Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, October 17, 2007


President Ricardo Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

1. Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 26, 2007. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements and Communication

2a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
The President’s report related to Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), which he said is going to transform the CUNY system. He requested floor rights for Mr. Milton Santiago, the President’s appointed representative to the ERP Planning Committee. Mr. Santiago referred to the expression “ERP—CUNY First.” What it really is, he said, is all the software and hardware we use to conduct our administrative and business processes—our human resources, general ledger and so on. CUNY is undertaking a project to replace these systems with a modern, unified system. One of the problems we have now is that “our systems do not speak to each
other.” This new approach will allow most colleges within the CUNY system to facilitate the services and the processes we have to improve services to students, faculty, and staff. Essentially, that is the purpose of the project. A web page will be online soon. President Fernández added that ERP will allow the University to function as it should. For example, student records will be transferred between campuses seamlessly because it will be one system. The Chancellor, for the first time ever, will be able to send messages to all students who are enrolled at the University. (We are now using a system that is 30 years old.) This will have a transformative impact on the University, though it will take a number of years to implement, but some benefits will show relatively soon.

2b. **Student Conference**

1. Student Chair Alfred Domínguez reported that a leadership retreat was held on October 13 that involved the Student Conference, Student Affairs and Campus Association for Student Activities (CASA), and student club members. It was an opportunity to meet with students, faculty and administration to determine “how we can have a common voice.” Parliamentary procedures were also discussed so it is to be hoped our students will be better prepared for life situations.

2. The bell schedule is still an issue. The student consensus supports more free time for clubs and leadership activities and possibly more time to meet with professors. CASA is being consulted on its views on the bell schedule.

3. Another continuing issue is prices at the book store. A report will be issued shortly, and a book exchange will be set up with CASA in front of the bookstore.

4. The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24 in the Student Life Building, Room 102.

3. **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. **Governance Committee**

1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum was elected as chair, and Prof. Rosalind Carey was re-elected as secretary.

2. A resolution was being brought before the Senate. In the original agenda, it was put under new business, but since it was coming through the Governance Committee a revised agenda was distributed which put it with the other committee reports. It was read by Prof. Tananbaum: “Whenever the chair of the Lehman College Faculty Executive Committee or the chair of the
Lehman College Senate is already a member of the CUNY Council of Faculty Governance Leaders, be it resolved that the chair of the Lehman College Governance Committee be designated as an additional Lehman College representative to the CUNY Council of Faculty Governance Leaders.” Prof. Tananbaum explained that this year Prof. Manfred Philipp sits on the CUNY Council of Faculty Governance Leaders because of his position as chair of the University Faculty Senate, but he is also entitled to sit there because he is now chairman of the Faculty Executive Committee. Lehman College is therefore entitled to an additional person and by way of designating who that person would be, the Committee concluded that the chairman of the Governance Committee was the most logical person. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

3. Nominations of two students for the Library, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee Mr. John Figueroa and Ms. Valerie Verdejo were presented by the Committee. The nominations were unanimously approved.

4. The next Committee meeting will be either late next Wednesday afternoon or sometime next Thursday in Shuster 179.

b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-
1. As discussed at the last meeting, Prof. Kevin Sailor said the Committee was looking into some policies concerning seniors and graduates. At the last meeting, there was not a quorum, but there was nevertheless a consensus. The Committee agreed unanimously that the policy that “a graduating senior may be exempted from a final examination if the policy of the department or program is to exempt graduating seniors from their final examinations” be stricken from the Undergraduate Bulletin. In other words, that should not be our policy. This does not preclude individual instructors from exempting students. Discussion followed. The resolution was approved to remove the statement from the catalog.

2. Another meeting has not been scheduled as yet.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum—
1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson reported proposals from the Department of Art, and from the Program in Women’s Studies. One item of information was a Letter of Intent from the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences to create a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science program in Environmental Science. The report was approved.
2. The next committee meeting is on Wednesday, October 24 at 12 noon in Carman 221.

d. Committee on Graduate Studies-

1. Prof. Timothy Alborn presented proposed revisions in the Graduate Bulletin concerning general admissions and matriculation requirements, and a new course in the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences. The report was approved.

2. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23 at 1 p.m. in Carman 201.

e. Committee on Academic Freedom-

1. Professor Liesl Jones reported that she is acting chair of the Committee. At the last meeting a quorum was not present to elect a chair. It is expected to be accomplished at the next meeting in two weeks.

2. A discussion was held on what the Committee would like to do this year. A possibility would be to hold a forum between faculty and administration on mentoring. It would deal with issues surrounding this subject with students and what the faculty believes is appropriate in mentoring students.

f. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-

1. The Committee elected Mr. James Carney as the new chair.

2. The Committee has been charged with the task of identifying the technology needs of the Lehman College community. Toward that end, the Committee discovered a video produced by the Information Technology Resources Department. It deals with a multitude of issues including access to computers and the IT Center, logging onto the CUNY portal, accessing Lehman email and various web sites and pages available to students. The ten minute video was presented to students in late August and has been in rotation on the new Targetvision system playing back at various venues on campus. The video will be made available to both students and faculty on an ongoing basis as a link on the IT web site.

3. A subcommittee of the group has drafted a preliminary survey to be administered to the Lehman student body to assess awareness and usage of the technology. The draft will be distributed to the entire Committee for comment. The survey is roughly divided into three sections: student demographic information, questions about access to technology, and public safety information. (Other departments are welcome to suggest information they would like to see polled.)
4. Pressure on the library staff and IT Department has been abated due to a number of changes ranging from relocating copying machines in the Library to support from the vendor providing printing services to the campus.

5. Prof. Esther Wilder’s years of service both as a member and as chair of the Committee was recognized and the Committee’s appreciation was noted.

6. The next meeting of the LT&T Committee is scheduled for 12 noon on Tuesday, November 13 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. Professor Eric Delson was re-elected as chair of the joint committee of Budget and Long-range Planning and the College Personnel and Budget Committee’s Subcommittee on the Budget.

2. Vice President Derek Wheeler presented to the Committee, a “snapshot” on the current (2008) fiscal year’s budget. The College budget arrived late this year, making the planning process more difficult. Lehman’s registration continued to grow last year (FY 2007), resulting in a higher revenue target for the current fiscal year. However, the Fall 2007 enrollment figures are no higher than those of Fall 2006, so that there is a shortfall compared to the revenue target. If enrollment remains relatively flat in Spring 2008, then $1-1.2 million of our carryover CUTRA account may be required to cover part of the $5.5 million shortfall (out of our $65 million budget).

3. The second installment of CUNY COMPACT funds is currently available for numerous new initiatives and, as last year, this amount will be added to the college’s base budget allocation for next year, which does provide some flexibility in budget planning for programs approved for COMPACT funding. The third COMPACT request is being planned now and will involve comment from the joint Committee and the Lehman community.

4. The next Committee meeting is planned for late November, again on a Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.
i. University Faculty Senate-

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the University Faculty Senate at its last plenary passed two resolutions: one is on admission standards and affirms the rights of college senates and faculty councils to set admission standards in accordance with each college’s governance plan; the second resolution was on faculty hiring and affirmed that the plain meaning of the bylaws in terms of faculty and adjunct hiring not be compromised. The trigger for this resolution was the discussion at 80th Street on whether department P&B, personnel and budget committees need to vote on adjunct faculty. Prof. Philipp said the bylaws clearly indicate that they do.

2. Yesterday at the Executive Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board authorized the purchase of what they call high end equipment for the sciences across the University. Lehman College was allocated just about half a million dollars. This is the first time in memory that the Central Office has made such allocations, the total amount being six million dollars.

3. The Governor’s Commission on Higher Education is scheduling public hearings throughout the State with one in New York City, one in Long Island and the others Upstate. It’s fairly clear from our discussions that two items are prominent: one is the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which concerns us, and the other is the structure SUNY which does not. The feeling among many faculty members is that students need more part-time TAP, although there are some dissenters.

4. The Natural Science Doctoral Program restructuring is continuing. The Graduate Center has set up what are known as Ad Hoc committees, which will report on the restructuring plans. That affects Lehman because the doctoral programs are also present at Lehman. Two of the colleges in the system, Hunter and City have, by vote of their respective College Senate, asked that their names be on the diploma but the colleges will not have curricular authority over these programs.

5. Recent news reports indicated that the University hired 800 full-time faculty members. Discussions were held with the Chancellery about that number because it includes substitutes, replacement hires, and there are various ways to interpret that number. If the number is publicized as high, and it is not correct, it sends a fallacious message to Albany, saying if we can hire that many new faculty, (800) why would we need more money? We expect to receive the exact number of new hires in November.

6. The colleges have a substantial amount of unexpended CUTRA funds from past years, with Lehman College as an exception, and that data is expected to be released the end of this week.
7. On Tuesday, the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee voted to support the Chancellor’s plan for the CUNY COMPACT, which is a controversial issue, because the CUNY COMPACT includes a 2.5 percent tuition increase.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

5. NEW BUSINESS

1. Prof. Kevin Sailor introduced a resolution regarding the language of tiering and proposed changes in admission policies for freshmen students. Tiering does not serve a good function; it doesn’t provide the difference in what institutions do—it simply indicates a difference in quality. And if you are designated a Tier II school it hurts you, he pointed out. Tiering only makes it harder to recruit faculty, students, and so forth. The resolution provides that:

“Therefore, the Lehman College Senate resolves that the language of tiering and lower levels of financial support undermines the mission of Lehman College as the only senior college in the Bronx. Lehman College and the Bronx deserve the same level of support that the senior colleges in other boroughs receive.” Discussion followed. The resolution was unanimously approved.

2. A resolution on the Iraq war was introduced by Professors John Mineka and Mary Caroll. Prof. Mineka emphasized that in a time of war, citizens can gather to discuss issues in a place like a university to represent their positions. “And we can also express our concerted views in this Senate.” It was ruled that the Senate has the right to receive and consider such a resolution, and the Senate is entitled to vote up and down on it. Discussion followed. A motion was made that the four resolves in the resolution be voted on separately. Thus, one may be in favor of one or more parts or reject one or more parts. The motion was seconded and approved. A motion was made for a vote to be taken on the second, third and fourth resolutions, and then return to the first. The motion was seconded and approved:

**First:** Be it resolved that the Lehman College Senate calls for an immediate end to the Iraq war and the return of all American military personnel from Iraq. And urges Congressional representatives from both parties (especially those from New York State) to undertake to end the war and occupation of Iraq by legislative means, including reduction of the appropriations for the war. The resolution did not carry by voice vote.

**Second:** Resolved that the Lehman College Senate urges the members of Congress (particularly our own New York State representatives) and the Bush administration to
expand the appropriation for Iraqi refugee humanitarian aid and increase the quota of
Iraqi refugees admitted into the U.S. The vote by a show of hands was 24 to 18*.

Third: And be it further resolved that the Lehman College Senate calls on our own
and other university communities to promote free and informative discussion, possibly
including teach-ins or the history of the war in Iraq, the war on terrorism, the causes of
terrorism throughout the world, and the possible development of multilateral, long-
term solutions to Middle East problems. The resolution was approved.

Fourth: And, more broadly resolved, that the Lehman College Senate calls for
maintaining the American tradition of open discussion of political issues and for
increased vigilance against efforts to suppress dissenting views and curb civil liberties.
The resolution was approved.

*N.B. An affirmative vote by the majority of the total number of Senators is necessary for an action to carry.
Also, based on the total vote, it appears that there may not have been a quorum at the time of voting. If this is so,
the actions on the resolution are null and void. This will be taken up in the report of the Governance Committee at
the November 7, 2007 Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier