

LEHMAN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty
Wednesday, September 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, **President Ricardo Fernandez**.

President Fernandez in his welcome address noted the positive news that the preliminary figures for Fall 2012 are positive -- enrollment is flat -- but anticipated a better sense of the final numbers later in the Semester. The President also announced October 12 as the date of the formal opening of the Science Building and stated its significance in the college's move in a strategic direction towards the sciences and cited the successful Summer 2012 program that involved six students – two from Hostos Community College and four from Bronx Community College – who worked under the departments of Math, Biology and Chemistry. President Fernandez expressed hope that Lehman will be able to expand the program. He also noted that we are working with math and science high schools in the Bronx and the two feeder middle schools who he said are producing some wonderful students in science. President Fernandez also mentioned Lehman's planned welcome of acclaimed Latin American writers on October 11. Information for this special event can be obtained through Professor Terrence Cheng at extension 7403.

President Fernandez then asked Dr. Stefan Becker, Professor and Chair of the Earth, Environmental and Geospatial Sciences Department to talk about the new website Lehman Connect that will be useful for the Lehman community's faculty, researchers, administrators and students.

Dr. Stefan Becker

Dr. Becker stated that Lehman Connect is an initiative that was spearheaded by Ron Bergman. The first version of the site will be launched on 10/12 – the same date as the opening of the Science Building. One of the goals of the strategic plan is to have a commitment to community service and this site will be a landmark in that direction. The site will firstly be highly visual and map-based. No need to look through long formulas. The latest technology of map making will be beneficial to user friendliness. Secondly, it will be Intuitive – very accessible. Finally it will be Interactive with the ability for the user to ask his or her own questions. The data will always be updated - not stagnant. For example, there will be information on sustainability regarding Bronx usage of energy. One will also be able to evaluate traffic as it relates to respiratory illness in the borough

and also find aspects of environment, sustainability, education, health, economic development and Lehman in the community. Professor Becker expressed the Lehman community's excitement about the opportunities available with the Lehman Connect website.

The President then introduced new Provost Anny Morrobel-Sosa

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The Provost welcomed the new junior faculty:

Assistant Professor Alison Amend - English

Lecturer Jane Cleland - English

Assistant Professor Evelyn Duran – Languages and Literature

Assistant Professor Prabodhika Mallikaratchy – Chemistry

Lecturer Sameh Fakhouri – Mathematics & Computer Science

Assistant Professor Ivreen Robinson – Nursing

Associate Professor Linda Scheetz – Nursing

Assistant Professor Mak Wingyun – Psychology

Assistant Professor Lydia Ogden – Social Work

Assistant Professor Jessica Bacon – Counseling and Special Education

In closing the Provost noted the anticipated new faculty openings for next year.

Assistant VP Rene Rotolo - Campus Planning & Facilities

Ms. Rotolo reiterated the October 12 ribbon cutting day for the Science Building with the additional information that we will be able to tour the interior of the building on that date. She also noted Lehman's receipt of confirmation from the Contractor in Ephrata Pennsylvania

that the Day Care Center modules (22 in all) will be delivered and set onto the building's foundation Tuesday, September 25 through Thursday, September 27, 2012.

Ms. Rotolo informed the general faculty that the next step in future building plans will be in two phases and will include a new facility for the Nursing Department with an extension to include Health Sciences and Social Work in the Davis Hall Parking Lot space. Regarding the two studies on student housing Ms. Rotolo reminded us that the State will not fund housing on CUNY campuses because we are traditionally commuter colleges so housing has to be a private public partnership. At present we have the information and the financials but because of the economic climate money has been recently tight so in order to proceed we will require a large investment from a private investor or from the college and Lehman continues to work on that.

In closing Ms. Rotolo announced that the next project is to take down the T3 Bldg which is one of the last of our temporary buildings. We will then begin Phase Two of the Science Facility. We are doing façade work on the Old Gym building and in the next two months we will start to do same on Speech and Theatre building, the Concert Hall

and on the Library. In addition, we are in the process of renovating the teaching and organic chemistry labs and are 60% finished on the design for the heating and cooling plant upgrade.

VP Robert Troy Report (aka CUNY-First Report)

Dr. Troy discussed the Fall 2011 headcount and Fall 2012 headcount juxtaposed against the actual target for this Fall. He cited key data points: the freshmen target of 537 saw an actuality of 546 which breaks down to 384 regular freshmen and 162 Seek and noted that our targets were based on our projection with the new increasing standards. New transfers last year totaled 1522 – probably one of the largest transfer classes (original target was 1288 modified to 1400). New graduate students, 568 (last year was 652 – increase impacted by new M.A. programs). He noted that there is a total CUNY decrease in graduate education enrollment.

Targeted and Actual Numbers

The Undergraduate 9308 total enrollment/9494 target loss is in continuing students. Total Graduate 2273 is against a target of 2393. Total population headcount of 11,887 is above last year but reflects non-inclusion of special programs which has a separate total of about 500-600.

Dr. Troy acknowledged the big challenge of CUNY-First inception and its effect on figures. He noted that even though the numbers show we are up in enrollment it is before we do the CUNY-First cancellation.

Dr. Troy was asked by a faculty audience member about the total count being up while we are down in the individual categories. He explained that once the cancellations were done the total numbers would change and we would then probably not be “up” in enrollment. He also noted that CUNY-First financial interface data base is still questionable which has prompted Lehman to work on student cases individually. Ultimately Dr. Troy is trying to capture the headcount that will give us the dollars. We are up in enrollment at present but we will be down once we do the cancellations.

Transfer evaluation system came to us late in the Summer and therefore we could not process 400 transfer student evaluations but this Semester we started on time. Temporary staff has been hired to help in the evaluations of the transfer students. Mr. Troy also mentioned the CUNY-First problem with GPA calculation at present that necessitated a manual tally.

Finally, Dr. Troy noted that Lehman is considered the vanguard school for tying in graduate admissions to CUNY-First and attributed the success to everyone in administration who worked tirelessly to get the job done and in closing encouraged all to send in questions or issues that may come up with the promise that he and Lehman's administration would continue to do their best to resolve the problems.

VP Vincent Clark – Budget

Mr. Clark reported that the budget is about the same as last year with no reductions and expressed hope that if there is an enrollment decline we will be able to work with CUNY so that it will not affect us. This fiscal year 2012-2013 our combined resources are 95.7 million. Included in this amount is our Operating budget which was increased 1.5 million over last year. We received 3.3 million dollars in additional Compact funds which we used for 14 new faculty lines, textbooks for library, offset financial aid and work study programs for students. The Compact is really made up of three components: (1) derived from tuition; (2) internal efficiencies and improvements; (3) increased dollars that come from philanthropy. Mr. Clark noted that the removal of private security guards in the parking lot and the replacement of a mechanical arm produced savings that were used for Public Safety.

Mr. Clark estimates that we will have “overages” from our tuition collections.

Project Operating Expenditures consist of personal expenditures – over 85% of our money goes to the salary of faculty and administration. For the first time CUNY gave us our energy budget and said if we save any money in energy costs we will be able to use those funds for the College. Mr. Clark expressed hope that we will work together to come up with ideas to save energy as we cannot afford to overspend our energy budget. He noted our first time responsibility of provided funding for 14 faculty lines along with fringe benefits.

Mr. Clark stated that this budget information will be posted on Lehman Connect in more detail.

Three Faculty Reports

First - Duane Tananbaum

LC Senate had its first meeting last year and we do have some student representations on the committees. There was clarification needed for when the committees start and end including the question of Summer committees. This coming Spring nominations are being accepted for senators at large. We will continue to monitor the Pathways Process as it continues to play out.

Second - Rosalind Carey

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Acting Chair of the PSC in place of Manfred Philip. Pathways report: PSC is engaged in two legal proceedings jointly with the University Senate against Pathways. The union has retained two different law firms and are putting much energy and money into this. The union wishes relief by the courts stopping the whole Pathways process.

Note: There are two meetings -- one on pre-retirement and 10/2 on pension and health benefits. Gerard Hirsch is the PSC contact person for the latter meeting. Professor

Carey noted that emails from former chair Professor Helene Silverman should be replied to Professor Carey who has replaced Professor Silverman as Chair.

Third - Helene Silverman

The meeting on 10/12 will discuss the Pathways legality in detail at John Jay College. Two documents were sent out on the main thrust about UFS were sent out regarding PMPs and one dealing with dedicated sick leave. There is a six month waiting period if one has to go on to SSI which is problematic since it means that one is not working during that time. Now there is a procedure to borrow another faculty member's sick days to cover that waiting period from a so-called "sick bank". There are many details and paperwork that has to be done so please investigate.

Meeting Closed by Professor Robert Feinerman

Professor Feinerman mentioned the next General Faculty meeting date of 11/7 and requested that any items of interest be sent to him.

Respectfully transcribed and
submitted by M. Marsham Castro