

**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2006**

Senators Present: Akan, A.; Albelda, A.; Albelda, V.; Awoyomi, T.; Bailey, M.; Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Berrhe, K.; Bird, E.; Blot, R.; Bonastia, C.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Capetola, L.; Carey, R.; Chaikin, G.; DeMinco, S.; Digby, A.; Em, C.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fleitas, J.; Ganjian, I.; Gerry, C.; Gottlieb, M.; Gurdak, D.; Haghighat, E.; Happaney, K.; Hurley, D.; Jacobson, B.; Jervis, J.; Joseph, C.; Kleiman, S.; Kolb, P.; Kunstler, R.; Lawrence, D.; Lazarus, M.; Lerzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Lowenstein, D.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; Mineka, J.; Muller, S.; Munch, J.; Myrie, D.; Natividad, R.; Pascal, A.; Perez-Morales, I.; Philipp, M.; Pierre, K.; Pirch, K.; Polirstok, S.; Prohaska, V.; Sailor, K.; Sanford, V.; Saravia-Shore, M.; Silverman, H.; Sloan, H.; Tananbaum, D.; Tilley, J.; Tobgay, K.; Tramontano, W.; Troy, R.; Verdejo, V.; Voge, S.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Williams, L.; Winter, J.; Xia, Z.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Alborn, T.; Ameen, S.; Aronowitz, J.; Bahadourian, J.; Bambshad-Alavi, M.; Blanco, W.; Blum, A.; Boyar, A.; Burgess, K.; Carroll, M.; DeJesus, A.; Diraimo, S.; Eschenauer, R.; Ferraro, M.; Fields, J.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.; Freedberg, S.; Georges, C.; Gningue, S.; Gulla, A.; Holloway, J.; Ihde, T.; Jafari, M.; Johnson, A.; Liesl, J.; Lundy, T.; Pant, H.; Paull, M.; Perry-Rider, G.; Rice, A.; Ricourt, M.; Rothchild, D.; Salvatore, R.; Seiger, L.; Selwyn, S.; Sim, L.; Tesoro, M.; Totti, X.; West, J.; Wilson, S.; Wyckoff, S.; Yves, J.

President Ricardo Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes Adopted

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of May 3, 2006 . An amendment was made that in the May 3, 2006 meeting, the minutes were approved for the April 5, 2006 meeting, not the May 3 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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Announcements and Communication

1. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández welcomed everyone back for the beginning of the school year and the first meeting of the Senate. He was particularly pleased to welcome the students, who are participating in the governance of the college.
2. President Fernández introduced new members of the administration and one individual who is serving in new functions: Dr. William Tramontano is now Acting Provost; Dr. Robert Troy, joins the administration as Associate Provost and Assistant VP for Enrollment Management; and Prof. Zong-Guo Xia is now serving as Acting Chief Information Officer and Vice President for Information Technology.
3. The President reported that College enrollment for this semester is continuing in an upward trend. He said we are paying special attention this year within the University to a campaign for student success, which is an effort to promote retention for graduation and progress through the curriculum for all students.
4. The legislature approved the budget and the request the University had submitted under the CUNY COMPACT. As a result, we have received approval for \$1.8 million that will go for new staff, faculty, and resources that will be available this year. We will soon be getting ready for planning CUNY COMPACT Phase 2. The process will include consultation with faculty, appropriate committees of the Senate, and the College Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee. Out of those discussions, as well as others, a document will emerge which will then be submitted by the President to the Chancellor. Ultimately, that will become part of the overall University budget request that goes to the Board of Trustees in November for approval.
5. There is a good deal of political activity in the State including elections for governor, senator, and other positions. It is very important for the University to have a plan which puts us on a good course.
6. One significant activity for the college that will occur three years from now is the re-accreditation visit that takes place every ten years for every institution of higher education that receives federal funding. Colleges are accredited by regional associations; in our case it is the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. Preparations are now underway with two faculty members who have been invited to be the co-chairs: Prof.

76 Vincent Prohaska of the Department of Psychology and Prof. Robin Kunstler of the
77 Department of Health Sciences. They will attend a workshop this fall in order to be
78 immersed in accreditation issues and the things we need to be mindful of as we begin the
79 self-study. President Fernández outlined the extensive review process involved. This fall, he
80 will appoint a formal committee that will consist of faculty, staff, administrators, and
81 students in planning and discussing the various aspects of the self-study that will take
82 almost two years to complete. The President observed that this is an opportunity to evaluate
83 what we do well, what we could do better, and what we would like to do. The last re-
84 accreditation visit was in the spring of 1999 so the next visit will be in the spring of 2009.
85 Therefore, we have to start now to prepare.

86 7. This fall, following procedures of the City University, that call for the evaluation of every
87 president, Dr. Fernández will be evaluated. The last time he was evaluated was in 2001. As
88 part of this process, he will put together a document, answering a series of questions that is
89 the same format for all of the presidents. The Presidential Evaluation Team, made up
90 typically of current and former presidents, will spend 1½ days on campus talking to faculty,
91 students and staff. Information about the members and the schedule of the Presidential
92 Evaluation Team's visit to the campus will be posted on the College's website. As a result
93 of these conversations, a report will be prepared that will be given to the Chancellor and the
94 Board of Trustees.

95 2. **Student Conference-**

96 1. Student Conference Chair Sophie Muller announced the election of the steering
97 committee including: herself, as chairperson; Dermott Myrie, vice chairperson; Kristin
98 Burgess, secretary; Lisa Capetola, treasurer; Valerie Verdejo, office manager; and
99 Temitayo Awoyomi, publicity officer. She also announced students nominated for
100 various Senate committees; Campus Life and Facilities; Aileen Pascal, Melissa Bailey,
101 and Lyda Williams; Library Technology and Telecommunications: Avraham Albelda
102 and Dermott Myrie; Academic Freedom: Rhea Natividad; Governance: Kendra Pierre,
103 Kristin Burgess, Sophie Muller, Dermott Myrie, and Essence Bird; C.A.S.E.: Kinzang
104 Drake, David Lowenstein, Temitayo Awoyomi, and Vered Albelda.

105 2. Chairperson Muller asked Committee Chairs to include the Student Conference on all
106 Committee mailing lists as follows: STUDENTCONFERENCE@LEHMAN.CUNY.EDU.

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3. **Governance Committee Elections**

1. The first election presented by Professor Vincent Prohaska was for the election of the president pro temp of the Senate, i.e., to fill in for President Fernández when he is absent. Prof. C. Alicia Georges was nominated and unanimously approved.

2. There are five faculty members on the Senate Governance Committee. The Committee elects three in one year and two in the other year for two-year terms. Three members of the committee are continuing this year: Prof. Prohaska from the Psychology Department, Prof. Duane Tananbaum from the Department of History, and Prof. James Jervis from the Department of African and African-American Studies. The two members whose terms have expired are Prof. Manfred Philipp from Chemistry and Prof. Rosalind Carey from Philosophy. So nominations were opened to fill these two positions. Both Prof. Philipp and Prof. Carey were nominated and elected. For the five student members of the committee, nominations were submitted from the Conference as follows: Kendra Pierre, Kristin Burgess, Sophie Muller, Dermott Myrie, and Essence Bird. The Senate approved the complete slate.

3. Next, one faculty vacancy had to be filled on the Graduate Studies Committee. Prof. Dwight Kincaid from the Department of Biological Sciences was nominated, seconded, and elected. For C.A.S.E those nominated and elected were students Kinzang Drake, David Lowenstein, Temitayo Awoyomi, and Vered Albelda. Prof. Prohaska commented that the students have done a commendatory job in finding students for the various committees; he reminded faculty that this is also the responsibility of the Senate.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**

There was no formal report, though Prof. Kevin Sailor said the next meeting will be announced shortly.

b. **Undergraduate Curriculum –**

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson submitted one informational item which is an experimental course from the Department of English. This semester the committee is meeting on

141 Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m in the IT Conference Center. The next meeting will be on
142 September 25. The report was approved.

143 **c. Committee on Graduate Studies-**

144 1. Prof. Robin Kunstler presented changes in the requirements for the Master's degree in
145 Nutrition from the Department of Health Sciences, and changes in hours from the
146 Department of Nursing. Also presented were several new courses from the Department of
147 Early Childhood and Childhood Education. The report was approved.

148 **d. Committee on Academic Freedom-**

149 There was no report.

150 **e. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

- 151 1. Prof. George Chaikin reported that the student radio station is up as WHLC. 2. He
152 announced that Dr. Rona Ostrow has retired and that Prof. Sandra Deminco is serving as
153 Acting Chief Librarian. He noted that Prof. Madeleine Ford has gone to Medgar Evers
154 College.
- 155 2. The Technology Fee is making contributions on behalf of the students including High
156 Speed Internet connection for the whole campus. Everybody benefits from this. On a similar
157 topic, however, last year the Senate voted that its sense was to find a mechanism for funding
158 faculty printing now that we have a print management system in place which accommodates
159 student printing. Our faculty has not as yet received such a mechanism.
- 160 3. The next committee meeting will be two weeks from today in the Library Conference
161 room.

162 **f. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

- 163 1. Prof. Elhum Haghghat began with a report on the new 28,000 sq. ft. Multimedia
164 Center which is now under construction. It will be a state-of-the-art digital video and
165 audio production and post-production facility and will be housed in an existing space
166 under the central exterior of Carman Hall. It will be completed in 2008. The basement
167 level will house the administrative offices, classrooms, and a media conversion room.
168 In the cellar level will be a television studio, audio control room, production control
169 room, an editing instruction room, a graphic workstation room, a media conversion
170 lab, and a working newsroom for mass communication and multilingual journalism.
- 171 2. Regarding the new Science Building, the committee met several times during the
172 summer with Perkins and Will architects and went over the budget and other issues of

173 concern. The architects met with department representatives individually and
174 collectively, heard their concerns and requests regarding each department's specific
175 needs. All departments involved accepted and approved the design. Hence, the
176 programming phase is now complete. The project is slightly over budget, but the
177 architects are working to resolve the issue by redesigning, changing or replacing
178 some of the materials to bring down costs to its original amount. The committee is
179 working on the schematic design phase and is expecting final submission soon. The
180 Artist Selection Sub-Committee identified different locations in the new science
181 facility where art work could be displayed (such as the courtyard, lobby atrium, and
182 walls). The committee went over 20 artists' imagery material that was gathered by the
183 artist consultants. It was generally agreed that the artists to be considered should have
184 the interest in and knowledge of basic current scientific research, the ability to think
185 conceptually and to synthesize the scientific disciplines being taught in the new
186 science facility. After reviewing about twenty artists' imagery material, the
187 committee chose five that will be commissioned to develop site- specific proposals.
188 In a few weeks, the committee is scheduled to have the artists make their
189 presentations. If anyone is interested to take a look at the blueprint and plans of the
190 new science building, please contact Prof. Haghighat.

191 3. Campus Life and Facilities next meeting will be held on September 20 from 11:30
192 a.m. to 12:30 in Shuster Hall Room 325.

193 g. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

194 There was no report.

195 h. **University Faculty Senate-**

196 1. Prof. Manfred Philipp said that last spring new elections were held at the
197 University Faculty Senate, and two members of the Lehman Faculty were
198 elected to the executive committee, namely, Prof. Philipp and Prof. Stephen
199 Baumrin of the Philosophy Department. Also, Prof. Philipp was elected chair
200 of the University Faculty Senate, which means that as an ex officio non-voting
201 member, he also sits on the CUNY Board of Trustees.

202 2. The Collegiate Learning Assessment: This is an instrument that is being
203 applied at Lehman and is being promoted by the Central office to evaluate the
204 college, not the students. It is an assessment of the college's ability to aid the

205 students to reason and to think clearly. This is not a subject matter test. The
206 test is developed by a non-profit corporation, and the chair of the corporation
207 is Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., who is chair of the CUNY Board of Trustees.

208 3. The proposed restructuring of the science doctoral programs: This is a
209 proposed university-wide matter. The chancellor had asked a group of outside
210 faculty members to study CUNY's science doctoral programs. A report was
211 completed and delivered.

212 4. The Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, Frederick Schaffer has given the
213 University Faculty Senate two proposed documents. A proposed university
214 policy on faculty misconduct would supercede college policy. It would
215 indicate how colleges would respond if a student accuses a faculty member of
216 misconduct in or outside the classroom . What does misconduct mean? It
217 could include inappropriate political indoctrination, bias, and so forth. The
218 documents are public and they are open for comment. The second document is
219 the legitimate and non-legitimate computer use across the university. This
220 again will apply to all campuses. It is available on our website and is open to
221 comment. There is also a document on conflict of interest, which would
222 include a policy on nepotism. There is no current policy. The University
223 Faculty Senate has established a new committee on enrollment management.
224 There is an Enrollment Management Council, and Prof. Philipp will be
225 participating in that discussion on a university-wide level.

226 6. As chair of the University Faculty Senate, Prof. Philipp has instituted a
227 series of visits to the campuses.

228 7. Prof. Philipp discussed Enterprise Resource Planning. This computer
229 software package, once developed, will replace everything we've had before.
230 The contract with a vendor will be signed within the next two weeks. This is
231 more than just a multi-million dollar project; it has a ten year timeline and will
232 ultimately cost tens of millions of dollars. (It will automatically interface with
233 the city and state systems and with the colleges' associations and
234 foundations.)

235 8. The University Faculty Senate has a conference every semester. This
236 semester it will be on November 3, and the topic will be “The Spelling
237 Commission’s Report” (the final report is expected to be issued this month).

238 9. We are continuing to have discussions on the faculty governance structure
239 of the University, such as the on-line BA. We disagree with its governance
240 structure, though the discussions are cordial, and we expect to come to a
241 resolution soon..

242 **OLD BUSINESS**

243 There was no old business.

244 **NEW BUSINESS**

245 Prof. John Mineka discussed the motion he presented. He said that he hears a good many
246 questions about the cafeteria and the bookstore and has questions of his own. He thought it
247 appropriate for the Senate or a committee to take a look. For example, the cafeteria has
248 recently increased its prices by six percent. Also, he said, the prices in the bookstore are
249 “outrageous,” which is partly the fault of the publishers. After further discussion, Vice
250 President Derek Wheeler indicated that the contracts with these vendors are available if
251 anyone wants to see them.

252 A point was raised about the process used by the bookstore to order books. One faculty
253 member indicated that she ordered books on a timely basis but that the bookstore had not
254 submitted her book order on time. It was moved, seconded and approved that the motion be
255 referred to the Campus Life and Facilities Committee for a report at the November meeting
256 of the Senate.

257 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier

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