Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2004


President Ricardo R. Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes Adopted
A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the April 14, 2004 meeting with the amendment that Ms. Nascimento’s first name is Marcia, not Maria.

Announcements and Communications
a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
1. President Fernández welcomed those present to the final meeting of the Lehman College Senate for the academic year. The first announcement referred to the draft of the Master Plan that the University will submit to the Board of Regents, as required by state law. A draft, discussed on Monday by a Committee of the Board of Trustees, will be the subject of a public hearing. It is a straightforward document that lays out what the University plans to do.

2. The President said that the situation in Albany has not changed. The big issue is financing the K-12 system, because this is a big ticket item. The President surmises that at the last moment “something” will be done; it will be insufficient, but at least it will be something. He pointed out that the easiest budget to reduce is that for higher education, because the cost can be covered by higher tuition. The Governor is not inclined to raise taxes, even though the economy is improving. Still, what is involved calls for exceptionally large expenditures. Nevertheless, the condition of the schools (not just New York City) in K-12 education makes it clear that ultimately something will have to be done.
3. The President reminded the faculty of the symposium that will be held on May 24 on the Role of Women in World Peace and the Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity and noted that a significant number of people will attend from outside the campus.

4. In anticipation of next year, President Fernández reported that the University is planning a major fund-raising effort that will be unveiled sometime in the fall. This will be a collective effort of all the CUNY colleges including the Community Colleges—aiming for at least a billion dollars. Lehman will organize an internal committee of administrators, faculty and staff, to put together a succinct statement of what Lehman is, why our work is important and why contributors should invest in Lehman. President Fernández has been working with a subcommittee of CUNY senior college presidents who in turn have been working with a consulting firm over the last three months. This is the first time that CUNY has launched a major fund-raising effort, and there is every reason to believe that it will be successful. We will identify areas of need such as scholarships, chairs, research funding, all of which will be established centrally.

b. **Student Conference**

There was no report.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. **Committee on Governance**

There was no report.

b. **University Faculty Senate**

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp indicated that the Faculty Senate has learned from administrative sources that the Research Foundation will soon be closing on a building on 41st street, near the New York Times building, pending some transactions such as a bank loan. CUNY will be an anchor tenant in the building which will include the School of Journalism.

2. The Chancellor has been advocating an increase in the time to obtain tenure. The Faculty Senate had a conference on the time-to-tenure issue recently with an introduction by the Chancellor. He’s still firmly behind increasing the time but has not as yet approached the legislature and will not do so until the budget issue is resolved.

3. The latest version of the Master Plan will be available electronically in a day or two for comment. There will be a public hearing on Monday, May 17 at the Bronx County Court House. The Board will make its final vote on the Master Plan on May 24. Prof. Philipp commented that this is a detailed plan for such a large institution; yet, it isn’t quite done. The suggestions made by the Faculty Senate were substantially but not entirely incorporated. On undergraduate education, a coordinated initiative that covers many summer and other programs should be read and commented on. The Master Plan speaks to Writing Across the Curriculum and calls for much tighter articulation among the colleges. It doesn’t
favor common course numbering, but articulation can be expected to be much
tighter.
4. Since the president of the Graduate Center will resign a year from now, the
Chancellor will appoint a committee of four scholars to study the goals and
operations of the Graduate Center before recruiting a new president.
5. Another discussion centered on privacy issues inside the University. A
committee headed by Vice Chancellor Schaffer will look into this and submit its
report to the Council of Presidents soon.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum-
There was no report.
d. Committee on Graduate Studies-
There was no report.
e. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-
There was no report.
f. Committee on Academic Freedom-
There was no report.
g. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-
1. Prof. Kevin Sailor presented a list of candidates for degrees on June 3 and
September 1 for the approval of the Senate. The report was approved pending
final certification by the Registrar.
h. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-
There was no report.
i. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-
There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT
In closing, President Fernández wished the students good luck in their
examinations, wished everyone a good summer, and said he looked forward to the
fall term. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier