Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Awoyomi, T.; Bailey, M.; Bard, A.; Bawa, G.; Bigman, D.;
Blanco, W.; Blot, R.; Bonastia, C.; Bullaro, G.; Burgess, K.;
Capetola, L.; Carey, R.; Digby, A.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.;
Fernández, R.; Ferraro, M.; Figueroa, J.; Freedberg, S.; Ganjin, I.;
Kreuzer, P.; Kunstler, R.; Lerzundi, P.; Magdaleno, J.;
Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; McLaughlin, J.; Mineka, J.;
Muller, S.; Natividad, R.; Nnoli, E.; Nwogu, E.; Ogunjemilusi, O.;
Ostrow, R.; Paez, J.; Pant, H.; Pascal, A.; Paull, M.; Philipp, M.;
Pierre, K.; Pirch, K.; Polashek, T.; Powell, C.; Prohaska, V.;
Sailor, K.; Saravia-Shore, M.; Seraile, W.; Silverman, H.; Sloan, H.;
Whittaker, R.; Williams, L.; Wilder, E.; Wilson, L.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Abibabu, A.; Aronowitz, A.; Blum, M.; Bodden, L.; Calvet, L.;
Caroll, M.; Chang, J.; Colburn, F.; DeMinco, S.; Diraimo, S.;
Dobson, D.; Eschenauer, R.; Espinosa, M.; Falcon, L.;
Polirstok, S.; Rice, M.; Rodriguez, J.; Rodriguez, Y.;
Salamandra, C.; Selwyn, S.; Shi-Ttu, A.; Ureña, K.; Wyckoff, S.

President Ricardo 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 2, 2005 meeting with the amendment that Prof. Matthew
Kerner was present.

Announcements and Communication

a. Student Conference-

President Fernández asked for a change in the order of presentation since Student
Conference Chair Sophie Muller needed to leave early.
1. Ms. Muller said that the Student Conference started a pick a cause initiative which means that each Student Senator would pick something that’s troubling him/her, or perhaps one of their classmates, that they would like to change. Four major causes emerged for the next semester. Two are Lehman specific and two are CUNY-wide. At Lehman, providing students with web space and public safety concerns were the issues raised. As for CUNY-wide issues, reference was made to social security numbers which are used as student ID numbers, and is problematic due to rampant identity theft. Another student concern is the cost of transcripts, which Ms. Muller said is increasing rapidly. Ms. Muller invited reactions from the Senate on these issues.

2. Ms. Muller noted that at every Senate meeting there is a University Faculty Senate report. She thought it would now be appropriate to have a University Student Senate Report at each meeting as well. Lehman has two representatives to this group who could provide the service.

3. Since she will be spending next semester studying in London, Ms. Muller reported she will have to resign her position. When she returns next fall, she hopes to resume her activities.

b. President’s Report-

(President Fernández dispensed with a detailed report because of the lengthy agenda.)

1. At this, the last Senate meeting for this semester, President Fernández wished the students good luck in their exams and wished everyone a happy holiday.

2. The President pointed out that the student representative on the Board of Trustees this year is a Lehman student, Mr. Carlos Sierra, who was elected by the University Student Senate. He added that if students feel there are CUNY related issues, Mr. Sierra is the person to contact.

3. Looking towards January, the governor’s budget will be issued and will give us the blueprint for what the University may expect. Because of recent developments, the governor’s budget is a significant document, more so now than before, because of the limited power of the legislature to amend the budget as presented by the governor. Through a recent ruling of the court of appeals, the governor’s hand has been significantly strengthened. The CUNY Board of Trustees met on November 28 and
approved the budget request, which included one of the largest capital requests in its history. Meanwhile, we’ll have to see what happens to the remainder of the budget.

4. President Fernández asked for floor rights for Ms. Robin Maccabee to bring a report on the CUNY campaign. Ms. Maccabee said that the CUNY campaign is underway and will run until December 17. She reminded the Senate that so many gave so generously last year. Lehman College was able to exceed the goal that was set by the University Campaign, making us one of the few colleges to do so. Our goal is now to do the same this year, even though it is a difficult time, given the many contributions by individuals to relief organizations in the U.S. and globally, resulting in “giving fatigue.” She added that “when the going gets tough, the tough get going.” So the CUNY campaign provides a number of options both at home and globally, notably providing four options for Lehman College alone, as well as many other organizations in the Bronx. Ms. Maccabee expressed the hope that everyone will remember to give.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee on Governance-
   1. Professor Vincent Prohaska reminded Committee Chairs, if they have their meetings set for next semester, to announce date, time, and location when giving their reports. Accordingly, the next meeting of the Governance Committee will be at 11 a.m. January 19, probably in Shuster 179.
   2. The New York State Court of Appeals has ruled that the Hostos Community College Senate and its Executive Committee are public bodies subject to the New York State Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law. The Governance Committee consulted Mr. Esdras Tulier, the college’s legal advisor, to determine the implications of this ruling for our Senate and Committees.
   3. The University Faculty Senate suggested that all college Senates consider the following motion: “Be it resolved that no University-wide degree program should go forward unless passed by the University Faculty Senate.” An extensive discussion followed. A motion to return this matter to the Governance Committee was made and seconded. This motion carried by a vote of 37 to 34 so the original resolution was returned to the Governance Committee.
b. University Faculty Senate-

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp said that last night at the Plenary Session the University Faculty Senate voted not to support the online B.A. The reason for the strong sentiment is that there was no formal letter for a proposal, which the bylaws determine as necessary. The University Faculty Senate even today has no such proposal, so this has become a difficult process, with the Senate looking for openness and collegiality.

2. The proposed restructuring of the science doctoral program across CUNY was mentioned. It has serious implications for Lehman College and its science faculty. There are suggestions on the table that the CUNY consortium model for the sciences is not working. The University Faculty Senate has been hearing about this program for about two years, and there have been contentious moments. The Chancellor had a discouraging view, it was said, of the quality of the science doctoral programs in CUNY, with the idea that the number of doctoral students should be halved so the remaining doctoral students would be of higher quality and be supported at a higher level. If these changes take place, Prof. Philipp observed, they will have a profound effect inside the University.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum-

1. Professor Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from several departments. From the Department of Anthropology, we have a change in degree requirements for the B.A. in Anthropology. From the Department of Economics, Accounting and Business Administration, we have a change in degree requirements for the B.S. in Accounting. From the Department of English, we have a change in the degree requirement for the Creative Writing Specialization along with proposals for new courses and changes in course titles and descriptions in that specialization. From the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences, we have proposals for two new courses. From the Department of Journalism, Communications and Theatre, we have a proposal for a new cross-listed course. From the Department of Psychology we have a proposal for a new course. We also have one informational item: a proposal for an experimental course from the Department of Psychology.

2. Prof. Jacobson had three corrections she wanted to read into the minutes: Two of them involve the cross-listed course (Advanced Playwriting Workshop) from the Department of English and the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre. It should read that it comes from both the Department of English and the Department of
Journalism, Communication and Theatre. As it stands, it only reads that it comes from
the Department of English. Also in that proposal, item 9, date of department approval,
should read the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre, rather than the
Department of Theatre. The last correction concerns the Department of English proposal
for English major with Specialization in Creative Writing. Both the “From” and the
“To” should read 31 to 43 Credit Major in English B.A. instead of 40 to 43 as stated in
the report. The reason for this is that last May the Senate passed the Early Childhood
specialization in English which had 31 credits. That was reported in the Chancellor’s
report June 27. So technically that is now our new “From”. It’s not in the Bulletin but it
is in the Smart Catalog, and we are now trying to update everything to the Smart
Catalog, and we soon hope to view it on line. The report was moved, and approved.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**-
1. Professor Robin Kunstler presented minor course changes in SPE 723 from the
Department of Speech-Language-Hearing-Sciences, a withdrawal of SPE 722, and a
letter of intent to establish a graduate program in Educational Leadership from the
Department of Specialized Services in Education. The informational item from the
Department of Health Sciences was withdrawn. The report was approved.

e. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning**-
There was no report.

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom**-
1. At the November 29 meeting, the Committee elected Prof. Rosalind Carey as chair,
and she presented the report. The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on December 15 in
Room 361 in Carman Hall.
2. After discussion, the Committee voted four to zero to support the College Web Policy
as it now stands. The Committee agreed that the revised policy improves on the earlier
draft by clarifying that the faculty could have supplemental web pages on the college
server in addition to links to faculty web sites located on a non-college server. Yet
concern remains over the manner in which the University indicates that it is not
responsible for the content on supplemental web pages. Surely, a simple message on the
web page would be enough to cover it. The necessity of clicking yes on a pop up dialog
box before proceeding to faculty or supplemental pages is obtrusive, unduly so; it risks
being perceived as indicative of disapproval and a grudging commitment to academic
freedom.
Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-

Prof. Kevin Sailor presented the list of January 31, 2006 undergraduate and graduate candidates for graduation subject to verification by the registrar. The report was moved and approved.

Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-

1. Professor George Chaikin said the revised draft of the Lehman College Web Policy was posted to the web site and a copy was available at the Senate meeting. The revised version contains language similar to policy against Sexual Harassment to the effect that none of the policy would be interpreted in a manner that would be seen as a violation of Academic Freedom. The policy said that the appeal would be to the office of Media Relations and Publications, but the Committee was concerned that there was no academic involvement. To that end, the Committee has proposed the following revisions to the policy and that the appeal would be to a committee, not to an individual, and the appeals committee will consist of the Provost, the Divisional dean of the faculty member filing the appeal (it would be different for a student organization), the vice president for Institutional Advancement and a faculty member appointed by the president. In the event of a student organization appeal, the vice president for Student Affairs, rather than the Divisional Dean, would serve on the appeals committee. This revision gives a broader look to the appeals process. On this basis, the Committee is urging the Senate to accept and endorse the revised web policy. Prof. Manfred Philipp proposed an amendment that the faculty member on the appeals committee be appointed by the President from among three tenured faculty members nominated by the College Senate. There was a second and the motion carried. Then the overall report was moved and approved. A student concern was expressed that space should be found for individual student web pages. The Parliamentarian assured the student that the document can be amended at any point. Vice President Magdaleno invited the Student Conference to join his staff in discussing the issue further.

2. The next Committee meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14 in the Library Conference room.

Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-
1. Professor Matthew Kerner submitted a proposal presented to the Committee by President Fernández requesting that the Library be named for the College’s first President, Dr. Leonard Lief. The proposal included a brief chronicle of Dr. Lief’s Presidency. In summary:

Dr. Lief served in office from 1968 until 1990, presiding over the growth and direction of Lehman College during its formative years. Dr. Lief established standards of excellence for the College’s programs, faculty, staff, and students, broadening the College’s academic offerings, expanding the campus while preserving its architectural heritage, and shaping the College into a major cultural resource for the borough and region. One of the notable buildings constructed under Dr. Leif’s leadership and direction was the College Library which opened in 1980. It was noted that the library is a particularly apt choice for permanent recognition of Dr. Lief’s lasting contribution to Lehman College, the residents and communities of the region, and the University. The Committee on Campus Life and Facilities voted unanimously to approve the request and presented a resolution to the Senate. The motion was moved and approved unanimously.  

2. Prof. Kerner continued with his report. The Committee has discovered that the newly installed traffic light at Gate 6 on Goulden Avenue is not in sync with the other traffic light on the street, resulting in traffic jams. The appropriate city agency will be notified.  

3. The Committee has observed that many seats and tablet arms in Carman Hall are either missing or broken and unusable, reducing available student seating. The same is true in Gillet Hall. Room 226 was given as an example. The Committee will look into the problem further at its next meeting.  

4. Since the November 2 Senate meeting, Prof. Matthew Kerner attended two meetings of the Science Building Executive Committee. Discussed were issues related to site planning.  

5. Since the last Senate meeting, Prof. Kerner also attended three meetings of the Science Building Programming Committee. The agenda included: (1) the project scope; (2) vision, goals, and objectives; (3) site and lab planning, and program issues; (4) department needs and projections; (5) intra-and inter-departmental relationships including teaching and research connections.  

7. The next Science Facility Programming Committee meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 20 at the CUNY offices on 57th Street.  

8. The next Science Facility Programming Committee meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 15 in Room 336, Shuster Hall.
9. The next meeting of the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities is scheduled for
11:30 a.m. on Monday, December 12 in Room 325, Shuster Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. President Fernández discussed the CUNY Compact; a plan to finance the CUNY Master
Plan. Two handouts were made available. The CUNY Board of Trustees every five years
has to adopt a Master Plan which is submitted to the Department of Education and
approved ultimately by the Regents. That plan is the map that guides the basic programs
under which the University develops. The plan contained in the CUNY Compact will go to
the Governor and to the legislature and will be discussed over the next several months.
President Fernández said that he supported the plan, especially since it provides colleges
with a predictable budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier