Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 15, 2010
Senate Meeting


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

President R. Fernández made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of November 17, 2010. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Announcements and Communications—

a. 1. The President reported that Lehman is still in the same situation regarding budget. The governor elect will probably issue the budget in late January. CUNY is in close contact with both the incoming and the outgoing governors.
2. This past week Lehman had a very successful visit by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester and first cousin to the Queen of England. He is a royal patron of the St. George’s Society. This organization, established in the 18th century, has been assisting people who hail from the British Commonwealth. For the last couple of years, Lehman has had a very good working relationship with this entity, which has provided scholarship funds for some of our British Commonwealth students, primarily from the Caribbean and Africa. Also present on this visit was the director of the Mountbatten Institute, a separate organization. The College has also entered into a relationship with this Institute. They have awarded a fellowship to one of our Business program graduates, who will be spending a year in London, all expenses covered, as well as an internship with a major corporation. If this is monetized, it’s worth about $42,000. We were pleased that our student was a recipient of the award, but we’re even more pleased to learn that the awards will continue each year: the scholarship recipient will spend a year in London with the Mountbatten Institute. Dr. Fernández thanked everyone present who played a part in this successful visit.

3. The president also reported that he had a request from the Governance Committee to provide data regarding expenditures and budgets. The College has been doing a lot of thinking and planning about how it shares information. All are familiar with the Performance Management Process (PMP) that the university has had over the last several years. And every year on the CUNY website, interested parties can access the PMP Report. Every institution in CUNY is listed there. Every year, Lehman, as every other campus, is given a set of goals and objectives, and we respond with our own goals and objectives. Lehman has been doing this for several years, and the information is available on the web not only for the current year, but also data that goes back several years. All of that data is available, but beyond that, from time to time, there are requests for other specific data. Dr. Fernández asked Provost Mary Papazian to address this issue.

4. Dr. Papazian reported that data needs have continued to grow, not only with regard to the standard self-studies and the PMP process, but also with regard for the needs for assessment, external accreditations and just good planning. Coupled with the resources that we currently have, is the transition from the Legacy Systems to the CUNY First system. Some of the data will be available in different forms, others will need to be maintained through other systems that are created. So to respond to these issues, questions and concerns, we’re putting together
an ad hoc committee, which will be co-chaired by Vice President Ronald Bergman, Chief Information Officer, and Dr. Susanne Tumelty, director of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment. They will gather a group of people with knowledge of the different kinds of data, to really start to address, in a global way, how we should handle data on campus, and how we can make it most available and most useful. As part of that process, Information Technology Resources is working with a team to provide an “information dashboard.” This doesn’t create data, but simply makes it available and more user-friendly. We also need to make sure we understand what that data represents; that it is accurate data, and that it is used in a way that is actually going to produce an analysis that is legitimate and not something that is missing key components. The Office of the Provost is very much aware that there are questions that have emerged in the course of people’s work on assessment. So clearly, the Office of Institutional Research is going to guide that. To put all of this together, a fundamental charge of the ad hoc committee is to develop a set of protocols, guidelines, and information so that people know what kinds of data are available, where it’s available, what kind of questions it can ask, and where people go for other kinds of information, etc. Some of the information can be retrieved through the CUNY Office of Institutional Research, and our office has a close relationship with them. So we’re really working to put this together in a way that can be shared with everyone. This is an ongoing process. It will take time for some of this to evolve. And this office will be reaching out to many constituents on campus to ensure what we come up with is something that really does address the concerns and the interests that many have. Discussion followed.

b. Student Conference—

See attached report by Mr. Marvin Bennett. Attachment I.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES—

Governance Committee—

1. Professor Duane Tananbaum presented two resolutions from the Committee. The first reads as follows:

RESOLVED that in the interests of the fullest participation and communication across various constituencies, the Lehman College Senate requests that the Faculty
Personnel and Budget Committee elect a faculty representative to serve on the ad hoc Committee on Structure. The resolution was unanimously passed.

2. The second resolution reads as follows:

RESOLVED that in the interests of saving money and the environment, agendas, minutes, committee reports, and any other materials for the meetings of the Lehman College Senate will henceforth be made available on the college website at least one week prior to the meeting, with notice of their availability sent to each senator, and displayed at meetings, rather than distributed in paper form, except that those members of the Senate wishing to receive paper copies of such materials may request to do so. Paper copies will continue to be distributed to the Library, and included with all permanent records of the Lehman College Senate.

An amendment was proposed that a small number of hard copies be available on the table before the meeting. Discussion followed. The amendment failed to carry. Discussion then followed on the original resolution. The resolution carried with one abstention.

3. The students have recommended that the student representatives now be called The Student Legislative Assembly. This change will be on the February Senate agenda as Old Business for a vote.

4. Regarding the Committee on Structure, most of the members have been appointed. They are: Prof. Tananbaum, Governance Committee; Ms. Jacqueline Aquilino-Jirak, Campus Life and Facilities; Prof. Cheryl Smith Gabig, Graduate Studies Committee; Ms. Alice Akan, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee; Prof. Penny Prince, Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards; Mr. James Carney, Library, Technology and Telecommunications Committee; Associate Provost Robert Whittaker as Administrator; and Prof. Manfred Philipp as the Faculty Executive Committee representative. There is still a need for representatives from two committees, and the student representatives are listed above.

5. Also if there are any Senators who are resigning or retiring please let Prof. Tananbaum know. All seats must be filled. Please send an email.

6. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be January 19th at Carman Hall, room 201.
b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards—
Professor Anne Rice reported that the committee met on December 8, and the first order of business was the election of Prof. Penny Prince to the ad hoc Committee on Structure. After a brief discussion the committee deferred discussion on the standards for probation until the February meeting.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum—
Professor Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from three departments: the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre; the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences, and the Department of Political Science. The proposals were unanimously approved. The Committee will meet again in February 2011.

d. Graduate Studies—
Prof. Janet DeSimone reported proposals from the Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education and the Department of Middle and High School Education. The proposals were unanimously approved. The next meeting will be held February 9, 2011.

e. Academic Freedom—
There was no report.

f. Library, Technology and Telecommunications—
1. Mr. James Carney reported that the Committee met this past Monday. The first order of business was his re-election as chair.
2. Vice President Ronald Bergmann discussed a better way of handling data on campus; however, this is only at the draft stage. It is an ongoing process. Prof. Kenneth Schlesinger, chief librarian, just returned from the Council of Chief Librarians where it was reported that the Pharos printing system, that we adapted, has also been adapted by a number of other schools, including the other two Bronx CUNY campuses.
3. His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, was given a tour of the Multi-Media Center and was interviewed by one of our students. He was very pleased and impressed.

4. At the recommendation of Prof. Schlesinger, we are going to continue to have informal meetings with the student members of the committee, because we understand they can’t make all the meetings. In the past, these meetings have been very informative. The next meeting is February 8th.

g. Campus Life and Facilities—
See attached report by Prof. Wesley Pitts. Attachment II.

h. Budget and Long Range Planning—
See attached report by Prof. John Mineka. Attachment III.

i. University Faculty Senate—
See attached report by Prof. Manfred Philipp. Attachment IV.

Old Business—
There was none.

New Business—
There was none.

ADJOURNMENT
President Fernández adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier