

LEHMAN COLLEGE

The City University of New York Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty Wednesday, November 16, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Robert Feinerman, chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Appreciation was expressed to Panda House for featuring some of its newest dishes prepared by its chefs. It received a round of appreciative applause from the faculty.

1. Approval of Minutes: The approval of the minutes was postponed until technical problems putting it on the web are worked out.

2. Communications:

A. Report of the Provost: (The order of presentation was changed to begin with the Provost.) **1. Recent Activities:** Provost Garro presented a short report since so much time had to be spent on budget issues. Recently, the Provost said, his time has been tied up on budget meetings and also the programming for the new Science Building. Meetings have been completed with the chairs, and there will be a presentation tomorrow by the architects. **2. M.P.H. Program:** Provost Garro announced the approval of the M.P.H. program by the State Education Department, and recruiting is underway for a beginning in January. **3. Turnitin.Com:** This program is now functioning. Information has been sent out on how to access the system. Full-blown implementation is expected in the spring.

B. President's Report: 1. Three Documents: President Fernandez said that three documents are being distributed. What is being discussed today is a budget proposal that has been presented to the Board of Trustees Committee on Fiscal Affairs which has approved it. There is a public hearing on Monday, and then on the 28th the Board is scheduled to vote on this proposal which will then become the University's submission to the governor's office as the budget is now being prepared. The issue before the University (which is not a new issue) is how to address the question of funding in a way that provides stability and consistency. The Chancellor, given his experience, is familiar with the current pattern which is not satisfactory. When times are good financially when the state's coffers are adequate, and there is no tuition increase and the TAP program (Tuition Assistance Program) survives, we consider it a victory. In reality that is a fallacy because there are no new funds for the colleges to promote new programs. Given inflation, we are taking a cut year after year after year. The result is under funding for the institutions, Lehman being one of them. Other institutions do well because of their longevity, well-healed alumni, and other resources. Unfortunately, that is not the Lehman reality at this point. In good times there's no tuition increase, no TAP cuts, a trickle of new money and that becomes the University's budget. Therefore, any new programs have to be funded either externally or internally---we drop some things and we add others. For instance, some faculty has been added. **2. The Compact:** President

Fernandez sees The Compact as a new approach; the word itself implies several partners who have to live up to their expectations included in the Compact. In this case, the Compact includes the state, the city, students, and the University, including private contributions. (So far the University has done well in capital projects which are a separate project.) What drives the Compact is the University's Master Plan, with one intent being to hire more full-time faculty. Academic support, student services, work force development, information management, facilities reconstruction---all these elements drive The Compact. The idea is a partnership between the State of New York, in the case of the senior colleges, and the City of New York, in the case of the community colleges, who agree to assume mandated costs, which are negotiated agreements. The State is to assume responsibility for these mandated costs; that has never happened. We can hope that future legislatures will continue to support the idea; if not, we no longer have a Compact. Assuming we pick up 100 percent of the mandated costs, and in addition to that, 20 percent of additional costs such as new expenditures for the program, the University then through private fund raising and modest tuition increases will be able to generate substantial resources that will be invested in specific plans that meets the needs of local institutions. Lehman's share of that will be 1.9 million dollars. To put this in perspective, President Fernandez referred to Table 1 in the document, "Funding History for the City University of New York—Fiscal Year 1991-- Fiscal Year 2005," showing that in 15 years (1991-2005), that state has increased its contribution to the University by only \$51 million. As for tuition and other revenue, which accounted for 21.4 percent, or 247 million dollars, is now \$505 million which represents almost 44 percent of the overall cost of \$1.7 billion. There's been a change of 49.3 percent, but in fact the bulk of that money has come from tuition increases. These increases have come at the worst possible time when the state is in dire straits and when people don't have jobs. Furthermore, we need new monies to balance inflationary costs. It must come from the state which has many competing agendas at a time when costs are going up. The question is can we come up with a predictable way each year of providing new funding so we can depend on dealing with specific needs? What the Chancellor is proposing is a way to do that, though there is a 50/50 chance of it going through. It will be decided this spring in Albany. From the Compact document, President Fernandez referred to the statement on Page 4 that "the University commits to funding the balance of the Investment Plan, 30 percent of the Master Plan through a combination of sources that include: Philanthropy, Restructuring, Enrollment Growth, and Tuition Revenue Policy. On tuition increases (Page 8) went though projected increases from 2006-07 through 2009-10. Conceivably, there could be no tuition increase in any one year, if additional funds were available. An extensive discussion followed the President's comments. The emphasis was on rationality and predictability in dealing with a budget.

C. University Faculty Senate Report: 1. Compact: Prof. Philipp mentioned that the Senate has been having ongoing discussions on the Compact, saying that we all recognize the need for new money. **2. Two State Universities:** Prof. Philipp noted there are two state universities in New York—one is CUNY and the other is SUNY. He thought it interesting to weigh how one does as against the other with the conclusion that SUNY has done twice as well. CUNY senior colleges in real dollars have declined from \$7,000 to \$5,000 per FTE in 2003. SUNY, on the other hand, went from \$7,855 to \$10,677 in

aggregate numbers, SUNY getting almost double per student; this results in a horrendous bleeding effect for CUNY. The question is why? Why is the legislature providing almost double support per student at SUNY? The CUNY Chancellor is trying to get around this fundamental funding problem. **3. Conference:** The recently held UFS fall conference had to do with academic freedom issues, featuring Roger Bowen, president of the American Association of University Professors. In Mr. Bowen's opinion, tenure without fair pay is a meaningless concept. **4. Faculty Experience Survey:** This survey, run by the University Faculty Senate, is now available and will be distributed at the next Lehman Faculty meeting. **5. Online B.A.:** The Senate was asked to nominate three faculty members to the steering committee. President Kelly of the Professional School of Studies declined nomination since his school is not connected to the undergraduate programs. The Senate also declined to name members since there are serious questions about the quality of the offerings which have to be high if funding is to be obtained. **6. Science Doctoral Programs:** The restructuring of these programs is now on-going. Vice Chancellor Botmen has asked campuses for further comments. A hearing will be held on December 16 at the Graduate Center. There are not many official documents so far but one will be available in the future. **6. CUNY Master Plan:** The Chancellor has asked that in the future a large proportion of CUNY construction funds be done by public and private efforts. The first model for this is at New York City Technical College where a building has been proposed and passed by a committee of the Board of Trustees. It will be two-thirds private apartments and one-third belonging to the college and University. The State Division of the Budget later asked for the project to be tabled because it is a controversial item, suggesting it may be stymied.

D. Report of Vice President Wheeler: (Due to a breakdown in the auditorium's sound system, this is, of necessity, a condensed report.) **1. Budget:** Vice President Wheeler gave voice to this year's budget crisis and its implications. He expressed concern about the financial plan, especially since some savings might not be viable, given the growth of this institution, and he is not confident that we will make it through the fiscal year. Several fact underline why things are different. Last year, for example, the CUTRA account at this time was \$1.7 million. To extract ourselves from last year's fiscal year, we used CUTRA; now we have \$500,000 available in this category. What we are facing is a change in the revenue target. Last year, \$33 million had to be generated while this year the revenue target is \$35 million. So even though we exceeded revenue collection, the first \$2 million generated did not come back to the college. As another complication, skilled workers (e.g., carpenters, painters) received settlements that go back five year at a cost in excess of \$300,000, which is not being refunded by the state. Currently, Mr. Wheeler's office is working with the deans on such costs as temp services, OTPS, and adjuncts, but we are not sure if the spending limitations will work. In the next few weeks, there will be a meeting with the Central Office to come to an agreement on the budget plan. Lehman was asked to submit a budget request, and it was important to come up with a plan. There is a possibility that \$1.9 million will come to the college for new initiatives.

E. New business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, February 22, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Bullaro
Executive Committee