

**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 29, 2009**

Senators Present: Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Baliaj, O.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bernstein, D.; Bodden, A.; Boone, R.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Choudhary, A.; Dauben, J.; DellaPina, M.; DiPaolo, M.; Duru, C.; Eldridge, D.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Flook, R.; Folsom, C.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Graulau, J.; Haghghat, E.; Happaney, K.; Harushimana, I.; Ho, A.; Holloway, J.; Iheanachor, G.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.; Jones, L.; Kleiman, S.; Kolb, P.; Kunstler, R.; Lertzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Lewis, K.; Lin, I.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Mineka, J.; Niedt, P.; Olabode, A.; Ona, S.; Ornstein, S.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Raam, R.; Reid, A.; Ruiz, J.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Seiger, L.; Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tegeder, D.; Thompson, P.; Totti, X.; Troy, R.; Vitiello, A.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Watson-Turner, S.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Acosta, G.; Adams, D.; Ajayi, D.; Amoama, C.; Ayala, N.; Bonastia, C.; Borrell, L.; Bouzalakos, H.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Crump, C.; Decker, C.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fleitas, J.; Fletcher, D.; Gerry, C.; Gonzalez, G.; Gulla, A.; Johnson, R.; Lewis, A.; Mbengue, K.; Maybee, J.; Middleton, J.; Munch, J.; Nnamani, S.; O'Hanlon, T.; Oviedo, M.; Perry-Rider, G.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Ramos, R.; Rice, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sakho, N.; Small, M.; Tabachnikov, A.; Thelusmond, A.; Tilley, J.; Trimboli, S.; Zwiren, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes Adopted:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 1, 2009. The minutes were unanimously approved with the amendment that Prof. Robert Feinerman did in fact present a short report on the Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee.

Announcements and Communication-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

President Fernández reported that at last Monday's Board of Trustees meeting, the

Chancellor announced that the University would implement the tuition increase that had been

42 approved by the Trustees in December 2008: \$300 a semester, \$600 a year. A certain
43 amount will be given back to the colleges as an investment in CUNY.

44 The President was pleased to hear that CUNY faculty won six Guggenheim fellowships. One
45 of our faculty members, Prof. Victoria Sanford from the Department of Anthropology, was
46 among the recipients. Earlier today, President Fernández attended a session in which Prof.
47 Sanford discussed her research on the massacres that took place in small towns in Guatemala
48 in the 1980s. She is working with human rights groups to bring some of those responsible to
49 justice. There was another distinction for Prof. Patricio Lertzundi, who won an Emmy for his
50 CUNY TV series *Nueva York*.

51 In addition, the President mentioned the Research Conference sponsored by Academic
52 Affairs that was held last week. He expressed his pride in the presentations given by our
53 students. He congratulated the students who presented and the faculty who worked with them
54 to develop these projects.

55 At last Sunday's Holocaust Remembrance event that was held at Temple Emanuel, Lehman
56 was represented by Acting Dean Deena Bernstein and some of the students.

57

58 b. **Student Conference-**

59 1. Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair, reported on the student elections. Last
60 night the Conference had a record turnout.

61 2. Mr. Jeremias registered some concern from students on how late Fall registration is.
62 Students wondered why this was happening.

63 3. The Conference is helping to sponsor the "Take Back the Night" series, which is taking
64 place tomorrow night, beginning with a rally at 6 p.m. in the Old Gym Building and then a
65 march and a candle-light vigil against domestic violence that takes place on campuses all
66 over the country.

67 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

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69 a. **Committee on Governance-**

70 1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum began with the election of the Senate committees. A full-slate
71 was distributed with the material for the meeting. He read the list of continuing members on
72 the committees, the names of the committees and the nominees proposed by the Governance
73 Committee. Everyone nominated has accepted. Prof. Tananbaum elaborated that nominees

74 could be added from the floor, or the slate could be approved as a whole. The nominees for
75 the two-year terms were as follows:

76 **Committee on Academic Freedom:** Prof. Robert Valentine, Department of History; Prof.
77 Margo Dellicarpini, Department of Middle and High School Education; and Prof. Mario
78 Gonzalez-Corzo, Department of Economics and Business. **Committee on Admissions,**
79 **Evaluations, Academic Standards:** Prof. Anne Rice, Department of African and African
80 American Studies; Prof. Ralph William Boone, Department of English; and Prof. Andrei
81 Jitianu, Department of Chemistry. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning:**
82 Prof. Helene Silverman, Department of Early Childhood and Childhood Education; Prof.
83 John Mineka, Department of Math and Computer Science; Prof. Carmen Saen-de-Casas,
84 Department of Languages and Literature; **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities:** Prof.
85 Janette Tilley, Department of Music, Prof. Patricia Kolb, Department of Social Work; and
86 Prof. Teresita Levy, Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies. **Committee on**
87 **Undergraduate Curriculum:** Prof. Robert Feinerman, Department of Math and Computer
88 Science; Prof. Banoum Bertrade Ngo-Ngijol, Department of African and African American
89 Studies; and Prof. Valerie Louisy-Louis Larifla, Department of Economics and Business.
90 **Committee on Graduate Studies:** Prof. Sharon Freedberg, Department of Social Work,
91 Prof. Grace Bullaro, Department of English, Prof. Juan J. De La Cruz, Department of
92 Economics and Business. A motion was made for the election of the above and they were
93 approved by voice vote.

94 2. As for the **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications**, the
95 Governance Committee presented as nominees: Mr. James Carney, Department of
96 Journalism, Communication and Theatre; Prof. Emine Kayaalp, Department of Economics
97 and Business; Prof. Chuck Woolridge, Department of History. The nomination of Prof.
98 Susan Markens, Department of Sociology, was made from the floor. A ballot vote was
99 taken, with instruction to select three out of the four. Prof. Woolridge, Prof. Markens and
100 Mr. Carney were elected.

101 3. The Governance Committee presented a slate of six nominees for the **Lehman College**
102 **Association for Campus Activities, Inc.** (2009-2010): Prof. Andrea Boyar, Department of
103 Health Sciences, Prof. Grace Bullaro, Department of English; Prof. Vassilios Gargalas,
104 Department of Economics and Business, Prof. David Manier, Department of Psychology;
105 Prof. Roman Muchnik, Department of Math and Computer Science, and Prof. Amanda
106 Wunder, Department of History. Prof. Maryam Bamshad-Alavi, Department of Biological

107 Sciences, was then nominated from the floor. A ballot vote was taken and Prof. Maryam
 108 Bamshad-Alavi, Prof. Andrea Boyar, Prof. Grace Bullaro, Prof. Vassilios Gargalas, Prof.
 109 David Manier, and Prof. Amanda Wunder were elected. The president will appoint three out
 110 of the six persons elected.

111 4. A vote was taken for the **Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation** (2009-2010). The two
 112 nominees presented by the Governance Committee were Prof. Allan Hollander, Department
 113 of Music and Prof. Thomas O’Hanlon of the Department of Journalism, Communication and
 114 Theatre. The slate was approved. The President will appoint one.

115 5. The Governance Committee is meeting at 3 p.m. on Friday in the Library’s Tree House
 116 Room. Ballots will be tabulated for the 78 people who will be nominated for faculty-at-large
 117 and then the appropriate number for other at-large groups as well. Results will go out early
 118 next week.

119 6. Work is continuing on revising the Governance document at the Friday meeting. When
 120 finished, it will be presented to CUNY and will then be brought before this body in the fall.

121 7. The final item was listed under “new business” on the agenda, but it’s part of the
 122 Governance Committee’s report. It is a resolution which reads as follows: “Resolved: The
 123 Lehman College Senate recommends that the organization and structure of the PSC Award
 124 Program not be changed.” Prof. Tananbaum explained the reasons for the resolution.
 125 Discussion followed. A motion to table the resolution was approved.

126

127 **b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**

128 1. Prof. Kevin Sailor submitted a list of undergraduate and graduate candidates for
 129 September 1, 2009 and undergraduate and graduate candidates for May 28, 2009. The lists
 130 were approved subject to review by the registrar.

131 2. Prof. Sailor then discussed grading practices at Lehman. He distributed a table graph that
 132 shows the grades in the distribution areas in the General Education Curriculum. The graph
 133 shows that 70 percent of the grades are As or Bs, with only 5 percent Ds and 7 percent Fs. A
 134 is considered excellent, a B is good, a C is satisfactory, a D is poor, and F is, of course,
 135 failing. A vast majority of our students are performing well in their courses. The Committee
 136 also took a look at the candidates for graduation this spring. It turns out that in the GPAs
 137 earned by these graduates, 35 percent had a 3.4 index or higher, which would qualify them
 138 for college honors. So this would indicate that many of our students are performing at high
 139 levels. This raises issues such as when you compare the small portion of Ds and Fs. A

140 number of programs are put into place such as entrance requirements and progression
 141 requirements. What we need to think about, he said, is whether these grade distributions
 142 reflect student performance here. On the other hand, our admission requirements disqualified
 143 half of the applicants in contrast with the former entrance requirements. The central question
 144 is: are these grades what we really think to be true?

145

146 **c. Undergraduate Studies –**

- 147 1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from six departments and two programs.
 148 They come from: the Department of African and African American Studies; the Department
 149 of History; the Department of Journalism, Communication and Theatre; the Department of
 150 Philosophy; the Department of Political Science; the Department of Psychology; the Program
 151 in Women’s Studies; and the Program in Urban Studies. Prof. Jacobson noted that this new
 152 minor in Urban Community Development from the Program in Urban Studies was initiated
 153 by the Student Conference. The report was approved.
 154 2. The next committee meeting will be on May 13 at 12:30 p.m. in Carman 51.

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156 **d. Committee on Graduate Studies-**

157 Prof. Timothy Alborn presented eight proposals: (one) from the Department of Music; (one)
 158 from the Department of Art; (two) proposals from the Department of Counseling,
 159 Leadership, Literacy, and Special Education; (two) proposals from the Department of Middle
 160 and High School Education; (one) from the Division of Education; and (one) from the Office
 161 of Graduate Studies. The report was approved.

162

163 **e. Committee on Academic Freedom-**

164 There was no formal report from the podium, but it was announced that the next committee
 165 meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on May 12 in Davis 223.

166 **f. Committee on Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

167 There was no report.

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170 **g. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

- 171 1. Prof. Maryam Bamshad-Alavi presented the report. She stated that the Committee has
 172 worked with Public Safety to develop a security policy that addresses electronic equipment.

173 The policy calls for etching and placing stickers on all equipment, shock alarms on large
 174 equipment and a three-tiered approach to recovery software. A CUNY-wide pricing
 175 arrangement will enable us to have recovery and protection software for laptops. “Complete”
 176 will be installed directly by Dell computers on all new PC laptops by Lehman’s IT
 177 department on new Macs. It will provide five years of search and recovery protection at a
 178 cost of \$90 per year. The Department of Public Safety reports that since the engraving and
 179 police ID program has been put into effect, there have been no significant thefts of marked
 180 equipment (with the exception of a laptop taken from an office where the door was left
 181 open). Part of the policy places responsibility on departments to replace equipment if all of
 182 the security recommendations are not in place. This has significantly improved compliance
 183 among departments. In some cases, covert cameras are used to deter thieves. The committee
 184 also recommends vigilance on the part of students, faculty and staff to keep doors locked and
 185 alarms armed. The committee is pleased with the positive results of the policy and will
 186 continue to work with Public Safety as required.

187 3. The Food Services Sub-Committee has met several times and is working toward making a
 188 final recommendation within the next two weeks on a new food vendor. The committee will
 189 also be looking into the food offered in vending machines since students raised concerns
 190 about more healthful foods.

191 4. A resolution was presented to the committee concerning the placement of smoking areas
 192 on campus. Studies showing the health risk posed by second-hand smoke inspired a coalition
 193 of faculty and students to do an intensive study of this issue on campus. The resolution,
 194 which the committee endorses, calls for the creation of official smoking areas on campus
 195 placed at least 20 feet away from all doors and air-intake vents. The policy would be enacted
 196 through signage, the movement of ash trays away from doors to smoking areas, and friendly,
 197 non-punitive reminders for smokers to avoid doors and vents. The policy will go into effect
 198 on January 1, 2010 after a public awareness campaign during the Fall 2009 semester.
 199 (Complete research material, rationale, proposed smoking areas, and petitions are available
 200 from the committee).

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 202 **h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

203 There was no report.

204
 205 **i. University Faculty Senate-**

206 1. The March 31 plenary featured Executive Vice Chancellor Allan H. Dobrin and
 207 University Information Officer Brian Cohen, who discussed the problem with Blackboard. It

208 became apparent that there is an inadequate connection between CUNY's IT Steering
209 Committee, which contains administrative representatives from each campus, and each of the
210 campus faculty governance groups. Vice Chancellor Dobrin had been under the impression
211 that campus faculty governance had requested the update to Blackboard 8 from Blackboard
212 6, since the administrative representatives from most of the campuses had (apparently)
213 advocated such a change. This was given as the reason why Blackboard 8 was not first tested
214 on a smaller number of campuses before being made the standard for all but three campuses.
215 Since CUNY has been unable to get Black Board 8 to run reliably, CUNY's implementation
216 of the system is being moved to the Blackboard Corporation's own corporate servers.

217 2. The University Faculty Senate Plenary has conducted nominations for the five at-large
218 positions on the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee. All of the incumbents:
219 Prof. Stefan Baumrin, (Graduate Center), Prof. Sandi Cooper (College of Staten Island),
220 Prof. Anne Friedman (Borough of Manhattan Community College), Prof. Leslie Jacobson
221 (Brooklyn College), and Prof. Philip Pecorino, (Queensborough Community College), were
222 re-nominated. Prof. Michael Barnhart (Kingsborough Community College), Prof. Terrence
223 Martell (Baruch College), and Rishi Raj (City College of New York), were also nominated.
224 The nomination period remains open until the election takes place at the May 5 plenary. At-
225 large members of the University Faculty Senate have generally received released time
226 allotment for their services, which include mandatory participation in certain Board of
227 Trustees meetings, acting as liaison to University Faculty Senate committees, and other
228 duties.

229 3. The plenary heard reports on presidential searches at Brooklyn College, Hostos
230 Community College, and Medgar Evers College. These reports were delivered by faculty
231 members at those campuses. Meanwhile, the new Hostos president is Dr. Felix Matos
232 Rodriguez, Associate Professor at Hunter and the Graduate Center, Director of the Center of
233 Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter and Cabinet Secretary for the Department of the Family in the
234 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Also, interim Vice Chancellor Alexandra Logue has been
235 confirmed as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and University Provost.

236 4. For the third successive plenary, a discussion was held on the PSC-CUNY awards
237 process. This time the panel consisted of Prof. Kathryn Richardson, (New York City College
238 of Technology), chair of the University Faculty Senate Research Committee, and Jim Gordon
239 (Hunter). The panel was introduced by Professor Friedman. A resolution endorsing the Joint
240 Resolution of the University Committee on Research Awards (UCRA) and the University

241 Faculty Senate Research Committee was introduced by Professor Pecorino. The resolution
242 passed unanimously.

243 5. The University has requested \$560,000 from the Gates Foundation for planning a new
244 community college. This does not include a required \$280,000 match. The new community
245 college (NCC) steering committee has added one faculty member from each existing
246 community college, who, in each case, is the person recommended by the college's faculty
247 governance leadership. This is in addition to the University Faculty Senate memberships.

248 6. The University Faculty Senate Faculty Experience Survey created by Prof. Kathleen
249 Barker and Prof. Dean Savage is complete and the funding package needed to execute it was
250 provided by Executive Vice Chancellor Lexa Logue. The survey will be conducted in the
251 fall.

252 7. The Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry, and Physics Discipline Council resolved that the
253 CUNY Advanced Science Research Facility, located on the City College of New York
254 campus, establish a governance body that includes elected faculty representatives. The
255 Council also resolved that senior colleges that engage in curricular changes hold community
256 college transfer students who are in the pipeline, harmless to those changes. Curricular
257 changes should apply only well after the community college departments are notified of the
258 changes and have an opportunity to adjust their own curricula.

259

260 **OLD BUSINESS**

261 There was no old business.

262 **NEW BUSINESS**

263 There was no new business

264

265 **ADJOURNMENT**

266 The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier