Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, March 1, 2006


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 Senate meeting of February 1, 2006 with the amendment that Prof. James Jervis and Ms. Sharikat Ameen were present. It was approved by unanimous vote.

Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. The President focused primarily on the budget and activities in Albany. He noted that in January, he and other CUNY presidents from the Bronx had been in Albany to
visit legislators, and the outcome of that trip was satisfactory. This coming Monday, another trip will be made to Albany by the University Student Senate. On March 13, the Board of Trustees, along with President Fernández and other CUNY College presidents, has a lunch and a series of meeting arranged in Albany. Finally, a group of Lehman students, faculty, and staff, will also go later this month on a date yet to be set, probably during the week of the 20th or the 27th.

2. Last week, Mr. Ernesto Malave, the Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, informally met with the Joint Senate/FP&B sub-committee, and then in the afternoon spoke at the General Faculty meeting, addressing budget issues and the CUNY COMPACT. President Fernández said it was a good exchange and the type of meeting we should hold more often.

b. Student Conference-

1. Student Conference Chair Rhea Natividad said that last September the Student Conference started an initiative in which student Senators made a list of things they would like to see addressed. This semester the Student Conference has identified three issues: (1) expanding library hours; (2) campus security; and (3) finding a substitute for social security numbers to prevent fraud and identity theft. Some progress has been made: the library is now following a new set of hours, and headway has been made with the other two concerns. The Conference has been trying to improve student participation since having a quorum is so essential. Ms. Natividad encouraged faculty to suggest students they believe are qualified for the Conference, a task they are also concentrating on.

2. Future meetings will be on Wednesday, March 8, on April 26 and May 10. She asked the Chairs to try to schedule their meetings to avoid a conflict.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee on Governance-

1. Professor Vincent Prohaska presented the following nominations to fill student vacancies: Kristin Burgess replaces Sophie Muller in the Governance Committee; Phillip Brunke is nominated to fill a student vacancy on CASE, and Dermott Myrie is nominated for the Library, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee. The nominations were unanimously approved.
2. Committee chairs were asked to submit meeting notices by the deadline for Senate items to the Special Counsel’s office at esther.fernandez@lehman.cuny.edu.

3. From now on, Committees that regularly have action items will be listed earlier on the agenda in order to assure access a quorum when their report is presented.

4. The next Governance Committee meetings are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, and at 2 p.m. on Thursday April 22, both in Shuster 179.

b. **Undergraduate Curriculum**

1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson introduced one proposal from the Department of Nursing to change the admission requirement in the B.S. program in nursing. It passed the committee unanimously with a quorum present. The report was approved unanimously.

c. **Committee on Graduate Studies**

1. Prof. Robin Kunstler introduced the following items for approval: changes in the Gifted and Talented certificate extension from the Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education; changes in degree requirements for the Masters degrees in both Early Childhood Education and in Childhood Education; minor course changes from the Department of Health Sciences, and two new courses from the Department of Specialized Services in Education and some minor course changes. Also, a change in the certificate requirements Gifted and Talented certificate extension from the Department of Middle and High School Education was presented. The report was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 13, and notice will be sent out whether it is 1 p.m. or 2 p.m.

d. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**

There was no report.

e. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**

1. Prof. Matt Kerner said that at this morning’s meeting, the Committee reopened the discussion on students enrolled in the Celia Cruz High School. It has to do with their behavior on campus and the wear-and-tear on Lehman College equipment and property. Letters of concern will be forwarded to the appropriate Lehman administrators.

2. Since the last Senate meeting on February 1, there has been one meeting of the Science Building Programming Committee. Discussed were issues relating to programming and configuration of teaching spaces, teaching lab support, the
imaging facility, office and administrative spaces, and the multipurpose lecture room.

3. The next Science Facility Executive Committee is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7 at the CUNY offices on 57th Street.

4. The next Science Facility Programming Committee meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 16 in Room 336 in Shuster Hall.

5. The next meeting of the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5 in Room 325 in Shuster Hall.

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom-**

There was no report.

g. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

1. Prof. George Chaikin reported that ten percent of the technology fee is now given to a CUNY-wide enterprise software fund, rather than being returned directly to the campuses. The Committee does not disagree with the practice but was troubled by not being aware of it. As a result, it determined to bring the following resolution to the Senate:

   *Be it resolved that one elected faculty member and one elected student member from the Library, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee be invited to join the Technology Fee Committee.*

   The question was called and the resolution was approved with four abstentions, President Ricardo R. Fernández, Prof. Helene Silverman, Dean William Tramontano, and Vice President Derek Wheeler.

2. The next committee meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8.

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

1. Prof. Eric Delson said the committee met on February 8th and 22nd.

2. On the 8th, Vice President Wheeler presented a snapshot report on the current fiscal year’s budget. As a result of increased tuition revenue and the resolution of several contractual agreements involving CUNY Central, the college budget is nearly in balance without the need to utilize any CUTRA funds.

3. On February 22, Vice Chancellor Ernesto Malave met informally with the joint Senate/FP&B committee before addressing the General Faculty meeting in the afternoon. He discussed aspects of Lehman’s budget within the general CUNY
budget picture, the current state budget, and the use of CUNY COMPACT funds. He answered several questions from the members.

4. The next meeting is planned for April or early May, again on a Wednesday, although the date is not yet definite.

i. University Faculty Senate-

1. Prof. Pat Kolb reported on the February 28 meeting.

2. The proposal for the CUNY On-Line Baccalaureate Degree (OLBA) was passed by the CUNY Board of Trustees on February 27. U.F.S. President Susan O’Malley expressed ongoing concerns about the quality of the curriculum, governance plans, the small size of administrative staff relative to the anticipated number of students, and the lack of full-time faculty in the program as proposed.

3. Members of the U.F.S. will be participating in a Lobbying Day in Albany on March 21 to advocate additional full-time faculty lines for CUNY, and funding to meet other needs throughout the campuses.

4. The U.F.S. Conference on the CUNY Faculty Experience Survey will be on Friday, April 7, at John Jay College. Survey results will be examined in detail to determine remedies. Practices will be compared with results of similar surveys at other colleges and universities. Findings from this survey are already being used in various ways at CUNY colleges. At Medgar Evers, the survey results were addressed at a Faculty Development Conference. Presidents of some of the colleges (Baruch and Kingsborough) have initiated discussion of the findings with faculty on their campuses.

5. On another topic, a resolution was proposed at last night’s meeting by the U.F.S. Academic Freedom Committee urging each campus to have an Academic Freedom Committee, and it was passed unanimously.

6. The PSC-CUNY Research Awards Program needs additional members for the University Committee on Research Awards. Information fliers were made available.

7. Lastly, there was extensive discussion at the U.F.S. about the Chancellor’s plan to “dismantle the consortium model” for teaching CUNY doctoral students in the sciences. The proposed plan appears to reduce the total
number of doctoral students in this discipline and to establish lead programs
primarily at Hunter and City College. Prof. Kolb conveyed the opinion that
Lehman would lose substantial resources including NIH magnet, pipeline,
and bridges funding, and the Chancellor’s proposal would have detrimental
effects on Lehman undergraduates as well as students from many other
CUNY schools. There are substantial benefits for undergraduates to have
doctoral research programs on the respective campuses. The Chancellor has
assembled a panel of outside evaluators—science faculty from other
universities—to evaluate his proposal. Three of the professors who have met
with this panel, including Prof. Jones from the Lehman Biology Department,
presented their views on the proposed changes. The evaluators, who will
present a report in three weeks, may be a major influence on the outcome,
since they appear to understand faculty concerns.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier