Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2005


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 February 2, 2005 meeting. The motion was so moved and approved.

Announcements and Communications-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. The President announced that on March 22 a delegation of students, faculty and staff will visit Albany to meet with members of the Bronx delegation. This annual event is designed to share our concerns on the proposed budget with elected officials.

2. Again this year, the Chancellor has asked President Fernández to coordinate the trip to Albany of the three presidents of CUNY Colleges in the Bronx. They
will meet with the Bronx delegation on March 29.
3. The annual Lehman Lecture will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13 in the Lovinger Theater. This year, the guest lecturer will be Fritz Stern, a leading scholar of European history, an educator, and a refugee from Hitler’s Germany. Dr. Stern has been a professor emeritus at Columbia University since 1997. He is the author of several books including *Dreams and Illusions, the Drama of German History*, and *Einstein’s German World*. The theme of the lecture is “Democracies in Danger, Lessons from Past and Present.”

b. **Student Conference –**
There was no report. But subsequently, Ms. Syka Manclière announced there will be a special election for the Student Conference. Senate members were asked to notify the Conference of any possible candidates.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. **Committee on Governance –**
Prof. Manfred Philipp said the Committee is mailing nomination ballots for the Lehman College Senate elections. They are due to be returned by March 18. (The Committee will again meet at 2 p.m. on March 31.)

b. **University Faculty Senate –**
In place of Prof. Patricia Kolb, Prof. Philipp also gave this report.
1. The most important issue is possible censure of the University. The American Association of University Professors has been meeting on the issue of censoring CUNY for violations of academic freedom. In one of the precipitating cases, the individual involved has now been convicted in Federal court.
2. The New York State Board of Regents will hold a public hearing on the CUNY Master Plan at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 5 at the New York City College of Technology at 300 Jay Street.
3. The Facilities Committee will meet on March 4 with Vice Chancellor Macari on construction plans for the University. The Committee wishes to insure that it is involved in such activities as the selection of architects and construction people.
4. The shortage of capital funds at CUNY continues to be a critical item. A year ago the Chancellery expressed confidence that ample funds would be available. Things have changed so much that the University is looking into joint public-private projects due to the shortage of capital funds. For example, at Bronx Community College commercial use would provide private funds for a BCC building.

5. The Committee on Informational Resources is active on such things as faculty web sites and will meet next Tuesday at the Graduate Center.

6. The University Faculty Senate will have its spring conference on the interface between the public and the private in public universities on April 22.

7. The New York State Public Higher Education Conference Board has issued a report entitled, “Public Higher Education in New York State—A System Out of Balance and in Distress.” It points out that the State is essentially violating the law because under the law CUNY is to receive 40 percent of its funding from the State, while student tuition fees and counties are to share the remainder. Tuition fees are to be capped at one-third of operating costs. According to the report, the State is not paying the 40 percent and not even the one-third. For the 2004-2005 academic school year the State is only paying 31.2 percent of CUNY’s costs.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum-

1. Prof. Jacobson announced proposals from two departments: the department of Middle and High School Education, and the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. In addition, she introduced a proposal for an experimental course: LEH 100, which is an informational item. Before discussion, the Curriculum Committee proffered the following changes: In Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, there are three courses on the 300 level. The requirement is listed as a cumulative GPA of 2.7, and then it lists the courses. The Committee would like to insert the adjective “minimum” before “cumulative” so that it now reads: “A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 in SPV (LNG) 245, SPV (LNG) 245, SPV (LNG) 247, SPV 249, and SPV 221 (LNG 230).” The last editorial change was in LEH 100, the informational item, which does not require action.
The provision following “NOTE” in the course description should be deleted.

2. The proposed change to “Minor Requirements” in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences was moved and approved.

3. The next vote was on the balance of the proposal from Speech-Language-Hearing-Sciences. The rationale for the program requirements for the 36-Credit Major in Speech Pathology and Audiology, B.A, was amended to read: “The change is intended to make existing requirements more explicit.” The item was so moved and approved (with one “no” vote).

4. The proposal on the curriculum change in Middle and High School Education was moved and approved.

5. Prof. Jacobson said that a discussion had been anticipated on LEH 100: Freshman Seminar. A far-reaching discussion did in fact ensue. Prof. Jacobson described the proposal as an experimental course submitted as an informational item. She indicated we were not voting on it today, but a discussion—an ongoing discussion—would be appreciated. The Committee was convinced that the proposed course would greatly add to the general education curriculum. Prof. Robert T. Whittaker was given floor rights to describe the course and its intentions and to affirm why he believed it was worth three credits. Considering the problems in launching the new course, in terms of faculty and expense and especially the number of sections required, it began to be clear what the size of the experimental program should be. Prof. Whittaker concluded it should be something less than a “universal” experiment. President Fernández, not wishing to prolong the discussion of what is an experimental issue, which he saw “as a matter of scope,” suggested that it be continued at the next Senate meeting. Finally, Prof. Manfred Phillip made a motion that the experimental course should initially be limited to ten sections. The motion was moved, seconded and carried.

d. Committee on Graduate Studies:

Prof. Robin Kunstler said that a proposal from the Department of Middle and High School Education was withdrawn. There are two experimental courses from the Department of Specialized Services in Education. Two new courses
were offered from this department as well. The Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education proposed changes concerning Gifted and Talented Certificate Extension. The report was approved.

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

1. Prof. Eric Delson reported that the Committee met jointly with the FP&B subcommittee on February 15. Vice President Derek Wheeler briefly reviewed the status of the Lehman budget with The Committee. Compared to last fall, our operating budget rose slightly to $54.17 million. The two percent contingency holdback will not be returned. As a result of some reduction in current searches, especially in the Division of Arts & Humanities, the personnel/payroll budget is down about $300,000. On the other hand, OTPS (equipment, supplies, etc.) will rise nearly $1 million. On the bottom line, the College budget shows a net deficit of some $200,000, some of which may be recovered from additional “overcollection” of student tuition funds above the projected and required level.

State funds for replacement of computer equipment over its useful life cycle have been recovered, after an interim rejection of our request, and the replacement is expected to resume this term.

2. Next year is likely to be a hard one across CUNY, with the 2 percent “holdback” not even appearing in our budget and additional contingencies possibly raised as well.

3. The Committee plans to meet next in April, at a date and time to be announced, when it hopes to hear more about next year’s budget.

4. Prof. Delson noted that the Committee is still in need of student representatives. Those interested can contact him by e-mail.

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom**

There was no report. (The Committee meets again at 11 a.m. on March 22 in the Davis second floor conference room.)

g. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**
Prof. Kevin Sailor presented a copy of the “Faculty Report Form—Incidents of Suspected Academic Dishonesty,” which was distributed to the Senate along with a copy of the revised “Academic Integrity” statement. Both were opened for discussion on the Senate floor. The report was moved and approved.

h. Committee on Library, Technology and Telecommunications-
1. Prof. George Chaikin said he was postponing the bulk of his report until the next meeting but called the Senate’s attention to the Committee’s concern about the budget cuts and its impact.
2. The Committee’s next meeting will take place on March 16.

i. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities -
There was no formal report, though Prof. Orazio Caroleo mentioned that for two months he has asked for volunteers to sit on the Parking Resolution Committee, and he is again asking for the Senate’s input. Students are also needed. Volunteers can e-mail Prof. Caroleo. The Committee meets the second Monday of every month, the next meeting being on March 14 in Schuster Room 326.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier