

1 **Minutes of**  
2 **The Lehman College Senate Meeting**  
3 **April 9, 2008**

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5 **Senators Present:** Afrani, D.; Albelda, V.; Alborn, T.; Bailey, M.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.;  
6 Barnes, C.; Bempah, G.; Bonastia, C.; Brown, K.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.;  
7 Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Chowdhury, N.; Decker, C.; DiPaolo, M.; Efthymious,  
8 J.; Em, C.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Figueroa, J.; Fiol-  
9 Matta, L.; Fleitas, J.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.;  
10 Gottlieb, M.; Graulau, J.; Haghighat, E.; Happany, K.; Harushimana, I.;  
11 Hirad, A.; Hurley, D.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.;  
12 Joseph, R.; Kulagina, K.; Kunstler, R.; Lerzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Magdaleno,  
13 J.; Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; Maybee, J.; Mazza, C.; McNaughton, C.;  
14 Merzel, C.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Niedt, P.; O'Hanlon, T.; Pant, H.;  
15 Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Pierre, K.; Polirstok, S.; Prohaska, V.; Reid, A.;  
16 Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Salamandra, C.; Salvatore, R.; Santiago, M.; Seiger,  
17 L.; Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tegeder, D.; Tilley, J.;  
18 Tramontano, W.; Trimboli, S.; Troy, R.; Verdejo, V.; Vitiello, A.; Voge, S.;  
19 Watson-Turner, S.; Weiner, A.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, E.; Worby, K.; Xia,  
20 Z.; Zwiren, M.

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22 **Senators Absent:** Amaechi, C.; Bodden, L.; Boone, R.; Bryant, S.; Collado, M.; Daci, H.;  
23 Dauben, J.; DeRoo, Z.; Dixon, S.; Enweronye-Okiro, P.; Ezeh, S.; Garanin,  
24 D.; Gbenga, A.; Gonzalez, M.; Holloway, J.; Hsueh, T.; Jones, L.; Kleiman,  
25 S.; Kouyate, M.; Lacson, J.; Lopez, M.; Lopez, R.; Myrie, D.; Negron, V.;  
26 Nnaji, C.; Ornstein, S.; Palaj, M.; Paull, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Phillip, B.;  
27 Qian, G.; Ramos, R.; Rice, A.; Rose, J.; Swinton, S.; Tabachnikov, A.;  
28 Tabing, M.; Taveras, F.; Totti, X.; Wheeler, D.; Zucchetto, V.; Zuss, M.

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30 The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at  
31 2:05 p.m.

32 **Minutes Adopted**

33 A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of  
34 March 5, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

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36 **Change in order:**

37 Motions were made and approved to change the order of presentations. Old  
38 Business was moved to lead the Standing Committee reports, and the University  
39 Faculty Senate report was moved to follow the Governance Committee report.

## Announcements and Communication

### **a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-**

1. President Fernández announced that the Master Plan of CUNY for 2008-2012 is being finalized. A draft of the plan was shared with groups on the campus for input. The Master Plan is the document that has to be submitted every five years to the Regents of the State of New York. Once approved, it is the document that guides the budget requests and drives the agenda for CUNY as a system.

2. Today at the Council of Presidents meeting. President Fernández saw some interesting statistics on the CUNY Alert System. This system, implemented by many universities, is designed to notify students by cell phone of an emergency on campus. The cell phone system is quite expensive, but CUNY petitioned to be part of New York State Alert, which was approved. Thus far, 8.9% of the students have enrolled; the goal is to have about 30% enrolled. Faculty and staff are also encouraged to sign-up.

3. Regarding the State Budget, the legislature is expected to vote today—late by a few days. Some of the cuts were restored, such as a \$650,000 SEEK appropriation. CUNY did very well in terms of the capital budget: \$1.3 billion in comparison to \$980 million that had been recommended. Funding for Phase II (design) of the Science Building at Lehman was included. There's also another \$250 million for a category known as critical maintenance, for an aging infrastructure.

4. It's always possible that in mid-year we'll have additional reductions. On the plus side, this spring we received some additional funding that enabled us to address pressing needs such as sprucing up the college and purchasing additional technology. Overall, and in spite of the budget problems that the State is undergoing, we expect that next year will be a stable one. We will be still hiring faculty, and as the Chancellor says, we want to implement some version of the COMPACT. Obviously no significant new monies and no tuition adjustments are anticipated, though some reserve monies from CUNY will be available to help us in this year. The short-term problem was \$18 million while the long term problem depends upon what happens with the State economy. President Fernández will be attending a CUNY conference and a major luncheon for elected officials on April 26. When the dust settles on the budget, we expect to learn more. The City budget comes out May 2 and while we are not affected significantly, we do have requests for capital money from the City to assist us with some of our projects.

5. There's a major new CUNY initiative called Summer in the City that will be unveiled shortly. For a number of years we have been promoting the notion that, to make progress on the degree, students should take advantage of summer school. CUNY wants to bundle all its colleges so as to become much more competitive in attracting CUNY and non-CUNY students. It's more of the campaign to brand CUNY and to become more competitive with other institutions.

75 **b. Student Conference-**

76 1. Student Conference Chair Ms. Nusrat Chowdhury pointed out that the bylaws have not been up-  
77 dated since 1974; they will be revised and presented to the Senate for approval.

78 2. One source of student complaints is the limited library hours, forcing students to use other  
79 facilities.

80 3. Messrs. Justin Simmons, Adnan Hirad, Jason Jeremias, and Ms. Nusrat Chowdhury met with Mr.  
81 Scott Dames regarding means to maximize scholarships.

82 4. The Conference met with a representative for the office of Students with Disabilities and  
83 discussed systematic improvement of accommodations on elevators and the use of brail on signs.

84 5. Specific responsibilities were assigned to members of the Steering Committee as follows: Mr.  
85 Jason Jeremias, Publicity Officer; Ms. Rovna-Lyn Joseph, Office Manager; and Mr. Angel Vitello,  
86 Secretary.

87 6. A vote was taken for the amendment of the by-laws which have not been changed since 1974. All  
88 were in favor.

89 7. The Conference reviewed the new Biology, Art, and Theatre courses. It was noted that the Theatre  
90 course will require students to attend a number of Broadway productions.

91 8. The committee recommends a Dean's list award for each semester of satisfactory merit as opposed  
92 to one cumulative award.

93 9. In the Open Forum, various issues were raised such as students paying for printing again; whether  
94 the withdraw clause is fair, and scholarships.

95 10. The next meeting will be held on April 16 in Room 112.

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97 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

98 **a. Old Business-**

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100 1. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee submitted the following Resolution: Whereas on  
101 February 6, 2008 the Governance Committee of the Lehman College Senate referred to the  
102 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee a proposal to reorganize the Department of Sociology and  
103 Social Work into the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Social Work and; Whereas on  
104 February 13, 2008 the Department of Sociology and Social Work voted to approve the reorganization  
105 of the Department into the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Social Work, effective  
106 July 1, 2008 and; Whereas after deliberation the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee voted on  
107 February 20, 2008 to endorse the proposal; be it

108 **Resolved** that the Lehman College Senate approve the reorganization of the Department of Sociology  
109 and Social Work into the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Social Work; and be it  
110 further

111 **Resolved** that the programs and courses in Sociology be transferred to the newly established  
112 Department of Sociology; and be it further

113 **Resolved** that the programs and courses in Social Work be transferred to the newly established  
114 Department of Social Work.

115 The motion was unanimously approved.

116  
117 **2.** Discussion was open to consider the Resolution regarding Admissions Requirements for Transfer  
118 Students, First-Time Freshman, and changes to the Basic Skills Requirements for Mathematics. Prof.  
119 John Mineka offered two amendments to the Resolution, both of which were seconded:

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121 **Amendment One:** Replace Section B of Minimum Requirements for Freshmen with: From Fall  
122 2009 entering students must have a CAA average of 80 or higher. In addition, a required SAT score  
123 will be phased in over a period of years: from Fall 2009, entering students must have a combined SAT  
124 of at least 800; from Fall 2010, they must have a combined SAT of at least 850, and from Fall 2011  
125 must have a combined SAT of at least 900. The amendment failed to carry.

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127 **Amendment Two:** Add to the paragraph following section B: A Senate committee to rule on  
128 exceptions to the admissions criteria shall be established, consisting of four faculty, two students and  
129 an administrator. The amendment failed to carry.

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131 **3.** President Fernández called the question on the original Resolution, namely, that the Lehman College  
132 Senate approve the Recommended Admissions Criteria for Transfer Students (effective Fall  
133 2009), the Recommended Changes to the Basic Skills Requirements for Mathematics (effective  
134 October 1, 2008), and the Minimum Requirements for Admission as a First-Time Freshman  
135 (effective Fall 2009), in the Report of the President’s Advisory Committee on Reassessing Access  
136 and Excellence at Lehman College.

137 The Resolution was approved with one abstention.

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139 **a. Committee on Governance**

140 **1.** Professor Duane Tananbaum said the Governance Committee met on March 27 and discussed  
141 the Bell Schedule but decided not to bring a motion before the Senate at this time.

142 **2.** The Committee nominated student John Figueroa to the Committee on Campus Life and  
143 Facilities. A motion was made to that end and Mr. Figueroa was elected.

144 **3.** Prof. Tananbaum provided a complete slate of Senate Committee nominations for 2008-2010  
145 for the approval of the Senate:

146 **Committee on Academic Freedom**

- 147 Prof. Jessica Shiller
- 148 Prof. Michael Buckley

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150 **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards**

- 151 Prof. David Rothchild
- 152 Prof. Xavier Totti
- 153 Prof. Amanda Gulla

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155 **Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning**

- 156 Prof. Haiping Cheng
- 157 Prof. Janet Munch

158 Prof. Vassilios Gargalas

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160 **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**

161 Prof. David Fletcher

162 Prof. Eleanor Campbell

163 Prof. Immaculee Harushimana

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165 **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**

166 Mr. Faymond Flook

167 Prof. Wesley Pitts

168 Mr. Thomas Conroy

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170 **Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum**

171 Prof. Barbara Jacobson

172 Prof. Alice Akan

173 Mr. David Hyman

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175 **Committee on Graduate Studies**

176 Prof. Timothy Alborn

177 Prof. Janet De Simone

178 Prof. Alicia Georges

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180 A motion was made to accept the slate of nominees. It was voted on and unanimously  
181 approved.

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183 **4.** Nominations for Faculty membership in the following related entities were presented:

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185 **Lehman College Association for Campus Activities (a one-year term)**

- 186
- 187 Prof. Andrea Boyar
- 188 Prof. Grace Bullaro
- 189 Prof. Mario Gonzalez-Corzo
- 190 Prof. Judith Duncker
- 191 Prof. David Manier
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193 A sixth person will be nominated at the next Senate meeting on April 30. Meanwhile, the  
194 above five nominations were voted on and unanimously approved. The President will select  
195 three of the six nominees.

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197 **Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation (a one-year term)**

- 198 Prof. Richard Blot
- 199 Prof. Daniel Bautista
- 200

201 The above nominations were voted on and unanimously approved. The President will select  
202 one of the two nominees.

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204 **5.** The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be held April 16 at 4 p.m in Shuster  
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**b. University Faculty Senate.**

**1.** Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that the Chancellery has submitted materials to the New York State Department of Education relating to the CUNY Board of Trustees decision to give Hunter and City College joint degree status in the Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Physics Doctoral Programs, to give Hunter College Joint Degree status for the Doctorate in Public Health, and to establish a Doctoral Program in Engineering at City College. The existing engineering programs at the Graduate Center continue, presumably, until the last student graduates.

**2.** The materials submitted to the NY State Education Department quote from a report on the natural sciences doctoral programs that states that for CUNY to continue to excel in the sciences in an increasingly competitive environment, resources must flow to the high quality programs, specifically those at Hunter and City College, which do the bulk of doctoral education university-wide in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and physics. Having CUNY's submission to the NY State Education Department quote this passage may have negative implications for funding models for the science academic departments that do not participate in doctoral education joint degrees, such as Lehman. No college senate has spoken to the joint degree issue other than Hunter, City, and the Graduate Center.

**3.** Moving associate programs from John Jay College to community colleges has begun. John Jay is moving from being a comprehensive college to a four-year senior college. Its associate programs in forensics and criminal justice are among the first to be approved at Hostos Community College. This will lead to a tighter association between community colleges such as Hostos and John Jay.

**4.** The Chancellery has provided the University Faculty Senate with a draft of a CUNY conflict of interest policy which was discussed at the April UFS plenary. Members of the UFS Executive Committee and the UFS Legal Affairs Committee will meet with Vice Chancellor Shaffer and his staff this Friday to suggest revisions in the proposed policy. Prof. Philipp learned that the CUNY Research Foundation plans to modify its conflict of interest policy to more closely adhere to the new CUNY policy. The policy is expected to be on the agenda at the June meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**5.** The Chancellery has provided the UFS with a draft of the CUNY Master Plan. A copy has been distributed to campus governance leaders in order to get back comments that can be

238 reported to Vice Chancellor Botman by April 21. The college presidents are charged with  
239 doing the same on their campuses.

240 **6.** As Lehman has already done, several college senates and councils are revising their  
241 governance plans. Prof. Philipp encourages governance leaders to consult with the UFS on  
242 these draft plans, well before they come to the CUNY Board committees where UFS  
243 representatives will vote for or against these revisions. It is important that revised plans  
244 maintain and enhance faculty influence in college governance.

245 **7.** Former UFS Chair Susan O’Malley has been elected President of the CUNY Academy of  
246 the Humanities and Sciences. Prof. Sandi Cooper, another former UFS chair, continues as  
247 treasurer. The Academy’s Higher Education Seminar Series continues; the most recent  
248 seminar was by Mary Nolan of NYU’s History Department, speaking on *The University*  
249 *Against Itself*. The UFS Spring Conference scheduled for this month has been cancelled.

250 **8.** Market conditions have had a continued impact on CUNY’s \$159 million investment  
251 portfolio. The composite return on equity investments over the last three months was  
252 -12.27%. This was below the S&P 500 benchmark of -9.68%. The overall composite three-  
253 month return for all investments was -7.46%. The Board Committee on Fiscal Affairs  
254 yesterday summarily withdrew from one poorly-performing investment fund.

255 **9.** CUNY’s tax levy budget will likely be reduced from that proposed by former Governor  
256 Spitzer. The effect of the change in governors on the proposed CUNY and SUNY Compacts  
257 for Higher Education is uncertain.

258 **10.** Prof. Philipp reported earlier that Governor Spitzer had significantly reduced CUNY’s  
259 five-year capital request. The capital budget for community colleges is further diminished by  
260 New York City’s failure to provide matching funds for funded State projects. The  
261 Chancellery has encouraged community colleges to concentrate their capital requests to  
262 those projects that already have State funding. The UFS has obtained a list of these State  
263 projects.

264 **c. Undergraduate Curriculum-**

265 **1.** Prof. Barbara Jacobson introduced proposals from the Department of Health Sciences that  
266 includes establishing a program in Exercise Science. There also were proposals from the  
267 Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre, and one proposal from the Department  
268 of Political Science. Also, there was one informational item, an experimental course from the  
269 Department of Biology. The report was approved.

270 2. The next meeting will be held on April 30 in Carman 221 at noon.

271 **d. Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards-**

272 There was no report.

273 **e. Committee on Graduate Studies-**

274 1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported one informational item, an experimental course from the  
275 Music Department. He also reported on a proposed new course from the Department of  
276 Health Sciences and one new course from the Political Science Department.

277 2. He reported on a proposed change concerning academic probation. It revises the wording  
278 in the graduate bulletin to state that graduate students with 9-17 graduate credits completed,  
279 and whose grade point average falls to 2.5 or lower, can continue in their graduate program  
280 only upon successful appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee. A second proposal from the  
281 Office of Graduate Studies is in regard to continuation. It points to the specific continuation  
282 requirements listed under different departments. The goal here is to address students' attention  
283 to continuation requirements which have become more rigorous in several of the new  
284 professional programs.

285 3. Also proposed is a Master of Science in Business with Specialization in Finance,  
286 Marketing, or Human Resource Management. International business was withdrawn from the  
287 original letter.

288 4. The report was approved.

289 5. The next meeting will be April 30 at 1 p.m in Shuster 106.

290 **f. Committee on Academic Freedom**

291 There was no report.

292 **g. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

293 1. Mr. James Carney was granted floor rights and presented several informational items. He  
294 said guest presenter Associate Provost Robert Whittaker talked about the current initiatives  
295 and goals in General Education to promote and track student information literacy.

296 2. Guest presenter Professor Susan Voge of the Library presented on the iSkills Assessment  
297 Test which Lehman, along with other select CUNY campuses are initially presenting to  
298 evaluate the information literacy skills of our students. The test measures a student's cognitive  
299 and technical skills and the ability to use digital technology, communication tools and



300 networks. Specific evaluations are returned to the students while results are aggregated for  
 301 institutional use on a comparative scale.

302 **3.** Guest presenter Professor Sandra DeMinco of the Library and committee member  
 303 Professor David Fletcher spoke about Information Literacy initiatives in the Education  
 304 program.

305 **4.** The Committee agreed to continue to monitor information literacy initiatives and issues and  
 306 to periodically report to the Senate.

307 **5.** Chief Librarian Professor Kenneth Schlesinger spoke about the electronic reserve system  
 308 which would enable instructors to have copyright-cleared documents scanned and made  
 309 available via the internet for student course work.

310 **6.** The Student Technology Survey was ready for publication when it was recommended that  
 311 the projected survey being created by the Lehman Website Development Committee be  
 312 combined under one survey. This is being done now and within days should be ready to be  
 313 launched.

314 **7.** Mr. Carney said that a new e-mail system will be available for students (not faculty) in  
 315 August.

316 **8.** The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29 in the Library Conference  
 317 Room.

318 **h. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

319 There was no report.

320 **i. Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning-**

321 There was no report. .

322 **NEW BUSINESS**

323 There was no new business.

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325 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier

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