

LEHMAN COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty
September 21, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Robert Feinerman, chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 11, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. **Communications:**

A. Report of the President and Provost. Provost Garro presented both reports in the absence of President Fernandez. **1. Enrollment:** The Provost welcomed everyone to the first faculty meeting for the new academic year. The good news is that our enrollments are up, which is important in terms of the budget. A great deal of time has been spent on this subject, working in the president's office in the last two weeks. **2. Handbook:** On another new development, the Provost intends to send out a broadcast email announcing an on-line faculty handbook that recently has been organized and has proved useful. Soon you'll be able to track it on the web by going to Academic Affairs **3. Strategic plan:** A great deal of time has been spent on updating the Strategic Plan, which has been in full swing since last September. At the beginning of October, we hope to have a detailed scope of work on the objectives together with one of the action plans that has been followed. **4. Internet:** There is a solution in sight on problems that have been plaguing part of this campus in the last year or two. We have come to an agreement with CUNY to have a full gigabit on campus, probably by the end of the year. CUNY is committing \$600,000 to connect us to the network that runs up and down the spine of the campus. **5. Master Plan:** Our priority was to develop a new science building on this campus. A process was followed through the end of last year. The Science Building will go up in phases, and the renovation of Gillett will be reorganized relative to the Science Building. A program committee includes the chairs of all the departments that will be affected by the totality of this project. The Committee will probably begin its work in October. A cooperative effort is ongoing with the Botanical Gardens, which will have a new science building, and we hope to avoid a duplicative effort. **6. Enrollment:** The Provost went through the handout on enrollment that, he said, was more detailed than similar ones in the past. He pointed to a total enrollment of a 4.3 percent increase in the headcount and a 2.7 percent increase in total college FTEs. He mentioned as significant that the graduation rate last year went from 31 percent to 35 percent, which was due to the success of SEEK students on campus. **7. Grant and Contract Activity:** In terms of overall revenue that is grants and contracts, we have the final numbers for 2005. Provost Garro was pleased and congratulated the faculty responsible. Our new grants and contract activities involve over \$18 million dollars, which is a significant increase. **8. New faculty:** Provost Garro acknowledged and welcomed to Lehman new full-time faculty who were listed in a handout. Not in the handout are names that were later added as follows: Victoria Sanford, assistant professor, Department of Anthropology; Anne Rice, assistant professor, Department of Black Studies; Hari K. Pant, sub assistant professor, Department of Environmental Geographic and Geological Sciences; Nicolas Boston, assistant professor, Department of Journalism, Communication and Theater; Daniel R. Fernandez, instructor; Zelda Newman, assistant professor; Asako Tochika, lecturer, and Maria Saen-de-Casas, assistant professor, Department of Languages and Literatures; Dimitry Garanin, associate professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Jonathan Alex, lecturer, and Janet R. DeSimone, assistant professor, Department of Specialized Services in Education. Victoria Nirov-

Rizzo, assistant professor, Nursing; Dimitry Garanin, associate professor, Physics & Astronomy; and Hari Pant, assistant professor, Environmental Geography and Geological Science.

B. Report of Vice President Derek Wheeler. 1. Budget The new budget could not be said to be a pleasant picture for us in the coming year. Mr. Wheeler went through its details, indicating that 2006 will be a particularly rough year. The handout shows an initial budget allocation of \$46,088,800 leading to a total operating budget of \$54, 539,863. We are facing a short fall of \$7.3 million. In order of magnitude, this is a far larger deficit than we are accustomed to looking at this time in the fiscal year. VP Wheeler discussed the various areas of income and expenditure and some cuts that will be necessary but concluded that all in all, we have a difficult picture for the coming year. We are hopeful that our fall and spring will be above target and that may enable us to put some activities back on line. Allowances also have to be made to fund the college's Strategic Plan that will cover the next couple of years. So there are a lot of stresses on our fiscal situation. **2. Parking:** This is the second year of our new parking program which included reserved parking spaces and an increase in fees. Since the University mandated that parking fees must cover costs, we set a budget of \$87,000, and we made it through last year. No increases are anticipated this year or in the foreseeable future. The parking plan is similar to last year with one exception which is that the Davis lot is now closed up to the end of October. **3. Security:** Our security and safety systems have been and are being improved. The first is a fire alarm system upgrade which has largely been installed and awaiting fire department approval. Next is a campus light security system upgrade. Stations are placed on columns that have lights and telephones on them. There are 25 exterior and 10 interior stations. In addition, the closed-circuit TV camera capabilities now installed but not yet fully operational, will be operational by January. Finally, traffic arms with access by swipe cards have been installed in the Davis and Gillett parking lots.

C. University Faculty Senate Report: 1. UFS Fall Conference: Prof. Philipp reported that this conference will be held on Friday, November 11. **2. Privacy Policy:** CUNY was being considered for censure by the AAUP. That censure has been averted. Roger Bowen wrote a six-page letter to Chancellor Goldstein who plans to respond to the letter. In a related issue, there has been a discussion of the privacy policy at the central office. Vice Chancellor Shaffer has convened a committee that includes two CUNY college presidents: James Muyskens of Queens and Gregory Williams of CCNY to determine what future policy should be. **3. Faculty Experience Survey:** This survey is still being evaluated. The Senate Facilities Committee last night said it will survey CUNY signage facilities for disabled people. The question is how well does the signage help disabled people get around on CUNY campuses? **4. CUNY Science:** The Chancellor said that this is going to be the "CUNY Decade of the Sciences." He is going to review how the sciences are handled at CUNY. According to one college president, the idea is to have fewer doctoral students, but to make sure the programs are well funded with concentrations of subdisciplines on certain campuses, and with such developments as new science buildings at Lehman and CCNY. **4. On-line Instruction:** Vice Chancellor Botman convened a committee to discuss on-line instruction. The committee, reporting back in June of this year, proposed a new on-line bachelor's degree. This is to be run through the School of Professional Studies, not through a specific college. The committee included members from Lehman College: Michael Paul and Robert Whittaker. **5. Hurricane Katrina:** Governor and State education Commissioner Richard P. Mills established immediate admission and in-state tuition for students displaced by hurricane Katrina, waived application and late registration fees and deferred tuition payments. The Federal government may pick some of this up. A phone number 1800-CUNY-Yes has been established to assist students who have had their education disrupted. Students may also call 212 290-5604. **D. Report of J. Middleton: 1. Update on new e-mail system:** Oracle Collaboration Suite email system, considered ineffective, was replaced by a new one from Mirapoint. It was delivered in mid-December and installed within a few weeks. The college moved to the Mirapoint email system on July 28, with less than an hour downtime to do the conversion. **2. Services**

available: These include: web access through the Lehman Home Page (www.lehman.edu). All users—faculty, staff and students—have Webmail service. Next Spring, Lehman will either commit to purchase the Mirapoint system for the college or will move to the new CUNY selected system.

E. Election of Disciplinary Committee: The office of Jose Magdaleno, Vice President of Student Affairs, stipulated, as required by Article 15.3 of the Board of Trustees By-Laws, that the General Faculty is required to elect a panel of six faculty members to serve on the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee for a term of one year. The following faculty members have agreed to serve: Professors Andrea Boyar, Nancy Maldonado, Gary Schwartz, William Seraile, Duane Tananbaum, and Xavier Totti. The nominations were seconded, and the slate was unanimously elected.

F. New business

There was no new business.

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

The next schedule meeting will be on Wednesday, November 16, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Russo Bullaro