Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, October 13, 2004


President Ricardo R. 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 1, 2004 meeting.

Announcements and Communications

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández reminded the senators that the University is getting ready to announce a major fund-raising drive which will be called the Campaign for the CUNY Colleges. All of the CUNY colleges will be contributing and will be included in one figure. But what the individual colleges raise, will remain with that college. A committee at Lehman has been working since last summer and has prepared a case statement that is now being studied. The Lehman campaign will
start next year or the year after. CUNY, with a goal of $1 billion (and possibly a bit more), will announce the campaign officially on November 9 somewhere in Manhattan. Sometime next year, Lehman College will set a goal that we think is achievable.  2. At the end of the summer, President Fernández convened a series of working groups to produce issue papers that became the substance of a two-day retreat at the end of September for senior administrators, faculty members, and other representatives of the institution. A draft has been prepared and will become the Strategic Plan for the College. The final document will be posted on the web. Further discussions are planned.

   b. **Student Conference** –

1. Chair Gaurav Bawa of the Student Conference distributed a list of suggested student representatives on Senate Committees. He noted one error: it is supposed to say “nominations of students.” Also, one name was added: Malaine Clarke for the Graduate Studies Committee.

2. Mr. Bawa asked committee chairs to notify the students when meetings are being held. If students do not in fact attend the meetings, Chair Bawa asked to be contacted.

3. The Parliamentarian, Prof. Tananbaum, pointed out that the nominees need to be elected by the Senate and suggested that they be put on the floor at this time for a vote. The slate was so moved, seconded and approved by the Senate by a voice vote.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

   a. **Committee on Governance** –

1. Prof. Vincent Prohaska said that Prof. Manfred Philipp is chair of the committee, that he is the secretary, and Vincent Zucchetto is the administration liaison. Prof. Prohaska will henceforth give the Governance Committee reports since Prof. Philipp is giving the University Faculty Senate reports.

2. He explained that four resolutions sent out should have been on the agenda under “New Business.”

3. Last year, the Governance Committee held an orientation meeting with the
chairs of the Senate Standing Committees. It will not be repeated this year since most of the chairs are the same. Instead, meetings will be held individually with the committee chairs, and they will be invited to attend one of the Governance Committee meetings to discuss issues of concern. If any of the chairs have urgent issues, they are invited to contact the Committee.

4. Two pieces of business were up for discussion. One was the election of students already taken care of. The second is that Prof. Timothy Alborn, who is serving on the Campus Life and Facilities Committee, is on sabbatical this year so a replacement needs to be elected. The Committee nominated Prof. Stephen Cavallo from the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. The motion was moved and approved by the Senate.

b. **University Faculty Senate**

1. Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the University is under a significant threat of being censured by the American Association of University Professors (“AAUP”). This arises from an adjunct accused of abetting terrorism who was dismissed. The censure issue comes to the fore since the University has never adopted the AAUP statement on academic freedom. In the meantime, the University Faculty Senate continues to work against any possible censure. As to the censure and academic freedom issue, the University Faculty Senate will hold a conference on academic freedom on December 3.

The resolutions presented at the Lehman Senate meeting today derive from some central University issues. The Vice Chancellor chairs the IT Steering Committee which is composed of administrative representatives of all the campuses. He polled the colleges recently to see if the colleges were interested in buying Turnitin, which is a plagiarism detection software package and has been recommended by a subcommittee of the IT Steering Committee. According to the Vice Chancellor, only two or three colleges showed interest, but it was apparent that many more colleges had already bought it. Therefore, a central purchase would be more economical. As indicated in Resolution “c”, the Lehman Governance Committee adopted a resolution to recommend the purchase of Turnitin. The IT Steering Committee is also adopting new software packages to
replace SIMS and CUPS. SIMS will be replaced by Enterprise Resource Planning (“ERP”). There is a great fear that without proper consultation, the new software packages will not work. The IT Steering Committee also set up a committee to handle Blackboard at the CUNY Central level but had no faculty representation---thus prompting resolution “b”.

3. The University Faculty Senate has a continuing concern that the School of Professional Studies (the “School”) will infringe on the colleges’ rights to offer credit-bearing courses. The School for example, set up a credit bearing course on Alexander Hamilton, though the course failed for lack of student enrollment. But it is a precedent of major concern.

c. **Undergraduate Curriculum**-
1. Prof. Jacobson said the Curriculum Committee has proposals for two new courses from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, CMP 335 and CMP 406. From the Department of Languages and Literatures, there were proposals for three new experimental courses, ARB 105, ARB 106, and ARB 108. The report was moved and approved.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies**-
1. Prof. Robin Kunstler said the Graduate Committee has submitted a proposal for a new graduate Social Work Program (MSW) with 25 new graduate courses in social work. The report was moved and approved. The Senate acknowledged the work of the social work faculty.

e. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning**-
There was no report. Prof. Duane Tananbaum, announced on behalf of Prof. Eric Delson, that a meeting of the joint committee of the Senate and the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee is being organized for November 9.

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom**-
1. Prof. Liesl Jones reported that the Committee will hold a meeting at 2 p.m. on October 28 to discuss issues presented at the Governance Committee meeting. One is to look at the violence policy which has been circulated and adopted. The
second is to look at the issue of the administration being able to read both faculty and student e-mail. It will be determined if they reflect on academic freedom.

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

There was no report.

h. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**

1. Prof. George Chaikin was granted floor rights. He offered to provide the minutes of the Committee’s first meeting to any Senators interested in reading them (eventually they will be posted on the Senate web site). As to the highlights, representatives of the IT Center discussed networking and telecommunications on campus. The campus is switching from a layer two to a layer three network. Layer two is what we have had in the past. Layer two means all internet communications are taking place throughout the campus on a uniform basis. In layer three it is a virtually switched situation where local areas do not interfere with communications within other local areas. Therefore, layer three ought to provide more efficient telecommunications without any loss of capability. Wireless telecommunications have been installed throughout much of the campus, with partial wireless in some areas.

2. Prof. Ostrow noted that the library would like to work with faculty to digitize all reserve course readings.

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

Prof. Orazio Caroleo reported on a lengthy meeting held last month. On the issue of parking, the Committee looked at the resolution presented at the last Senate meeting, and a new resolution was submitted to the Senate. President Fernández commented that as the college grows, the parking problem becomes more complicated, considering physical limitations. He said he wanted to refer particularly to the last resolve in the resolution to pursue a “safe crossing of Goulden Avenue from the parking lots to the campus....” This is an issue he has personally been involved in for 12 years with countless letters and calls to commissioners. He thought that having a school on campus, might provide leverage to obtain at least a flashing light, or something similar. So far that has not been the
case, but he has not given up. He wanted to assure the Senators that this is a long-standing issue and is a major concern.

The resolution submitted to the Senate has four parts: amendments were introduced regarding the first and third resolved. The first resolved would read:

“That the Lehman College Senate Committee on Campus Life and Facilities recommends that the College reconsider the tiered parking structure and amend the system from reserved parking spaces to a mix of reserved and preferred parking spaces. A number of preferred decals, greater than the available parking spaces would be sold at a higher cost to make more spaces available and lessen the overall parking problem and; that fair and equitable rules for the distribution of these preferred parking spaces be established.” The third resolve would read:

“That the Lehman College Senate Committee on Campus Life and Facilities recommends the establishment of a working group including faculty and students to investigate, plan and recommend short term and long term solutions and funding options to increase available parking facilities for the College and such working group to report its recommendations before they are implemented to the Lehman College Senate through its Committee on Campus Life and Facilities”. The resolution was approved as amended.

**OLD BUSINESS**

See “i” above.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Prof. Philipp, representing the Governance Committee, presented four resolutions:

“(a) That there should be faculty and student representation on the CUNY ERP Advisory Committee.” It was so moved and approved. (b) “That there should be a total of 33 percent faculty and student representation on any CUNY Advisory Committee dealing with Blackboard or other pedagogical software.” It was so moved and approved as amended. (c) “That a campus subscription to Turnitin be purchased, as per last year’s recommendation from the Academic Freedom Committee.” It was so moved and approved. The fourth resolution concerned the distribution of the Senate minutes and agenda, whether as paper copies or
electronically. President Fernández emphasized to the Senate that the entire
University is moving to deliver minutes and documents electronically—we are
moving into an electronic age and it is a matter of the total college resources, not any
individual department. After extensive discussion, resolution “d” was restated as
follows: “A copy of the Senate agenda and meeting materials will be sent to each
department, and multiple copies will be sent to the library and to Student Life.” The
resolution as amended was so moved and approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier