

LEHMAN COLLEGE

The City University of New York Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty November 17, 2004

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 September 22, 2004 meeting were approved as submitted. (The minutes are posted on the college's web site.)

2. **Communications:**

A. Report of the President: President Fernandez reported on five items. **1. Technology Conference:** This Friday the City University is sponsoring a Technology Conference at John Jay that will be of interest to our faculty and students. Significant investments have been made in this area, but there is still plenty of room for our faculty to learn more about technology. He encouraged faculty and students to attend. **2. Student Athlete:** Present at the meeting was student athlete Amy Ruston, a sophomore, who distinguished herself by winning the Division III Atlantic Regional Cross-Country Championship. **3. CUNY Campaign:** This campaign was officially launched last week. A case statement was written during the summer by a Lehman committee. CCS, a consulting firm, will be retained to assist. **4. Student Survey:** Recently released, the annual CUNY Student Experience Survey, is based on 1,000 students from each of the CUNY colleges; from Lehman, we received 290 responses. The survey is available on the web, and copies are in the library. In terms of an index of satisfaction, Lehman students continue to be at the top of CUNY, which is a result of the efforts of faculty and staff. **5. Lehman College Strategic Plan:** President Fernandez, noting that this is a three-year plan (2005-2007), said it includes the academic affairs plan which was developed separately and is identified as Goal 2. Goal teams being put together include vice presidents, representatives from the Senate's Budget and Long-Range Budget Committee, the P&B Budget Committee and broader campus constituencies. By late spring, a finished product is expected, and the plan will be reviewed annually. The plan will be further discussed at the first Faculty meeting next year. Anyone wishing to be a part of the process is invited to contact the administration.

B. Provost's Report: **1. Lehman's Growth:** Provost Garro reported that Lehman's growth on funded-sponsored-programs has been outstanding this year with grants and contracts totaling \$17 million, making us rank third among all the CUNY senior colleges. **2. Lehman Retreat:** Having just returned from a retreat, Provost Garro reported on extensive presentations by LaGuardia and Brooklyn Colleges on the Degree Works project and its ancillary programs such as Trek, a program that will facilitate our dealing with transfer students and will offer all the advantages of a web-based program. An additional discussion at the meeting was on teacher education and how it can be improved. After he has had an opportunity to digest the meeting's contents, Provost Garro plans to further share it with the faculty.

C. Report of Prof. Manfred Philipp, University Faculty Senate: (1) **Search Committee:** A search committee, including President Fernandez, has been formed to recruit a new president for the Graduate Center. (2) **Time-to-tenure:** This has come up for discussion and is a continuing issue. More will be heard in the coming year. (3) **Fund-Raising Drive:** A formal announcement was made on the \$1.2 billion drive for CUNY. Supporting organizations have been established such as “The Friends of CUNY,” which will target alumni. (4) **IT Steering Committee:** The issue of ERP (Enterprise Research Planning) is getting closer; it would subsume Cups and Syms. (Cups is a management system for employees; Sims is a student information management system.) Implementation of ERP at other institutions has at times been good, at others bad. The reason for the changes is that our current systems have become obsolete and unsustainable. However, there is no certainty that the new system would be better. (5) **Faculty Experience Survey:** The survey, which was supposed to be distributed this month, is late. The questions have been vetted in a preliminary trial, but this is not the issue—it is simply implementation. It will probably not be available until February. (6) **Sharin Abade issue:** In an op-ed piece in the New York Times, Dr. Abade, who was previously honored by Lehman College, complained that she was not able to publish a book in the United States because of friction from the Treasury Department’s office of Foreign Assets Control. The University Faculty Senate took the lead in opposing the government’s action in such cases as the National Association of Electrical Engineers, The American Chemical Society, and others scientific societies, which were prevented from accepting journal submissions. Now the government is extending this invidious ban to novels and other books. (7) **Violence Policy:** A new policy in the workplace on violence procedures has been passed by the Board. Pending also is a new policy against sexual harassment. It will be considered in a public hearing on November 22; faculty can testify if they put themselves on the calendar by 4 p.m., November 19. The procedure is available from Prof. Philipp. (8) **Fall Conference:** The academic freedom conference on September 3 requires registration in advance. Prof. Philipp made registration documents available.

Vice President Derek Wheeler’s Report: (1) **Parking Update:** The Lehman College Senate passed a resolution recently on improving some aspects of our parking program such as utilizing parking space on Paul Avenue. Some of the recommendations are being seriously considered while others are being directly implemented. The City Department of Environmental Protection plans to harden the fences as a post 9/11 initiative around the Jerome Park reservoir, part of which adjoins our north and south parking lots. (2) **Budget Update:** Mr. Wheeler provided a budget snapshot to the faculty. It showed a total projected budget including SEEK of \$53,963,980; expenditures of \$58,712,463 with a total non tax-levy support of \$2,165,728 and a refund to code of \$377,550, leaving a deficit of \$2,205,206. If the spring enrollment is as strong as this fall, we will be able to make it through this fiscal year. (3) **Food Service Update:** A new food service vendor, Panda House, has been operating on campus since September. Mr. Wheeler thinks they are doing a good job in providing greater variety and fresher choices than our previous vendor.

Report of Joe Middleton on Information Technology: (1) Oracle Collaboration Suite E-Mail System: Mr. Middleton tied-in his report with the Blackboard System, reporting some unreliability in both of these, primarily with access. In the last few weeks, the University's CIS staff has asked to meet with Lehman on November 1. Mutual concerns were discussed. The group expressed its determination to continue to work with Lehman to correct problems. Unfortunately, there are outages for different reasons, indicating that if one is corrected, there are still other problems. There is a full-time Oracle staff at CIS working on these problems. **2. Tech Fee Plan:** The Committee has submitted its recommendations to the President who reviewed them and submitted them to downtown. Half-a-million of tech fee revenues are spent on staffing to support student services and technology, and seven hundred thousand has been allocated for equipment and software. **3. Campus Wireless Network:** Mr. Middleton said it is still limited to certain buildings and locations within buildings; locations will be posted on the web. It is being expanded throughout the campus.

D. Report of Lenore Schultz on Degree Works: 1. The System: It's a great system which consists of an academic advisory tool and a Trek component, which is an add-on that is a transfer evaluation system. It allows, among other things, for the admissions office to electronically load courses on to student records. The department chairs were sent electronic versions of their sections of the catalog for corrections. The system is based on creating an "authenticated" catalog, meaning that it has to be accurate. That's the foundation of Degree Works. The deadline for submitting material is December 1.

G. New business
There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, February 23, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Russo Bullaro