

LEHMAN COLLEGE

The City University of New York Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty Wednesday, February 22, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Robert Feinerman, chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meetings of September 21 and November 16 of 2005 were submitted and approved.

2. Communications:

A. President's Report:

- 1. Welcome:** President Ricardo Fernandez extended a warm welcome to Vice Chancellor Malava who would speak next and answer questions.
- 2. New Semester:** The President said that the semester has gotten off to a good start. Enrollments are holding up as will be indicated in the Provost's report.
- 3. Albany Visit:** At the end of January, the President was in Albany, visiting the Bronx delegation to brief them on the CUNY COMPACT and the concept of financing the University in the years ahead. He found them highly receptive and learned that the Assembly was making higher education a top priority in this particular session and in the future.
- 4. American Council on Education:** President Fernandez attended the conference of the American Council on Higher Education. A new campaign was announced that is being sponsored by the Council and many other institutions including corporate sponsors to enlist support for higher education across the United States. The campaign that will be launched in mid-March will be called "Solutions for our future." Extensive pro bono ads, now appearing in the media, are expected to have an impact. Unless we invest as a country, the ads argue, we as a nation will lose our competitiveness in a global economy.

B. Report of Vice Chancellor Malave:

- 1. Budget Committee:** Mr. Malave broke the news that President Fernandez was recently named vice chair of the American Council on Education.
- 2. Budget Committee:** the vice chancellor recently met for the first time with the Lehman Budget Committee, a group of ten, and assessed it not only as helpful but in all was also a pleasant experience. He concluded that the committee has a good grounding in finances with a level of disclosure not found on many campuses.
- 3. CUNY COMPACT:** On the agenda was the CUNY Compact. To be recognized is the increase of \$15 million over 15 years for the support of the senior colleges with \$500 million coming in the form of tuition, which shows how the priorities are set in New York. It indicates how difficult it is for New York to find a way to fund higher education. We would ask the state to cover 70 percent of the cost of financing our needs, and we would figure out how to do the rest. Private donors will give us money for student support, for faculty support, for laboratory support, for higher instrumentation. We even went to the students and asked them to make an investment; people find this extraordinary. The deal is that their tuition will be raised a modest two or three percent or even less in a given year, and in return they get a say on how the resources are deployed. We even had the faculty engaged, though they weren't thrilled by it, but they didn't vote against it.

Everyone understood there was going to be some shared sacrifice, and everyone was going to be contributing. So what happened? We had a budget request of \$86.5 million and more than half was to cover the mandatory cost increases. The other \$37.2 million was to cover the investment program. Now we have an investment plan for Lehman College that has a total of \$2.5 million and almost \$2 million of it providing improved academic services and student support services. It worked well because it got faculty and students together to produce it. The governor's budget recommended an increase in support of \$61.8 million. We have an executive budget that only leaves us with a gap of almost \$20 million from what we had sought. Even before going to the legislature we now already have in the executive budget of an additional \$20 million to for investment purposes for the colleges So this request is already more than half funded. However, the governor didn't accept our recommendation on tuition. We had recommended an increase of only \$130 for undergraduate students, and Albany countered with \$300. We indicated we wanted the COMPACT funded, that the governor's tuition was too high, that we would do no more than \$130. Democrats in the Assembly proposed eliminating the tuition increase, which would represent a cost of \$45.7 million. Finally, we're recommending an increase of \$1.5 million or a ten percent increase in the SEEK program. The budget is expected to be approved fairly on time.

C. University Faculty Senate Report: Prof. Esther Wilder reported. **1. School of Professional Studies:** Considerable attention in recent months has been given to the proposed online degree program in Culture and Communications that will be offered through the School of Professional Studies. It is expected to begin operation during the 2006-2007 academic year. At the January plenary session, the UFS voted in favor of a resolution to reject the letter of intent for the online B.A. program. Many senators said that the UFS had not been adequately consulted. The SPS voted its approval, and it has widespread support by the central administration and the student senate; the trustees likely will approve it. Vice Chancellor Schaffer said the UFS does not have the authority to authorize and oversee the online degree program and that there exists an appropriate curricular committee for undergraduate education in the SPS. In response, Chairwoman O'Malley argued that the structure of the curriculum committee of the SPS is faulty because it is made up of the same faculty who develop the curriculum. **2. Open Meetings Law:** This is another subject the UFS has been giving considerable attention. To recap: under the Open Meetings law, the public has a right to attend any meeting of a public body, which also must be announced in advance. Moreover, the business of the meeting must be recorded and written in minutes and a record must be maintained of the final vote of each member of the committee on matters where votes are formally taken. In certain limited situation, committees have the right to convene in executive sessions. These requirements apply not only to public bodies but to their various committees and subcommittees. More specifically, these regulations now apply to all college councils and senates and the various senate committees. However, the Vice Chancellor reported that the P&Bs are a different matter, and he would resist efforts in this direction. A quorum is required for any official action taken by committees. **3. Graduate School of Journalism:** Steve Shepherd, the new Dean of the Journalism school, recently addressed the UFS. The school will open in September with the first 50 students and will be organized as a three

semester program (fall, spring, summer internship, and then fall semester again). There will be a three subject concentration: urban reporting, business and economics, and health and medicine. The first year will have a core of six faculty, adjuncts and faculty from other CUNY campuses. The school will be located at 40th street, between 7th and 8th avenues in the old Herald Tribune building. The tuition will be about \$7,500 a year compared to \$35,000 for NYU or Columbia and will be the only publicly supported graduate school of journalism in the Northeast. Chancellor Goldstein commented that the affordable tuition as well as \$4 million in scholarships from the Sulzberger family would help make the program affordable for those who previously had not had an opportunity.

4. Teaching Loads: Faculty have expressed concerns about inequalities in teaching loads across campuses. The Chancellor responded that some of the colleges have the capacity to release faculty more than others, in part because of their financial base. In particular, the newer institutions such as John Jay never got the base of operating aid they should have been given. The Chancellor said it will take a while to redress these imbalances.

5. Science Doctoral Program: The Chancellor updated the UFS on efforts to strengthen the doctoral programs in sciences at CUNY. He has a panel of distinguished visitors who are making recommendations on doctoral programs in the sciences. He wants the best doctoral students possible and will give them competitive financial packages and wants to empower the campuses with degree-granting authority.

6. Faculty Experience Survey: At the December plenary, Professor Dean Savage from Queens College spoke about the Faculty Experience Survey. (a hard copy was made available). Last spring, the UFS surveyed 6,200 full-time faculty and received about 2,000 responses (a 33 percent return). According to Professor Savage, the diversity in findings (by campuses) suggests that “CUNY as a whole...is a mythical creature that doesn’t really exist.” Rather, he argued, “We exist on campuses; we exist in particular environments.” Many faculty voiced the opinion that the survey should be used in the evaluation of administrators at the various campuses.

7. Budget: Both Chancellor Goldstein and Vice Chancellor Malave spoke about the budget. The Chancellor noted that for the first time in a long time, CUNY has substantial additional dollars. At the January plenary, he said he had never been more optimistic at this time of the year, and he predicted that CUNY will have real money to make the kind of investments we’ve been talking about for the second year of the Master Plan.

8. Fund Drive: The Chancellor was also asked about the CUNY fund drive. He responded that the Campaign is going “splendidly.” He said that while the target is currently \$1.2 billion, it will likely be raised to \$1.4 billion.

D. Provost’s Report:

1. Teacher Academy: Provost Garro discussed a major initiative that will be taken by the University in the fall. This is a partnership that involves CUNY’s six campuses: City, Hunter, Brooklyn, Queens, Lehman, and Staten Island. These campuses are developing an academy that will prepare secondary school teachers in math and the sciences (biology, chemistry, and earth sciences). It will be modeled after the Honors College in that students will be given full tuition, an opportunity for stipends, for working during the summer, and a curriculum enriched in math and sciences.

2. Honors: Our chair of nursing, Alicia Georges, received a significant honor---New York University honored her with an award called of Accomplishment. The other significant award is that one of the Lehman scholars, Alice Michelle Augustine has received the Soros Award. This was a nationwide competition among 800 applications

from 257 undergraduates and 150 graduates . Alice, a political science major, was one of the few students in the New York area to receive this award which will cover one-half of her tuition for the first two years of law school. In addition, it will provide a stipend of \$20,000 a year for two years. **3. Enrollment Report:** At Provost Garro's invitation Paul Kreuzer pointed to a handout that displayed the enrollment figures for Spring compared to Spring 2005. We are down 132 students in comparison. Our overall headcount for spring was 10,522. There is a decrease in the SEEK population that was mandated by 80th Street. We admitted a much smaller class in the fall and that follows through. Another trend is a clear increase in retention among undergraduate degree students with the long-term effect of graduating more students more quickly, which in turn reduces the total headcount. Last year we graduated over 2000 students in June, and that partly is what's going on here. There seem to be a steady decline in our graduate students. That's partly due to the number of teaching fellows which changes every year and to the dramatic increase of \$125 last year in the application fee.

E. New business

There was no new business.

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

The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Russo Bullaro
Executive Committee

