Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 11, 2007


In the absence of President Ricardo Fernández, the meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by president pro temp C. Alicia Georges.

Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of March 7, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved with one correction. In reporting Prof. McDonald’s death, his first name was incorrectly listed as “Steven,” instead of “David.”

Announcements and Communication-
a. President Ricardo R. Fernández
There was no report due to the absence of President Fernández.
b. **Student Conference-**

1. Student Chair Mr. Avraham “Rami” Albelda reported that the Pick-a-Cause initiatives are progressing. To recap, they are Graduation issues: graduation folder, calling of names, and punctuality; extended library hours throughout the semester; having the identification number for a student be other than his or her social security number; lowering the cost of Transcript Request Fees and increasing information dissemination efficiency.

2. Dates to remember: Student Conference Day, April 18, 2007 which we hope will become an annual event. Senate Luncheon hosted by Student Conference, May 16, 2007, 2-4 p.m. in Carman B-16. All senators are invited to participate. If there is a senate meeting, the luncheon will follow.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

a. **Committee on Governance-**

1. Prof. Vincent Prohaska reported two items were distributed in the mail boxes of Senators during the spring break. One was the nominating form for the Senate Standing Committees. New this year, the Governance Committee is asking faculty to nominate students who might be interested in serving on committees. The nominating forms need to be returned by this Friday, April 13. The ballots for the Senate elections are due back to the committee by Friday, April 20.

2. The next Governance Committee meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on April 19 in Shuster 179.

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

1. Prof. Kevin Sailor reported that the committee considered a couple of appeals recently that concerned finals for seniors, and they raised a number of questions. It turns out that a not very well known policy allows a senior who’s passed every single class, but failed a final in a class that they were otherwise passing, to take a special examination. The examination is not specified. So the committee is re-examining the policy.

2. A second policy regarding finals for seniors is that a department can decide to exempt graduating seniors from finals; no one seems to know how this came about. It
does raise a number of issues and causes confusion for adjuncts. So the committee is re-examining the policy and hopes to come up with a solution.

3. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on April 18 in Shuster 280.

c. **Undergraduate Curriculum**
   1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from two departments. One from the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences, and two from the Department of Sociology and Social Work. There was also one informational item from the Coordinated Freshman Programs. The report was approved.
   2. The next meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 16 in the Information Technology Center.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**
   1. Prof. Robin Kunstler presented from the Department of Health Sciences one new course, a change in the number of credits in Special Topics in Nutrition, as well as two experimental courses. Also, one new course and one experimental course from the Department of Environmental, Geographic & Geological Sciences, and three new courses come from the Department of Middle and High School Education. The Department of Middle and High School Education also has changes in TESOL, the Masters Program in English Education, and the Masters Program in Science Education. The Department of Languages and Literatures has changes in admission and degree requirements in the Masters in Spanish Degree. Also presented is a revision in Continuation Requirements in the Program in Counselor Education, and a change in admission requirements in the Graduate Program in Literacy Studies, from the Department of Specialized Services in Education.
   2. The next meeting is April 12 at 11 a.m. in Shuster 325.

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

f. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**
   1. Prof. Esther Wilder said the Committee is discussing several items. One relates to the email system. In the near future, additional space will be provided to faculty, staff,
and students. (The space currently allotted for full-time faculty and students will
double, from 100 to 200 megabytes for faculty and from 20 to 40 megabytes for
students.) Some faculty and students currently run out of space because they don’t
realize that after deleting their email, they have to purge the deleted email. In addition
to Mirapoint, CUNY will also be obtaining Hotmail and offering that to faculty, staff,
and students.

2. At the last meeting, the committee discussed problems with Blackboard. Some
faculty members have reported difficulties using Blackboard from Internet Explorer
7, so the ITC currently recommends that faculty use IE 6. Meanwhile, faculty at the
LT&T Committee also reported having good experiences with Firefox insofar as
Blackboard is concerned. The IT Center is also not recommending that anyone switch
to Vista at the present time.

3. In other news, the LT&T Committee is analyzing the results of two surveys. The
2006 Student Experience asked an array of questions related to technology concerns
and the 2005 Faculty Technology Survey. The 2006 Student Experience Survey
randomly selected 1,000 students at Lehman and had a 27.5 percent response rate.
The 2005 Faculty Technology Survey had fewer than 100 responses—it was an
online survey asking a wide array of technology questions. It is our hope that in
looking at the results of both surveys we will develop meaningful policy
recommendations that will enable the college to address the technology needs of
faculty, students, and staff. The Committee has been discussing the possibility of
having an additional survey to assess student and faculty technology needs.

4. The Committee has been also discussing the new print management system. The
new system is still being set up and the bugs are being ideal with. For example, there
was a problem with the print drivers, whereby when students would print several
copies of a document, only one copy would be printed. Meanwhile, the college has
decided to provide printing allocations to full-time and part-time, as well as faculty
teaching in the computer center and library. The allocation for students is likely to be
about 300 pages of free black/white printing/copying, although there has been some
talk of increasing this allocation. After the allocation has been maxed out (and there
are currently no allocations for faculty not teaching in the computer center), charges
apply. (Printing will cost seven cents for single-sided, 22 cents for single-sided color, and 20 cents for double-sided color.)

5. The next meeting will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 17 in the Library Conference Room.

g. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-

There was no report.

h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-

1. Helene Silverman reported that the Joint Budget Committee met on March 21.

2. Vice President Wheeler presented a “snapshot” report on the current fiscal year’s budget. The College budget is still nearly in balance without the need to pay out any CUTRA funds, based upon improved estimates of spring enrollment and adjunct needs. The fiscal ’08 (from July 2007) also looks positive, given the current climate in Albany.

3. The discussion noted the need for additional support staff in administration, admissions, and the Registrar’s office, although CUNY Central has mandated that growth in these areas be less than that seen for faculty. Sources of potential funding in these areas include the CUNY Compact and possible use of Research Foundation overhead recoveries.

4. The next meeting is planned for early May, again on Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

i. University Faculty Senate-

1. Prof. Patricia Kolb reported on the recent University Faculty Senate Plenary on March 20. Chancellor Goldstein’s presentation focused primarily on New York State and city budget proposals. He noted that an enormous amount of money was on the table for financial aid but that this was largely oriented toward financial aid but that this was largely oriented toward financial aid for middle and upper class/private higher education. He also said that the CUNY master planning process had begun and encouraged faculty participation in the development of the master plan.

2. Vice Chancellor Frederick Schaffer discussed two policy proposals: (1) Research Misconduct Policy and (2) Conflict of Interest Policy. One aspect of the Conflict of Interest Policy is a proposed anti-nepotism policy. These proposals will be going to a
CUNY Board committee on June 4 and have been developed largely incorporating federal regulations regarding specific issues. Leonore Beaky, vice chair of the UFS, had prepared summaries and analyses of these policies that were disseminated to UFS members and other members of the university community on both of these proposals. These policy proposals are posted on the web at: http://cuny.edu/co/Research Misconduct Policy.html and at http://ufs.cuny.edu/co/Col.pdf.

3. Additional issues discussed at the plenary were (1) UFS support of efforts to have higher education reinstated in prisons and (2) CUNY’s effort to reach out to private organization, the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) for outsourcing of CUNY testing.

4. The University Faculty Senate Spring Conference will be at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 27 at John Jay College. The title of the conference is “Research Obstacles, CUNY, and You.” Topics include (1) seeking internal and external grants; (2) regulations of Institutional Review Boards, especially the impact of IRBs on studies incorporating oral histories and research in the humanities; and (3) use of overhead recovery funds at CUNY. Vernice Blanchard can be contacted at Vernice.Blanchard@mail.cuny.edu for information and registration.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Acting Provost Tramontano referred to the flyer distributed at the meeting, “The Mission, Vision, and Values Statements” [of Lehman College]. In the last six months, the administration has been working on this statement. It is particularly apropos since we are now involved with the Middle States evaluation, which is coming up in a year and a half. The Provost said it is always good for a college to look at itself, and to have a broad mission statement, which is the guiding principle for everything we do at the college. Dr. Tramontano asked for comment on this draft by April 30, 2007. They can be sent to: comments.mission@lehman.cuny.edu. The Mission, Vision and Values Statement will be discussed further and then voted on at the May 16 meeting which will be needed this year.
ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier