

LEHMAN COLLEGE

The City University of New York Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty May 11, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Robert Feinerman, chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 23, 2005 meeting

2. **Communications:**

A. Report of the President:

1. Lehman Honors: President Ricardo Fernandez discussed several recent honors that have reflected favorably on the continuing fine work on every level of the faculty, administration, and staff. As examples, he mentioned a few recent events. Last night, at Lincoln Center, John Corigliano, the distinguished professor of music was honored. At noon today, also at Lincoln Center, President Fernandez said it was his pleasure to listen to the freshmen and sophomores of the Celia Cruz High School of Music in the Bronx, who recently won six of eight possible prizes in a competition. Yesterday he saw a preview of the presentation of "Inside Lehman," a program that has blossomed and further redounds to Lehman's credit and finally, he singled out the new programs of the Master's of Social Work, and Master's of Public Health.

2. Board of Trustees Annual Borough Hearing: This will take place on May 16 at the Court House. It's a public hearing at which Lehman will be presenting information about the college. The public has a chance to testify on issues relating to the City University and specifically on the CUNY Colleges in the Bronx.

3. The State Budget: There is a \$26.3 million gap in the funding that was not provided for in the approved budget. In addition, there is a \$4 million increased cost for energy at CUNY. It is being addressed by a proposed tuition increase, which is anticipated to be considerable in graduate studies, all of which are Master's programs. We will still have a tight budget, but when has that been different?

4. Strategic Planning: As mentioned at the last Senate meeting, the process of strategic planning is proceeding, and a report will be presented at the beginning of the school year in September.

B. Report of Provost Garro:

1. Faculty Honored: The excellence in teaching awards for 2005 went to full-time faculty member Carlo Mazzo, the Department of Sociology & Social Work; and adjunct Susan Hoeltzel, Art Gallery/Art Department. Three new awards inaugurated this year in faculty scholarship and creative works 2005. The recipients include Sandra Perl, Arts & Humanities; Heather Sloan, Social Sciences & Education, and Eric Delson, Physical & Natural Science. A stipend will be award to the awardees to assist in furthering their work. During the next academic year, each recipient at some point will give a presentation to the faculty on his or her work.

2. Faculty Authors: The annual reception to honor faculty authors will be held tomorrow in the Library between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the Cyber Café. Thanks were expressed to Janet Munch and Rona Ostrow for preparing the brochure that lists faculty authors for the last year.

3. General Education Workshop: This will be held on Friday. Last year the group put together learning outcomes for the core content areas as well as for the seven

distribution areas. The challenge we now face is to develop assessment tools for those learning objectives. Last Friday, the Provost and faculty members attended a University-wide symposium and workshop. The faculty is interested in determining how well they're doing with the general curriculum. Rubrics have been developed for measuring some of the core competencies. **4. Spring Open House:** On May 14, this event will take place. It is organized by our Admissions Office, Financial Aid office and others. Over 300 RSVPs have been received from those interested in Fall 2006. The Lehman Departments are well represented, and Provost Garro thanked them for their participation. **5. Apex Open House:** Today Matt Turner is holding an open house in the Apex to showcase our new human performance laboratory. The intent is to use the APEX for more academically-driven activities. **6. New Contract:** The Board has awarded the contract for the architects Perkins + Will for the new science building. A planning committee will be appointed to guide the space programming.

C. University Faculty Senate Report:

- 1. Security Issues:** Prof. Manfred Philipp said that yesterday evening the Faculty Senate was addressed by Vice Chancellor Dobrin, who responded to concerns about security issues, not at Lehman but at City College. The issue was a demonstration against military recruitment on campus. However, despite this, it was clear from people involved that most campuses are happy with their current security arrangements.
- 2. Senate Executive Committee:** An election was held for the at-large members of the Executive Committee. Two members of the Lehman College Faculty were re-elected for that position.
- 3. Library and Technology Committee:** The Committee has been looking at such issues as faculty web sites. Chief information officer Brian Cohen is looking into how the University can facilitate faculty access to web sites and other electronic media.

D. Report of the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund:

- 1.** Prof. Alicia Georges, as a trustee of the fund, asked the executive director, Larry Morgan, to share with the faculty the status of the welfare trust. Mr. Morgan said the faculty gets its basic health insurance from one source and the supplemental health insurance from another. When the basic health costs go up such as GHI, you may be paying some of that but the basic fund still has a plan at no cost. The question is: what do we do next? Do we restructure our benefits? Or do we engage in a fight? You have been without a contract since November 1, 2002. After discussing some of the implications and complexities of the situation, it was made clear that Mr. Morgan sees this as something that has to be addressed seriously.

E. Report of Vice President Wheeler :

- 1. College Budget Update:** For fiscal year 2005, over the last couple of months, we have taken several significant financial hits. The first was a change in the reimbursement for the Teaching Fellows Program. The second hit related to CUNY Central's intent to assess Lehman for 29 new faculty members who started in September with a fringe benefit cost of \$790,000. Whereas we thought we had \$1.8 million that we could carry over to fiscal year 2006, now it is likely we will have nothing to carry over, meaning we will have no reserves.
- 2. Goulden Avenue Traffic:** The City Department of Transportation has notified us they will install a traffic light on July 31 on Goulden Avenue, mid-block between 197th Street and Bedford Park Boulevard.
- 3. Cafeteria Additions:** New services have been added over the last month such as a Blimpie, and in the faculty dining room non-meat kosher items which can also

be purchased by students. A minor sanitary issue was brought up in the food preparation area and it was quickly remedied. **4. Campus Security:** Issues were raised from the floor. One had to do with youngsters who come to the campus for one-shot events and then run around making noise. Also, visiting teachers with the children need to be more sensitive to this problem. Complaints are also coming in about the high school students necking on campus. Jerry Matthews said he would appreciate reports on specific events so he can document and correct them. Any children on campus causing difficulties will be challenged by Public Safety including making a record with photos. Mr. Wheeler urged the faculty, if they see something untoward, to call Public Safety at 7777, and an officer will be dispatched immediately. **5. Public Safety Incidents:** Tomorrow morning an announcement will be made to the college community regarding a sexual assault which reportedly occurred in May 2001. In a separate report last month, a high school student alleged she was assaulted in the basement of Davis Hall, an account she later recanted. As a result, Mr. Wheeler asked Public Safety to prepare a report of campus crime statistics for calendar year 2004. In so doing, Public Safety cited an incident that was verbally reported to the college by NYPD in September 2004 and was said to have occurred on campus in May 2001. The alleged victim did not at any time contact Lehman College. Since we received the report in 2004, we must report it in that year's annual crime statistics. It will be posted on the Lehman web site and sent to the U.S. Education Department in September. Noting that the report is disturbing, Mr. Wheeler pointed out, however, that there have been no other reports of sexual assaults since the alleged May 2001 incident.

F. New business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

The next schedule meeting will be on Wednesday,

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Russo Bullaro
Executive Committee