Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 3, 2004


President Ricardo R. Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes Adopted

A motion was made and approved to adopt the minutes of the October 13, 2004 meeting with the amendments that Prof. Caroleo was present and that the correct initial for Senator Hattori is T. rather than M.

Announcements and Communications

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández made several announcements having to do with activities. One is the CUNY Campaign for Voluntary Charitable Giving to raise funds for agencies and individuals who receive services that are very much needed. He asked for floor rights for Robin Maccabee CUNY Campaign Coordinator, whose remarks were supplemented by Senate member Esther Wilder, CUNY Campaign Captain. Ms. Maccabee noted that the campaign is in its 20th year and includes over 900 organizations with support needed more than ever. In the last three years, Lehman has met and surpassed its goals. This year we have a new goal of $25,000, which we again hope to surpass, with the help of the Lehman family.
Ms. Maccabbe said the theme of the campaign is “Give Till it Helps”. While there are 1,000 charities participating in this year’s campaign, there are four organizations that directly benefit Lehman College, including the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, The Lehman College Foundation, the Lehman College Speech and Hearing Center, and the Lehman College Student Child Care Center. Contributions can be marked accordingly or can be made to the CUNY Fund at large. Prof. Wilder further commented that the faculty has received a brochure along with a letter from President Fernández describing how gifts can be made. The easiest way for faculty to donate is through payroll deductions. The campaign runs from October 7 to December 31, and everyone who donates receives a campaign pen. Details were spelled out in a flyer distributed at the meeting.

2. President Fernández yielded the floor to Prof. Duane Tananbaum who announced the first in a series of academic conferences on the Governors of New York. It is to be on Herbert H. Lehman: Governor, Statesman, Humanitarian, and will be held November 11-12 at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York. It is being organized by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in collaboration with Lehman College and sponsored with the generous support of the Arthur Lehman family. The conference is free but advanced registration is required, and transportation from Lehman is available. A brochure describing the conference was distributed.

3. Now that we are in a post-election period, President Fernández said that it is anticipated that the New York State legislature will meet within the next few weeks when a number of leftover items will be taken up. He is hopeful that several CUNY items will be pushed, though it is difficult to predict.

4. The Lehman College Strategic Plan—Three Year Planning Horizon 2005-2007 was next discussed by President Fernández, and copies of the report were distributed to the Senate. The President explained that the College has been engaged in a planning exercise which began in August and culminated in a retreat that involved thirty members of the Lehman College community who developed a series of goals and objectives. These have been combined with a previous effort by the Academic Affairs Division into one single document, amounting to six goals and objectives. This is not meant to be the final plan. The
real work of looking at the goals and objectives critically and determining which
ones have priority is still ahead of us. The President emphasized he would like to
involve as many members of the Senate Standing Committees, the College
Committee on Personnel and Budget and any other individuals, including
faculty, students, and staff either by dint of their expertise or personal interest.
For the process to work, it has to be inclusive. As the first step, the Provost has
been asked to communicate with the chairs of the Senate Budget and Long-
Range Planning Committee, and to the Budget Committee of the College
Committee on Personnel and Budget to meet with the senior administrators who
are overseeing some of the initial areas that have been outlined in the document.
This group will communicate with the members of the Senate Standing
Committees since the plan covers all aspects of the institution. The most salient
move will be to prioritize the issues, come up with a time line, and a way of
assessing the development. At the next Senate meeting, the Strategic Plan will be
discussed further after the members of the Senate have had an opportunity to
review it.

b. Student Conference –
There was no report.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee on Governance –
1. Prof. Vincent Prohaska reported that the Committee is continuing to meet
individually with the chairs of the Standing Committees, but the Committee
would like to remind especially the faculty and staff members of the Senate that
recruiting students to serve on the Senate Standing Committees is the
responsibility of the Governance Committee as well. Though a list of student
nominees was submitted by the Student Conference and elected at the last Senate
meeting, all students are eligible to serve on the Standing Committees with the
exception of the Governance Committee, and it is also the responsibility of the
Senate to recruit students for those committees. The Senate was urged to consider
likely candidates and then to submit them to the Governance Committee, which
will bring them before the body.
2. The Committee has the right to extend Senate membership with floor rights but
no vote. It was proposed to do so with Prof. George Chaikin in his role as chair of
the Library, Technology, and Telecommunication Committee. The proposal was
so moved and approved by a voice vote.

b. **University Faculty Senate**

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that at the last University Faculty Senate Plenary, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein announced a presidential retreat in conjunction with the college presidents and Chancellor Klein of the New York City School System. The purpose is to discuss the 15 CUNY high schools.

2. The Chancellor will announce the Campaign for CUNY on November 9 and emphasized that the faculty of the University will be real partners in this drive to raise one billion dollars.

3. The Search Committee for the Graduate Center’s President will be headed by the chair of the Board of Trustees, Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., and will start deliberations soon.

4. The Chancellor made one statement at the Plenary which should be of interest to Senate budget committees across the University: “Transparency is a fundamental principle and anything hidden will generate an audit’s trail.” Prof. Philipp suggested that this is to be taken as a guiding principle for anyone on a budget committee.

5. The issue of tenure came up. Tenure is a matter of State law; the University is not free to make any changes on its own. To change the tenure clock to seven years, which the Chancellery favors, will therefore require an act of the State legislature. The legislature was not approached this year, but it is likely that this issue will be brought up again.

6. The University Faculty Senate, in conjunction with the University Central Administration, will be distributing the Faculty Experience Survey. This has been piloted at Queens College. The major parts of the questions have been devised in collaboration with the University Faculty Senate plus some additional questions from the Chancellor. The Lehman faculty should be receiving it soon.

7. Vice Chancellor Brenda Malone has announced a new sexual harassment policy. The new policy is not yet up on the CUNY Web site but should be of interest to some of our Senate committees.

8. On Friday, December 3, the University Faculty Senate will hold a conference beginning at 9 a.m. on academic freedom at the Hunter College School of Social Work. Participants will include members of the American Association of University Professors.
c. **Undergraduate Curriculum-**
   There was no report.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies-**
   1. Prof. Robin Kunstler presented one new course from the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences (SPE 735) on Phonology and Articulation. The report was moved and approved.

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

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom-**
   1. Prof. Liesl Jones reported that a sub-committee met this past Tuesday to review the CUNY violence policy. Three issues of central concern which the Committee will take up on November 16 to determine what action needs to be taken were identified as: (1) there is no mention of due process; (2) the policy does not apply to the administration, and (3) it appears that the college has not met its primary responsibility to disseminate the policy to faculty, staff, and students and to place it on an acceptable area of the college's web site.

g. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**
   There was no report.

h. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**
   1. Prof. George Chaikin gave the report with his newly granted floor rights. Several students are now active on the Committee and suggestions for more would be welcome.
   
   2. The Committee met with the Governance Committee, and it was decided to seek the Senate’s endorsement that a member of the Library, Technology and Telecommunications Committee should serve on the President’s Committee on the allocation of the technology fee. It was further decided to present the issue to the Senate for discussion and a possible resolution. (It was subsequently indicated that such a resolution would properly come from the Governance Committee.)
   
   3. A substantial discussion was held on the Blackboard and E-Mail systems. Prof. Chaikin was invited to a meeting convened by Provost Garro with our deans and vice presidents, our IT staff and the 57th Street staff to discuss current problems. One was the use of Social Security identifications, presenting a conflict with our
intentions of nationalizing and internationalizing our offerings through the internet. Individual faculty members have asked that Blackboard updates and changes in the E-mail system should be brought to the attention of the Senate. At the Provost’s meeting, it was reported that Blackboard is in a new version which will probably be licensed by CUNY. Users who have any difficulties, can always contact this Committee.

i. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**
   
   There was no report.

   1. Vice President Wheeler found that each meeting he is involved in raises the question of parking. In passing on new information, he referred to some future inconveniences in parking arrangements. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection plans to strengthen the fence around the Jerome Park Reservoir that adjoins us, and it will take five to six weeks. Attempts have been made on our part to postpone the work until the end of the final exam period, though work could begin sooner than that. When the work begins, 50 to 60 parking spaces will be affected. Back-up plans for alternative parking are being made.

   2. President Fernández announced that on Saturday, November 13 there will be a run-walk activity in which everyone in the community is invited to jog or run around the reservoir. The event is for the benefit for the Child-Care Center and the Library.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier