Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 8, 2006


President Ricardo Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes Adopted

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of October 11, 2006. The minutes were unanimously approved with the correction that Prof. Ralph Salvatore was in attendance.

Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
   1. President Fernández announced that the College’s submission of its request for 2007-2008 under CUNY COMPACT Phase 2 was completed. This occurred after consultation with faculty,
administrators, and students. Over $2 million will be added to our budget if the State approves
of CUNY’s budget request under the Compact. The President thanked all those who participated
in this process.

2. President Fernández noted that we have a governor-elect and a number of other changes in
Albany, and in Washington. It’s too early to tell what that implies for CUNY and Lehman
specifically. Normally the University submits a budget at the end of November, and it’s sent to
the governor’s office in early December and he presents his budget by the middle of January.
Since there will be a new governor, there may be a delay in the submission of the budget. Even
if Governor George Pataki were to submit a budget in December or January, incoming Governor
Eliot Spitzer would want to change it, causing somewhat of a delay. We’ll be tracking it to see
how it impacts on CUNY.

3. On Friday, November 10, President Fernández will participate in the CUNY president’s
retreat which is a day and a half meeting with the Chancellor’s staff to discuss such topics as the
Campaign for Student Success, one of the key items in the budget request. Also how to
implement the Information Technology upgrades over the next several years will be discussed.

4. The President reported that a team will visit Lehman on November 13 and 14 to meet with
groups of students, faculty, administrators, alumni and others. This activity is part of the
evaluation of college presidents under CUNY policy. A report will be then submitted to the
Chancellor who will make his recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

5. President Fernández referred to an inadvertent disclosure of personal information of
graduating seniors that happened a few days ago. It was called to the administration’s attention
by the Student Conference, for which the President expressed his gratitude. He said it was a
mistake that should not have happened. As called for by state law, we are notifying the
individuals whose names and personal information was disclosed. On behalf of the
administration, the President apologized and said that steps have been taken to insure that it does
not happen again.

6. The President acknowledged the discussion at the prior Senate meeting concerning the
Collegiate Learning Assessment, (“CLA”) and he offered additional information. It is a different
way in dealing with assessment which is one of the major questions facing higher education in
the United States and elsewhere. The CLA aims to assess what students get from their college
exposure. The study is trying to develop ways of assessing what do institutions add (i.e., the
“value added”). In that spirit, Lehman was invited to be one of the institutions involved in the
Collegiate Learning Assessment, run by the Council for Aid to Education. The college was asked to select a cohort of freshmen and to test them on a “Performance Task” that covers critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving and writing. President Fernández pointed out that many of our students scored higher than was anticipated based on their SAT scores. At this point, President Fernández asked Dr. Robert Troy, Associate Provost, to supplement his remarks. Dr. Troy pointed out that the cohort of 199 freshmen students will be tested again when they are seniors to measure the “value added”. The testing does not assess a student’s knowledge of course content. Dr. Troy said that 113 four-year institutions are participating and coming up with a model for the study. At Lehman College in the fall of 2005, 199 freshmen students were tested in a random sampling; each one had to have an SAT score on file. In the spring we were asked by the CLA study to test 56 seniors to come up with an initial model to see how freshmen and seniors would do on the test. The interim report is available in Dr. Troy’s office.

7. Prof. John Mineka brought up the subject of fumes being emitted on campus from various construction projects, resulting in sore throats and other ailments. He was concerned whether the administration was dealing with the problem. President Fernández answered he was aware of the situation such as fumes being sucked into the library ventilation system and at the APEX. Instructions were issued that vehicles should not be left idling on Paul Avenue next to the Library and other measures were taken to remedy the problem. Vice President Derek Wheeler discussed the particular instances in the Library and measures that have been taken to address the concerns.

**Student Conference-**

1. Mr. Avraham Albelda, chair of the Student Conference, reminded the faulty of the students’ “Pick A Cause” initiative.

2. Mr. Albelda presented nominees for Senate sub-committees: **Governance-** Aileen Pascal, Valerie Verdejo, Alfred Dominguez; **CASE -** Kassime Berthe, Nana Ibrahim, Tiffany Hsueh; **Library, Technology, and Telecommunications** – Alfred Dominguez, John Figueroa; **Campus Life and Facilities** - Oluwatosin Ogunjemilusi; **Budget and Long Range Planning** - Christopher Amaechi, Johnny Chau, Eberechi Nwogu, Kendra Pierre, Valerie Verdejo, John Figueroa; **Academic Freedom** - Lik Sim, Nana Ibrahim, Temitayo Awoyomi, Nusrat Chowdhury, Melisa Bailey, Carry Em; **Undergraduate Curriculum** – Vered Albelda, Daniel Gurdak, Alfred Dominguez, Nana Ibrahim, Kinzang Tobgay; and **Graduate Studies** - Jacqueline Thompson.
The nominees were approved by the Senate.

3. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on November 29, 2006 in Room 112 or 102 in the Student Life Building.

4. Senate Committees were asked to please announce their next meeting as the Conference is compiling a list to remind the student senators and other interested students.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. **Committee on Governance**

   There was no report. The next meetings are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, and at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28, both in Shuster 179.

b. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**

   There was no report.

c. **Undergraduate Curriculum**

   There was no report. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 13 in the IT Conference Center.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**

   1. Prof. Robin Kunstler submitted a correction on HIU 708: Democracy, Sectionalism and Slavery is corrected from covering 1810 to 1861 to 1810 to 1825.

   2. The Committee offers a new proposal from the Department of History for changes in the requirement for the M.A. in history, new courses and a number of minor course changes. The report was approved. The next committee meeting has not yet been scheduled, but probably will be on November 29.

e. **Committee on Academic Freedom**

   1. Prof. Rosalind Carey reported that the Committee met to obtain additional information on a proposal regarding student complaints about faculty.

   2. The Committee reviewed the latest draft and made a number of recommendations: that the Appeals Committee include the Provost, two faculty members, the Dean of Students, and two students; that the Factfinder (i.e., the Department Chair where the complaint originated) be present for consultation as a non-voting member of the appeals committee; and that each campus be given the right to develop procedures to implement this policy in ways compatible with their unique structures.
The committee suggests that in case of students’ false and fraudulent claims, that the policy include sanctions similar to those in the violence policy. It was pointed out that these recommendations were communicated to Vice Chancellor Schaffer prior to this Senate meeting because the proposed policy was going to be presented to a CUNY Board Committee prior to today. The report was approved by the Senate.

f. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-

1. Prof. George Chaikin said this is not a formal report since the last meeting was poorly attended. The next meeting will be held next Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the library. Anyone who wishes to attend, please contact Prof. Chaikin.

2. The issue of the fumes already has been discussed. Prof. Chaikin is not certain that all the problems have been addressed. Anyone with additional information is invited to attend the next meeting, since it is an appropriate subject.

3. Another important issue to be discussed is the technology fee.

g. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-

Prof. Elhum Haghighat said there was no formal report from the committee, though there are some issues in the works, and she expects to report on them at the next Senate meeting. The sub-committee still needs to meet with the owner of the bookstore who is out of the country and will return the beginning of December. A final report will therefore be available in February. The next committee meeting will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on December 6 in Shuster Room 338.

h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-

1. Prof. Eric Delson reported that the committee met on October 25 in conjunction with the FP&B Committee. He was re-elected as Chair of the joint committee.

2. Two topics were covered at the meeting. First, Vice President Wheeler presented a “snapshot” on the current fiscal year’s budget. The Lehman budget is nearly in balance without the need to pay out any CUTRA funds based upon estimates of spring enrollment and adjunct needs. Second, the allocation of funds to categories in the CUNY Compact for Fiscal Year 2008 (beginning July 07) was also discussed and suggestions were solicited before the final Lehman request was sent to the CUNY Central Office.

3. A number of student members are now going to serve on this committee.

4. The next meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29. It may be changed since the Student Conference is meeting then.
i. **University Faculty Senate**

   There was no report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

   There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

   Prof. John Mineka submitted a resolution on the college bookstore. It provided that “in the case of courses with multiple sections, all using the same text, or of courses with large enrollments, the bookstore initiate a policy of donating to the library copies of the texts in these courses for use by students in the Reserve Room of the Library.” The resolution was moved and seconded. After an extended discussion, a second resolution was moved and seconded, holding that the original resolution is premature since the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities already has a sub-committee looking into the bookstore. A motion was made and seconded to table the first resolution. This motion was approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

   The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

   Respectfully submitted,

   Esdras Tulier