

**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

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**Senators Present:** Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Albelda, V.; Alborn, T.; Badru, L.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Boone, R.; Borrell, L.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Choudhary, A.; Chowdhury, N.; Dauben, J.; Decker, C.; DellaPina, M.; Eldridge, D.; Esposito, R.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Gerry, C.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Graulau, J.; Gulla, A.; Happaney, K.; Harushimana, I.; Ho, A.; Holloway, J.; Ihearnachor, G.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.; Jones, L.; Joseph, R.; Kleiman, S.; Kolb, P.; Kunstler, R.; Lewis, A.; Lewis, K.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Maybee, J.; Mbengue, K.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Niedt, P.; O'Hanlon, T.; Ona, S.; Ornstein, S.; Papazian, M.; Patterson-Whilby, N.; Phillip, K.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Raaum, R.; Reid, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Seiger, L.; Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tegeger, D.; Thelusmond, A.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Troy, R.; Valverde, F.; Vitiello, A.; Warde, B.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.; Zucchetto, V.;

**Senators Absent:** Acosta, G.; Ajayi, D.; Anagboso, N.; Ben-Dan, T.; Bernstein, D.; Bonastia, C.; Crump, C.; Delson, E.; Diaz, N.; DiPaolo, M.; Fleitas, J.; Flook, R.; Folsom, C.; Haghighat, E.; Levitt, J.; McNaughton, C.; Middleton, J.; Millan, J.; Nnamani, S.; Oviedo, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Ramos, R.; Rice, A.; Tabachnikov, A.; Trimboli, S.; Voge, S.; Watson-Turner, S.; Worby, K.; Zwiren, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 2:10 p.m.

**Minutes Adopted:**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of October 29, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

39 **Announcements and Communication-**

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

42 **1.** President Fernández introduced Mr. Mario DellaPina, the new vice president for  
43 Institutional Advancement. He comes to Lehman from Queens College, “where he did fine  
44 work, and continues in that vein at Lehman.”

45 **2.** The president distributed an article that appeared in The New York Times on Friday,  
46 November 18, titled “In Crisis, a Way to Smooth Bumps in College Tuition.” He cited he  
47 article as one of the most succinct and lucid explanations of the issue that he has seen. He  
48 urged Senate members to review it.

49 **3.** As noted in the press, the Governor called for a special session of the legislature---“the  
50 session that never was.” Neither the Assembly leaders nor the Senate leaders wanted to go  
51 first. What the cuts are going to be were put off until the spring session. We will have to  
52 wait to see what the Governor proposes in his December 16 budget. The legislature will  
53 return in January and will have until March to approve a budget. That’s the goal since the  
54 fiscal year in New York begins on April 1. Given the complexity of the crisis, meeting that  
55 deadline is unlikely. There will be significant reductions. On a positive note, the Governor  
56 plans to apply a portion of the tuition increases of \$600 to new programs and investments in  
57 CUNY; that has never been the case before. The additional funds could be applied to  
58 student services or to additional faculty or better technology, for example. The Governor  
59 understands the problem but his role is a difficult one. President Fernández commented that  
60 this has happened before and will ultimately be solved. In the spring, a delegation from  
61 Lehman will go to Albany to meet with our elected officials to make recommendations  
62 relating to the college.

63 **4.** On another positive note, President Fernández indicated that when budgets are in the  
64 tank, the State determines that it is a good time to invest in facilities. He read that the  
65 Professional Staff Congress has used Lehman and Brooklyn Colleges and other schools as  
66 examples of public works projects during difficult times. In the midst of the Great  
67 Depression, Governor Lehman invested in a stimulus package, and with the help of the  
68 federal government, the original Lehman College campus was built as well as some  
69 Brooklyn College buildings in the 1930’s. In our own time, the construction of the new  
70 science facility has begun and nothing is going to change that.

71 5. President Fernández referred to the discussion at the October Senate meeting on laptop  
72 thefts on campus. He reported that he has directed that if any computers have to be  
73 replaced, they will not be charged to the student technology fee; they will be paid through  
74 other funds. Direct action is being taken in collaboration with Vice President Derek  
75 Wheeler to prevent future thefts. The president stated that careless behavior on the part of  
76 users is at times responsible, such as leaving room doors unlocked upon leaving and other  
77 careless behavior.

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79 **b. Student Conference-**

80 1. The report was presented by Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair. He  
81 expressed thanks to President Fernández for reconstituting the 504 Committee so  
82 expeditiously. Also, the Conference was pleased to see that the handicapped ramp in front of  
83 Carman Hall has been reopened.

84 2. The Conference has been holding discussions on the tuition increase. Mr. Jeremias  
85 reported considerable anxiety among students. It is particularly difficult for those in the  
86 middle class who do not receive any aid and/or just earn enough to make it. The Conference  
87 believes that if tuition is to be increased, a mechanism has to be established to make sure no  
88 middle class student is lost in the shuffle.

89 3. Tomorrow evening a special event is being held for Darfur at 8 p.m. in the Faculty  
90 Dining Room. Everyone is invited.

91 4. The Conference conferred with Professor Barbara Jacobson and Professor Donna  
92 Kirchheimer about offering a minor in urban community studies.

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94 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

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96 **a. Committee on Governance-**

97 1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that at the last meeting there was a policy discussion on  
98 commercial references on the website and elsewhere. The Committee reviewed Baruch  
99 College's policy and decided to refer the issue to the Committee on Library, Technology,  
100 and Telecommunication.

101 2. The Committee also discussed altering the bylaws to remedy the rapid increase in the size  
102 of the Senate. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

103 3. The Committee invited Mr. Esdras Tulier to the next meeting to discuss the contradiction  
 104 between the Lehman College governance document and the CUNY bylaws concerning the  
 105 number of untenured faculty members who are allowed on departmental P&B committees.  
 106 The CUNY bylaws restrict it to one untenured faculty member on a department P&B. The  
 107 Lehman Governance document, which supersedes the CUNY by-laws in this case, allows  
 108 two untenured faculty members. The Committee wishes to resolve the situation.

109 4. Nominations for students to serve on various committees were submitted as follows: Ms.  
 110 Samsiya Ona and Ms. Goodness Ihearnachor for the Library Technology and  
 111 Telecommunications Committee; Ms. Angelica Thelusmond for the Campus Life and  
 112 Facilities Committee, and Ms. Sally Nnamani for the Undergraduate Curriculum  
 113 Committee. The nominees were elected by acclamation.

114 5. The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be at 4 p.m. on Wednesday,  
 115 November 26 in Shuster 179.

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

118 There was no report.

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120 **c. Undergraduate Studies –**

121 1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson submitted proposals from the Department of African and African  
 122 American studies, the Department of Anthropology, the Women’s Studies program, and the  
 123 Macaulay Honors College. Prof. Jacobson stated that she would like to pull two proposals  
 124 from the packet from African and African American Studies: AAS 318 African American  
 125 Psychology, and AAS (LAC) 241 Caribbean Literature. The report was unanimously  
 126 approved.

127 2. The next meeting will be at 12 o’clock noon on December 3 in Carman 221.

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

130 1. Prof. Timothy Albarn reported on proposals from three departments: Environmental,  
 131 Geographic and Geological Sciences; Economics Accounting and Business Administration;  
 132 and from Speech- Language- Hearing Sciences. The report was unanimously approved.

133 2. The next meeting has not been scheduled as yet.

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

135 There was no report.

136 f. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

137 Floor rights were granted to Mr. James Carney.

138 1. The Committee was given a tour of the new Multimedia Center located in Carman Hall,  
139 levels B and C. This up-to-date center will place Lehman in the forefront of media  
140 production in CUNY.

141 2. An official committee membership list will be obtained from the Senate Governance  
142 Committee, and voting rules will be clarified.

143 3. The technology survey for faculty is now being put together. The Student survey and  
144 the past faculty survey will be reviewed for the spring 2009 format and questions. Mr.  
145 Carney stated that students are to be commended for an increased membership on the  
146 committee.

147 4. Mr. Carney reported that the issue concerning commercial use of websites is not viewed  
148 by the Committee as within its purview. The issue will be referred to the Website Policy  
149 Committee.

150 5. The next meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on December 9 in the Library.

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

153 There was no report.

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

156 There was no report.

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158 i. **University Faculty Senate-**

159 1. Professor Manfred Philipp reported that the Board of Trustees has approved an increase  
160 in tuition of \$620 per year, which is \$20 more than the Governor asked. The Governor ruled  
161 that they just be allowed to keep 10 per cent of the increase in the first year and 20 percent  
162 in the second year. It's not quite clear. There also may be increases in the differential fees.  
163 At this point, the CUNY Board has not voted on any tuition increase. And it's not even clear  
164 that the State University of New York proposed increase will go into effect for the spring

165 semester because it has to be confirmed by the legislature. The CUNY Board could also ask  
166 for a higher increase than the Governor is asking for.

167 **2.** An ongoing discussion is being held with the Chancellery about constructing a  
168 community college across the street from John Jay College in a building currently owned by  
169 the college. The five-story building would be torn down. An advantage is that there is no  
170 height limit on that property, which would suggest a public-private partnership. A  
171 community college problem is the low retention rate of students in CUNY, which is under  
172 20 percent. The question remains if it can be fixed by CUNY without abolishing standards  
173 or is it simply a public school system problem. Community colleges have no admission  
174 requirements for high school graduates. A danger is seen that the low retention rates here  
175 might spill over into the senior colleges.

176 **3.** The University Faculty Senate held its Fall conference, and there was a successful  
177 turnout of younger faculty in CUNY.

178 **4.** The Chancellery has asked the Governor for five billion dollars for new construction. As  
179 President Fernández pointed out, times of trouble might be an opportunity to do more  
180 construction work. CUNY is taking more of an aggressive stance toward new buildings,  
181 new facilities, and in particular infrastructure maintenance, which Professor Philipp noted is  
182 a good thing.

### 183 **OLD BUSINESS**

184 There was no old business.

### 185 **NEW BUSINESS**

186 There was no new business

### 187 **ADJOURNMENT**

188 The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier