Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 1, 2004


President Ricardo R. 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 November 3, 2004 meeting. The motion was so moved and approved.

Announcements and Communications-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

President Fernández proposed a change in the order of the agenda so that the report of the Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards, which recommends candidates for graduation would be considered after the report on the University Faculty Senate. The motion was moved and approved.

1. In continuing, President Fernández referred to the technology fee used to buy equipment and pay for printing documents. A committee made up students and administrators presented a report on how the monies are being allocated. The President reviewed it, made a slight change and approved it. It is posted on the web and hard copies are available in the library.
2. As previously discussed in the Senate, one software that deals with anti-plagiarism (Turn-It-In), was recommended for use by the faculty. Since it is a university-wide issue, we have been investigating joining with other CUNY colleges to get a better price for the license.

3. An oversight panel that was appointed by a judge to look into the case of the financing and short-changing of public schools has recommended $5.6 billion in additional New York State funding for the New York City Public Schools. The good news is that the schools stand to gain significant resources they badly need and, according to the courts, they are entitled to the money under the Constitution. The bad news is that money has to come from somewhere and this could affect every other segment of our state government, including the University. We have to see how this will turn out. In anticipation of the spring term, the Lehman College community will have to gear up again and let our elected officials know how important the City University and the State University of New York and higher education in general are for the welfare of the State.

4. Commenting on the Strategic Plan distributed at the last Senate meeting, the President reminded the Senate that it is a series of six goals and 65 objectives. The document is a product of an intense two-day retreat of administrators and faculty. It does not contain prioritized specific objectives; this has yet to be done. To do so, the Senate Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee along with the College Faculty Personnel and Budget Sub-Committee on the Budget are to meet with the College’s senior administrators in charge of this project to recommend and to invite appropriate members of the Senate committees to become part of the process to spell out priorities, and to rearrange these objectives, which cannot be tackled simultaneously. As to whether this is a policy document, an issue raised by a number of individuals, President Fernández said that the strategic plan is not a policy document, but represents an administrative initiative that lists the issues the College should be engaged in. He reviewed the goals for the benefit of those who did not have a copy, and he invited faculty and students to become involved in this process.

b. **Student Conference** –

1. Secretary Sophie Muller of the Student Conference announced that the
Conference’s Steering Committee has been chosen as follows: Gaurav Bawa, chairman; Syka Manclière, vice chair; Sophie Muller, secretary; Lisa Capetola, treasurer, and Rhea Natividad, publicity officer.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee on Governance –

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp described the function of the Governance Committee. According to the by-laws, the Committee sets the agenda and consults with the President on the agenda. In terms of the Senate’s priorities, he said it was relevant that the Senate be brought into the workings of the Master Plan. The Committee meets with the chairs of the various Senate Committees so there is some coherence in the Senate’s activities. Prof. Philipp indicated that the committee will meet with the President in February to establish a better understanding of each other’s goals. The difference between our Senate and the University Senate is the presence of students. He explained that the University Faculty Senate report will be given today by Prof. Esther Wilder, a member of the University Faculty Senate, and henceforth will be rotated among other members as a standard practice.

b. University Faculty Senate-

1. Prof. Esther Wilder reported on the November Plenary. The Chancellor made several announcements, the first one being on the CUNY fund-raising drive with a goal of $2.6 billion to improve academic programs and to renovate and improve campus facilities. The goal includes $1.2 billion in private contributions, $470 million of which has been raised already. The Chancellor stressed that for the campaign to be successful, faculty have to be significantly involved in the fund-raising efforts.

2. The Chancellor expressed delight that two CUNY students, including one from Brooklyn College and another from City College, were recently named Rhodes Scholars.

3. The Chancellor reported that Stephen Shepard, Editor-in-Chief of Business Week, has been selected as the Dean of CUNY’s new Graduate School of Journalism, which is scheduled to open in 2006.

4. The Board of Trustees has approved the new university budget request for FY
2006, which includes additional funds for operating expenses above and beyond last year’s. It also includes a request for $2.3 billion in capital expenditures.

5. The Chancellor reported that the search for a new president of the Graduate Center is expected to be completed by early spring. According to the Chancellor, the new president will need to bring a fresh approach to looking at the structure of CUNY since the lab sciences are undertaken at the campuses and not at the Graduate Center. Chancellor Goldstein noted that CUNY’s capital budget includes $600 million for science and laboratory equipment and stressed that the renewal of the sciences is a defining theme in the capital budget. Frederick Schaffer, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, reported on some of the activities of his office. For example, he noted that the State Commission ruled that faculty who earned above $70,000 would have to file financial disclosure or apply for an exemption. His office fielded hundreds of questions from faculty. Meanwhile, over 90 percent of faculty who applied for exemptions received them. In the future, they’d like to make this process easier so that people can file the forms online. Another responsibility of his office is to respond to Freedom of Information Law requests.

The Vice Chancellor was asked whether the Board of Trustees would be willing to pass a formal policy regarding Academic Freedom. He answered that the current policy is based on the 1940 statement of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), which protects faculty from adverse consequences for what they teach and research. He did not see the need for a new policy.

7. An extensive discussion of the Yousry and Malo cases followed. Yousry was an adjunct at CUNY’s York College. He was indicted on serious charges and his contract was not renewed. Many faculty voiced opposition to the decision. The Vice Chancellor stressed that the University felt that the charges against Mr. Yousry were sufficiently serious not to renew his contract. Meanwhile, Miguel Malo, who was the Student Senate president of Hostos Community College, was charged with assaulting two police officers following a protest. Several faculty asked the Vice Chancellor why there wasn’t more support for Malo’s freedom of speech. He responded that he did not see this case as one related to freedom of speech.

8. Chairwoman Susan O’Malley reported that in June, the AAUP will vote on whether to censure the University on violations of Academic Freedom.
9. The University Faculty Senate is also concerned with privacy issues. Questions were raised concerning e-mail. The Vice Chancellor responded that a task force is looking into the issue. It will provide explanations for the circumstances under which e-mail may be read. Faculty also inquired about privacy regarding files in faculty offices and the telephones. The Vice Chancellor responded that there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in either office files or telephones.

10. The University Faculty Senate will have its Fall Conference, focusing on Academic Freedom, this December at Hunter College.

c. **Undergraduate Curriculum**

1. Prof. Jacobson said the Curriculum Committee submitted proposals from the Department of Economics, Accounting and Business Administration, the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of Psychology. The report was moved and approved.


d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**

1. Prof. Robin Kunstler said the Graduate Studies Committee submitted two informational items from the departments of Specialized Services in Education and Health Sciences. In addition, she presented a proposal to establish a Masters of Public Health Program in the Department of Health Sciences. Also submitted were two new courses from the Department of Health Sciences. From the Department of Middle and High School Education, a change in admissions requirements in the Master’s program in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), a change in admission and certificate requirements in the advanced certificate program, and a new course from the Department of Specialized Services in Education. The report was moved and unanimously approved in its entirety.

e. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning**

Prof. Duane Tananbaum, a member of the committee, presented the report in place of Prof. Eric Delson.

1. The Joint Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning, a joint committee consisting of members of the Senate Committee as well as members of the College Committee on Faculty Personnel and Budget, met on November 9 with Vice President Wheeler and Provost Garro and other officials. Vice President
Wheeler reviewed the state of the Lehman College budget. The budget included a two percent contingency hold-back by CUNY in anticipation of state reductions, and the figures showed a deficit of $2.2 million. Vice President Wheeler expressed confidence that the deficit would be met with larger than anticipated revenues from enrollment this year, resulting in a balanced budget.

2. Eric Delson was nominated and re-elected unanimously to continue as chair of the Joint Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning.

3. The Committee also discussed the College’s strategic planning process, the Master Plan, and the relationship of those documents to the Senate.

4. A request was made for an all-funds budget, showing all the funds coming into and out of the College and the College auxiliary and enterprises. Vice President Wheeler responded that such a document might be a useful addition if there were sufficient staff to produce it.

5. The Joint Committee will meet again in February and will fix a permanent day and time for its meetings. Since there is only one student member, Prof. Tananbaum urged the Student Conference and faculty members to suggest other students. He elaborated that they do not have to be Senators, but their nomination must be approved by the Senate.

Committee on Academic Freedom-

1. Prof. Liesl Jones reported that the committee met again to discuss the Workplace Violence Policy that has been adopted by the University. Several issues of immediate concern came up. In her opinion, the College has not met its responsibilities to disseminate the policy to all concerned. Since the committee’s last report, the policy has been moved to the web site. However, the policy contains no mention of due process. The Committee will consider the more complex issues surrounding Academic Freedom and the Workplace Violence Policy. It will also consider issues related to Academic Freedom and the University’s access to faculty and staff e-mails and web history. Another meeting is planned for December 9 to begin discussion on the Academic Freedom issues surrounding the Workplace Violence Policy and the ability of the administration to visit web history and read e-mail. Prof. Jones offered for discussion the view that the violence policy does not apply to the administration, which is exempt. A motion will be prepared for the next Senate meeting.
g. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-

1. Prof. Kevin Sailor presented for approval the list of candidates for the January graduation, pending final review by the registrar. A motion in this regard was moved and approved.

2. On the issue of Academic Integrity, Prof. Sailor said this was previously dealt with by the Academic Freedom Committee. The Academic Integrity statement, along with the Faculty Report Form, was included as an informational item in the packet, since it is being reviewed by counsel. There are a number of changes. First, there is a reporting form. Secondly, the faculty member is to notify the chair and the chair is to notify appropriate persons in the administration. Thirdly, a CUNY-wide committee recommended a “Pending” grade where both disciplinary and academic sanctions are sought. There were some problems with this recommendation. It is the only use of that grade currently at Lehman, and once a grade is assigned, people would recognize the significance. If the appeal of the student were to be upheld, there might be a stigma attached to it. So the committee recommends that the faculty member assign a grade that reflects the intended sanction but must also provide a final grade that does not include the intended sanction if the charges are not upheld. These issues will be before the Senate at the beginning of next semester.

3. On admissions and entrance requirements, Prof. Sailor said this issue comes up periodically. In the next semester, the Committee plans to look at what is known as the Admissions Index and the admission requirements for transfer students.

h. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-

1. Prof. George Chaikin said the committee spent time discussing what is called “paid for print.” Students should understand they have already paid for print. What is being considered throughout the campus is a basic account which would allow a large amount of printing, but not an unreasonable amount. When an account is used up, students would be asked to supplement the technology fee. An attempt will be made to devise a similar plan for faculty members.

2. On reserved items—particularly those from periodicals-- the Library is asking faculty to make these available via Blackboard or some other electronic means.

3. The Library plans to introduce a quality survey in the spring, and all are encouraged to participate.
4. Arrangements are being made to add undergraduate students to those who can make inter-library requests.

i. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities -**

1. Prof. Orazio Caroleo asked for volunteers to be on the committee reviewing parking issues. Volunteers can contact Prof. Caroleo.

2. The Master plan includes a new building on the Gillet parking lot that would be attached to the Gillet building. It is moving ahead with firms of architects and engineers being interviewed. A completion date for the project, which will be in two phases, is considerably in the future.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier