

LEHMAN COLLEGE

The City University of New York Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty Wednesday, November 15, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Robert Feinerman, chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meetings of September 20, 2006 were submitted and approved.

2. Communications:

President's Report: 1. New Activities: This has been an active month in many respects, President Fernandez said. Among the many activities, the most significant was a retreat that was held last week for a day and a half for CUNY college presidents, the Chancellor, and his staff. Covered were a series of topics of great significance for the University and for Lehman. The first discussion was on "The Decade of Science at CUNY" with the speaker being John H. Marburger, III, Science Adviser to President George Bush. He was intrigued that CUNY had embarked on its own scientific initiatives. President Fernandez remarked that "huge" amounts of money will be spent in capital construction to build up the infrastructure for science across the University. (Lehman is now involved in phase one and will go into phase two when the next capital plan is approved.). The primary election and some of its implications on the Lehman College were discussed. Citing the fact that Congressman Serrano, who is now in his ninth term, will probably become chair of one of the Appropriation's sub-committees President Fernandez suggested that "Our stock has risen to some extent." Another item addressed was an interesting market survey that the University commissioned. It asks the question, what do high school students think when they're ready to choose a college and what are their top college choices? An additional discussion at the retreat was dedicated to fund raising or the Campaign for CUNY Colleges, which is now up to over \$700 million out of a \$1.2 billion goal. Lehman's goal probably will be announced at the beginning of the next calendar year. **2. Charitable Giving:** Last year, President Fernandez indicated, Lehman College was able to raise \$27,314 with 198 donors. That was significant; there were offices that contributed generously among the highest but the idea was to encourage everyone to give, no matter how modest the donation.

A. Provost's Report: 1. CUNY Retreat: Acting Provost Tramontano referred to the retreat of the university's chief academic officers two weeks before the college presidents' were to discuss similar issues such as the Campaign for Student Success-- the over-arching theme. Success is defined in retention and graduation rates, emphasizing, the high expectation we have of our students.. The campaign is being asked this question: what do we want CUNY to look like in five years, and how do we get there? How do we improve teaching and learning? How do we improve academic support services? How do we rethink sciences? Other issue pertaining to the faculty or the College. Among these were: the tenure clocks, which is in the process of changing from 5 to 7 years,

CUNY COMPACT and how the \$2.4 million will provide many resources for us in the coming year. **2. Science Facility:** Ground will be broken after June 1, depending on the weather and other circumstances. We are now looking at a two-year construction window, with completion by the Fall 2009 semester. To support this endeavor, other sources of revenue are being sought to assist with other capital projects such as our Multi-Media Center.

C. University Faculty Senate: Prof. Manfred Philipp gave the report: **1. COMPACT:** Prof. Philipp made it clear that the University Faculty Senate deals with many of the same issues that are on today's Lehman Faculty agenda including the Campaign for Success and the COMPACT. One of the things the group looks for in reports is clear evidence of faculty governance. The University Senate has great skepticism on the tuition increase part of the COMPACT. **2. Complaint Policy:** The proposed student complaint policy generated out of Vice Chancellor Schaffer's office at the end of the summer has been thoroughly discussed. Last night's meeting had a resolution and vote on these policies and some changes were made, though the Senate was not completely happy. In particular, a single person is the recipient of complaints, is also the fact finder and then has a committee that evaluates complaints. That committee has a minority, not a majority of faculty members while some feel it should be composed of only faculty members. There are other objections. The policy doesn't define what students might complain about. Last night, the Senate voted not to accept the proposed policy in a clear and unambiguous vote. The Lehman Faculty at today's meeting made a motion and seconded it to support the University Faculty Senate; it was approved without opposition. **4. CUNY Construction Fund:** This Fund voted to allocate \$5 million for start-up funds for new faculty across the University. However, divided over 20 campuses, it turns out to be a small amount of money. **4. School of Professional Studies:** The school is an appendage of the Graduate Center but does not fall under the governance powers of the Graduate Council. Most of the proposals do not go through a curriculum committee but go straight to the final Governing Board. Therefore, it's difficult to get these things done in a proper way, since the colleges are left out of the process. **5. Science Doctoral Program:** A task force was established by the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor and has good representation on this campus. The next meeting will be in January. Last night Liesl Jones (Lehman Biology Dept.) gave a presentation on what the task force is doing and on some of the implications for the National Sciences at Lehman and elsewhere. **6. Fall Conference:** This meeting will take place on December 1 (a handout was provided) at John Jay College on the subject of: "Future of Higher Education-- The Spelling Report." Speakers are Robert Zemsky, a member of Spelling Commission Chair and Professor, the Learning Alliance for Higher Education, University of Pennsylvania; founding director of the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Research on Higher Education, and Susan Albertine, dean, school of Culture and Society & Professor of English, College of New Jersey, and an active member of American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

D. Collegiate Learning Assessment: 1. Background Material: President Fernandez and Associate Provost Troy joined in a discussion with the faculty on this extensive study. President Fernandez led off by providing four handouts. The first was an article

in the Atlantic Monthly that appeared in October, 2004. It's called "Measure by Measure" and gives a history of how the CLA came to be. Richard Hersh, who was president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges was upset about the U.S. News and World's report on college rankings and how distorted they are. Dr. Hersh started working on a different system, only to discover that Roger Benjamin, the president of Rand Corporation's Council for Aid to Education was thinking along similar lines: How much do students actually learn? The two men met, they clicked, and the article goes on to explain what the CLA is all about. The proposed test doesn't so much measure facts; it measures skills and the ability to write in a concise way. This is a succinct description of what the test's objective is: how to evaluate evidence, how to analyze it, how to draw conclusions, and recognize alternative viewpoints, and then issues having to do with writing. One of the handouts is a two-sided sheet that lists the 120 schools that joined this year (limited to schools that authorized release of their names).

2. Bob Troy's Comments: The last handout was taken up by Bob Troy who described the results in Lehman's testing students in the last year. In the Fall of 2005, 199 freshmen and 56 senior students were tested in what is called the cross sectional study. We're taking two separate cohorts—freshmen students and seniors and then looking at the results based on their SAT scores and the CLA test results. We're also involved in the longitudinal study which will take the freshman cohort and then test them as juniors and as seniors to see how their performance progresses. Our first study was to help the CLA establish the norms. Then if we go to the second stage, these are the actual results from Lehman College from the freshmen and senior cohorts. These cohorts were at the expected values for the CLA tests based on the incoming SAT scores.

3. Motion on the CLA: Prof. John Mineka (Mathematics) submitted a motion on the CLA that underlined that there has been no consultation with any faculty governance body or faculty committee at Lehman as to the validity or the value of the test which has cost the college almost \$50,000 and that moved that no further experimentation with the CLA proceed at the College until there has been a thorough examination of the value and validity of the test and the protocols for its use by a duly constituted faculty committee and a report issued to the Lehman General Faculty.

There was a second to the motion and upon a vote the motion failed.

E. Fall 2006 Enrollment: 1. Increases: Associate Provost Troy discussed the official report from CUNY on the Lehman College enrollment for Fall 2006. It shows an overall headcount increase of two percent this year, which is good. He added that we have started open house specifics for our graduate programs, and this will be a trend in the future. For our first time undergraduate freshmen, we've had a ten percent increase. The SEEK admits total was thirty percent (last year it was limited due to how many students we could take). As to retention rates, there was an increase from seventy-four percent to seven-seven percent. The last is our graduation rate, which for regular admits increased by three percent, but there was a thirteen percent decrease for our SEEK students. The latter will be further investigated to see why that happened.

F. Web-Based Grading: 1. Personnel: Lynne Van Voorhis who has been assisting with the program introduced Senior Registrar Lisa Freeland and Associate Registrar Thomas Murasso, the latter presenting the Web grade software, describing it as a simple

application. Two seminars already have been held while others will be added as needed.

2. Additional Background: .In a separate interview, Mr. Murasso said that the project has been in preparation for two years. Other CUNY colleges have had the application for two or more years, and Lehman's will officially begin operation for the Fall 2006 semester on Monday, December 11. For the 11,000 Lehman students, and the faculty, the Web-based grading will facilitate the process. For one thing, there will be no more paper sheets that had to be submitted directly to the campus, and students had to wait longer for grades. Now, with the advantage of the WEB, grades can be submitted from any venue. A major benefit, especially nowadays, is that student information is further protected.

G. New Business

There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will begin with a reception at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Russo Bullaro
Executive Committee