Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Senators Present: Akan, A.; Albelda, A.; Albelda, V.; Amaechi, C.; Bahadourian, J.;
Bailey, M.; Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Berhe, K.; Bird, E.; Blot, R.;
Bonastia, C.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Capetola, L.; Carey, R.; Carrol, M.;
Chowdhury, N.; DeMinco, S.; Digby, A.; Dominguez, A.; Em, C.;
Feinerman, R.; Figueroa, J.; Georges, C.; Gottlieb, M.; Gulla, A.;
Lawrence, D.; Lazarus, M.; Lerzundi, P.; Lowenstein, D.; Magdaleno, J.;
Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; Merzel, C.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.;
Myrie, D.; Ogunjemilusi, O.; Nwogu, E.; Pant, H.; Pascal, A.; Philipp, M.;
Saravia-Shore, M.; Seiger, L.; Selwyn, S.; Silverman, H.; Sim, L.;

Blum, A.; Boyar, A.; Chaiken, G.; Chau, J.; DeJesus, A.; Diraimo, S.;
Lundy, T.; Natividad, R.; Perez-Morales, I.; Perry-Rider, G.; Rice, A.;
Ricourt, M.; Rothchild, D.; Salvatore, R.; Tesoro, M.; Totti, X.; Vielot, C.;
Zucchetto, V.

Prof. C. Alicia Georges, Chair pro temp, called the meeting to order at
2:05 p.m. in the absence of President Ricardo Fernández.

Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate
meeting of November 8, 2006. The minutes were unanimously
approved with two amendments: Line 98 should read “Senate
committees,” rather than sub-committees, and on line 124, HIU 708
covers the years 1825 to 1861.

Announcements and Communication
a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
Since the President was absent due to other obligations, there was no report.
b. Student Conference-

Mr. Avraham Albelda presented two informational items: 1. The “United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons” event will take place at 4 p.m. today in the Library, Room 215. At the same time, the Library’s Access and Technology Center will be rededicated. In attendance will be Commissioner Matthew P. Sapolin, of the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, and Dr. Christopher Rosa, University Director of Disability Services.

2. The Student Conference has decided on causes they will pursue for the year: graduation issues, including the graduation folder and calling out the names of graduates at the ceremony; extended library hours throughout the semester; changing from the use of social security numbers for student identification; lowering the cost of transcript fees; and increasing information dissemination efficiency.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee on Governance-

There was no report. The next meeting is not set yet.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-

Prof. Kevin Sailor presented the list of undergraduate and graduate candidates for graduation on January 31, 2007, for approval subject to verification by the registrar. The report was moved and unanimously approved.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum –

Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from the Department of Languages and Literatures, the Department of Political Science, the Department of Psychology, the Department of History, the Department of Sociology and Social Work, and also the Program in Women’s Studies. In addition, an experimental course from the Department of Languages and Literatures was presented as an informational item. The report was approved.

d. Committee on Graduate Studies-

Prof. Robin Kunstler presented the following proposals: a policy change regarding transfer of credit, from the Office of Graduate Studies and the Department of Sociology and Social work; a change in program description regarding the Social
Work Program; and a change in degree requirements from the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, but Dr. Kunstler noted that the 51 credit requirement is unchanged. She continued her report with proposals from the Department of Specialized Services in Education: a new Master’s degree in Educational Leadership as School Building Leader; an Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership as a School District Leader; and 20 new courses in Educational Leadership. The report was moved and approved.

e. Committee on Academic Freedom-
Prof. Rosalind Carey said the Committee would like to go on record in supporting the University Faculty Senate’s recent decision to reject the CUNY administration’s proposal for a student complaint procedure on faculty.

f. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-
1. The report was given by Acting Chief Librarian Sandrea DeMinco. The last meeting on November 15 was well attended, including eight students and five faculty members. Reference as made to fumes in the library, which had been brought up at the last Senate meeting. Since then, complaints and concerns have decreased considerably with the odor growing fainter. The fumes will be prevalent until the project is completed about December 20. Prof. DeMinco also reported that students complained about the lack of quiet reading space in the library.
2. The second issue was the Enterprise Technology Initiative. Ten percent of the Tech fee collected from the students is set aside by every campus in CUNY and put into cooperative ventures. Six uses of the money were brought to the Committee’s attention and a vote was taken on each one.
3. A total of 837 textbooks were purchased last year and placed on reserve for student use. Two hundred fifty faculty members are using the textbook reserve.

g. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-
1. Prof. Elhum Haghighat reported on high school students using campus facilities. There were several complaints. A motion will be brought to the Senate at the next meeting.
2. To refresh the Senate’s memory, Prof. Haghighat referred to the motion previously presented by Prof. John Mineka at the Senate meeting on September 13 regarding the book store and the cafeteria prices and quality of services. The matter was referred to
the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities to initiate an investigation and to report to the Senate. One finding was that many students were not aware they have the option to request either a check or a voucher for books. A voucher would probably be more convenient for them since they can obtain their books immediately. With the check, they have the choice of shopping around for books. Under these circumstances, the Financial Aid office needs to make this option clear to students. As to prices, those in the bookstore are higher than in other places. What the Committee found is that prices on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble were lower, but not by very much. The book store management responded that the prices were in line with other major book store retailers. The Committee concluded that Amazon.com prices were the lowest. (Shipping charges are added to the book prices.) The book store said it would look into the small number of books that showed significant price differences. Another issue was ordering policies and when book lists are made available. Students claim that the book lists are often available two or three days before the beginning of the semester, giving students little time to shop around. The book store, in turn, registered some complaints about the faculty, insisting that the professors should be made aware of the length of time needed to order books. As of December 1, only half of the faculty had placed their textbook orders for the spring semester when the deadline was November 15. Furthermore, textbook numbers are sometimes recorded incorrectly, causing more confusion and delays. The book store has set up a hot line: 718-662-2550. Students have also expressed concerns about service, especially the need for more knowledgeable help.

3. On the cafeteria, the quality of food was found to be relatively good with few complaints. The vendor agreed to e-mail weekly menus, which would also serve as an update on prices. Another cafeteria issue is specialty items, such as kosher food which, though previously available, did not have a strong demand, but this will be looked into by the cafeteria management.

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

i. **University Faculty Senate**-
1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the University Faculty Senate has voted to oppose any new university-wide student complaint policy about faculty. In this way,
that leaves the policies up to the campuses, and it is incumbent on the campuses to have local policies, since in that way they are better handled. However, Vice Chancellor Frederick Schaffer said a proposed new policy will come to the Board of Trustees on January 8 and will be subject to public comment on January 22. To come to the public hearings, it is necessary to sign up a week in advance; if no one signs up, the hearings aren’t held at all.

2. The Vice Chancellor has said that the proposed acceptable use of computer resources policy will come before the Board of Trustees Committee on Faculty, Staff and Administration on January 8. This proposed policy is unacceptable to the University Faculty Senate. Vice Chancellor Schaffer has said that the University will and has the right to remotely inspect any hard drive on any computer on campus. In the meantime, it is both incumbent and prudent for any faculty not to work on confidential matters on CUNY computers until this policy is challenged and changed.

3. The School of Professional Studies is in the middle of intense discussions about governance. The School, which has a governing board, runs out of the Graduate Center but is not subject to regulation by the Graduate Council which is the Senate of the Graduate Center. It offers courses to such entities as labor unions outside the university and is a competitor to continuing education operations on the campuses.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier