Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 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 April 13, 2005 meeting with the amendment on line 106 as follows:

“She {Syka Manclière of the Student Conference} was assured that any student elected to a standing Committee has the same voting rights as any member of the Committee with the exception of the Governance Committee.”

Announcements and Communications-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
1. President Fernández announced that there would be a change in the order of
the presentations.

2. The President welcomed the Senators to the final meeting of the Senate this
term. He presented an overview of the Strategic Plan and the proposed time line.
This is a process that began last year with a Strategic Planning retreat held in
September. Five goals and objectives were then identified, and in October the
Academic Affairs Plan was merged into an overall College Strategic Plan and a
three-year planning horizon between 2005-2007. In November a draft was
distributed to the Senate and the General Faculty. In November-December, Goal
Teams consisting of vice presidents, representatives of the Senate Budget and
Long-Range Planning Committee, some Senate Committees, some members of
the College FP&B Budget Committee and broader campus constituencies were
established to develop action plans. From December through March these Goal
Teams developed a scope of work, which is continuing. A preliminary review
has been made to assess the personnel and budget impact, to begin to prioritize
some of the objectives and to insure that we are aligned with some of the goals
across divisions and with other planning processes at the college. Therefore, this
is a preliminary progress report; we are still not close to a strategic plan in a final
version. The work will continue over the summer. One objective is for the goals
and objectives to be aligned with the University’s goals and targets and those of
the Chancellor’s for CUNY and for each of the institutions. A preliminary plan
will be presented to the Senate and to the General Faculty sometime in the fall.

President Fernández emphasized this is an on-going process with the plan being
reviewed in mid-year, to make sure of the goals and objectives. At the end of the
year, we will again synchronize this with the University’s goals and targets for
Lehman College.

2. The budget for the State of New York was approved with CUNY getting the
best capital budget in a long time. An architectural firm has been selected for the
science facility (Perkins and Will), and the Provost is putting together an
advisory faculty group from the relevant departments. It will be a two-phase
project: the first, a $60 million building will be next to Gillet Hall and
connected with a passage way, and the second phase will be a bigger building,
probably a $90 to $100 million facility. Our goal is to have the second phase
included in the next CUNY 5-year capital budget. We are excited about the
expansion of the labs and the facilities that will add research capability to the
institution.

b. Student Conference –
1. Chairperson Syka Manclière indicated this was her last meeting, since
she is graduating this semester. The Student Conference and Ms.
Manclière invited the Senate to a reception that will be held on
Wednesday, May 18 in Carman Hall B16 between 2 and 4 p.m.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee on Graduate Studies-
a. 1. Prof. Kunstler reported minor course changes from the Department of Middle
and High School Education and a change in degree requirements in Middle and
High School Education, including math education, science education, English
education, and TESOL, and a new course and a change in the requirements for the
degree in the Department of Specialized Services in Education. The report was
approved.

b. Committee on Library, Technology and Telecommunications-
Prof. George Chaikin presented a resolution from the Committee as follows:
“Be it resolved that: the Lehman College Senate supports the introduction of a
‘Print/Copy/Scan Management System’ campus wide, as it will provide additional
services and conveniences to students, faculty, and staff, and appears likely to
offer substantial savings to all. Be it further resolved that: In the interests of
promoting scholarship, the Lehman College Senate requests that a substantial
print allotment be allocated to the faculty for use with a ‘Print/Copy/Scan
c. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**

Prof. Sailor spoke on the proposed admission policy for first-time freshmen. The current admissions policy states that regular admit first-time freshmen who are recent high school graduates must meet a criterion score based on a formula that weights high school average, SAT, total units of college prep classes and English average in the calculation of an index score. The current formula is: \[ \text{Index} = 488 + 436 \times (\text{CAA}) + 0.106 \times \text{(SAT)} + 4.7 \times (\text{Total Units}) + 3.29 \times (\text{English Average}), \]

and a student must have an index of 300 to be admitted without review. The University Admissions Processing Center has set a criterion of 300 as a University-wide criterion. The proposed change in the formula is designed to produce a formula that is slightly more selective than the previous policy by changing the constant from --488 to --490. The change means that the weighted contribution of the various factors must increase by 2 points for a student to meeting the criterion of 300. The effect of the change is anticipated to be a 5% reduction in the number of applicants who are qualified for admission under this policy. The purpose of the change, which is a small one, is to improve the qualifications of the students and would be initiated in the Fall 2006. The proposed policy was approved with some abstentions.

d. **Committee on Governance**

Prof. Vincent Prohaska presented in the packet the faculty nominations to Standing Committees of the Senate, consisting of faculty serving to June 2006 and nominations for 2005-2007. Corrections were made on the packet regarding the Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards. Richard Holody is no longer on that committee as he was replaced by David Rothchild; and regarding the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, Richard Blot is now with the Journalism, Communication and Theatre Department. The floor was
opened for additional nominations. There were no additional nominations from the floor for the Committee on Academic Freedom, the Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning, Committee on the Library Technology and Telecommunications, the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, and the Committee on Graduate Studies. The nominees for the above listed committees were approved by voice vote. As for the Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards, student Robin Vaughan was nominated and approved. Also, following a ballot vote, three faculty members were elected to this committee: Joan Fleitas (Nur), Anne Rice, (BLS), and Kevin Sailor (PSY).

e. University Faculty Senate-
1. Professor Manfred Philipp reported that the Chancellor is proposing an increase in graduate school tuition to cover the budget gap, but does not intend an increase in undergraduate tuition. It could change, but it is clear some action has to be taken, since the State budget was insufficient.
2. On the possible censure of the University by the AAUP, the Chancellor has sent a letter, intending to avert censure, to the executive director of the AAUP. Nevertheless, there is still a possibility of censure.
3. The faculty experience survey was off again on again for most of the academic year. Copies were distributed and everyone should have a copy.

f. Undergraduate Curriculum-
Prof. Jacobson offered proposals from the Department of English, the Department of Philosophy, the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theater, and the Department of Languages and Literatures. Three of the proposals are being pulled from the Department of Languages and Literatures. These are the Greek courses 103, 104, and 105. The Committee is including the experimental Greek course, 103 as an informational item. The report was approved.
g. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning**-

1. Prof. Eric Delson reported that the Committee had its last scheduled meeting of the year jointly with the FP&B Budget Committee at 2 p.m. on April 20.

2. Professor Delson reported that Vice President Wheeler said that there were several changes in the budget outlook for fiscal year 2005 since the last meeting due primarily to actions of CUNY Central. There is a revenue shortfall in the Teachings Fellows program, which may leave Lehman with a tuition liability in excess of $500,000. Also CUNY intends to reduce the Lehman College budget by the cost of fringe benefits for up to 29 new faculty members for the fiscal year, which could cost $800,000. For fiscal year 2006, the University is projecting a $26 million State budget gap. Lehman’s share will likely exceed $1 million. If all three of these items occur, Lehman’s CUTRA balance will be eliminated by next year.

h. **Committee on Academic Freedom**-

1. Prof. Liesl Jones presented the Committee’s report with its final resolution on the Workplace Violence Policy. She re-summarized the report and reminded the Senate that they had received the definition of Academic Freedom, which was adopted by the Council of Presidents in 1973 at CUNY. This yardstick is used to determine if something is in violation of academic freedom. The Committee recognizes the importance of safe conditions in which faculty needs to teach, work, and learn. It also recognizes that the Lehman policy must be consistent with that of CUNY’s. It means that faculty should be able to teach, do research, and students should be able to learn in an environment that does not restrict the information that faculty teaches and how it teaches as long as it falls within the regulations.

2. A motion was made to table the Committee’s resolution for further discussion. It was seconded but was defeated by a show of hands.
3. The resolution, as presented by the Committee and contained in the packet, was amended following a broad discussion with numerous suggestions, and in its final form read as follows:

“Whereas, the CUNY Workplace Violence Policy defines as violent examples of speech and gestures that may also be considered acceptable and/or necessary components of instruction; and Whereas, definitions and examples of violence given in the Policy may place limits on faculty, students, and staff that may be inconsistent with Academic Freedom; Be it resolved that the concerns about the City University of New York Workplace Violence Policy and the University Academic Freedom Statement be brought before the University Faculty Senate; and Be it further resolved that consideration be given to the revision of the definitions section of the Workplace Violence Policy.”

The resolution passed 20 to 17.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier