Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2005


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 May 4, 2005 meeting with the following corrections beginning with line 32: “She [Syka Manclière of the Student Conference] was assured that any student elected to a Standing Committee has the same voting rights as any member of the Committee. With the exception of the Governance Committee, students do not have to be senators to serve on a Senate Committee.”

Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
   1. President Fernández welcomed those present back to the 2005-2006 academic year. He indicated that enrollment figures will be available within the next two or three weeks and he expects that the figures will be up slightly, consistent with the trend in CUNY.
2. The President cited a number of upcoming important events. The Fall Convocation will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 11 a.m. in the Lovinger Theatre. As part of the proceedings, an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters will be awarded to former UN Ambassador Olara Otunnu, whose work has focused on the area of abuse and exploitation of children around the world. We will also recognize, as we usually do, members of our community who have done outstanding work. A reception will follow the proceedings. A second event will be Constitution Day in honor of the signing of the Constitution in 1787. Last summer Congress passed a law requiring educational institutions to hold an event in the interest of promoting more learning about the Constitution. In this regard, a lecture will be held at 11 a.m. on September 21 in the Lovinger Theatre, at which Professor Ira Bloom from the Department of Political Science will speak. At 10:15 a.m. on the same day, a new bust sculpture of Herbert H. Lehman will be formally dedicated in front of Shuster Hall. Finally, at 5 p.m on September 29, the Performing Arts Center will present a screening of a concert in honor of Pope John Paul II. The Pope’s maestro, Sir Gilbert Levine, will be present at the screening and will answer audience questions. (Details on these events were covered in the Fall 2005 President’s Letter, copies of which were distributed at the meeting.)

3. The President reported that the College received a preliminary budget, but we don’t have all the pieces together. It will take a few more weeks until an assessment will be available. It is certain that energy costs are rising appreciably and that will put increasing pressure on the CUNY budget. The University spends $70 million a year on energy and anticipates a 20 to 30 percent increase. Further information will be available in the next few weeks.

4. President Fernández said that the Lehman College Strategic Plan will be placed on the College website in October, but it is still not final. Another presentation will be made at a meeting of the General Faculty. In the meantime, President Fernández summarized the six goals as follows (key words are italicized):

   1. Create an environment that encourages the development of students who are committed to lifelong learning, well prepared for their chosen careers and ready to contribute to their communities.
2. Provide a *curriculum* and resources essential to (offering) outstanding liberal arts and sciences and professional programs.

3. Foster scholarship, research and artistic endeavors by College *faculty*.

4. Increase, manage and allocate the financial, material and human *resources* to support the mission and strategic plan of Lehman College.

5. Engage in academic and outreach *activities* that identify Lehman College as the leading institution serving the educational, professional, cultural and recreational needs of The Bronx and the surrounding region.

6. Identify and *communicate* the distinctive characteristics, values and impact of Lehman College in order to enhance its image and standing.

President Fernández spoke about the focus areas within the goals. He stressed that the Strategic Plan will be an on-going document that provides a blueprint for the initiatives and activities that we have to engage in as an institution in order to progress and improve ourselves. It will be updated year after year. The President pointed out that significant progress in technology has already been made in support of these goals with the College offering programs that effectively interact with the surrounding community. The plan has to be funded, and what is not in the plan will get in queue. The revised Strategic Plan will be posted on the Lehman College web site in October.

5. In response to a question from the floor, President Fernández called upon Vice President Derek Wheeler to cover Lehman’s role as an evacuation center in a possible city disaster. Mr. Wheeler said that two years ago, the State and then CUNY approached Lehman to designate it as the primary evacuation site in the Bronx. We reviewed what the requirements and the arrangements would be, and Mr. Wheeler was personally uncomfortable with what was being proposed since we would have to suspend regular operations as a college for a period of time. The idea is that Lehman College would be a physical facility that would house individuals and families. The management of the facility, once an emergency were declared, would be the responsibility of City, State and Federal authorities and not the College administration. Emphasis would be placed on the APEX as a place that could hold a large number of people and could be supervised since it has two large open spaces. A back-up facility
would be the Performing Arts Center, and classroom space would be used only as a last resort. The President added that as a result of 9/11 the University required each institution to develop its own emergency response plan.

6. Professor John Mineka announced that there would be a meeting of the PSC membership on September 29 at Cooper Union.

b. **Student Conference-**

Interim Chair Rhea Natividad reported that she and nine other students were elected to the Conference at the spring election. The Election Board has advised her that 30 additional student forms were submitted for a special election scheduled for September 20, 21 and 22. That means that we will have full representation of student Senators upon completion of the election. She suggested that student representatives can be appointed to committees at the September 28 Senate meeting.

**ELECTIONS**

Two elections were on the agenda: first, the election of the chair of the Senate, i.e., the person who presides at Senate meetings in the absence of the chair, namely the President. President Fernández entertained a motion to nominate a chair of the Senate. Professor William Seraile was nominated, seconded and elected unanimously. Secondly, on the Governance Committee, three faculty vacancies and five student vacancies were addressed. Faculty members nominated were Professors Duane Tananbaum, James Jervis, and Vincent Prohaska. The nominations were seconded and the candidates were unanimously elected. There will be no student representatives on the Governance Committee this month but it is expected that they will be elected at the September 28 Senate meeting.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. **Committee on Governance**

Professor Manfred Philipp, on behalf of the Committee thanked Mr. Vincent Zucchetto for his hard work on the Senate elections.
1. Professor Manfred Philipp reported that a Plenary is scheduled for September 27 in which all faculty in the University are invited to discuss the proposed policy on privacy. Currently, the University has no policy. So the question is, if there were, say, a terrorist on our staff or if there were someone hoarding pornography on a computer, how would the University deal with that information?

2. A potential for censure by the American Association of University Professors has been averted.

3. The University Faculty Senate is taking measures to prevent administrators from applying and receiving PSC CUNY awards. It has happened in the past inadvertently but is not appropriate since the awards are limited to members of the bargaining unit.

4. Yesterday at the Facilities Committee of the Board, lighting for the Lehman campus was approved. This will go to the full Board for approval.

5. Most importantly and most immediately, on Hurricane Katrina, the Governor and State Education Commissioner Richard Mills have established immediate admission and in-state tuition for displaced students even if they are from out-of-state. Also, application and late registration fees are waived and the tuition is deferred. The expectation is that someone on the Federal level might pick it up. Free on-line courses will also be offered to displaced students. Potential students can call the hot line: 1-800-CUNY-YES.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum-

There was no report.

d. Committee on Graduate Studies-

Prof. Robin Kunstler said the Committee presented several new courses from the Department of Art. The proposals from Early Childhood and Childhood Education are being deferred until the next Senate meeting. The report was approved.

e. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-

There was no report.

f. Committee on Academic Freedom-

There was no report.
g. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**-

There was no report.

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

1. Prof. George Chaikin announced that the Library now has a grace period in which overdue books may be returned without fines until September 15.

2. The student radio WHLC is once again operational. It works by wire and is not a broadcast radio, although the station hopes to upgrade its capacity to include web casting. It can be heard in the Student Life Building. The important thing is that it gives the students an opportunity to run a station.

3. At its next meeting, the Committee will examine the proposed web policy of the college and will render a report at the Senate’s September 28 meeting.

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

There was no report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier