

**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, 2009**

Senators Present: Adams, D.; Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Artinian, A.;
Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Borrell, L. ; Bouzalakos, H.;
Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Carney, J.;
Choudhary, A.; DellaPina, M.; Deminco, S.; DeSimone, J.;
Deveaux, F.; DiPaolo, M.; Eldridge, D.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.;
Fernández, R.; Freedberg, S.; Galvez, A.; Gilbert, F. Gorokhovich, Y.;
Graulau, J.; Greenberg, J.; Gross, C.; Haghigat, E.; Harushimana, I.;
Hattori, T.; Holloway, J.; Jacobson, B.; Jarroll, E.; Jervis, J.; Kabat, D.;
Kolb, P.; Larimer, A.; Lerzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Lucente, J; Magdaleno, J.;
Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Nadeem, S.;
O'Connor, N.; Olabode, A.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.;
Qian, G.; Rachlin, J.; Rotolo, R.; Ruiz, J.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.;
Schwartz, G.; Seiger-Gardner, L.; Silverman, H.; Small, M.;
Sokol, M.; Soto, M.; Tananbaum, D.; Tilley, J.; Thompson, P.;
Towery, T.; Troy, R.; Voge, S.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wunder, A.;
Zermatt-Scutt, M.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Amoama, C.; Barnard, J.; Bodden, A.; Cavallo, S.; Cheng, T.; Duru, C.;
Farrell, R.; Iheanachor, G.; Jafari, M.; Kayaalp, O.; Kleiman, S.;
Matthews, E; Maybee, J.; Ona, S.; Raaum, R.; Rice, A.; Sakho, N.;
Silbermintz, N.; Totti, X.; Twomey, R; Warde, B.; Watson-Turner, S.;
Wilder, E.;

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at
3:35 p.m.

Minutes Adopted:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate
meeting of April 29, 2009. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements and Communication-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández reported that the new term was getting off to a good start. Enrollment continues to be strong and has in fact increased. More information will be available soon. The college expects to reach 12,000 students when everything is counted. The college is getting stronger students. While there are fewer new freshmen, there is about the same

41 number of transfer students. Also, there is success in retaining students, which is a
42 significant dimension in seeing students moving toward a degree. This is all happening in
43 spite of the increased standards which prevented some students from direct admission to
44 Lehman. They will now start in a community college and then transfer to Lehman at some
45 point.

46 2. The budget, of course, remains a challenge nationally. We've all read what's going on in
47 California and in other states. New York has taken a number of significant reductions and
48 fortunately, it is not quite there. At CUNY last year, these reductions amounted to \$68
49 million. This year we've been asked to put aside a 1.5% encumbrance which is over a
50 million dollars. We hope that the full amount will not be taken.

51 3. The Strategic Planning Council, a group appointed last year by the President, met through
52 the year and more recently to complete their report. It will be shared soon with the entire
53 college community. The Council has been looking at general directions covering the next
54 ten years. The goal is to see what Lehman should look like in 2018 when it reaches its 50th
55 anniversary. The report will be widely distributed throughout the campus before it is
56 finalized. The chancellor has asked the presidents of the senior colleges to convene and
57 chair, in their respective campuses, a task force on retention, progression, and graduation.
58 President Fernández established such a task force. This is an intensive effort regarding
59 retention and graduation. The issue is how to improve the rates that continue to be relatively
60 low in comparison to other schools across the country. Our graduation rates hover at 30
61 percent after six years; that needs to be improved. The task force expects to complete its
62 recommendations in mid-November. After all the colleges submit their reports, the
63 chancellor plans to submit his recommendations at the November meeting of the Board of
64 Trustees.

65 4. In the area of health and wellness, the President participated briefly yesterday in an activity
66 on the South Field to promote health by walking. It involved at least 70 people. Everyone is
67 welcome to sign up just by going to the Health Center.

68 5. The college has distributed electronically a number of messages on the H1N1 problem. In
69 addition, some 60 to 80 hand sanitizers have been installed around the campus. This is in
70 response to the medical advice to wash your hands often and to sneeze into your elbow.
71 President Fernández expressed special thanks to the Buildings and Grounds staff for their
72 efforts.

73

74 **b. Student Conference-**

75 Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos introduced herself as the new Student Conference chair. She is a
 76 communications major with minors in political science and women’s studies. She will only
 77 have one semester before graduation, but she hopes to go out with a record of
 78 accomplishments. Ms. Bouzalakos stated that as a person of Grecian background, she likes
 79 to believe she carries on the cultural wisdom of her ancestors. The Conference is now in a
 80 new year with new members full of energy and ambition. She reported that proposals for
 81 initiatives are coming in from members. She also offered that she looks forward to a future
 82 as one Student Government Association. She indicated that she has the full support of the
 83 Campus Association for Student Activities. She introduced Mr. Justin Simmons, CASA
 84 chair to the Senate.

85 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

86

87 **a. Committee on Governance-**

88 1. Prof. Manfred Philipp noted that he, and Prof. Rosalind Carey are the two remaining
 89 faculty members whose terms have not expired. He stated that the task now is to elect three
 90 faculty members to the Governance Committee to serve two-year terms; and student
 91 members to serve one-year terms. The faculty nominees were: Prof. James Jervis, Prof.
 92 Marie Marianetti, Prof. John Mineka, Prof. Duane Tananbaum and Prof. Patricia Thompson.
 93 The student nominees were Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos, Mr. Duane Adams, Mr. Joann Ruiz,
 94 Ms. Abisola Olabode, and Ms. Mobria Small. The student nominees were elected by
 95 acclamation. Ballots were distributed and Prof. Jervis, Prof. Marianetti and Prof. Tananbaum
 96 were elected. Also elected by acclamation was Prof. Manfred Philipp as the person to chair
 97 the Senate meeting in the absence of the President. The Governance Committee meeting will
 98 be held immediately after the Senate meeting.

99

100 **b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**

101 There was no report, but an issue arose whether the committee could meet and elect a chair
 102 in the absence of student members. Another issue is whether committees can transact
 103 business before the October 28 Senate meeting when it is anticipated that students will be
 104 elected to the standing committees. This dilemma was resolved by the principle that even if
 105 a committee does not have a quorum, it may review matters and then report to the Senate for
 106 discussion and action by the Senate. However, the election of a committee chair, which is an

107 internal committee matter that does not come to the full Senate, will require a quorum.
 108 Prof. Tananbaum reminded the Senate that with the exception of the Governance Committee,
 109 student representatives on committees do not have to be members of the Senate. He
 110 suggested that the Student Conference could send two or three observers to sit with each
 111 committee until the next Senate meeting when the observers could be officially elected. That
 112 would avoid any by-law issues. As observers they would not be allowed to vote and that
 113 would be reported at the October meeting.

114

115 c. **Undergraduate Studies** –

116 1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from: the Department of Art; the Department
 117 of Environmental Geographic and Geological Sciences; the Department of Health Sciences;
 118 the Department of Journalism, Communications and Theatre; the Department of Mathematics
 119 and Computer Science; from the Linguistics Program; and from the Women’s Studies
 120 Program. One informational item was an experimental course from the Department of
 121 Environmental Geographic and Geological Sciences.

122 2. A meeting was planned for two weeks from today at 12:30 p.m. in Carman 221. Prof.
 123 Jacobson said the Committee has a backlog of proposals and, as she understands it, the
 124 Committee can go ahead with proposals and approve them. And then they can be later
 125 submitted to the Senate for consideration.

126 3. The report was approved.

127

128 d. **Committee on Graduate Studies-**

129 1. Prof. Janet DeSimone presented proposals from: the Department of Economics and
 130 Business; the Department of History; the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science;
 131 and from the Department of Speech-Language- Hearing Sciences. In addition, there was a
 132 new program proposal from the Department of Nursing to establish a Family Nurse
 133 Practitioner Program. The report was approved.

134 2. Prof. DeSimone announced the need for a new committee chairman to replace Prof.
 135 Timothy Alborn. She nominated Prof. Angela Kelly from the Department of Middle and
 136 High School Education. Prof. Kelly was elected.

137 3. The next Committee meeting will be in early October.

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140 e. **Committee on Academic Freedom-**

141 There was no report.

142 f. **Committee on Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

143 1. Mr. James Carney updated the Senate on the roll-out of the campus printing systems in two
 144 separate parts: First, it has been delayed because of faulty equipment from the vendor; and
 145 second, the rollout of the centralized printing system in the library has been on track. In the
 146 transition, there has been overlapping with the old system and a need to get familiar with the
 147 new system. The latter is being used in various areas in the library. Some issues such as
 148 student limits of \$10 during the test period resulted in some confusion and transition to the
 149 new system has required additional customer service efforts by reference librarians, but as the
 150 system settles, there are fewer student problems. A student cost limit has been set at \$17.50
 151 for 350 black and white copies.

152 2. Blackboard problems have largely been eliminated by the changes made during the
 153 summer.

154 3. The Committee was asked to identify agenda items for the coming year. Initial items
 155 include: first, recommendations to the Tech Fee Committee on disbursements of funds and
 156 ensuring that plans and information on expenditures are readily available; second, to monitor
 157 and report on roll-out of smart classrooms; third, to pursue taking advantage of CUNY-wide
 158 programs and projects to make sure Lehman maximizes mandated expenditures; and fourth, to
 159 re-evaluate purpose, execution and frequency of technology surveys.

160 4. The Committee encourages student activity on the Committee.

161 5. The next meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20 in the Library
 162 Conference Room.

163 6. Discussion followed regarding the concern over the discontinuance of Turnitin, an internet
 164 based plagiarism detection service, without consultation with the Senate Committee.

165 Associate Provost Robert Whittaker reported that the use of Turnitin was low. Moreover,
 166 there is a similar feature in Blackboard 8.

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168 g. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

169 1. Prof. Janette Tilley presented the report. A brief meeting was held today to follow-up on
 170 some initiatives that had begun last semester. She said that there is a new food vendor on
 171 campus with a contract that began the first week of this semester. Considerable changes will
 172 be initiated by the spring semester, including expanded food options in Carman Hall and in

173 the Music Building as well as locations yet to be determined. The Committee invites
 174 feedback on the changes in the three main campus food outlets.

175 2. Sustainability efforts involving the food services were noted. New equipment has been
 176 added such as a food pulper and a composter for discarded waste, a first at CUNY. This will
 177 require getting used to not putting plastic in with discarded food.

178 3. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 28 at 1 p.m. in Shuster 325
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180 **h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

181 1. There was no report. The next will be on September 24 at 2 p.m. in Music 313.
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183 **i. University Faculty Senate-**

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 185 1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the fall 2009 conference to be held on Friday,
 186 November 6 will concentrate on funding public and private higher education.

187 2. The Faculty Experience Survey, which is conducted every couple of years, is now ready to
 188 go. Individual responses cannot be detected as the survey is anonymous.

189 3. The CUNY Awards program meets tomorrow. The proposal to make it campus-based is
 190 off the table, but there is a new proposal to have two kinds of awards: one higher dollar
 191 amount with a higher competitive activity and the other a lower dollar amount with a less
 192 competitive nature.

193 4. Available now is a new draft of the document that regulates institutional review boards
 194 and is now open for comment. A copy can be obtained from Prof. Philipp.

195 5. A meeting will be held with Vice Chancellor Gillian Small to discuss formal training on
 196 research ethics.

197 6. CUNY is setting up a new committee to develop an interface with the Department of
 198 Education. Before CUNY had open admissions long ago, close attention was paid to
 199 CUNY's admission requirements. Once there were open admissions, less attention was paid
 200 and the high schools went their own way in terms of curriculum. Now that senior colleges,
 201 such as Lehman, have tougher admissions criteria, the high schools are now paying closer
 202 attention.

203 7. The University is looking at the CUNY Proficiency Exam. The concern is that that the
 204 company that handles the exam is charging \$25 million to run it, which is regarded as
 205 excessive.

206 8. The chancellery demanded that 80 percent of new hires be at the instructor and lecturer
207 levels. Of 200 hires in the summer and the fall the chancellor said that this is not a permanent
208 policy and hires will again concentrate on assistants, associates and full professors. There is
209 great pressure on the University to cover classes with full-time faculty, which is an ingredient
210 of scholarly strength. In the Plenary session last night this subject was vigorously discussed;
211 and it seemed clear that the chancellor was aware of the problem.

212 9. Presidential searches have been completed at Brooklyn College, Hostos Community
213 College and Medgar Evers College. The president of City College announced that he is
214 moving over to the University of Cincinnati. The president of Baruch College stepped down
215 and is being replaced as acting president by the chair of the Baruch College Senate. The dean
216 of education at Hunter College, Dr. David Steiner, will be the new State Education
217 Commissioner.

218

219 **OLD BUSINESS**

220 There was no old business.

221 **NEW BUSINESS**

222 1. Resolutions concerning saving paper, voting on policy issues and hiring tenure-track and
223 non-tenure track faculty were submitted as follows:

224 2. Motion A asked that at the beginning of each Senate meeting the Governance Committee
225 should circulate printed copies of all motions submitted for discussion, with the exception
226 of curriculum proposals which run to more than one page. The motion was defeated.

227 3. Motion B resolved that in the case of a vote on policy issues, the actual vote should be
228 preceded by a straw vote which shall consist of a non-binding paper ballot, with no recording
229 of names of those voting, the result of which paper ballot to be announced to the Senate
230 together with the result of the actual vote. Discussion followed. It was moved, seconded
231 and approved that the motion be referred to the Governance Committee for further discussion.

232 4. Motion C recommends to the Chancellor and the central administration of CUNY that this
233 year and subsequent years a balanced pattern of hiring tenure-track and non-tenure track
234 faculty be restored. The motion was approved.

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236 **ADJOURNMENT**

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238 The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier