

LEHMAN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Professor Manfred Philipp, chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2007 were submitted and approved.

2. Communications:

A. President's Report:

State Budget: President Fernandez just returned from a trip to Albany with the Bronx delegation. Their discussion centered on the capital items, specifically the Phase II request on the funding for our science facility, which is \$230 million. The budget the Governor proposed— \$960 million for capital over the next five years – is about half of what the University had requested. Therefore, it does not include the Lehman project as well as a number other projects from various institutions. Over the last ten years, the Bronx has received \$211 million; by contrast, the total for Manhattan, which has more schools than in the Bronx, received over the same period \$1.8 billion. Staten Island ended up with only \$18 million, but keep in mind they just completed a new campus that cost \$360 million. Brooklyn's totals for the same period was \$572 million, most of which went to Brooklyn College. In Queens \$302 million was awarded. If you add all these up, it comes to \$4 billion, of which \$211 million came to the Bronx. This was news to the Bronx delegation and raised many questions, which need to be addressed to the Trustees and to the Central Administration. The COMPACT was also discussed. Unless the legislature comes up with the money or unless some other funds become available, a tuition increase is on the horizon, though, typically, not in an election year. We have searches on for faculty on the premise that we have COMPACT 3 to give us half the money. These are the realities: the consequences of the governor not having allowed a tuition increase. The way the budget looks, we didn't get a tuition increase, and we didn't get any new money. So we are in a hole for \$17 million CUNY-wise. The visit to Albany was a fruitful day. And the group will return again with some faculty and students.

B. Provost Mary Papazian:

Proposed new standards: Provost Mary Papazian began by reminding the Senate of Lehman's Mission and Values Statements and by recalling President Fernandez's reflection (in 2000) on CUNY Central's language on tiering: "From its origins, Lehman has been characterized by a superb faculty and a variety of high quality academic programs, as well as by other features associated with top-tier colleges across the country. [I]t is essential that our college be seen in this light. I stand ready to do my part to make this happen, and I invite you to join me in the effort." These probing questions, she said, precipitated the development of the President's Advisory Committee. Many steps have been taken in the past eight years to move us forward in

this direction. Some involve the development of external funding, which has taken a real rise in the last eight years. We have recruited and continue to recruit fine faculty. We are engaged in the Graduate Center in an active way. All these are measures the President indicated in 2000. There still is one missing piece in this puzzle. It is the profile of our students as they enter the institution. A profile of Lehman entering students in the Fall 2006 cohort was reviewed. The bulk of the students are below 1000 on the SAT, which provides a clear picture of what we're talking about. The question then is, what will raising the required minimum SAT mean for enrollment? We know there are many Bronx students who are attending CUNY schools, and these schools are not in the Bronx. In some cases, it has to do with the programs they're offering. But when you look at the numbers they are far out of proportion to the program differences. We know we have a first-class faculty and first-class programs, but we know prospective students are going elsewhere.

The Provost presented a chart. It showed the SAT scores of first-time freshmen who actually took the time to fill out applications to come to Lehman. Starting with the students scoring less than 700, we have 1,500 who applied and 32% who came. In the 700-800 range, we have 2,000 students who applied and 29% who came. Go to the 900-990, and we have 18% who came. We could do a lot better in that range and in the 1,000-1,100 range. One of the goals of the proposal is to encourage students in the 900-1,000 range to see us not just as a backup.

There are many things we can do to reach out to these target students. We know that students who visit the campus early on are more likely to come here. The higher we set the bar, the more students rise to meet the challenge. We need to work with the community colleges so we can create a seamless and strong partnership. There are students who need a little more time to prepare for success here; the Community Colleges know how to bring their students to a level where they can be successful. The enrollment plan can be strengthened in several ways. One way is to increase enrollment in the summer session. Another is to increase enrollment in the winter intersession to increase the number of credits students take each academic year. New graduate programs such as the MSW, MPH, the MA in Ed Leadership, and the proposed MS in Business offer further opportunities for enrollment growth. Another way is to increase scholarship dollars available to recruit well-prepared first-time freshmen; e.g., by creating four-year scholarship packages.

Many of the concerns about the change in standards have to do with enrollment. Some 350 FTEs translate at the undergraduate level into a projected loss of \$1,400,000. You make that up through the areas just mentioned. One chart shows, for example, the projected new revenue over five years in the graduate programs, and the bottom line shows the new revenues over five years. The next chart shows the Winter session, ranging from 2007 to 2013. Note that the graduate tuition is \$270 per credit. Based on these plans, we would be getting a million dollars in new revenue.

In the next three to five years, Lehman anticipates becoming a college of choice for more and more well prepared students in the Bronx and the surrounding region. Lehman is confident that those changes in freshmen and transfer admission standards will result in improvements in student success and graduation rates over time. This implementation plan will engage faculty, current students, administrators, alumni, and

our colleagues in the CUNY central office. It will need all our efforts to be successful and to prepare our students for worldwide competition.

C. Report of Associate Provost Robert Troy:

Enrollment: The flash enrollment was distributed earlier. On the first page we have first-time freshmen in terms of regular admits and SEEK. In the Spring we take very few SEEK students. For Fall/Spring 2008, we had 115 new students; for Spring 2007 we had 106 students: an increase of 9 students. We have seen an increase over last year this Spring in freshmen and in transfers from 785 to 801. The second page gives us our continuing degree students' headcount and SEEK. The first two paragraphs - the Non-SEEK/College Discovery and the SEEK/College Discovery - can be looked at for a comparison. There are some errors in the numbers that will be adjusted in the final report, but there is an increase in enrollment. Next is Graduate Enrollment: we brought in 194 new graduate students this Spring versus 177 last year and also showed an increase in our degree graduate students from 176 to 192. Until they are finalized the figures cannot be used to make comparisons to last year.

D. Report of Helene Silverman:

1. Contract and FMLA: Prof. Silverman said she would like to be able to say that we have a marvelous contract but while there have been a good many informal meetings there has been no formal meeting. One of the big issues now is CUNY mergers, and this issue actually overlaps the FMLA with sick leave. There are many people who have found themselves in trouble because they ran out of paid time and they may even have had to be on maternity leave or have had a serious illness. But there is a campaign going on now to really push the aggregate FMLA from the sick-leave bank. There also seems to be a lot of confusion about FMLA and Travia. There seems to be a misunderstanding: it just seems like every other person who has to go with FMLA or Travia gets things mixed up. I want to get a feeling here from the group here before I arrange a meeting, because it takes a lot to get someone from Central because it's one person serving the entire University. If I don't hear anything else, I'm going ahead. **2. The evaluation process:** Next Tuesday we have a meeting again for untenured faculty because I want to find out if people understand the evaluation process, the annual evaluation and even the observation, maintaining a file, and not waiting until somebody says, "You really need a file. Your papers are going up for review." So please encourage the junior faculty to come to the informal meeting I'm holding in the Apex next Tuesday from 10:00-noon in the conference room.. If any of the chairs or those who are mentoring people who would like to come, please do: everybody is welcome.

E. Report of UFS Chair Manfred Philipp:

1. The Governor's Commission on Higher Education (CHE): This body issued its preliminary report on December 1 (<http://www.hecommission.stateny.us/>). It called for hiring 2,000 new faculty in CUNY and SUNY over the next five years. It also advocates a state research grant program for the public and private universities. Members of the UFS testified to the Commission on December 5 and 11. Prof. Philipp emphasized the need for 4,000 additional faculty for CUNY to bring the

student/professor ratio back to the level extant in the late 1970s. He said that past imposition of tuition increases was associated with reductions in state support for CUNY. CHE's preliminary report illustrates CUNY's under-funding: "In 1991-92 constant dollars total operating [CUNY & SUNY] budget funding per FTE declined from \$8,178 to \$6,997 (14.4%)." Prof. Philipp testified on the Commission Report at the NYS Assembly Committee on Higher Education January 24 in Albany. He again emphasized that the number of faculty hires suggested in the Commission report was, for CUNY, too small to recover from past losses. A similar report was made to State Senator Ken LaValle in a personal meeting.

2. Capital Budget: The Governor has proposed a state budget that provides for a small per student decrease in funding and nearly halves the proposed capital budget. The COMPACT advocated by the Commission was not mentioned. The Governor's proposal reduces base operating aid funding from \$2,675 to \$2,625 for the SUNY and CUNY community colleges. Some \$451.1 million is proposed for SUNY community colleges—a net 0.9% increase of \$1.7 million. The Governor recommends a total of \$1.7 billion for CUNY's gross operating budget, representing an increase of 3.2% or \$52.6 million. The increase in CUNY's enrollment last year is given as 3.6%. (It is not clear if the governor wishes to allow CUNY to keep the proceeds from any increase in enrollment. This will be checked out.) For the CUNY Community Colleges, the 2008 Budget is \$570.6 million, up 6.8% from last year. The CUNY capital budget request for the two-year colleges is insufficient. The CUNY capital request for the four-year colleges is \$5.96 billion; for the two-year colleges it is \$2.09 billion, of which the city is requested to provide \$1.07 billion, all over the next five years. The state requires a city match for many two-year college capital projects. Some \$22.1 million of the two-year college request does not go to construction, but to the CUNY First computer project. For laboratory science upgrades, the two-year college request is only \$3.5 million, a paltry amount compared to the \$47.5 million requested for the four-year colleges. (All two-year college discussions include Medgar Evers College.) What makes this worse are the continued increases in construction costs. One positive item is that CUNY is dissolving its sole-source relationship with DASNY. A new relationship where DASNY competes to get CUNY construction contracts may well result in quality construction.

3. Engineering Doctoral Programs: The Board of Trustees voted to move the administration of these programs from the Graduate Center to City College. The program has not been de-listed as a Graduate Center program. The engineering faculty at CSI will continue in the program as before.

4. Joint Doctoral Degrees: The trustees also voted to create degrees in Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Physics at Hunter and CCNY. These are joint with the Graduate Center. The Hunter and CCNY Senates, as well as the Graduate Council, had voted to support the concept of those degrees. The Graduate Council had adopted additional conditions, which provide that the Graduate Center maintain control over curriculum, the certification of graduates, and overall program governance. These conditions were restated in verbal comments by administration representatives at the meeting. The Board of Trustees also voted to create joint degree status for Hunter College for the Doctorate in Public Health (DPH). The UFS representative supported the resolution at the Committee level. The Graduate Council had passed a resolution supporting the DPH that was quite similar to that for the four natural sciences doctoral degrees. All of the joint

degree resolutions stated that the curricula and the faculty in the programs would remain unchanged. How these changes will affect the doctoral programs is uncertain. Public testimony indicated that other members of the consortium, such as Queens, Brooklyn, and York, are not helped and could well be hurt by the higher prominence given to Hunter and CCNY. There was no public testimony from CSI and Lehman. It is for that reason that the Graduate Council voted to facilitate their entry into the roster of joint degree campuses. Also the concentration of science construction on the CCNY campus (the Advanced Science Research Center) combined with the Governor's reduction in the CUNY requested capital budget means that the capital budget has to be watched closely for possible negative impacts on the other campuses. **6. Interest payments:** Press reports confirmed at 80th Street indicate that CUNY is paying over \$1 million per week as interest payments on \$1 billion in debt. The payments have doubled since the beginning of the sub-prime mortgage crisis.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.
4. The next scheduled reception and meeting will be at 1:30 on Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Carey
Executive Committee