

LEHMAN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty
Wednesday, November 12, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Professor **Robert Feinerman**, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and introduced the first speaker, Provost Morrobel-Sosa (in the absence of President Ricardo Fernandez).

Provost Morrobel-Sosa presented a couple of announcements on behalf of the President. The first one was Vice President Vincent Clark's report on the use of Lehman College's Apex Center as facility for Hurricane Sandy evacuees.

V.P. Vincent Clark

Lehman is a temporary medical evacuation center for one hundred and thirty individuals displaced from adult care facilities of The Rockaways. Medical needs are being handled by the Government medical officers who have been dispatched to our campus. There are also 29 individuals who were removed from a Brooklyn Nursing Facility due to the storm who are being cared for by medical professionals and a more transient population from homeless shelters (currently nine children, 18 women and 10 males) who are here on a revolving basis. All are housed in the Apex Center. Public Safety has been pulling 12 hour shifts in support of the emergency shelter here at Lehman. V.P. Clark closed by encouraging campus volunteers as an "extra set of hands".

Provost Morrobel-Sosa commended all of the work of staff, faculty and students during the Hurricane and took a moment to mention three recent losses in the Lehman community: Lauren Abraham, a victim of Hurricane Sandy who was a Lehman student; Barbara Roberts who died on 11/1 and was director of Office Research and Sponsored Programs; and finally, yesterday's loss of Marge Rice who was the director of Media Office and Publications who died on 11/6. The Provost asked that we observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the three individuals.

Morrobel-Sosa continued with the subject of plans for recovering the lost instructional time due to Hurricane Sandy -- the equivalent of four days. Because of CUNY and NY State Department of Education guidelines we must determine how to recover the lost instructional time. To that end department Chairs must receive faculty suggestions by 11/16 on the what and how of implementation. The outline for the plan was submitted to CUNY Central (E. 80th St) on 11/6.

A Strategy for developing a Faculty Diversity Strategic Plan. A Diversity Study Screening Committee established by Chancellor Goldstein ultimately led to the development of a Diversity Action Plan released this year. We are now meeting to implement several recommendations in it the first of which is that each campus will establish a task force to develop a campus focus faculty diversity strategic plan.

That task force has been asked to be co-chaired by the Provost and by the Chief Diversity Officer. Membership will come from faculty, representatives from academic affairs, student affairs, Human Resources and diversity offices.

There are four major elements to be addressed

1. How to foster diversity inclusion on campus
2. Provide support to strengthen faculty recruitment
3. To promote a more supportive environment for the retention of faculty
4. To measure the effectiveness of these efforts on our campus

Deadlines dates for what the strategic plan will look like are: the Draft on 5/1, the Final on 8/1 and Full Implementation on 8/28.

The Provost then introduced -- **V.P. Ronald Bergman, Stephan Becker and David Stephens** who spoke about the Lehman Community Connect Project. Everyone is encouraged to become familiar with Lehman Connect. Faculty can involve it in the classroom and students will be able to access original data. Ronald Bergman demonstrated some of the applications and the great opportunities for use of the Portal towards the goal of full engagement in community service via Lehman Connect. In the process he explained the various features of the website and pointed out the map with a listing of various schools and programs of interest.

Associate V.P. Robert Troy: Report on New Admissions Standards

According to V.P. Troy the following information is taken from an original presentation given to the Academic Admissions Standards Committee and was also used to give a report to the Senate.

Raising admissions standards comes from Achieving a Vision – a strategic plan for the college which makes sure that our college is in step with the CUNY senior colleges. “Action 2.1.1 is to maintain the policy of raising undergraduate freshmen and transfer admission standards in line with other leading CUNY Senior Colleges”

Fall 2009 was the first implementation of significantly higher standards than we had and we have been increasing standards slightly higher each year.

Fall 2009 Admissions Standards: We required 80 CAA or high school average; minimum SAT 900 total; CPI units: college preparatory initiative = one unit/one course - we required units. In F’09 we had 670 regular and 1255 transfers students. In 2010 we raised the SAT score from 900 to 940 minimum and kept all other criteria the same. Our Freshman class dropped significantly from 670 to 440 (transfer students were about the same) but 2009 was first time retention rate was 80% and above and the next year stayed at 79% coinciding with raised standards.

Fall 2011 we decided that we would raise the CAA and maintain the SAT at 940. At that point we lost a small number of freshmen – smaller affect than when we raised the SAT. However, we do not have the

retention figures for that year. We also increased the transfer students to 1500 (which admittedly was quite high) to combat loss of Freshmen.

Fall 2012 we raised SAT standards again from 940 to 950 with a loss of 38 students but the combination of CunyFirst implementation affected our numbers.

Fall 2013 we propose raising the CAA and maintaining the SAT at 950. It was approved through the Senate that we raise the High School average to 82.

As a comparison F'12 five major senior colleges requirement for admission is 82 CAA, 1022 SAT, 14 CPI units with 85.9 retention rates. Based on prior results we should not see a huge drop in freshmen class. In answer to questions from the audience: (1) Honors college is included in regular admission figures; (2) 2008 retention rate was about 72%; (3) CAA is more important than SAT in assessing high school student average (SAT has so many variables) and we will focus more CAA in the coming years.

Renee Rotolo: Sustainability Project via Sustainability Committee is made up of Faculty and student volunteers and administrative staff. Five years from the 2007 inception here is the plan. CUNY created seven separate but interconnected pillars of sustainability: water, transportation, education and outreach, nutrition, green procurement, recycling and composting and energy.

Water: motion activated equipment in bathrooms; new water meters for incoming water service; in science hall we collect rainwater for flushing

Transportation: purchased bicycles and electric vehicles for our maintenance staff's tunnel travel

Education and outreach –since 2009 Lehman hosted conference is held every October in the Music building and on the Plaza of the Music building with annual earth day's special event (last event we had over 300 people attending – the most attended yet).

Nutrition – sustainability has been fully incorporated into our food service agreement and into the operation. In re to a green market on campus we have Corbett Hill Farms Share – a community supported agricultural program. There is a “dot” system on the snack items in vending machines regarding nutritional benefits.

Procurement – entire campus uses procurement system eliminates paper involvement B*G whenever possible purchases recycled materials

Recycle and Composting – we recycle glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, metal, electrical equipment, etc. on campus. The kitchen has a closed compost machine (The Rocket) which results in rich material for our flower gardens on campus.

Energy – achieved original goal of replacing lightbulbs; new science building has sola thermal on roofs for hot water; new equipment purchased continues to be energy star rated. This past July CUNY established a new initiative: CUNY Conserves – many projects have been implemented and many more are to come but we encourage everyone to contribute efforts (for example, turn off everything – lights, electronic devices -- when you leave your office and classroom). VP Clark will establish an Energy Advisory Committee to develop strategies.

Duane Tananbaum – Lehman Senate Report

Professors Feinerman and Tananbaum are the Lehman College representatives of the CUNY Faculty Governance Leaders – a group which meets twice a semester to discuss various issues. The last meeting on September 26, 2012 focused on Pathways with Chancellor and Vice Chancellor in attendance. The

Chancellor made it clear that while he and his office wanted faculty engagement in the Pathways process, he and his office did not need faculty endorsement or approval. The Vice Chancellor in answer to a question discussed the difference between contact hours, conference hours and workload hours but did not illuminate why the Chancellor's office has taken the Board of Trustees resolution which talked about credit hours and has applied that policy to contact hours as well.

English Composition departments have resisted the reduction of contact hours from four to three and The Clarion newspaper has reported that Queensborough has refused to reduce the four credit contact hours. The Lehman College Senate has to approve the raised academic standards. Professor Tananbaum encouraged attendance at the Senate meetings.

Rosalyn Carey – PSC Report: PSC offices have reopened but still do not have telephone or internet service. There are two lawsuits re to Pathways. Oral arguments are due in December for the first lawsuits and CUNY's motion to dismiss. There is also a Pathways Step Two grievance concerning eleven different colleges including Lehman. PSC has asked participants to attend and show opposition at East 80th Street. Barbara Bowen, president of the Union, gave an opinion paper on the subject of Pathways and in it she argues that Pathways is much less about facilitating transfer than it is about a national higher education agenda of college completion and that private institutions play a dominant role in shaping educational policy. This presents a shift to austerity education (well why spend money on them they don't matter) and a building in of business interests on education. The overall message in her paper is that the liberal belief and idea of education for all is being eliminated. Health insurance for eligible adjuncts has been extended to the end of November. Finally, discussion of improving return rate on the online student evaluation of faculty teaching.

Helene Silverman could not attend today's meeting

Professor Wilder deferred his report to February 13th Faculty Meeting

Lehman College Bookstore Report – Sixteen percent is the lowest rate of books being sold through the bookstore particularly in the math and science textbook areas. Rental of books was encouraged. Spring 2013 will see the inception of ordering books via CUNYfirst. January 6 will be the grand opening of the Lehman Bookstore with discounts included.

Meeting Closed by Professor Robert Feinerman who announced the next General Faculty meeting date of 2/13/13 and requested that any items of interest be sent to him.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted by M. Marsham