

**LEHMAN COLLEGE****The City University of New York  
Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the General Faculty  
Wednesday, September 20, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Professor Robert Feinerman, 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 meetings of May 10, 2006 were submitted and approved.

**2. Communications:**

**A. President's Report:**

**1. Welcome Back:** President Fernandez was glad to see everyone back, sensing new energy carrying us through the new semester with a good number of new faculty, some of whom were introduced later in the meeting.

**2. New Provost:** We are now engaged in a search for a new provost. William Tramotano is serving as acting provost and Marc Lazarus as acting dean. A committee has been working since this summer with Prof. Ira Bloom, Political Science, the committee chair; and including Prof. Eugene Chudnovsky, distinguished professor of physics; Prof. Feinerman, Mathematics and Computer Science; Prof. Alicia Georges, Nursing; Prof. John Holloway, Student Affairs; Dean Michael Paul, Adult and Continuing Education; Associate Dean Susan Polirstok, Education; Prof. Duane Tananbaum, History; Prof. Xavier Totti, Latin American, Caribbean and Puerto Rican Studies, and Vice President Derek Wheeler, Administration and Finance. Information on progress will be posted on the web.

**3. Budget Request:** We are now in the second round of our budget request under the CUNY COMPACT. Last year the University proposed a new concept and the legislature ultimately agreed to a great extent and CUNY COMPACT 1 came about. This year, for the first time in a long time, we have new resources, specifically \$1.9 million.

**4. Student Retention:** The focus here is on retention and graduation. We have been successful in recruiting students and in creating a positive image of the University by attracting high quality students. The campaign for success is the Executive Vice Chancellor's and the Chancellor's idea of retaining students once we get them here, not just for this coming year but as an on-going effort which will be factored into the Campaign for Success.

**5. Vice President for Information Technology:** A search is being conducted to fill this position on a permanent basis and also that of chief librarian. Information technology, long under funded, needs to be emphasized.

**6. Graduations:** President Fernandez discussed a *New York Times* article (which was distributed) on graduation rates. For example, York College is cited as 30 percent and Lehman College as 34 percent. Some of our students take just one or two courses per semester and inevitably take anywhere from eight to twelve years to graduate. The Campaign for Success aims to encourage these students to graduate sooner. President Fernandez, as one of the members of the Board of the American Council on Education, said that over the last year the Secretary of Education has established a major Commission on the future of

higher education in the United States. A report will be issued by the end of this month. The President urged the faculty to scrutinize the report because it will affect us directly.

**B. Provost's Report:**

**1. New Appointments:** Provost Tramontano introduced the 2006-2007 Full-Time Appointments as follows. Music: Allan Molnar, College Lab Technician; Cynthia Peterson, Sub-Lecturer. Philosophy: Carl Brownson, and Brian Madden, Sub- Lecturers. Library: Addle Armstrong, Jessica Hernandez, and Adelaide Soto, Sub-Lecturers. Arts and Humanities. English: Lise Esdaile, Sub-Lecturer. History: Cindy R. Lobell, Assistant Professor; Amy Van Natter, Sub-Lecturer. Journalism, Communication and Theater. Laurie Degen, College Lab; Miguel Perez, Professor. Languages and Literatures: Bernardo Viano, Sub Lecturer. Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies: Kathleen Lopez, Associate Professor; Martha Velasco-Whetsell, Sub-Associate Professor. Sociology and Social Work: Grigoris, Argeros, Sub-Instructor; Jessica Kahn, Instructor.

**2. New Science Building:** The Provost indicated we're running a little bit behind in the construction, but we will break ground at the conclusion of the spring semester. We're now in the last phase of design and development in Phase One

**3. The Middle States:** We are now in the beginning of the cycle with the steering committee beginning in earnest in the spring in what is obviously a group effort.

**4. Master's in Social Work:** Also, we are now in the middle of a successful accreditation visit on our new Master's in social work. Next year, we have one more visit to go until social work becomes a self-standing department which is to occur in July 2008.

**5.** At 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27 in the Lovinger Theater, the annual Constitution Day lecture will take place. The Provost expressed the wish that everyone attend.

**6. Sponsored Research:** We are now receiving \$19 million a year in sponsored research which makes us third or fourth in CUNY (depending on how you evaluate it). We just received another Title Five grant in the Department of Education for \$600,000 a year for five years. It is designed to help what we call "transition to the major" where students have difficulties crossing that threshold in going from the 100 to the 200 level and then getting into the major courses.

**C. University Faculty Report.** Prof. Feinerman introduced Prof. Manfred Philipp in his new role as chair of the University Faculty Senate; he was greeted with applause from the General Faculty.

**1. Additional Lehman Member:** Prof. Philipp indicated that another member of the Lehman faculty who is also on the University faculty executive committee is Bernard Baumrin from the Philosophy Department.

**2. Several Current Concerns:** The Senate interacts with a number of central organizations in CUNY such as voted memberships on certain Board of Trustees' committees. Prof. Philipp divides his time between 80<sup>th</sup> Street and the campuses. He also visits with the college presidents to discuss how best their submissions can be made to the Board, preferably passed by their local government structures.

**3. New documents:** Vice President Schaffer is proposing several documents that will be of great interest to faculty members. One is a proposed document on faculty misconduct, which our own Senate should consider.

**4. Computer Use:** Legitimate use of Lehman resources with certain prohibitions will be specified in a new document, which will apply university-wide and supercede all local regulations. A draft version is on the net.

**5. Ethics Statement:** This document details what faculty members can and cannot do in accepting money. As to certain

organizations there is a zero limit .and a \$75 limit on others. Violations call for state fines up to \$10,000 plus jail terms. **6. Enrollment Management:** The upcoming Spelling's report may change the way universities are run in this country and the way we deal with our students. The UFS plans to have a conference on this subject, possibly on November 3. **6. ERP Process:** This is ongoing and the contract may already have been signed.

**D. Report of VP Derek Wheeler. 1. 2007 College Budget:** The Vice President reminded everyone that the fiscal year for the university runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Late in July we received our initial budget allocations. Usually at this time we have our snapshots of financial projections for the fiscal year, but the projections are not yet available. Mr. Wheeler believes we will have a balanced budget. **2. Exceptional Contribution Award:** Each year at the Financial Management Conference, productivity awards are made to colleges or individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to CUNY during the preceding year. Mr. Wheeler was proud to announce that Rene Rotolo, director of Campus Facilities, won one of two individual productivity awards from CUNY for this year. She won the award for the implementation, design and saving of building management systems that control energy factors on campus. **3. Carman Hall Elevators:** Ms. Rotolo then outlined a series of complicated problems, largely dealing with upgrades and construction, which involve the three elevators in Carman Hall. The northwest elevator has been in full service since September 11. The southeast elevator is back in service. The IT elevator will not go out of service until the southeast elevator is in full service. **4. Student Enrollment in 2006:** Dr. Robert Troy reported "that our enrollments are doing extremely well his year." In a flash report as of September 9, he said our freshmen regular admits are up 13.7 percent and our transfer students are up 13.2 percent. In terms of our overall head count, including undergraduate and graduate, the increase is 2.5 percent or an enrollment 10,879 students. In the discussion, Dr. Troy commented he would like to see an increase in retention rates. **5. Printing in Library and IT Center:** Joseph Middleton said faculty printing in the IT Center has been introduced partially. This system has been in the works for several years, approved in the spring of 2005 and introduced in late August. As we go through the fall semester, the system is continually being tweaked. We are eager to see that those paying for it, i.e., the student, are the primary beneficiaries. So the students get a free balance each semester; if they exceed that, they are obliged to pay additionally. Faculty who are teaching in classrooms at the IT Center or teaching at one of the classrooms at the Library receive a free balance so they can print in these facilities. If there are any questions on the Lehman Print System, information can be obtained from the IT Center Help Desk (718-960-1111, [Help.Desk@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:Help.Desk@lehman.cuny.edu), the Library Circulation Desk (718-960-8576), and the Reference Desk (718-960-8580).

## **E. New Business**

As required by Article 15.3 of the Board of Trustees By-Laws, Vincent Zucchetto said the General Faculty needs to elect a panel of six faculty members to serve on the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee for a term of one year. Members who have agreed to be nominated for election to this committee are: Professors Andrea Boyare, Nancy

Maldonado, Gary Schwartz, Esther Sloan, Duane Tananbaum, and Xavier Totti. The slate was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will begin with a reception at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Russo Bullaro  
Executive Committee