Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Bryant, S.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Chowdhury, N.; Collado, M.;
Decker, C.; DiPaolo, M.; Dixon, S.; Em, C.; Ezeh, S.; Feinerman, R.;
Fernandez, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.; Ganjian, I.;
Levitt, J.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Maybee, J.; Mazza, C.; Merzel, C.;
Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Nnaji, C.; Ornstein, S.; Pant, H.; Papazian, M.;
Philipp, M.; Pierre, K.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Reid, A.; Sailor, K.;
Salamandra, C.; Santiago, M.; Seiger, L.; Tananbaum, D.; Silverman, H.;
Voge, S.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, E.; Zucchetto, V.

Clark, D.; Daci, H.; Dauben, J.; DeRoo, Z.; Efthymious, J.;
Enweronye-Okiro, P.; Esteves, C.; Fleitas, J.; Gbenga, A.; Gonzalez, M.;
Phillip, B.; Polirstok, S.; Ramos, R.; Rice, A.; Rose, J.; Rotolo, R.;
Salvatore, R.; Silverman, H.; Swinton, S.; Tabachnikov, A.; Tabing, M.G.;
Xia, Z.; Zuss, M.; Zwiren, M.

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

Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting
of December 12, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved with the
correction that Prof. Maria DiPaolo was present.
Announcements and Communication-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández welcomed everyone back to the new semester. He said that yesterday Lehman had a visit from Chancellor Goldstein, who has been visiting various colleges over the last several months, and by the end of this semester, he will have visited all of them. His purpose in coming to the colleges is to hear directly from the faculty their issues of concern. He made some initial remarks and then fielded questions. Overall, it gave him a better understanding of some of the issues from the standpoint of Lehman and the faculty. In particular, he discussed the CUNY Compact, which is a concept developed by CUNY, then Governor Pataki and then Attorney General Eliot Spitzer three years ago. The Compact is an agreement in which investments are being made to CUNY by the State and the legislature. CUNY will do its part by becoming a more efficient, better managed system and developing philanthropy. The Chancellor noted that the Compact provides the University a certain level of stability. SUNY has bought into the Compact concept. In another regard, the question of tuition has to be clarified. In the past two years, the President has been talking to legislators from the Bronx. Everybody is concerned about the question of tuition. We have a history in CUNY when the institutions did not charge tuition, but only fees. Some people would like to go back to that era, but that is unlikely. The idea of maintaining tuition at the lowest possible price is, of course, paramount. Many students have not been able to attend the University because of the cost. People at the lowest incomes have recourse to grants, but the people just above that are hurt by increases. The President noted that when he arrived at Lehman in the early 90s, tuition was $1,250 a year, or $625 a semester. There were budget cuts by then Governor Mario Cuomo and later on by then Governor George Pataki. Currently, budget cuts are being proposed by Governor Eliot Spitzer. State support from the University has decreased and tuition essentially has increased. President Fernández reported that when the College raised tuition $1,000 in 1995, the result was a loss of 1,000 in enrollment. The College went from 10,500 students to 9,500. We’re in the twenty-first century and the competition, as the Chancellor indicated, is for a knowledge economy. And colleges and universities are the producers of knowledge. Unless you invest in the engines of the production of knowledge—higher education in this country—we will fall behind other
countries that are investing heavily in higher education. We need the average person on the street to understand it as well as our legislators.

2. So our next move is on to Albany, to talk to our elected officials as we do in the spring every year. We make two pilgrimages: a group, including students, faculty, and administrators, will leave on March 4, and the President is leading the CUNY Bronx presidents on a visit February 27.

b. Student Conference-

1. Ms. Nusrat Choudhury reported that elections for the Spring semester Student Conference Chair were held. Former chair, Mr. Alfred Domínguez graduated and the vice-chair, Ms. Valerie Verdejo wished to keep her position. Ms. Nusrat Chowdhury resigned as secretary to take her position as chair. Mr. Jason Jeremias was elected as secretary.

2. Ms. Kendra Pierre and Ms. Verdejo presented the recycling initiative in which Lehman is participating.

3. Ms. Verdejo brought up the “Bring a Cause” initiative in which student senators would bring issues of concern on campus to the Conference.

4. Ms. Verdejo brought up an academic policy issue regarding students who receive D and F grades in classes and allowed to retake a class while students who receive B and C grades are not allowed to do the same. It was suggested that students be allowed to retake a course with the responsibility of financing the second class.

5. Mr. Jeremias recommended amending and updating the Student Conference bylaws, which have not been amended since 1974.

6. Student Conference will be holding special elections next week and are accepting intention forms this week.

8. Ms. Albelda suggested having a publicity committee for the Student Conference.

9. Mr. Ray Flook, Associate Director of Campus Life, addressed the Conference about the Leadership weekend scheduled for February 22-24, 2008. He also spoke about a leadership training process, open to every student on every other Friday this semester from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lastly, he informed the Conference of SA Link, a website that allows clubs to have their own announcements, minutes, and surveys posted as well as having virtual meetings.
The next meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27 in Room 112 in the Student Life Building.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-

a. Committee on Governance-
   1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that the Committee met last Monday. The main item on the agenda was increasing student and faculty representatives. When the governance document was changed two years ago, we keyed the number of faculty and students in the Senate to the number of the administrators, which has increased over the last year. We need six new faculty senators with the students electing four additional representatives. The number will now be 21 administrators, including six elected administrators. The number of faculty is going up to 63 and the number of students is going up from 38 to 42. So what started out two years ago as a body of 108 is now growing to 126. The Governance Committee may want to look again at the structure and whether it makes sense because at the rate we’re going we could have a body of 150 people a few years from now, and that becomes unwieldy. Obviously, the more members we have, it also increases the number required for a quorum. Prof. Tananbaum complimented everyone for their attendance records which managed to get a quorum without much difficulty for every meeting. He did call attention to the necessity of signing in when attending a meeting, or if they come in late to see Ms. Esther Fernández before leaving. This is required for legal reasons to have people recorded as present when they’re present.
   2. Basically, the Governance Committee will be in the process of beginning elections for Senate committees. A sheet will be distributed showing present members of committees whose terms are expiring and asking for nominations; that should be going out soon.
   3. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be in the same room as the Senate meetings right after this meeting for a few minutes since we have an emergency issue to deal with. The next regular meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on February 21 in Shuster 179.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-
   1. There was no report.
   2. Prof. Kevin Sailor announced that the next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13 in Shuster 280.
c. **Undergraduate Curriculum –**

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented one proposal from the Coordinated Freshman Program, and also one item of information from the same program. The report was approved.

2. The next Committee meeting will probably be at 12 o’clock noon on February 20 in Carman 221.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**-

1. Prof. Alborn said the Committee is making several proposals on behalf of three different programs: the M.S. program in Economics, Accounting and Business Administration, and two programs in Middle High School Education. The report was approved.

2. The next meeting will probably be two weeks before the next Senate meeting and will be in Shuster 014 on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

e. **Committee on Academic Freedom**-

   There was no report.

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

1. Floor rights were granted to Prof. James Carney.

2. The Committee has started looking at the issue of new technologies, specifically to prepare the e-mail system and the implications of student usage. In making these changes the Committee’s aim is to provide e-mail outlets for students in such convenient places as the cafeteria and the library. The technology survey will be converted into an online format shortly.

3. We’re looking into putting additional electrical outlets in public spaces in existing buildings where students can take advantage of them such as in the library and in the cafeteria.

4. The next Committee meeting will take place in the Library Conference Room on Tuesday, February 19 at 12:30 p.m.

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

   There was no report.

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 (CHE) issued its preliminary report on December 1. (See http://www.hecommission.state.ny.us). That report calls for hiring 2,000 new faculty in CUNY and SUNY over the next five years. It also advocates a state research grant program for the public and private universities. Members of the UFS, including the Committee chair, testified to the Commission on December 5 and December 11. Professor Philipp’s testimony emphasized the need for 4,000 additional faculty for CUNY to bring the student/professor ratio back to the level we had in the late 1970s. He pointed out that past tuition increases were associated with reductions in state support for CUNY.

2. The Governor has proposed a state budget that provides for a small per student decrease in funding for community colleges and nearly halves CUNY’s proposed capital budget. The Compact advocated by the Commission, involving tuition and tax-levy increases, was not mentioned. He advocated an endowment provided by leasing the NY Lottery to private interests. Other proposed items such as differential tuition and the use of funds that derive from privatization of the state lottery for the purpose of establishing an endowment for CUNY look equally unlikely to pass in the legislature.

3. The Governor’s proposal reduces base operating aid funding by $50 per student, from $2,675 to $2,625, for the SUNY and CUNY community colleges. Some $451.1 million is proposed for SUNY community colleges—a net decrease of $77,000; and $174.5 million is proposed for CUNY community colleges—a net 0.9% increase of $1.7 million.

4. The Governor recommends a total of $1.7 billion for CUNY’s gross operating budget, representing an increase of 3.2% ($52.6 million). The increase in CUNY’s enrollment last year is given at 3.6%. It is not clear if the governor wishes to allow CUNY to keep the proceeds from any possible increase in enrollment. All this does not point to any financial revitalization, at least coming from the governor.

5. For the CUNY Community Colleges, the 2008 Budget is $570.6 million, up 6.8%, or $36.3 million, from last year. Prof. Philipp argued that the CUNY capital budget request for the two-year colleges is insufficient. The CUNY Capital request for the four-year colleges is $5.96 billion; that for the two-year colleges it is $2.09 billion, of which the city is requested to provide $1.07 billion, all over the next five years. The state requires a city match for many two-year college capital projects.
Some $22.1 million of the two-year college request does not go to construction, but to CUNY FIRST project. For laboratory science upgrades, the two-year college request is only $3.5 million, a paltry amount compared to the $47.5 million requested for the four-year colleges. The last sum is also insufficient. More needs to be done to remediate the large number of problems in the two-year college facilities base. What makes all this even worse are the strong continued increases in construction costs. One very positive item to report is that CUNY is dissolving its sole-source relationship with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY). A new relationship, where DASNY competes to get CUNY construction contracts, may well result in better quality construction.

6. Last night the Board Committee on Policy, Program, and Research (CAPPR) voted to move the administration of the engineering doctoral programs from the Graduate Center to City College. The resolution contained an unfortunate and inaccurate statement, falsely claiming that other CUNY colleges did not offer engineering education. Prof. Lenore Beaky, the University Faculty Senate representative on CAPPR, presented documentary evidence to the contrary provided by Prof. Alfred Levine of the ABET-accredited College of Staten Island Engineering Science program. The Chancellor claimed that the wording only referred to doctoral programs. Prof. Phillip also pointed out that there had been no supporting resolution on the Engineering Program coming from the Graduate Council. The Program has not been de-listed as a Graduate Center program.

7. CAPPR also voted to create Joint Doctoral Degrees in Biology, Biochemistry, and Physics at Hunter and CCNY. These are joint with the Graduate Center. The Hunter and CCNY Senates, as well as the Graduate Council, had voted to support the concept of those degrees. The Graduate Council had adopted several additional conditions, which provided that the Graduate Center maintain control over curriculum, the certification of graduates, and overall program governance. In addition, CAPPR also voted to create Joint Degree status for Hunter College for the Doctorate in Public Health (DPH). The UFS representative supported this resolution. The Graduate Council had passed a resolution supporting the DPH that was quite similar to that for the four natural sciences doctoral degrees. All of the joint degree resolutions stated that the curricula and the faculty in the programs would remain unchanged.

8. How these changes will affect the doctoral programs in the long run is uncertain. Other members of the consortium, such as Queens College, Brooklyn College, College of Staten
Island, and Lehman College, are not helped and could well be hurt by the higher prominence given to Hunter College and City College of New York. That would hurt the whole university. It is for that reason that the Graduate Council voted to facilitate their entry into the roster of joint degree campuses. Also, the concentration of science construction on the CCNY campus (the Advanced Research Center) combined with the Governor’s reduction in the CUNY requested capital budget means that the capital budget has to be watched closely for possible negative impact on the other campuses.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier