for students. This event was organized by the Division of Student Affairs. These activities will run for several weeks during the semester. These activities give students a sense of the richness of the campus and a better understanding of the College’s resources and facilities.

4. The president extended an invitation to attend Convocation on September 15 at 11 a.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Julius Williams, an alumnus of the Music Department, and currently Professor of Composition and Conducting at Berklee College of Music in Boston. President Fernández also announced that at the April meeting, there were several actions. He reported that he selected Prof. Orhan Kayaalp, of the Economics and Business Department, to serve in the Office of the Ombudsman. In addition, there were other recommendations for the president’s consideration for appointments to the Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation and Lehman College Campus Association for Student Activities (CASA). The president reported that he will announce his decision on those appointments at the next Senate meeting.
b. Student Conference—

Mr. Marvin Bennett, the new Student Conference chair, introduced himself to the Senate. He welcomed the Senate to the new academic year. Mr. Bennett reported that the Student Conference is already busy at work, creating a new major. He emphasized the importance of student representation in college governance. He introduced Mr. Lamont Badru, Student Conference Parliamentarian and leader of the Black Students Association. Mr. Badru spoke about the minor in Urban Community Management which by its nature is inter-disciplinary. He asked for support for this minor as community development and engagement are components of the strategic plan.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES—

c. Governance Committee—

1. Professor Duane Tananbaum emphasized the importance of signing the attendance sheet as it is the only way to prove that a quorum is present. He also informed those present that for ease of counting votes, voting members of the Senate are to be seated in the center and to the right while observers should sit to the left. Prof. Tananbaum gave a brief reminder to the committee chairs to circulate draft minutes to other committees, and submit the final draft to Mr. Esdras Tulier, the Special Counsel.

2. Prof. Tananbaum moved on to standing committee elections. He noted that Prof. Manfred Philipp and Prof. Rosalind Carey’s terms as Governance Committee members have expired and are eligible for re-election. He called for nominations from the floor. A motion to reelect Prof. Philipp and Prof. Carey was moved, seconded and approved. They were re-elected by acclamation. Prof. Tananbaum then asked for student nominations from the floor for service in the Governance Committee. The student nominees were Mr. Marvin Bennett, Mr. Lamont Badru, Mr. Christian Peruyero, and Ms. Abisola Olabode. The motion to accept the student nominations was moved, seconded and approved. The students were elected by acclamation.

3. Prof. Tananbaum then announced that there was a vacancy in the Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards as a result of Mr. Ralph Boone’s resignation as a member and chair. He submitted the nomination of Prof. Penny Prince, of the Department of Music, to replace Mr. Boone as a committee member. He called for additional nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations from the floor and the
motion to accept the nomination of Prof. Penny Prince was moved, seconded and approved by acclamation. Prof. Tananbaum then submitted the nomination of student Ms. Ydelsa Segura and called for additional student nominations from the floor. The additional student nominees were Mr. Christian Peruyero; Mr. Lamont Badru, Mr. Charles Beard, Mr. Derrick Omane, and Mr. Brian Romero. The motion to accept the student nominations was moved, seconded and approved. The students were elected by acclamation. Prof. Anne Rice will convene the first meeting as the committee does not have a chair.

4. Prof. Tananbaum then requested student nominations from the floor for membership in the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The student nominees were Ms. Felicia Henry; Ms. Claudia Amoama; Mr. Charles Beard; Ms. Stephanie Zapata; Ms. Gloria Thomas, and Mr. Lamont Badru. The motion to accept the student nominations was moved, seconded and approved. The students were elected by acclamation.

5. Prof. Michael Buckley announced that the Academic Freedom Committee does not have a chair and is in need of student members. Mr. James Carney, chair of the Library, Technology and Telecommunication Committee also encouraged students to become involved in that committee.

**d. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee—**

1. Prof. Jacobson pulled from consideration by the Senate the proposal titled “Change in Approved Major Requirements for Undergraduate Teaching Certification in Early Childhood and Childhood Education.” Prof. Barbara Jacobson then presented proposals from 10 departments and one program: from the Department of Art and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; the Department of Chemistry; the Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education. The Department of Economics and Business; the Department of History; the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies; the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; the Department of Middle and High School Education; the Department of Philosophy: a new minor in Disability Studies; the Department of Philosophy, and the Program in Women’s Studies. Prof. Jacobson also presented informational items from the Department of Art and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; the Department of Economics and Business, and the
Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies. A motion to approve the proposals was moved, seconded and approved.

e. Graduate Studies—
There was no report.

f. Academic Freedom—
There was no report.

g. Library, Technology and Telecommunications—
There was no report. However, Mr. James Carney, the committee chair, announced that the next meeting will take place on September 13 in the Library Conference Room. He added that Vice President for Information Technology Resources, Mr. Ronald M. Bergmann will be present then.

h. Campus Life and Facilities—
There was no report.

i. Budget and Long Range Planning—
There was no report.

j. University Faculty Senate—
1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that CUNY has, for the first time in memory, failed in its mission to admit all NYC high school graduate applicants to its community colleges. It is not at all clear that the city and state will provide the money needed to keep that from happening again next year.

2. The University Faculty Senate has also been told that the state is interfering with CUNY’s attempts to rent emergency instructional space. However, the university has succeeded in renting instructional space for the proposed New Community College (NCC) at a very desirable location near Bryant Park. The university has also secured rental space for the School of Professional Studies. The New Community College, which proposes a special interview procedure for applicants, may take on some of CUNY’s best community college applicants.
3. The Chancellor's selections for members of the University Committee on Research
Awards (UCRA) have been delayed pending the completion of negotiations to pilot a
restructuring of the PSC-CUNY Awards program. The new agreement provides for three
types of grants, with the top tier providing $12,000 per year. The top tier grants are funded by
additional funds. UCRA will be reduced from 31 Liaisons to 18 Panel Chairs. The deadline
date for PSC-CUNY Award applications has been moved to January 15.

4. The Chancellery has presented a report at the Fiscal Affairs Committee of the Board that
underlines the challenges faced by the senior colleges of CUNY. CUNY's FY 2010 Financial
Plan for the senior colleges sees an $88 million reduction in support. CUNY has seen a $205
million cumulative reduction in state support since FY09. While the university will get
through this year without major problems, the next year is quite uncertain.

5. SUNY and CUNY administrations take a very different approach in their legislative
efforts. SUNY attempted to get the state to pass PHEEIA (the Public Higher Education
Empowerment and Innovation Act - a.k.a. the "Empowerment Act"). This is a plan that would
give the CUNY and SUNY Boards to set tuition and keep tuition revenue, while separating
university purchasing from the state purchasing system.

6. In contrast, the CUNY administration supports the CUNY Compact, which provides for
gradual tuition increases, with complete retention of tuition revenue inside the university, but
also emphasizes complete State and City coverage of mandatory costs. The Compact also
emphasizes safeguarding full student financial aid. The CUNY Administration is very eager to
see the Compact be enshrined into law before the next election. The University Faculty Senate
Executive Committee has endorsed the Compact.

7. As you know, CUNY participates in the state Early Retirement Initiative (ERI). According
to Vice Chancellor Sapienza, CUNY colleges only retain half the salaries of faculty who retire
under the terms of the ERI. Colleges retain all of the salary of faculty who retire without a
retirement initiative. Thus, the initiative results in a long term reduction in college base
budgets. Retrenchment of tenured faculty has now taken place at a reported six SUNY senior
colleges (but not the University Centers.) Retrenchment is not part of the vocabulary used by
senior CUNY central office officials. However, that could change if the state budget shortfall
increases to $15.6 billion in FY 2014, and the city shortfall increases to $5.3 billion.
8. All state Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards have been reduced by $75. TAP now requires a 15 credit load in each semester, based on prior credit accumulation. TAP will not be available to graduate students. There is no new money for CUNY capital projects. The University Faculty Senate Executive Committee has asked CUNY to oppose federal student aid to proprietary colleges that have high student loan default rates. The University Faculty Senate has determined that the University Faculty Senate Fall Conference, on the provision of public higher education in the prisons, will take place on Friday, February 4. It is anticipated that a Spring Conference will be held later that semester. The University Faculty Senate also plans to hold a public hearing on Faculty Diversity in CUNY.

9. The new University Faculty Senate Chair, Professor Sandi Cooper of the College of Staten Island, took office on August 25. Professor Stefan Baumrin of Lehman College and Prof. Philipp remain on the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The University Faculty Senate Executive Committee yesterday named Professor Rosalind Carey of Philosophy to be chair of the University Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Committee. Prof. Philipp becomes chair of the University Faculty Senate Committee on Public Higher Education in the Prisons, University Faculty Senate Webmaster, and liaison to the Faculty Advisory Committee for the CUNY Research Foundation and liaison to the CUNY Intellectual Property Committee, member of the Governing Board of the School of Professional Studies, and member of the CUNY Legislative Action Council. Professor Baumrin becomes the faculty member of the CUNY Board Committee on Faculty, Staff, & Administration and remains as liaison to the University Faculty Senate Legal Affairs Committee and to the CUNY Baccalaureate’s University Committee. Professor Emily Tai, of History at Queensborough Community College, becomes editor of the Senate Digest. The next University Faculty Senate Plenary is on September 21; Vice Chancellor Frederick Schaffer will discuss various new university policies.

President Fernández spoke about the Foundation of Excellence Initiative. He indicated that last year he chaired the task Force on Retention, Progression and Graduation at Lehman. The focus of the Foundation of Excellence is to help transfer students transition smoothly from community to senior college. We have a Freshman Year Initiative but no program to focus on sophomores. We have brought together a team of faculty and staff to focus on transfer and
sophomore students this fall and to develop a plan of action based on data to be collected via surveys and from institutional sources.

Old Business-
There was none.

New Business-
The president called for nominations from the floor for the person to chair the Senate meeting in his absence. Prof. C. Alicia Georges, of the Department of Nursing, was nominated, and there were no additional nominations from the floor. The motion to accept the nomination of Prof. Georges as the person to chair the Senate meeting in the absence of the President was moved, seconded and approved. She was elected by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT
President Fernández adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier