Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2007


President Ricardo Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of February 7, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved with the correction that Prof. McDonald’s first name was Steven, not David.
Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. Regretfully, President Fernández reported the death of Corporal Ignacio Recio of the Department of Public Safety. The President asked for a moment of silence in tribute to Corporal Recio who was with the department for 18 years.

2. President Fernández said that we are keenly monitoring developments in Albany while discussions on the budget are on-going. The Senate and the Assembly have agreed on how much additional money is available. And that is $575 million at a time when revenues are holding steady. While this is good news, the reality is we’re facing some clear priorities. The media are reporting the Governor as being on a “rampage” against the health industry and the hospitals. Health is clearly the major issue in Albany, and no one will change that. Also, the State has to put more money in five urban school districts that have low achieving students. After these two priorities, we want Higher Education to be the next major issue. The Governor appointed a Commission on Public Higher Education, which will issue a report before the end of the year.

3. The University, using non tax-levy money (i.e., private money), last year developed a web site called, “SupportCUNY.org.” A message will be sent to the campus community, explaining what this is. Those who wish, may use their privately owned computers to contact the Governor and other elected officials to express their feelings on this budget. Last year the University, through this web site, generated 40,000 messages. The University is seeking $24 million for the Senior Colleges, a smaller amount for the Community Colleges (they’re funded differently), and funding for what is called the Enterprise Resource Planning. This is a comprehensive plan to modernize the systems for personnel, budgets, and record keeping that this university desperately needs.

b. Student Conference-

There was no report.
**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

**a. Committee on Governance**

1. Prof. Vincent Prohaska referred to the University’s Student Complaint Procedure which was discussed at the last General Faculty meeting. One of the steps is the involvement of an Appeals Committee. The Committee includes two faculty members and one student elected by the respective student and faculty senate. Nominated for the Student Complaint Appeals Committee were Prof. Russell Bradshaw, Middle & High School Education; Prof. Anne Reid, Psychology; and Mr. Alfred Dominguez, a student. The slate was approved.

2. To fill the vacancy on the Library, Telecommunications and Technology Committee until the end of this semester, the Committee nominated Prof. James Carney, Journalism, Communications and Theatre. Nominated from the floor was Prof. Patricia Cockram, English Department. A ballot vote was taken and Prof. James Carney was elected.

3. The next committee meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 29 in Shuster 179.

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

There was no report. The next committee meeting is at 2 p.m. on March 21, in Shuster 280.

**c. Undergraduate Curriculum**

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson received proposals from three departments: the Department of Health Sciences; the Department of Journalism, Communication, & Theatre; and the Department of History and Program in Women’s Studies. The proposals were approved.

2. The next meeting probably will be a week from Monday at 9 a.m. in the IT Center.

**d. Committee on Graduate Studies**

There was no report. The next meeting is not yet scheduled.
e. **Committee on Academic Freedom**

There was no report.

f. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**

1. Prof Esther Wilder reported that the Committee is looking into the availability of information concerning IT resources on campus. It would like to see a computer resource guide that provides information concerning the availability of different technologies, such as where they are located and when they are available. The Committee believes that the IT Center is in the best position to prepare such a guide. Meanwhile, it learned recently that the College is planning the publication of an IT newsletter.

2. The Committee is always concerned about how funds from the Student Technology fee are spent. Here at Lehman, student tech fees monies are used only in ways that directly impact students. At other CUNY schools, they are sometimes used to support faculty development efforts with the understanding that students will indirectly benefit. Meanwhile at Lehman, a direct benefit is considered necessary.

3. The Committee has been informed that efforts are underway to upgrade technology at Lehman. The highest priority has been given to the teaching labs and classrooms.

4. Finally, the Committee has been looking into the email system on the campus. The College has been discussing the possibility of adopting a Google email system which is offered free from the company. Dr. Xia met with students from Student Life, and there was overwhelming support for this initiative. If Lehman adopts Google’s email (gmail), the email system will rest on Google’s server, but it will use Lehman’s domain name. The new email system will be optional for students, faculty and staff. Google email has about two gigabytes of storage, and the Google email system has been favorably received at other schools. (During the report there was an update from Dr. Xia that CUNY is close to signing the contract with Microsoft).

5. The Committee is reviewing student and faculty needs on campus and welcomes the input of the College community.

6. The next meeting will be held from 11 to 12:30 p.m. on March 13 in the Library Conference Room to discuss the results of the faculty technology survey and the
student experience survey which also addresses technology concerns.

g. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**

1. Prof. Elhum Haghighat referred to the issue of high school students on campus, which the committee has investigated. The concerns were: Who is responsible for high school students while they are present on campus? How much of the facilities are they allowed to use? (Use of the cafeteria, for example.) Also, use of the College’s facilities by high schools and faculty use of high school facilities were concerns. Faculty members complain that they have not been able to use technology equipment when using High School of American Studies' classrooms for College classes, for example. To resolve these issues, the Committee agreed that the use of College facilities by high school students would be submitted to the Senate as a motion. Fortunately, the issues were resolved. The College administration initiated meetings with the principal of the High School of American Studies and the Celia Cruz High School of Music regarding use of the College cafeteria (the biggest concern). Both high schools readily agreed to changes:

- The High School of American Studies agreed to reduce the size and stagger the groups going to the food service area to limit the size of the crowd. Originally, all 300 students were allowed to go at once to the food service area; now students will go in smaller groups to reduce the lines.
- The Celia Cruz High School of Music has been advised that the students are not allowed in the Cafeteria, and students are to be escorted to and from the campus.
- Public Safety will strictly enforce the agreement.

2. Regarding the college’s use of the High School of American Studies classroom technology, a representative of the Committee, Prof. Mary Tesoro volunteered to meet with the high school’s Principal, Mr. Alessandro Weiss, and Ms. Sandra Lerner, Deputy to the President for High School and Educational Initiatives.

3. The next scheduled meeting will be held after today’s Senate meeting in Shuster 325.
h. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning**:  

There was no report.

i. **University Faculty Senate- (UFS):**

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the University Faculty Senate has been in intense negotiation with CUNY officials on the professional structure of the School of Professional Studies. Several drafts of the proposed Governance Structure have been worked out but negotiations broke off last week.

   The Governance of the School of Professional Studies is clear; it is more like the Governance of a college, with a Council composed mostly of the faculty. Twenty-five percent of the faculty will be represented on the Council through an election process. The Dean of the School will have a powerful role and will appoint nearly every position including the program directors, equivalent to Department Chairs. The Executive Vice Chancellor and the President of the Graduate Center will be present on the Council in non-voting ex-officio roles. The University Faculty Senate, which currently delegates three members to the Council, will only advise on the future naming of members, which is the point of disagreement at this point. We were willing to withdraw from the affairs of the School of Professional Studies, but since the Chancellery refused to withdraw, we did the same. Another major sticking point is the election of Department Chairs, in this case, program heads. In the current draft, these are appointed positions. UFS prefers that they be elected by the faculty involved. After the Governing Council approves this draft, then it will go to the Board of Trustees. The School of Professional Studies wants to compete with the campuses in on-line degrees, not in brick and mortar degrees, and right now the regulations prohibit that. Which this change they will now be allowed to compete on on-line degrees.

2. The flow of new University procedures continues. For example, we have the procedure on Student Complaints against Faculty, a Computer Use Policy, and a Multiple Position Policy, all of which have been passed by the Board. On the last proposal, the University Faculty Senate representative on the Board Committee abstained. However, that abstention was in deference to the faculty members who realize how the additional teaching opportunities could enhance their income. It
would almost double the teaching a faculty member could do. This, of course, is a
double-edged sword for people who argue we should have lighter teaching loads. The
Chancellery modified the proposal to reduce the amount of possible teaching and the
proposal was passed.

3. The proposed Conflict of Interest Policy was communicated to the University
Faculty Senate two days ago. It was discussed with Chancellor Matthew Goldstein
yesterday morning. That new proposal has to follow State guidelines. There are
details that have to be worked out with the Chancellor. On the other hand, Section
Four makes it much easier to conduct businesses for faculty members. Many think it’s
aimed at faculty members who are involved in business activities through their
research. The University Faculty Senate has, as yet, no opinion on the Policy at this
time.

4. On CUNY-SUNY relations, the University Faculty Senate will meet on Friday
with its SUNY counterpart in the interest of developing common legislative agendas.
One objective would be for both universities to be permitted to offer courses to prison
inmates. At CUNY, we are not prohibited, and we are trying to convince SUNY the
practice is a good idea.

5. In terms of the CUNY Academy, the University Faculty Senate is taking a larger
role. We’ve solicited funds to provide new prizes and awards for faculty members
connected with the Academy.

6. The Spring Conference will take place on April 13 on the theme of Regulation of
Human Subject Research.

Before adjourning the meeting, President Fernández made some informal comments.
He said while we refer to the Graduate Center, it’s actually named the Graduate
School and University Center. Under State law, they have separate functions. The
University Center, up to this point, has been scarcely utilized as a vehicle to offer
programs. It has now come alive and provides a vehicle for these professional studies.
On another matter, he mentioned the Performing Arts Center at Lehman, which has
been transformed, offering wonderful programs and a special discount for students. If
a student shows up just before the show and a seat is available, it will cost only $5.00.
OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier