Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, September 28, 2005


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 September 7, 2005 meeting with an amendment that Serigne Gningue was present, and that it was Professor Patricia Thompson who raised the question from the floor on Lehman as an Evacuation Center.

Announcements and Communication

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-
   President Fernández remarked that much of the focus of public officials is on the mayoral election and the recent national disasters.
2. The College continues to develop plans for a new science facility on campus. A committee composed of faculty administrators and student representatives is slated to meet in late October. The committee will be involved in developing the concept of the science facility. This planning stage will last one year. More will be reported as the project progresses.

3. The President indicated his pleasure at seeing so many students present at the Senate meeting, pointing out that the governance of the college is made up of faculty, staff, and students. He encourages the students to continue to engage in the affairs of the college.

4. The President referred to the installation of the bust of Herbert H. Lehman in front of Shuster hall. He encouraged everyone to stop by and read the plaque.

b. Student Conference-

1. Student Chair, Sophie Muller, reported that the following students were elected to the Steering Committee: Sophie Muller, Chair; Rhea Natividad; Vice-Chair, Kristin Burgess, Secretary; Lisa Capetola, Treasurer; Leah Herskovits, Publicity Officer. Ms. Muller stated that the Committee would appreciate it if committee chairs would indicate, when presenting their reports, when their committees will meet in the event that some students want to serve on those committees. She further indicated that the Steering Committee will caucus between meetings and would present the student nominees for various committees for approval by the Senate.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee on Governance

1. Professor Vincent Prohaska reported that Professor Rosalind Carey is the secretary to the Committee.

2. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19 at 2 p.m. in Shuster 179.

b. University Faculty Senate-

1. In the absence of Professor Manfred Philipp, Professor Esther Wilder requested to comment on the University Faculty Senate’s September 27 Plenary Session. She reported that there were two issues that generated considerable controversy. First,
Vice Chancellor Selma Botman reported on the University’s plan to offer an online undergraduate degree through the School of Professional Studies. Professor Wilder noted that several faculty members expressed concerns that the new degree program might divert resources away from the 19 CUNY campuses and that there was insufficient faculty involvement in the planning of this new degree program. Professor Wilder noted that Vice Chancellor Botman didn’t see the new degree program as a divisive one between faculty and administrators (as some of those questioning her seemed to imply) and that she hoped faculty from the campuses would be actively involved in teaching in the new program. The second issue concerned privacy. Professor Wilder reported that there was a panel discussion on privacy issues at CUNY. The panel, which included several faculty members, informed members of the University Faculty Senate that they have no reasonable expectation to privacy at CUNY. The panel wanted to inform faculty that this is the current state of affairs and following this, they are hoping to develop a policy that will guarantee faculty a right to privacy. The panel reported that this is important for a number of reasons, including in situations where faculty are working with sensitive information and doing research on human subjects.

2. Following Professor Wilder’s presentation, a discussion followed. Professor Jane Levitt inquired about the degree that would be offered by the new online program and Dean Marlene Gottlieb responded that it would be a CUNY Bachelor of Arts Degree. Professor James Jervis noted that the Chancellor also reported at the UFS plenary session that Lehman has taken a leading role in offering online education. Several faculty and one student expressed concerns regarding the appropriateness of offering online degrees at CUNY. Meanwhile, Professor Robert Whittaker described how he had been actively involved in a committee concerning online education. President Fernández stressed that one objective of the new degree program is to provide access to a CUNY education for those who might otherwise be unable to obtain it.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum-

1. Professor Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from the Department of Health Sciences and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. An experimental course from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science was also presented as an informational item. The report was approved.
2. The Committee meets on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:30 in the IT Center. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2005 in the IT Center.

d. **Committee on Graduate Studies-**
   1. Professor Robin Kunstler presented curriculum changes from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. With regard to the M.A. Program in Mathematics, Prof. Kunstler explained that the number of required courses has been decreased to allow us flexibility in scheduling and the number of credits in most courses has been increased from 3 to 4 to allow flexibility and to allow students to complete their coursework in two years. Professor Duane Tananbaum inquired about the tendency toward the four hour credit courses, asking whether increased flexibility and allowing students to complete their coursework more quickly were sufficient justification. Professor Kunstler answered that it is intended to reflect increased contract hours and is in fact a national trend. The rationale was amended accordingly.  
   2. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 31 at 1 p.m. in Carman B33. The report was approved.

e. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**
   There was no report. The next meeting will be held on October 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Shuster 336.

f. **Committee on Academic Freedom-**
   There was no report. The next meeting is scheduled for October 4 at 11 a.m. in Davis 335.

g. **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**
   Professor Kevin Sailor reported that the Committee will be looking into the Transfer Admission Policy. He further indicated that the next Committee meeting will be scheduled as needed on Mondays at 2 p.m. in Shuster 280.

h. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**
   1. Professor George Chaikin reported that the library is planning a meeting for all the
Departmental Representatives and urged members of the Senate to see to it that their departments participate.

2. It was also reported that the Library has a new kind of electronic book facility known as “e-brary” and that people should try it out.

3. The Committee discussed the proposed College Web Policy. The Committee was concerned there was no inclusion of Academic Freedom. It was proposed that the Committee meet with other interested parties, in particular the Academic Freedom Committee, to see if the issue should be included. The issue of endorsing political positions is mentioned in the proposed policy, both for faculty and for student organizations.

4. The next meeting will be held on October 6 at 4 p.m.

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

1. Professor Matthew Kerner said that he has been elected chairman and will also be the Committee’s representative to the Science Building Program Committee.

2. The next Committee meeting will be on November 14 at 11 a.m. in Shuster 325.

**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