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

Senators Present: Akan, A.; Albelda, A.; Albelda, V.; Awoyomi, T.; Bailey, M.;
Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Blot, R.; Bonastia, C.; Bullaro, G.;
Chowdhury, N.; DeMinco, S.; Digby, A.; Diraimo, S.; Dominguez, A.;
Em, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Figueroa, J.; Fiol-Matta, L.;
Fleitas, J.; Ganjian, I.; Garanin, D.; Georges, C.; Gottlieb, M.; Gulla, A.;
Lerzundi, P.; Lowenstein, D.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.;
Merzel, C.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Myrie, D.; Ogunjemilusi, O.; Nwogu, E.;
Pascal, A.; Philipp, M.; Pirch, K.; Pofirstok, S.; Prohaska, V.; Sailor, K.;
Salamandra, C.; Salvatore, R.; Silverman, H.; Tananbaum, D.; Tilley, J.;
Xia, Z.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Amaechi, C.; Ameen, S.; Aronowitz, J.; Bahadourian, J.;
Bambshed-Alavi, M.; Berrhe, K.; Bird, E.; Blanco, W.; Boyar, A.;
Calvet, L.; Capetola, L.; Carey, R.; Carrol, M.; Chau, J.; DeJesus, A.;
Dipaolo, M.; Esteves, C.; Ferraro, M.; Fields, J.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.;
Saravia-Shore, M.; Sieger, L.; Sim, L.; Selwyn, S.; Sloan, H.; Tesoro, M.;
Tobgay, K.; Totti, X.; Vielot, C.; West, J.; Whittaker, R.; Wilson, S.;
Winter, J.; Wyckoff, S.; Zuss, M.

President Ricardo Fernández, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes Adopted

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate
meeting of December 6, 2006 with the correction that Ms. Temitayo
Awoyomi was present. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. Since the last Senate meeting in December, President Fernández sadly reported
that several members of the Lehman community passed away, including Professors
George Chaikin, of the Art Department, and Adjunct Professor Steven McDonald from History. Also, Ms. Liliana Calvet’s partner, Philippe Vallez and mother, Mirta Calvet, died recently. President Fernández called for a moment of silence in tribute for these persons and others he doesn’t know about.

2. Dr. Fernández welcomed everyone back to the new semester, reminding the Senators that the College is searching for a new Provost. Finalists are now being interviewed. The President emphasized that he welcomes comments from the Lehman community, urging everyone to participate in the process.

3. We are also preparing for the Middle States re-accreditation visit that is scheduled for Spring ’09, about two years from now; that seems like a long, long time but in fact it’s not. A number of people will be asked to serve on various committees. A meeting will be held this afternoon with the two co-chairs, Prof. Kunstler (Health Sciences) and Prof. Prohaska (Psychology) to develop an array of people who would want to participate. He said we would welcome anyone willing to participate.

4. On enrollment, President Fernández said it is holding up nicely; the numbers are up a little bit compared to Spring a year ago. While the final figures are not available, they are good.

5. The good news is that the new Governor has made a budget proposal that includes $72 million in mandatory increases as well as $4 million for the Empire Innovation Program. What is not good news is it doesn’t include any new programmatic money. We have work to do: we will meet with legislators in the Spring, once the budget is announced. The budget now is under a 30-day period of modifications and changes. Particularly favorable is that there is no tuition increase in the proposal from the Governor. Though financial aid is stable, there are always a few changes. The City Council will come up with a final budget by June which affects us only indirectly, since most of our money comes from the State. However, we are seeking assistance from the City Council on a number of capital projects. Overall, President Fernández said, we are starting on a positive note.

6. Now in its second year, the CUNY Compact will allow us to continue with the forward movement that we already have made. The Chancellor recently asked how we stand in hiring new faculty, which is the central feature of the CUNY Compact and the Master Plan. In the Fall of ’06, we had 346 full-time faculty members in
comparison with eight years ago when we were barely reaching 300. In addition, we are seeking a net gain of 16 faculty members for Fall of ’07. Therefore, the number reported to the Chancellor is anticipated to be 362. Particularly encouraging is the Governor’s strong interest in higher education in the State. He’s announced that he will appoint a Commission on Public Higher Education in New York State, meaning CUNY and SUNY. The goal is to make these two institutions go from being good to being great and to assist New York State to continue to grow and prosper in the global economy. Collectively, CUNY and SUNY enroll over 650,000 students. One advantage is that our students stay within the state, which is not true of the State’s private institutions. Governor Spitzer also said he wants a rational tuition policy---one that would promote affordability, stability, and predictability. (It’s along the same lines as the CUNY Compact.) Another goal of the new Commission is to establish benchmarks in comparing educational accomplishments, research productivity, and the academic quality of the State’s public colleges against peer institutions throughout the country. The word here is assessment, valid and reliable, so we know the productivity of the public sector. President Fernández has no doubt that New York will meet that challenge.

Student Conference-
There was no report.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee on Governance-
There was no report. However, Prof. Vincent Prohaska announced that Senate elections will take place this Spring. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, February 22.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-
1. Prof. Kevin Sailor reported that this semester the committee intends to take a look at the qualifications of people transferring to Lehman. The basic information is now being assembled.
2. Another area of interest is requirements for majors and the use of grades.
3. The last item is that we’ve had a couple of appeals recently from students who asked to have an LEH 300 course substitute for another course. In at least one case we had a student who was advised in advance that this would be ok. These courses were not intended to satisfy certain distribution requirements. But it is acceptable for students to take more than one of these courses as electives.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum -
Prof. Barbara Jacobson reported that a recommendation to the Senate comes from two departments: six proposals from the Department of Economics, Accounting and Business Administration; and eleven proposals from the Department of Middle and High School Education. The report was moved and approved.

d. Committee on Graduate Studies -
Prof. Robin Kunstler reported the Graduate Studies’ Committee has one informational item, a new experimental course from the Department of Health Sciences and Public Health. The report was moved and approved. The next committee meeting is Wednesday, February 14 at 11 a.m. in Carman Hall, Room B33.

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

f. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications -
There was no report.

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 Student Complaint Procedure was amended by the Chancellery before the final vote and was found to be acceptable. There is language that makes it possible for either the faculty member or the student to
challenge the position of the Department Chair who is sole fact finder in the case of a
student complaint.

2. Also passed was the Computer Use Policy which provides people in the university
certain protections in terms of confidentiality in computer use while in the past there
was none.

3. Also at issue is the Multiple Position Policy. The proposed revised policy was
passed by the Board Committee. A delay was asked for two cycles because of time
circumstances. In the University Faculty Senate there was a good deal of ill feelings.
While faculty members could teach almost twice as much as their normal load, the
motivation for changing the policy is the online operation. The Chancellor wants to
populate the online offerings with full time faculty but doesn’t want to hire additional
full time faculty members. So the only solution is to bring in faculty from the colleges
under Multiple Positions. To make that possible, the policy is being amended. This is
seen as good and bad. It lets faculty members earn more money. But then it’s difficult
to argue that we’re teaching too much. There will be public hearings on this issue,
and Prof. Philipp will keep the faculty informed. In the meantime, within the
University there is vehement opposition.

4. This is now the legislative cycle when people go to Albany for testimony on budget
hearings with the University Faculty Senate and the Chancellor represented.
Discussed was how CUNY will marshal its resources in getting things passed in
Albany and also in the city. One objective is to obtain financial assistance for students
who attend the colleges part-time. The Chancellery needs more full-time lines, a
policy endorsed by the University Faculty Senate. Since 1999, the Chancellor has
hired 2,000 new faculty members, and in the same period nearly 2,000 faculty
members have left. With the reality of retirements and other circumstances, the
urgency for replenishment is becoming more and more apparent for the University.

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