

LEHMAN COLLEGE

The City University of New York Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty Wednesday, May 7, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Manfred Philipp, chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2008 were submitted and approved.

2. Communications:

A. Report of President Ricardo Fernandez: **1.** President Fernandez first commented on enrollment figures as submitted by Bob Troy—a comparison from spring 2008 to 2007. In general, he saw the news as positive, with some modest increases. **2.** The Middle States self-study process is coming to an end after a year's work. The President is confident we will soon be ready to share documents that will give us a good analysis of where the college is. We expect a visit from the Chair of the committee on October 29, and the report will be completed in late February or the beginning of March. **3.** The President noted that the City budget affects the Community Colleges more than it does the Senior Colleges. The situation on the budget is regarded as serious in terms of the demand that the \$28 million cuts be rescinded out of the \$65 million proposed to be cut. Of interest to Lehman are the capital funds that were requested and are before the Bronx Delegation and the Borough President. And that is \$1.5 million for the green house for our Science facility; we are hopeful that will materialize. We also hope we will get the budget to add a new wing to the Performing Arts Center and to make that facility available to the handicapped. In the State budget, we did get the funding for the Multi-Media Center equipment. We also received design money: \$20 million for Phase II of the Science Facility. **4.** The President is now considering a feasibility study of student housing and even transitional faculty housing as one way of attracting faculty. There are some limitations inasmuch as we can't use tax-payer money for the actual construction. **5.** The President reported that he is eager to launch a new process that will take a full year to develop a vision, a strategic plan, to go by for the next ten years. (We are now marking the institution's 40th anniversary, which will include a beautiful booklet soon to be distributed. Another booklet is available on a 1946 speech given by Herbert H. Lehman, which is remarkably relevant today.) President Fernandez cited three areas of concentration: (a) academic programs, (b) students, what are their needs, and what resources do we need?, and (c) Lehman as part of the city, part of the borough, and part of the region. What is our contribution? How can we make life better both inside and outside of Lehman?

B. Report of Provost Mary Papazian: **1.** The Provost's first General Faculty meeting was a year ago. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to join Lehman and for the cooperation she has received. She reflected on the Round Tables and Coffee Hours that have proved to be so helpful in raising concerns and suggesting ideas, and she

expressed her intent to continue the practice next year as well. **2.** The Academic Council was the first meeting the Provost had this morning downtown. There were two issues on the table at the meeting. First was how we educate our students. The initiative for the campaign for Student Success is something that CUNY says truly matters to us; this is where development is needed. The other discussion was on faculty development. The group recognized the pressures that are on faculty who are asked to do so many things in so many areas. And some take on a disproportionate responsibility. We need to find a way to support and encourage the faculty. Next year, an emphasis will be placed on this project. **3.** The School of Public Health, which was also discussed, is a CUNY-wide initiative in which we are bringing a lot of people together in an attempt to coordinate the various interests of the different institutions. We are looking forward to accreditation for the school and along the way establishing a doctoral degree. **4.** Provost Papazian encouraged the faculty to attend commencement on May 29, saying it encourages students when they see faculty members participating in large numbers. **5.** She noted that next year 28 new faculty members are anticipated in disciplines across the college. **6.** The Provost said she will be moving aggressively into the area of assessment, which has been discussed with the chairs and the faculty and will be continued next year. It is essential, she said, that we think about what our mission is and what the goals and objectives are.

C. Report of PSC Chapter Chair Helene Silverman: Professor Silverman said that she really wished that negotiations were going on and added that she doesn't have much to say. There are meetings on some issues, but there is no meeting on core issues. This is sad, she said, as we move into another year with no contract. She asked the faculty to e-mail her any issues that she should bring up at a forthcoming meeting.

D. Report of UFS Chair Manfred Philipp: **1.** Professor Philipp noted that at the UFS Plenary the day before the subject came up of asking for the support of the short-fall budget, which is \$40 million and directly affects the community colleges, but affects the senior colleges as well in the long run. The community colleges cannot come up with the community support for suitable operations, and State funds are extended only when the city provides its portion. This represents an 18% cut in a critical year, and sooner or later these issues come to the senior colleges. **2.** The UFS held an election and Professor Phillip was elected chairman. The Executive Committee was elected and included the other member from Lehman College, Prof. Stefan Baumrin. **3.** The Plenary also discussed a proposed Academic Freedom document. A vote was taken to approve the document in principle, and discussions will continue in the fall. **4.** The Chancellor has proposed a conflict of interest statement, a new policy which is posted on the website. The UFS is more or less satisfied with the revised document, and it is likely to be passed by the Board of Trustees. **5.** On State issues, Governor Paterson has dropped the idea of using the state lottery as an educational endowment. The need is still there but no one knows where the money will come from. Opinions can be expressed at the Bronx Borough hearing for CUNY which will be at 5 p.m. on June 16. **6.** On some outstanding issues, such as the protection of intellectual property of faculty members, there are still some details that the Committee would like to fix. **7.** John Jay College will now become solely a senior college. This leaves one community college in Manhattan, which would suggest the need for a new community college. But the question is, where will the money come

from? CUNY does own real estate and is looking for a public-private partnership to finance the project. It is also clear that John Jay needs more space than it now has and is putting up a new building, somewhat near the Hudson River and behind the main building. **8.** The restructuring of the doctoral program is being observed by the Committee with great interest and care. The engineering doctoral program is being moved from the Graduate Center to City College. There are also joint doctoral degrees with the Graduate Center in Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Physics at Hunter and CCNY. The Board of Trustees also voted to create joint degrees for Hunter College for the Doctorate in Public Health. **9.** Anyone who wishes to be placed in nomination or wishes to nominate anyone else for the election committee of the General Faculty can speak now or later by submitting names to Professor Philipp.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Carey
Executive Committee