

LEHMAN COLLEGE

The City University of New York Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty Wednesday, November 14, 2007

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 meetings of September 19, 2007 were submitted and approved.

2. Communications:

A. President's Report:

- 1.** On Nov. 26, the Board of Trustees will have its monthly meeting. On the agenda will be the University's budget request to the state. It will include COMPACT 3 funding, and, if the funds are granted, it will be a significant addition. Also to be presented will be the Capital Request Plan for the next five-year cycle. In Phase I, we expect to break ground for the new science facility, probably late spring or summer by the latest. Phase II, which is a much more substantial request for Lehman, will be on that plan and depends on funding determined by the State legislature. We would finish Phase I by 2010. We will gain a substantial amount of space that will allow a redistribution of offices.
- 2. Commission Report:** A Commission report to the Governor will be distributed by December and will be included in the budget request for the coming year.
- 3. Private Sector:** An article by John Sexton, president of NYU, makes the point that the private sector is an impressive part of higher education in New York State; two-thirds of the degrees granted annually in New York State are by private institutions. SUNY, with 400,000, and CUNY, with 225,000 students, account for one third of the degrees. The numbers give you an insight into the power of private education in the State.

B. Report of Milton Santiago, Deputy to the President:

- 1. CUNY FIRST:** ERP is now known as CUNY FIRST (Fully Integrated Resources and Services Tool). This is the first time the University has undertaken to fully integrate all its applications, such as the General Ledger and CUP. All the colleges will function in the same way.
- 2. Timing:** The General Ledger application will happen in the spring semester, about April; the second will be the Human Capital Management System, and that will happen over the summer, about July; the third will be Financial Aid, which will probably happen in the spring of '09.

C. Provost Mary Papazian:

- 1. The Bell Schedule:** Faculty will be receiving an email on a proposed bell schedule and will have an opportunity to make additional comments by November 30.
- 2. Reassessing Excellence:** The President's Advisory Committee on Reassessing Excellence has looked at questions such as admission standards for entering, first time freshmen, transfer students, enrollment management, publicity and other types of admission strategies. Student representatives participated. The recommendations were submitted to the President.
- 3. The Performance Management Process:** PMP is the

process CUNY uses to establish goals and objectives for the University, as each college establish its own goals and objectives within the University and then is held accountable each year. It's part of raising our academic quality. **4. The Master Plan:** CUNY is thinking about the 2008-2012 Master Plan, which will be sent in an email. Faculty is to look particularly at the latter half of the document. Comments will be received up until the Nov. 30 deadline.

D. Report of Vice President Wheeler: **1. Snapshot:** The 2007-2008 snapshot of Lehman's Schedule of Budget vs. Projected Expenditures shows a \$32,475 deficit, which we can no doubt close with one or another source of funds. We developed a new "needs list", which came out to \$5.2 million. All we were able to fund was \$400,000 in mandatory needs. Within this year we need a selective hiring freeze, so many vacant non-CUNY Compact positions will not be replaced. **2. MRSA:** Among other things, we have sanitized such areas as the showers and bathrooms, and we are working with the EPA's prescribed list of disinfectants, which are said to be effective. **3. Human Resources Staffing:** With the retirement of Sandra Laureano our HR Director, Eric Washington, now associate director, has been named acting director while a search is underway for a new HR Director. Also, Nydia Muniz, the benefits assistant, has been moved into the benefits coordinator position, and we are now bringing in a new benefits assistant.

E. Report of Rene Rotolo: **1. Sustainability:** Plan New York City is a vision of what the city could be over the next ten years, from 2007 to 2017. One of the goals is to reduce the carbon footprint in the city of New York. On June 6, 2007, Chancellor Goldstein accepted Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC challenge to reduce our carbon footprint 30% by 2017. To achieve this goal, the CUNY Sustainability Project and the CUNY Task Force on Sustainability were created. It is CUNY's aim to incorporate sustainability into the fabric of the University by integrating sustainability into the curriculum, supporting research, and partnering with civic and business leaders. **2. Phases I – IV:** Phase 1: Create a Campus Sustainability Council by Thanksgiving. Phase II: Lehman must submit a campus draft plan to the CUNY Task Force by April 2008. Phase III: The College must deliver the campus final plan by September 2008. Phase IV: Implementation of the Campus Plan begins October 2008. Anyone interested in the project may email Ms. Rotolo at rene.rotolo@lehman.cuny.edu or call extension 8226.

F. Report of Vice President Zonguo Xia: **1. IT Assets:** In general the state of IT at Lehman College is good. We have 3,600 computers, 500 laptop computers, 161 servers, 5,958 Internet connections, over 1,000 office printers and close to 2,300 telephones. The estimated total value/replacement cost is \$15,438,100. That is a challenge, if we try to replace it in a five-year cycle at three million dollars a year. **2. Online Courses:** We offer 53 courses and 41 hybrid courses. In terms of faculty, we have 360 full-time, 461 part-time, 485 full-time staff members, and 360 part-time. Some 600 new computers have been purchased, and we have added 500 internet connections. **3. New Faculty Computer Lab:** Next year money will be available for a state-of-the-art faculty computer lab. In two years, we hope that all our classrooms, instructional and research labs as well as offices will be connected to the Internet. As a way of balancing expenses, faculty must only request what is absolutely needed, and plan at least one year ahead.

G. Report of Susan Polirstok:

- 1. Accreditation:** A letter was received from NCATE (National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education) notifying us we have been accredited fully on all standards through 2014.
- 2. Teaching Fellows:** We began with a new cohort of teaching fellows this summer with 175 people starting in the areas of science, Tesol, and Spanish. Next summer we're anticipating having a special program on Spanish.
- 3.** In September, we launched a new graduate program in educational leadership, and we accepted our first class.
- 4. Teacher Academy:** We continue with our Teacher Academy program; we have a section cohort that began in September with 11, but finding students in this area is a problem.
- 5. Tourett Workshop:** On Nov. 29, in Lovinger Theater we will sponsor a Tourett Syndrome workshop.
- 6. Dropouts:** We are also planning to be partner in a new dropout prevention summit, which will probably be scheduled in mid-February. It is hoped that Collen Powell and Chancellor Klein will be speakers.
- 7. Teach for America:** This organization recruits the best and the brightest professionals to give a two-year commitment to work in urban schools. Lehman is talking to the organization about programs to complete the master's with us.

H. Report of Helene Silverman:

- 1. Union Accord:** At the last meeting of the faculty there had been no agreement with any New York state union. Now CSEA has settled with the state. Their contract is 3%-3%-3%-4% with a lot of bump-ups in longevity. The big issue for the PSC is trying to justify the four-year pattern bargaining with the State and the three-year pattern bargaining with the city, plus our tremendous cost of living, which our last contract didn't keep up with. The other is that we have salary steps. Except for the UFT contract, none of the other contracts dealt with this issue.
- 2. Child Care:** People from Queens College were interviewed on the Today Show on the subject of childcare. Ironically, only one expressed the real need for childcare at Lehman.

I. Report of Alicia Georges:

- 1. CUNY Welfare Fund:** Prof. Georges, chair of nursing, and member of the Board of Trustees of the CUNY Welfare Fund, brought up the subject of a loan to Lehman. Right now the Fund has \$36 million in reserve.
- 2. Long-Term Care:** If you go to the PSC web site, you will see what the benefits are and what the plan will allow in '08. The people who retired this year will be considered active and can purchase this insurance. The biggest expenditure in the fund remains prescription drugs. One of the biggest tasks is covering expenses for adjuncts. CUNY does not cover per capita for adjuncts; they only do that for full-time faculty. It's a lump sum that doesn't change, regardless of the number of adjuncts. That's a great deal for the Welfare Fund to cover.
- 3. Tripartite Agreement:** The tripartite agreement has existed for 40 years or more. It's called the Trustee's Debenture Trust and needs to be updated. We are ok and are not losing any money, since we still have our reserve. Finally, there have been complaints about the dental plan, but it is better than it was.

J. Report of Manfred Philipp:

- 1. Iraq War:** At the last meeting of the General Faculty, there was a ballot initiative on the Iraq war. A motion was made to distribute the ballot by campus mail. That has been done. The total vote was 34 on the affirmative, 6 on the negative, 3 abstentions for a total of 43 total votes, which obviously represents a small fraction of the faculty.
- 2. Governor's Commission:** The Governor's Commission on

Higher Education is coming out with a preliminary report in December. The Commission already has held public hearings. At future hearings, having the report in hand, attendees will be able to respond to the context. Faculty Governance groups are not represented on the Commission. but CUNY does have a strong representation. So we are concerned as to what the Commission will come up, though preliminary indications are that the report will support the CUNY Compact. **3. Talks with Legislators:** The UFS has been holding discussions with legislators on the work of the Commission and to advocate more funding for this University. Queens College recently made a study showing that a significant number of untenured faculty leave because of better opportunities, which is a combination of working conditions, teaching loads, the high cost of living in New York City and other factors. **4. Board Committee:** At the Board Committee last week there was a large amount of proposed construction for the next cycle. CUNY is following an aggressive building program including the new science building at Lehman. The biology center is still not resolved. Perhaps we could get it moved to Lehman. **5. Passing the Torch:** The UFS fall conference “Passing the Torch” on the effects of the open admission policy in CUNY colleges will take place on Friday, December 7. **6. Patents:** The CUNY Intellectual Property Committee will meet this coming month for the first time since April 2006. Anyone with ideas for patents are invited to submit them to the Committee.

K. New business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Carey
Executive Committee