

LEHMAN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty
Wednesday, November 12, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: In the absence of Prof. Manfred Philipp, Prof. Helen Silverman called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2008 were submitted and approved.

2. Reports:

A. Provost Mary Papazian: **1.** Provost Papazian ceded her place for a moment for a report the migration from Blackboard 6 to Blackboard 8 by Robert Whittaker, Acting Associate Provost, Undergraduate Studies and Online Education. **Mr. Whittaker:** The “migration” from Blackboard 6 to Blackboard 8 is taking place next semester. So, all courses for spring 2009 will be in the new Blackboard 8, which has been used already for regular courses this term, and is functioning well. It is being used this semester in the CUNY Online BA and BBA, at the Graduate School, and in selected courses at Lehman. A sheet was distributed to the Senators on the upgrading along with “answers to frequently asked questions.” The most important point is that for students the visual impact is essentially the same. Faculty will notice some functional differences. The digital drop box has been eliminated, since it had some difficulties. The method for collecting assignments and grading them has been vastly improved. In the new version, all of CUNY is one domain, which means that people from various colleges can enroll in courses and organization sites irrespective of where their college is. **2. GI Bill:** The Provost resumed her report, saying that a GI Bill is in the offing, and we can expect entering students coming under this mandate. Lehman is monitoring the provisions of the bill, and a small committee, chaired by Vice Provost Robert Troy, has been established to deal with the anticipated needs of veterans. **3. Campaign for Charitable Giving:** A letter from President Fernandez has been sent out, encouraging participation in this campaign. In the past, donations have mostly come from staff, and the Provost encouraged the faculty to invest in their institution. A representative has been assigned to each department. **4. Assessment Council:** An inaugural meeting was held of this group, which is composed of 13 faculty members and is chaired by Vinnie Prohaska. Its purpose is to think about what could be the role in supporting and facilitating the assessment of student learning. We are now engaged in the Middle States evaluation. The penultimate draft of the self-study is ready for review and the Provost is now welcoming comments. The final draft needs to be submitted to the team by the beginning of January. **5. Library Exhibition:** This exhibition is on the theme of “When Humanity Fails,” which was opened in conjunction with Veterans Day. It is a photographic exhibition of the liberation of concentration camps at the end of World War II. The exhibit will be on hand until the beginning of December. **6. Laurie Austin:** The Provost explained that the new Admissions Director would not be present today to be introduced and give

her report because of another commitment. **7. New appointment:** An announcement is now being sent out on the appointment of Stephanie Endy to the Office of Research and Sponsored Program. She will be joining Lehman on December 1. **8. Human Rights:** This is a subject that is at the core of Lehman College as an institution, given its history with the United Nations and the International Declaration on Human Rights. On December 10 a meeting will be held in room 313 of the Music building from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for a brain-storming session for those interested in the subject. The objective is to consider how Lehman might develop a center for human rights. **9. New programs:** Two new programs have been approved by the State: a B.S. in Exercise Science and an M.S. in business. These will offer wonderful opportunities for our students. **10. CUNY First:** Moving into CUNY First will be a challenge but it is better to do it now when there are some funds available. Robert Troy is overseeing it from a coordination point of view, and James Mercado is the project manager. We will begin the work later in the spring, but the preparation is already happening.

B. Vice President Derek Wheeler: Mr. Wheeler reported on Governor Paterson's two-year deficit reduction: **i. Reduction:** The deficit reduction would decrease the rate of growth in school aid in the 2008-09 School Year by \$836 million (\$585 million in the 2008-09 State Fiscal Year). After these actions, 2008-09 school aid would still increase by \$1.0 billion or 5% compared to 2007-08 and total \$20.7 billion. Moreover, the level of school aid spending statewide in 2008-09 would represent an increase of \$6.2 billion or 43% compared to 2003-04. According to the US Census Bureau, New York spent on average \$14,884 per pupil on its public schools in 2006—the highest amount of any State and 63% above the national average. **ii. Medicare/Health Care: (2008-09 Savings: 572 million, 2009-10 Savings: \$1.2 billion)**: The reduction plan recommends \$1.8 billion in Medicaid and other health care savings over the next two years. Major actions include reducing reimbursements and eliminating trend-factor increases across all sectors, recouping early intervention overpayments from New York City, using unspent Graduate Medical Education (GME) funds for financial plan relief, and discontinuing funding for several HCRA programs. Additionally, to ensure that the insurance industry contributes to its fair share of saving, assessments levied upon that industry will be increased. **iii. Other Education-related Programs (2008-09 Savings: \$36 million):** The deficit reduction plan recommends a number of other savings actions in education-related areas outside of school aid. These include reduced funding for grants awarded by the NYS Council on the Arts by \$7 million and reduced funding for Bundy Aid to private colleges and universities by \$2 million. It would also reduce library aid by \$20 million on a one-time basis and continue to provide reimbursement to non-public schools for attendance-taking consistent with the methodology used in 2007-08, thereby saving \$7 million. **iv. Higher-Education (2008-09 Savings: \$115 million, 2009-10 Savings: \$233 million)**: The deficit reduction plan recommends increasing both SUNY (from \$4,350 to \$4,950) and CUNY (from \$4,000 to \$4,600) annual undergraduate tuition by \$600. Tuition for these institutions has not increased since 2003-04, and before that in 1995-96. Spring 2009 tuition will increase by \$300. The full annual \$600 increase would become effective in the following academic

year. Even after this increase, SUNY and CUNY tuition will be below the \$5,000 threshold for the tuition assistance program (TAP) awards, ensuring that the neediest students have their entire tuition costs covered.

v. Local Governments (2008-09 Savings: 134 million, 2009-10 Savings \$110 million). The deficit reduction proposal eliminates \$41 million in additional Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding for New York City added in the 2008-09 Enacted Budget. New York City will still receive an AIM payment of \$204 million in 2008-09. For municipalities outside New York City, the plan would maintain 2009-10 AIM payments at 2008-09 levels, eliminating a previously scheduled \$61 million increase. After these actions, AIM payments outside NYC will total \$755 million in 2009-10, an increase of \$290 million or 62 % compared to 2005-05.

vi. Workforce (2008-09 Savings: \$137 million, 2009-10 Savings: \$167 million). Governor Paterson will partner with State employee unions to reduce personnel costs and has proposed the following actions for collective bargaining: delay salary payments for five days worth of work during the current fiscal year until an employee leaves the state service, and withholding the 3 % 2009-10 salary increase previously negotiated with several unions. He has proposed the following actions that do not require collective bargaining: requiring new State employees and retirees to pay for a greater part of their health care costs; requiring State employees and retirees to contribute to the Medicare Part B premiums; and rescinding a vacation exchange program for Management/Confidential employees.

vii. Human Services (2008-09 Savings: \$20 million, 2009-10 Savings: \$75 million). Recommendations include partially reducing a cost-of-living adjustment for human service providers from 3.2% to 2.2 %; reducing funding for the Neighborhood Preservation Program and Rural Preservation Program, and reducing an operating subsidy for the New York State Housing Authority (NYCHA), which has a \$2.8 billion operating budget.

viii. Other actions: (2008-09 Savings: \$424 million, 2009-10 Savings: \$514 million). The deficit reduction plan also includes a number of other actions in the areas of environmental conservation, economic development, and financial management.

C. Assist. Vice President Enrollment Management Robert Troy: **1. Enrollment:** Robert Troy presented the enrollment report for fall 2008, which was distributed to the Senate. It indicated a total enrollment of 11,861, as against 10,923 for 2007. These figures were broken down into total transfers (1,252), total new undergraduate students (2,268), and total undergraduate enrollment (9,570). New graduate enrollment was 641, nondegree enrollment, 368, for a total graduate enrollment of 2,291. These figures all represent increases.

D. Campus Facilities Director Rene Rotolo: **1. Science Facility Phase I:** Ms. Rotolo reported that we have full funding for the Greenhouse for the building. Preliminary work is completed to date and T-2 is demolished. The re-routing of the main power feeder that runs from Goulden Ave. through campus and the building footprint to the power plant is 90 % complete. There will be a final run and connection over the next few weeks and a switch over at the end of the month. A shovel in the ground is expected in mid to late December. The remaining construction packages are being finalized and are expected to be advertised by the end of this

month. The Science Facility Phase I has been registered with the US Green Building Council, and we expect to obtain a LEED Gold rating---the first in the CUNY system.

2. Science Facility Phase II: Lehman has been funded for design of the Phase II Science Facility and expects to proceed with programming later in the spring of 2009. We—CUNY, Lehman, and our consultants—have determined that many factors, including higher than expected enrollments and changes in academic programs require us to revisit the program and update it to reflect current and project changes.

3. Swing Space Study and Space Assessment (mini Master Plan) We are currently in a swing space study to relocate programs from the T-3 building to another location in preparation for the construction of the Phase I of the Science Facility. This phase will occur after occupancy of the Phase I building. We will be revisiting the master plan. We have found that actual enrollments have exceeded the projections that were the basis for the Master Plan. The 2002 Master Plan projected 5,819 undergraduates and graduate FTE's in 2007. Our actual in 2007 was 7,653, an increase of 1,834 over the projection. The current space study will look at facility needs to 2016. Once approved, we will proceed with design of the swing space identified in the study.

4. Utility Master Plan: The Science Facility Phases I and II, the renovation of Gillet Hall and the Old Gym along with any additional facility expansions identified by the current space study, require a renovation, expansion and upgrade of our current central heating, cooling and power plant. We have full funding for the design of the utility upgrade. We recently completed a utility master plan and have begun design on the system upgrades necessary to accommodate the Science Facility Phase I, which is fully funded. This spring we will begin design on the Phase I Utility Upgrade necessary for the Science Facility Phase II. The funding request for this phase of the utility upgrade project has been submitted to New York State with the CUNY Capital Improvement Plan for funding in fiscal year 2009-10.

E. Report of PSC representative Prof. Helene Silverman: **1. Lounge:** One if the continuing issues is not having a lounge in the cafeteria. There is no room. The PSC chapter has filed an action against the college, given that this is a requirement included in the contract. A contractual meeting will be held in December. **2. Tuition increase:** The postcard campaign voicing disapproval of tuition increases is now being directed vigorously to the state legislature. The cards are being sent with the assistance of the faculty and students. All the chapters in the system are united in this effort. **3. Payroll confidentiality:** Some of the faculty has opted for direct deposit and receive a stub which contains confidential information. In payroll distribution, secretaries can pick them up and make them available, or they can also be sent to the recipient's home. But for the latter, a stamped envelope must be provided.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Carey,
Executive Committee