Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Brown, K.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Carry, E.; Chowdhury, N.;
Decker, C.; DiPaolo, M.; Dixon, S.; Domínguez, A.; Efthymious, J.; Em, C.;
Enweronye-Okiro, P.; Ezeh, S.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.;
 Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; Mazza, C.; Merzel, C.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.;
O’Hanlon, T.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Philipp, M.; Polirstok, S.; Prohaska, V.;
Reid, A.; Rice, A.; Sailor, K.; Tananbaum, D.; Silverman, H.; Tilley, J.;
Tramontano, W.; Trimboli, S.; Troy, R.; Tsiamtsiouris, J.; Verdejo, V.;
Zucchetto, V.; Zuss, M.;

Collado, M.; Daci, H.; DeRoo, Z.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.;
Fleitas, J.; Ganjian, I.; Garanin, D.; Gbenga, A.; Georges, C.; Gonzalez, M.;
Qian, G.; Ramos, R.; Rose, J.; Salamandra, C.; Salvatore, C.; Silverman, H.;
Totti, X.; Voge, S.; Wheeler, D.; Williams, L.; Zwiren, M.

In the absence of President Fernández and Chair Pro Temp Prof. C. Alicia Georges, Mr. Alfred Domínguez, Student Conference Chair, called the meeting to order and presided.

Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of November 7, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved with the correction that Prof. Jim Tsiamtsiouris was present.

Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
There was no report, in the President’s absence.
b. **Student Conference**

1. Mr. Alfred Domínguez reported that Prof. Robert Whittaker, as a representative of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, spoke to the Conference about the First Year Initiative course. He requested feedback whether this course should be required for graduation, have it become an LEH class or make it only a class for freshmen, and if adding any other course material would benefit the class.

2. Mr. Domínguez noted the Student Conference’s accomplishments during Fall 2007 including: participation in Volunteer Day/Conference Day, as well as Leadership Retreat; representation on the President’s Advisory Committee; and the petition on the “tiering” issue.

3. The Student Conference was represented in a subcommittee that assessed the admission standards of Lehman College. Lehman’s admission requirements need to be improved in comparison with other colleges.

4. Plans for 2008 are: Conference members gaining recognition upon graduation; unity between Student Conference and CASA; recycling issues; and issues related to the bell schedule, and conditions of bathrooms in Carman Hall.

5. The next meeting will take place at 2 p.m., January 30 in the Student Life Building, Room 313.

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**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. **Committee on Governance**

1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported on several items discussed at the Committee’s last meeting. The first item was the possibility of going to a clicker system to record votes in the Senate. It is being tried at other CUNY Colleges, but as for the Lehman Senate, it was decided to hold off for now. Basically, when people sign in, they would get a clicker, which would be assigned to their name at that meeting, allowing for votes to be recorded instantaneously with a record of how each individual voted. We would need to retain the record in compliance with New York State law. It will be considered for adoption in the future.

2. The Governance Committee nominated Mr. Jason Jeremias, a student, to serve on the Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards. He was elected.
3. While waiting for the arrival of Dean William Tramontano, Prof. Tananbaum said that up to this point, Ph.D degrees have been granted by the Graduate Center, even though the programs may be located at another individual campus. Hunter and City Colleges have been unhappy with this arrangement, and they have been granted the right to include the name of their respective college with the Graduate Center on certain degrees, depending on the program and faculty involved. The Governance Committee was not clear as to how this would influence Lehman. The Committee also wondered if this was something that would start in the sciences but in time would grow in other programs. Upon arrival, Dean Tramontano explored the subject further. He said that CUNY has been restructuring the doctoral science program in biochemistry, biology, chemistry and physics by planning for a number of years with a number of consulting outside bodies. While the College is starting with four of the sciences, he said, the hope is that other disciplines would follow this model. In essence, the new program consists of incoming doctoral students, approximately 90 a year across CUNY, who would receive a five-year support package, with a stipend of $24,000 per year. In addition, the students will receive full tuition remission and health care insurance (for the individual and his/her family) for five years. In the first year, the money is paid entirely by the Graduate Center. In years two through five, the stipend becomes the responsibility of the individual college. For every graduate student in the sciences that Lehman takes on, it is making a $96,000 commitment to support that student over four years with the purpose of making Lehman competitive with private college programs in the area. In the first year, the students use the property of the Graduate Center; after that, they decide which college they wish to go to and who will be their faculty mentors. It is expected that in years two through four they will only do adjunct work over a certain number of hours. In the fifth year, the time would be dedicated exclusively to the dissertation. The University is now advertising this program on a national level. There will be some changes in the admission guidelines and changes in the governance structure. The hot topic of concern is dual degrees. For example, the degree may indicate: Graduate Center of the City University of New York and also the name of the specific CUNY College. Right now Brooklyn, Lehman and Queens Colleges would not be able to issue joint degrees, but this is expected in the future.
4. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be on at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 28 at a location to be announced.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-

1. Prof. Kevin Sailor presented to the Senate a list of Undergraduates and Graduate Candidates for the January 31, 2008 graduation. The list was approved.

2. Prof. Sailor went on to discuss part two of the Graduating Senior Policy. The Student Bulletin reads that “a graduating senior who has failed the final examination in only one course required for graduation is entitled to a special examination, provided that the student has a passing grade average in the course.” The Committee recommended that this policy be rescinded and that the statement should be stricken from the undergraduate bulletin. The motion was defeated.

3. Recently, a Presidential Advisory Committee recommended changes in the admission standards for the College. The proposals are being reviewed by CAEAS which will make its recommendation to the Senate. There are two main changes proposed by the Presidential Advisory Committee. The first relates to the Math portion of the Basic Skills requirement. It is recommended that the College adopt the requirement of Hunter, Baruch, and Queens Colleges. This would mean a 510 on the SAT or a 45 on each of the two parts of the Compass test. The second proposal relates to incoming freshmen. Students would have to meet a minimum high school average of 80 and a minimum SAT of 900 in addition to other criteria in a formula that weighs both high school average and SAT. They would also need to have completed 16 College Preparatory Initiative credits to be admitted. The Presidential Advisory Committee also proposes that some changes be made in the current transfer policy: Students earning fewer than 12 college credits must satisfy freshman admission criteria based on their high school record; students with 12 up to 24 college credits must satisfy freshman admission criteria or present a cumulative college grade point average of at least 2.75 regardless of high school academic average; students with 24 or more credits must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.3; students earning a City University of NY/State University of NY Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0; students earning Associate of Applied Science degrees will be treated similarly to students earning more than 24 cumulative credits.
c. **Undergraduate Curriculum** –

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson introduced proposals from: the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Art; the Department of Biological Sciences; the Department of Economics, Accounting and Business Administration; the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences; and the Department of Journalism, Communication, and Theatre. She also introduced proposals from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and the Program on Health Sciences. Also presented were informational items from the Departments of Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences. Corrections in the report, involving LEH 100, were then presented consisting of one change but affecting two proposals. The first proposal reads as follows: Change in Requirement for the General Education Curriculum. Under the item, Freshman Seminar (3 credits), currently reads: “all students entering Lehman with fewer than 24 credits must successfully complete LEH 100: The Liberal Arts Freshman Seminar. Students transferring to Lehman with 24 credits or more are exempt from this requirement.” Prof. Jacobson reported that it should read: “All students entering Lehman with fewer than 15 credits must successfully complete 100: The Liberal Arts: Freshman Seminar. Students transferring to Lehman with 15 credits are exempt from this requirement.”

2. The second set of changes concerns the same shift but it is in a different proposal. It is a proposal for a new course, LEH 100. It should read as follows: “This course will be a requirement for graduation for students entering Lehman with fewer than 15 credits. It will be offered in all Freshman Year Initiative blocks. Additional sections will be offered as necessary for students entering Lehman with fewer than 15 credits who are not placed in Freshman Year Initiative blocks. This will increase the number of General Education credits required for graduation only for these students to 47-59 credits. Students transferring to Lehman with 15 credits or more will be exempt from this requirement, and the number of required General Education credits will remain 44-56 for them.

3. Following discussion, the Report was approved along with the change specified under number one, above. The proposal under number two, above was voted to be sent back to committee for further consideration.
d. Committee on Graduate Studies-
   1. Prof. Timothy Alborn said the Committee recommended proposals to the Senate
      from the Department of Health Sciences involving program requirements and from
      the Department of History involving a number of new courses. The report was
      approved.
   2. The next meeting will be held today.

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

f. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-
   1. Mr. James Carney was granted floor rights and reported that the survey on
      technology issues that will be distributed next semester is completed. It will be
      distributed for the Senate’s review shortly.
   2. One of the challenges still facing the Committee is trying to get students to use
      their e-mail. Work is continuing on this project.
   3. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 12 noon on February 16 in the
      Library.

g. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-
   1. Prof. Elhum Haghighat reported that the Committee has learned that the use of
      Styrofoam trays, cups and food containers are generating a lot of non-recyclable,
      petroleum-based waste. To keep up with a “green campus,” the Committee is
      considering going back to plastic trays and other non-disposable options. One
      problem is the disappearance of the plastic trays and the annual cost to replace them.
      The Senate will receive further reports when the Committee comes up with more
      solutions and options.
   2. During the Committee’s last meeting, Assistant Vice President Rene Rotolo spoke
      about the CUNY Sustainability Project that was introduced at the prior Senate
      meeting. Prof. Janette Tilley expressed her interest in Sustainability and volunteered
      to be the faculty representative.
   3. The next Committee meeting will be held today after the Senate meeting in Shuster
      Hall, Room 325.
h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-
   There was no report.

i. University Faculty Senate-
   1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the Governor’s Commission on Higher Education has been holding hearings. Much of the faculty testimony has been for more full-time lines for the University. The Commission will issue an interim report on December 17, which will inform the Governor’s budget proposals for the University, and the final report will be much later. It is said that the Commission’s report will include structural changes in CUNY recommendations for the University.
   
   The proposed capital budget for the next five years that CUNY is presenting to the Governor includes the Lehman science building, phase two. In fact, it contains many items for the senior colleges in general. However, it is extraordinarily weak on the community colleges.

   2. The proposed CUNY Graduate School of Public Health is making progress. Although it will be located at Hunter College, Lehman College and Brooklyn College will also play a significant role.

   3. The subject of the joint degree—previously covered earlier in this meeting by Dean Tramontano—is a third rail item. The Physics Doctoral Program Executive Committee is considering proposals relating to the joint degree with Hunter and City Colleges; other venues are vehemently opposed to the joint degree. The joint degree has not gone to the Board of Trustees since their approval for the supporting package is not required.

OLD BUSINESS
   There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
   There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT
   The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Fernández