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


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

Minutes Adopted

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the minutes of the September 28, 2005 meeting with the amendment that Dean William Tramontano was present.

Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

In light of the lengthy agenda, President Fernández dispensed with his report.
b. **Student Conference**-
   1. Student Chair Sophie Muller said that in the last Student Conference meeting students expressed concern about a number of issues left over from last year such as the public safety system not being fully operational. The Conference is looking into a new bell schedule and more classes on Friday. Various resolutions have been drawn up which will be presented at the various committee meetings.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

a. **Committee on Governance**-
   1. Professor Vincent Prohaska introduced student nominees for the Senate Committees:
      - **Governance Committee**: Sophie Muller, Rhea Natividad, Lisa Capetola, Kendra Pierre, and Kermit Ureña.
      - **Library Technology & Telecommunications**: Leon Wilson, John Figueroa, Aileen Pascal, Jose Rodriguez, Leah Herskovits, and Avraham Albelda.
      - **Campus Life and Facilities**: Leah Herskovits, Eberechi Nwogu, Lyda Williams, Shakirat Ameen, Jesse Paez, and Ebelechukwu Nnoli.
      - **Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards**: Gaurav Bawa, Temitayo Amoyomi, and Caroline Gomez.
      - **Budget and Long-Range Planning**: Rosalie Abreu, Christina Powell, and Dorothy Dobson.
      - **Academic Freedom**: Melisa Bailey and Jody McLaughlin.
      - **Undergraduate Curriculum**: Daniel Gurdak and Oluwatosin Ogunjemilusi.
      - **Graduate Studies**: Kristin Burgess and Daniel Bigman.

   The nominees were approved.

   2. Not all the committees are filled in terms of their student representatives, Professor Prohaska pointed out. Filling these spots is not solely the responsibility of the Student Caucus. “It is our responsibility as the Senate so faculty may nominate students to fill some of these gaps,” he reminded the group.

b. **University Faculty Senate**-
   1. Professor Patricia Kolb indicated several significant items discussed at the meeting last night. The University Faculty Senate Fall Conference is being held on Friday,
November 11 at John Jay College from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. One of the speakers will be Roger Bowen who is the general secretary of the American Association of University Professors. Reservations should be made in advance if at all possible.

2. Another subject was a proposed online Baccalaureate program to be started next September (a handout was included in the packet). Professor Kolb described the discussion as “hotly” contested. Basically, the proposal originated in the Chancellor’s office and received a strong faculty reaction. The concerns relate to the process followed and the potential quality of the program, with limited input from the faculty. In a word, it was presented to the UFS as a fait accompli. The Chancellor’s office claims there is a large population of students who are not in CUNY schools, who have completed at least thirty credits outside CUNY, and thus would satisfy the prerequisite in the School of Professional Studies. Furthermore, students would be required to complete thirty credits within the program. Another concern about quality is that the Chancellor’s office intends to develop a curriculum committee. The faculty members would be stipulated by the Chancellor’s office, eliminating any faculty decision-making. In terms of quality, there are a number of concerns. The program is described as a completer degree, which is typical at Lehman and a number of other colleges. The assumption of the program is that there are a number of students who cannot attend classes on campus. The question is whether the program would be up to CUNY standards. Part of what’s being proposed is that some faculty would have dual appointments to the program. Faculty perhaps would be expected to teach these courses as an overload and a degree of reliance would be placed on adjuncts. Still another worry is that there would be a duplication of online courses. As to the motivation of the program, it is seen as an opportunity to bring in additional revenue without evaluating the program academically. If adequate resources are not allocated specifically for the program, the logical conclusion is that revenues would be taken away from the campuses, leaving the funding of the program unclear. The lack of curriculum development also is worrisome. Thus, process, curriculum development, quality, and the lack of a full-time faculty are perceived as the major stumbling blocks by the University Faculty Senate. In a straw vote (a quorum wasn’t present), the University Faculty Senate felt we should go along with the proposal, although the members demurred on the process and referred it back to the Executive Committee.
Discussion followed.

3. Out of the Chancellor’s report, came a reference to a fee for computer use. What the University Faculty Senate wants is faculty participation in this type of policy-making decision. The Chancellor also talked about his plan for raising additional monies from businesses and elsewhere. He also refers to the possibility of a small tuition increase for next year.

c. **Undergraduate Curriculum-**

1. Professor Barbara Jacobson presented proposals for two new courses from the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theater and a letter of intent to establish an undergraduate program in Exercise Science from the Department of Health Sciences. The Committee also presented two experimental courses from the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theater as informational items.

2. The report was moved and approved.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies-**

1. Professor Robin Kunstler said the proposal from the Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education is being tabled until next month.

2. There is a new course from the Department of Biological Sciences and a new course from the Department of Specialized Services in Education.

3. The report was moved and approved.

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

1. The Committee met twice in October on the 19th and on the 26th, and Professor Eric Delson of Anthropology was re-elected as Chair of the Joint Senate and College FP&B Budget Committee. Two main topics were discussed:

2. On the 26th, Vice President Derek Wheeler and Business Manager Marjorie Blum presented a “snapshot” report on the current fiscal year’s budget. Although Lehman has topped its CUNY-mandated revenue collection target for the past two years by $3 and $2.5 million, respectively, that target has consistently been increased by a corresponding amount. This year, with a tighter budget, even the expected “overcollection” of nearly $2
million will not be sufficient to balance our budget. With the addition of all available funds from the year-to-to year carryover CUTRA account and an increased allocation from Research Foundation overhead collections on grants, the College budget should be close to being balanced as of the present projection. However, this has also resulted in massive reductions in the availability of OTPS (other than personnel services) and adjunct funds, in addition to a hiring freeze. The situation may only worsen with time.

3. The second item discussed was a plan (“the CUNY Compact”) by CUNY’s Central Office to make an additional $1.9 million available to Lehman in the next fiscal year, as a result of a planned 10 percent total increase in tuition over the next four years and a projected increase in state support combined with expected greater philanthropic contributions to CUNY. The Committee’s task was to examine the College’s proposed plan for using these funds in the 2006-2007 academic year and to provide input to the Provost and Vice President for Administration. Several suggestions were made which were included in the final proposal sent to CUNY.

4. It was especially appreciated by the Committee that student representatives attended the meetings for the first time in several years and contributed to the process. Professor Delson saw this as a hopeful sign and hoped student representatives will continue to attend.

5. The next Committee meeting is planned for early December, again on a Wednesday at 2 p.m., although the exact date is not yet definite.

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom**

   There was no report.

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

   1. Professor Kevin Sailor reported that a list of graduates for Senate approval couldn’t make it for this meeting but will be available for the December meeting.

   2. The Committee has been looking at preliminary data on transfer students.

   3. We’ve had a number of appeals concerning the LEH courses, LEH 300 and 301. One of these courses is basically an interdisciplinary course; the second is an interdisciplinary course on the American experience, which seems to be a proper sub-set of 300. We have students who take two 300s or two 301s and are appealing to have one of those courses
count to meet the other requirement. The bulletin details the requirement but without a
description of the courses. There have also been mistakes in the scheduled classes.
Sometimes students say they were misadvised, but no documentation is available. In
effect, the committee finds it a difficult issue and seeks some guidance from the Senate.
Professor Sailor suggested it might go through the Curriculum Committee and perhaps
the Senate as well.

h. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-

1. Professor George Chaikin announced that the Library in conjunction with the
department of Languages and Literatures will sponsor Mama’s Loshen Kugel—the
traveling Yiddish Review at 4 p.m. November 10.

2. Last week, attention was devoted to the proposed web policy for the College (a
handout was available). The Committee determined, after receiving clarification, that a
minor revision can be added in the two places where the policy says “the views and
opinions expressed on this page are those of the page developers and not necessarily those
of Lehman College or the City University of New York”. The Committee proposes to add
the words: “as well as any links.” Professor Chaikin offered his view that if you feel that
your web page may be too provocative, just move it off. Put it someplace else. You may
maintain a link to it. The Committee believed that most departments could propose a
standard template for their faculty. On that template you could have a link either to our
server or an external server. And you could mix that up anyway you like. One additional
point is that the policy does not apply to those cases where developing a web page is part of
a class activity.

3. The question came up as to whether the Senate should formally approve the document,
some Senators saying they would be more comfortable if this were done. It was suggested
that members of the Academic Freedom Committee attend this Committee’s next meeting
which is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9 in the Library’s Conference
Room. President Fernández said that before this matter comes back to the Senate everyone
should read the document carefully since every word is there for a purpose and of necessity
it must be a general type of a policy; it is impossible to anticipate all the possible
permutations. He suggested that the Senate focus on the language that is being approved
and not on hypothetical cases that may or may not materialize.
i. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-

1. Professor Matthew Kerner said that on Friday, October 28, he attended the new Lehman College Science Building Executive Committee’s kickoff meeting at CUNY’s offices in Manhattan along with representatives from this campus. CUNY administrators and representatives from the architectural firm provided an overview of the project’s scope and the schedule. They focused on the design, quality of space issues, how it would build on the aesthetic strength of the campus and draw students. It would include open laboratories, would be energy efficient, of simple design, and would be built with concepts having a proven track record.

2. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8. The campus Program Committee kickoff meeting will be at 1 p.m. this Thursday, and the next meeting of the Committee on Campus Life and Facilities will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, November 14 in Shuster 325.

Professor Manfred Philipp announced that the Graduate Council voted to approve a Doctoral Degree in Nursing and he offered congratulations to the College’s Nursing Department.

Professor John Mineka offered to introduce a motion but it was ruled out of order.

Associate Dean Susan Polirstok congratulated Professor Andrea Boyar and the Health Sciences Department on the Letter of Intent to establish an undergraduate program in Exercise Science.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.
ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier