Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Banoum, B.; Boone, R.; Brown, K.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.;
Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Chowdhury, N.; Decker, C.;
DiPaolo, M.; Efthymious, J.; Em, C.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.;
Fernández, R.; Figueroa, J.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Ganjian, I.;
Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E; Maybee, J.; McNaughton, C.;
Philipp, M.; Pierre, K.; Polirstok, S.; Qian, G.; Reid, A.; Rice, A.;
Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.;
Tramontano, W.; Trimболь, S.; Troy, R.; Verdejo, V.; Vitiello, A.;

Senators Absent: Amaechi, C.; Barnes, C.; Bempah, G.; Bodden, L.; Bonastia, C.;
Buckley, M.; Collado, M.; Daci, H.; Dauben, J.; DeRoo, Z.; Dixon, S.;
Enveronye-Okoro, P.; Ezeh, S.; Figueroa, J.; Fleitas, J.; Folsom, C.;
Negron, V.; Niedt, P.; Nnaji, C.; Palaj, M.; Paull, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.;
Phillip, B.; Prohaska, V.; Ramos, R.; Rose, J.; Salamandra, C.;
Santiago, M.; Swinton, S.; Tabachnikov, A.; Tabing, M.; Taveras, F.;
Zuss, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at
2:10 p.m.

Minutes Adopted

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate
meeting of April 9, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.
Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández thanked the students, staff, and faculty who assisted in the Somos El Futuro Conference this last weekend in Albany and who participated in the Senate session in the Capitol’s chambers during the Albany Legislative Visit.

2. The President also thanked the students who participated in the New Orleans and Costa Rica home building projects over the spring break. He also thanked the Division of Student Affairs, and the staff that accompanied them, for coordinating this important program.

3. This morning the President had the opportunity to meet the candidate for Founding Dean of the CUNY School of Public Health. The School will be located at Hunter College, and will function as a collaborative effort, drawing faculty from Hunter, Brooklyn and Lehman Colleges. The candidate is impressive, having a wealth of experience running a major federal agency involved with public health, especially environmental health.

4. For the last year, the college has been engaged in a self-study process, and many faculty members have been part of the Middle States Committee. We are well on our way to having a draft of their report which will be reviewed over the summer with additional dialogue in the fall when faculty and students return to campus. Sometime in October, we will be expecting a visit from the chair of the Middle States Review team that will be visiting us in Spring 2009. The Middle States Review gives us an opportunity to assess ourselves and to come up with recommendations and changes in programs and structures to improve as an institution. It’s the type of analysis that only takes place once every ten years, but it is a thorough, inclusive process. So when the document is available electronically and in the library, and in every major unit, everyone is encouraged to review the document and become informed.

5. On the topic of strategic planning, over the last 20 years, the college has been engaged in a number of such exercises. When President Fernández came to Lehman in 1990, he appointed a long-range planning committee. That group produced a report to which the President responded in May of 1992 at a Senate meeting. Since then, a number of other planning efforts have taken place. The current strategic plan, accessible on our website, really runs through 2008. The President is interested in capitalizing on the wealth of the accumulated data developed as part of the Middle States self-study. Using this careful analysis of Lehman College, we can begin to craft a plan that will guide us over the next
three to five years. As this institution evolves, strategic planning is an ongoing activity and shouldn’t be viewed as an exercise that takes place only every two or three years.

6. Some weeks ago, President Fernández received a letter from the National Collegiate Athletic Association. All CUNY Schools participate in this organization in Division III, with the exception of Queens College which is part of Division II. The only difference between Division II and III is that Division II offers a series of scholarships for student athletes. Lehman has been invited to consider joining Division II, and that move should provide some interesting elements. It would allow us, as it has happened at Queens College, to recruit students internationally as well as nationally. That, of course, means that we would have to provide some level of scholarship support for these student athletes.

b. Student Conference-

1. Ms. Nusrat Chowdhury, Student Conference Chair, reported that the “Get Loud Event” was held on April 16 to get more student awareness on the Student Conference’s initiatives and purpose.

2. The Conference met and made several decisions such as a vote on the bylaws; a favorable vote on the Walk/Run event; a favorable vote on getting funding back for the Lehman Radio Station; a vote was passed on holding an information session on Tibet; and a favorable vote passed on assisting the Political Science Club in providing an event on the Congo on May 14.

3. A resolution was discussed to adjust the grades for the nursing program. While in the program, the grade of C should be regarded as an F so the student is given the option to retake the course. The report concerned the nursing program raising the standard to a B or better from a C or better.

4. The Academic Standards and Evaluation Committee report referred to allotting a Dean’s list award for each semester of satisfactory merit as opposed to one cumulative award.

5. The Conference’s Library Technology Committee addressed the problem of information literacy and asked for more assistance in researching for students pursuing the education minor.

6. In Governance, the bell schedule was discussed, but this was held in abeyance for the full Senate meeting.

7. In Campus Life, the Conference agreed that the students should reach out to newspapers. It was thought that web sites should contain material from the required
textbooks. And there was a discussion on the termination of Styrofoam products in the cafeteria. Finally, an open forum was held on fund-raising events for scholarships.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-

a. Committee on Governance-

1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that at the Committee meeting two weeks ago, two actions were taken. The first was a proposal from the Department of Biological Sciences concerning the awarding of diplomas for Ph.D. students in Natural Science, whose dissertation adviser is at Lehman College, that they receive a diploma that recognizes both Lehman College and the Graduate Center. The proposal recommends that the State Education Department grant this recognition. The Committee referred this motion to the Graduate Studies Committee, which is now considering it. The second issue concerns the Bell Schedule. The Committee voted unanimously to bring a recommendation to the floor as follows: “Whereas article 1, section 3b of the Lehman College Governance Document states that the legislative function of the Senate includes ‘to take such other recommending actions as the Senate may wish, therefore be it resolved that the Lehman College Senate, as the body in which students, faculty, and administration are represented, be afforded the opportunity to advise formally on any future changes in the Bell Schedule before a final determination is made.” Changes in the Bell Schedule came up early in this semester. Not everyone seemed aware, as one would like, that changes were under consideration. There was confusion as to what the practice had been in the past. It’s the position of the administration that changes are an administrative prerogative. This resolution, as it is worded, does not challenge that. What the Committee is asking is that the Senate, as the place in which students, faculty and administrators are represented, be given the opportunity to advise in a formal sense before future changes are made. The resolution was placed on the floor for discussion, was then put to a vote and was approved.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-

1. Prof. Kevin Sailor presented to the Senate the list of undergraduate and graduate candidates for May 29, 2008 and September 1, 2008 graduation subject to verification by the Registrar. The list was approved.

2. Qualifications for the Dean’s List and Presidential Scholar were next opened for discussion. Currently, to qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must have completed a
minimum of 61 credits with a 3.5 cumulative index and a minimum of 24 indexical credits at Lehman College. Students will be placed on the Dean’s List only once. Prof. Sailor suggested a change that would recognize students more often, so that in a given semester, whenever a student did particularly well, we would have a mechanism to recognize that fact. After a long discussion, the original motion prevailed as follows: At the end of each fall and spring semester, the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will publish a list of matriculated students who meet the qualifications for placement on the Dean’s List. Full-time students will be placed on the Dean’s List each fall and spring semester in which they have completed 12 or more credits with a GPA of 3.5 or above. Part-time students will be placed on the Dean’s List on each occasion in which they have completed 12 or more new credits in two consecutive semesters with a GPA of 3.5 or above. In either case, no WUs or INCs are allowed even if 12 credits are completed with a 3.5 GPA.

3. A proposal was made to change the requirements for qualification for the Presidential Scholar from “[t]his designation is bestowed upon students who have earned 3.9 cumulative indices.” The changed proposal reads: “This designation is bestowed upon students who have met all of the qualifications for the Dean’s List and have exceeded the GPA requirement for the Dean’s List by earning a 3.9 GPA or higher; this honor supersedes placement on the Dean’s List. A vote was taken and the change was approved.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum –

Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from three departments. From the Department of Art: ART 318- change in course title, description, and credits; and change in requirement for the major in Art (B.A.) with a specialization in Art History. From the Department of Health Sciences: HEA 493- change in number of course credits; REC 324, a new course- Therapeutic Recreation for Children and Youth. From the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies: LAC 337, a new course- Puerto Rican Music; PRS (LAC) 337 change in course description and course number (was PRS 236); and change in requirements for Latin American Studies Major. The report was approved.

d. Committee on Graduate Studies-

Prof. Timothy Alborn reported that the Committee has three proposals. From the Department of Music: an experimental course: MSP 763, Topics in Instrumental Music
Education. From the Department of Biological Sciences: a proposal to establish a Plant Science Center at Lehman College; and from the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences: a change in Department Grade Requirements/Progression Criteria. The report was approved.

e. **Committee on Academic Freedom**-
There was no report.

f. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**-
1. Floor rights were granted to Mr. James Carney. He reported that Prof. Patricia Cockram, of the English Department, has resigned from the Committee, and another faculty member will soon be elected.
2. The Lehman Student Technology survey has been completed and is ready to be distributed via email to all current students. The link to the survey is: http://www.surveymonkey.com.
3. A discussion dealt with the potential issues which may arise as student emails are migrated to the new Microsoft (lc.cuny.edu) server. Vice President Zong-Guо Xia explained that the independent email systems has been already launched at two other campuses, and that there should be no disruption of other campus services which currently rely on email IDs and passwords. Also, full support for student questions will be provided through the help desk, through email, and phone inquiries and through a web site provided to students in the initial mail announcement and through follow up announcements.
4. Also under discussion was a response to the Student Conference’s request on increased library hours and the computer labs in services in the IT Center on weekend evenings. The Committee determined that any increase in services would be discussed and coordinated with the appropriate parties including Library staff, the IT Center, Public Safety, and appropriate student services.

g. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**-
1. Prof. Elhum Haghighat presented the report. The Committee has been informed that the use of Styrofoam trays, cups, and food containers are generating an excess of non-recyclable waste. The committee discussed alternatives including potential replacement materials that could be used and the cost impact associated with the non-disposable options. Information was gathered on how other campuses and food courts deal with this
issue. The Committee found environmentally friendly alternatives to Styrofoam. The cost, however, is often twice or sometimes three times as much. Other campuses such as Kingsborough Community College have a mug program where the patrons purchase reusable plastic coffee mugs. The Committee recommended that Lehman should participate in the program and also that the use of plastic food trays instead of Styrofoam be reinstated. Reminders will be distributed throughout the college encouraging people to become actively involved in the recycling program. Assistant Vice President Rene Rotolo has had discussions with the Vice President of Administration and Finance, Mr. Derek C. Wheeler and the foodservice vendor to determine how to eliminate Styrofoam products in the food service operation.

2. Recycling bins were requested to be placed in classrooms and have been ordered.

Material on recycling has been ordered from the NYC Department of Sanitation and will be widely distributed on campus.

3. Prof. Janette Tilley, faculty representative on the Lehman College Sustainability Project, also reported. She stated that all institutions of higher learning in NYC were asked by Mayor Bloomberg to commit to sustainability and to cut greenhouse gas emissions 30% by the year 2030. Specifically, the Mayor challenged the city’s colleges and universities to reduce their carbon footprint by 30% in 10 years. CUNY agreed to meet the targets by 2017. Lehman College has embraced the Task Force’s challenge and has established a Sustainability Council which has met periodically throughout the year to discuss initiatives and programs.

The good news is that Lehman College is already a leader in the CUNY system, having initiated energy-saving programs many years ago. Assistant Vice President Rotolo was recognized for her energy-saving efforts with a CUNY productivity award, and she continues to be a leader in the Council. The Council anticipates that our target can be reached with planned upgrades to the plant services (boilers), which are planned for 2010. In addition, the new science facility anticipates earning a Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certificate in recognition of its sustainable and energy-saving features.

With these projects well underway, the Council has been focusing its attention on student awareness and the daily operation of the college in an effort to promote a “green culture” on campus. The Council has agreed that the College would adopt sustainability as a basic
value and asks that faculty members agree to infuse the curricula with themes and
concepts that connect learning to the environment.

Without going into detail on the initiatives that the Council has been discussing, the Senate
was advised to look for a carbon footprint calculator to appear soon on the Lehman website
as the first public awareness activity. The Student Spirit Day on May 7 will include the
participation of the Sanitation Department with information about recycling and material
on energy-saving ideas from Con Ed. In the fall, we are looking forward to larger campus-
wide activities, with the possibility of a film fest and the hosting of CUNY’s alternative
fuel vehicle conference here at Lehman. Other concerns include waste produced by the
cafeterias, healthy and local food options, solar energy options for the student life building
and recycling.

The Council will continue to be active next year and encourages all faculty members to
participate to educate students in sustainability and to submit proposals and ideas.

**h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning**

There was no report.

**i. University Faculty Senate**

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported on a conference held in Albany. There were quite a few
politicians there who spoke about funding for CUNY. It did not, however, sound
optimistic in terms of the next year due to New York budget problems. SUNY was hit by
a $108 million budget cut while CUNY was hit by $20 million.

2. University Faculty Senate will be holding elections next week and Prof. Philipp is up for
re-election.

3. Concerning the draft of the Master Plan, the University Faculty Senate made many
changes in verbiage, style, and substance. Naturally, there was an emphasis on the
principle of shared government in the university.

4. The University plans to issue a new policy on conflict of interests. It has gone through
one iteration and significant changes were made in the document. The new draft
document is posted, and it will likely go to the Board of Trustees in June.

5. The School of Professional Studies is undergoing two changes in Governance. One,
already done, was to include campus continuing education directors as voting members of
the Governance Council. The new change will make it possible for the school, which is an
independent unit, to be a separate college. In addition the Chancellery is considering a new community college, likely in Manhattan, and is looking for a theme idea as well as private money.

6. Former Governor Eliot Spitzer had proposed an endowment for CUNY to be funded out of the State Lottery. Governor David Paterson has rejected the idea but supports the endowment. But that leaves the question, where is the money coming from?

7. A forthcoming Academic Freedom statement will be something you can put on your bookshelf. So if there is any question, you will be able to look it up, the problem being that people have different opinions on what academic freedom is.

8. The University Faculty Senate is planning a faculty experience survey which will be issued next semester.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier