Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Banoum, B.; Boone, R.; Borrell, L.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.;
Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Choudhary, A.; Chowdhury, N.; Dauben, J.; Decker,
C.; DellaPina, M.; Eldridge, D.; Esposito, R.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.;
Fernández, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Gerry,
A.; Lewis, K.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Maybee, J.; Mbengue, K.;
Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Niedt, P.; O’Hanlon,
Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Raum, R.; Reid, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor,
Tegeder, D.; Thelusmond, A.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Troy, R.;
Zucchetto, V.;

Senators Absent: Acosta, G.; Ajayi, D.; Anagboso, N.; Ben-Dan, T.; Bernstein, D.; Bonastia,
Folsom, C.; Haghighat, E.; Levitt, J.; McNaughton, C.; Middleton, J.; Millan,
J.; Nnamani, S.; Oviedo, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Ramos, R.; Rice, A.;
Zwiren, M.

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

Minutes Adopted:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate
meeting of October 29, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.
Announcements and Communication-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández introduced Mr. Mario DellaPina, the new vice president for Institutional Advancement. He comes to Lehman from Queens College, “where he did fine work, and continues in that vein at Lehman.”

2. The president distributed an article that appeared in The New York Times on Friday, November 18, titled “In Crisis, a Way to Smooth Bumps in College Tuition.” He cited the article as one of the most succinct and lucid explanations of the issue that he has seen. He urged Senate members to review it.

3. As noted in the press, the Governor called for a special session of the legislature---“the session that never was.” Neither the Assembly leaders nor the Senate leaders wanted to go first. What the cuts are going to be were put off until the spring session. We will have to wait to see what the Governor proposes in his December 16 budget. The legislature will return in January and will have until March to approve a budget. That’s the goal since the fiscal year in New York begins on April 1. Given the complexity of the crisis, meeting that deadline is unlikely. There will be significant reductions. On a positive note, the Governor plans to apply a portion of the tuition increases of $600 to new programs and investments in CUNY; that has never been the case before. The additional funds could be applied to student services or to additional faculty or better technology, for example. The Governor understands the problem but his role is a difficult one. President Fernández commented that this has happened before and will ultimately be solved. In the spring, a delegation from Lehman will go to Albany to meet with our elected officials to make recommendations relating to the college.

4. On another positive note, President Fernández indicated that when budgets are in the tank, the State determines that it is a good time to invest in facilities. He read that the Professional Staff Congress has used Lehman and Brooklyn Colleges and other schools as examples of public works projects during difficult times. In the midst of the Great Depression, Governor Lehman invested in a stimulus package, and with the help of the federal government, the original Lehman College campus was built as well as some Brooklyn College buildings in the 1930’s. In our own time, the construction of the new science facility has begun and nothing is going to change that.
5. President Fernández referred to the discussion at the October Senate meeting on laptop thefts on campus. He reported that he has directed that if any computers have to be replaced, they will not be charged to the student technology fee; they will be paid through other funds. Direct action is being taken in collaboration with Vice President Derek Wheeler to prevent future thefts. The president stated that careless behavior on the part of users is at times responsible, such as leaving room doors unlocked upon leaving and other careless behavior.

b. Student Conference-
1. The report was presented by Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair. He expressed thanks to President Fernández for reconstituting the 504 Committee expeditiously. Also, the Conference was pleased to see that the handicapped ramp in front of Carman Hall has been reopened.
2. The Conference has been holding discussions on the tuition increase. Mr. Jeremias reported considerable anxiety among students. It is particularly difficult for those in the middle class who do not receive any aid and/or just earn enough to make it. The Conference believes that if tuition is to be increased, a mechanism has to be established to make sure no middle class student is lost in the shuffle.
3. Tomorrow evening a special event is being held for Darfur at 8 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room. Everyone is invited.
4. The Conference conferred with Professor Barbara Jacobson and Professor Donna Kirchheimer about offering a minor in urban community studies.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-

a. Committee on Governance-
1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that at the last meeting there was a policy discussion on commercial references on the website and elsewhere. The Committee reviewed Baruch College’s policy and decided to refer the issue to the Committee on Library, Technology, and Telecommunication.
2. The Committee also discussed altering the bylaws to remedy the rapid increase in the size of the Senate. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.
3. The Committee invited Mr. Esdras Tulier to the next meeting to discuss the contradiction between the Lehman College governance document and the CUNY bylaws concerning the number of untenured faculty members who are allowed on departmental P&B committees. The CUNY bylaws restrict it to one untenured faculty member on a department P&B. The Lehman Governance document, which supersedes the CUNY by-laws in this case, allows two untenured faculty members. The Committee wishes to resolve the situation.

4. Nominations for students to serve on various committees were submitted as follows: Ms. Samsiya Ona and Ms. Goodness Ihearnachor for the Library Technology and Telecommunications Committee; Ms. Angelica Thelusmond for the Campus Life and Facilities Committee, and Ms. Sally Nnamani for the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The nominees were elected by acclamation.

5. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26 in Shuster 179.

b. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**
   There was no report.

c. **Undergraduate Studies**
   1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson submitted proposals from the Department of African and African American studies, the Department of Anthropology, the Women’s Studies program, and the Macaulay Honors College. Prof. Jacobson stated that she would like to pull two proposals from the packet from African and African American Studies: AAS 318 African American Psychology, and AAS (LAC) 241 Caribbean Literature. The report was unanimously approved.
   2. The next meeting will be at 12 o’clock noon on December 3 in Carman 221.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**
   1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported on proposals from three departments: Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences; Economics Accounting and Business Administration; and from Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. The report was unanimously approved.
   2. The next meeting has not been scheduled as yet.
Committee on Academic Freedom-
There was no report.

Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-
Floor rights were granted to Mr. James Carney.
1. The Committee was given a tour of the new Multimedia Center located in Carman Hall, levels B and C. This up-to-date center will place Lehman in the forefront of media production in CUNY.
2. An official committee membership list will be obtained from the Senate Governance Committee, and voting rules will be clarified.
3. The technology survey for faculty is now being put together. The Student survey and the past faculty survey will be reviewed for the spring 2009 format and questions. Mr. Carney stated that students are to be commended for an increased membership on the committee.
4. Mr. Carney reported that the issue concerning commercial use of websites is not viewed by the Committee as within its purview. The issue will be referred to the Website Policy Committee.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on December 9 in the Library.

Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-
There was no report.

Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-
There was no report.

University Faculty Senate-
1. Professor Manfred Philipp reported that the Board of Trustees has approved an increase in tuition of $620 per year, which is $20 more than the Governor asked. The Governor ruled that they just be allowed to keep 10 per cent of the increase in the first year and 20 percent in the second year. It’s not quite clear. There also may be increases in the differential fees. At this point, the CUNY Board has not voted on any tuition increase. And it’s not even clear that the State University of New York proposed increase will go into effect for the spring
semester because it has to be confirmed by the legislature. The CUNY Board could also ask for a higher increase than the Governor is asking for.

2. An ongoing discussion is being held with the Chancellery about constructing a community college across the street from John Jay College in a building currently owned by the college. The five-story building would be torn down. An advantage is that there is no height limit on that property, which would suggest a public-private partnership. A community college problem is the low retention rate of students in CUNY, which is under 20 percent. The question remains if it can be fixed by CUNY without abolishing standards or is it simply a public school system problem. Community colleges have no admission requirements for high school graduates. A danger is seen that the low retention rates here might spill over into the senior colleges.

3. The University Faculty Senate held its Fall conference, and there was a successful turnout of younger faculty in CUNY.

4. The Chancellery has asked the Governor for five billion dollars for new construction. As President Fernández pointed out, times of trouble might be an opportunity to do more construction work. CUNY is taking more of an aggressive stance toward new buildings, new facilities, and in particular infrastructure maintenance, which Professor Philipp noted is a good thing.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier