

LEHMAN COLLEGE
ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE
Minutes of the committee meeting
Nov. 28, 2016

Present: Brigitte Cypress, Ashley-Ann Edwards, Arber Gjokokaj, David Manier, Mohan Vinjamuri

The meeting was called to order by Prof. Manier at 4:10 p.m.

1. The minutes from the Oct. 31st meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. The CUNY policy on freedom of expression and expressive conduct (distributed in September 2016) was further discussed, and compared with the University of Chicago Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression. Members of the committee expressed concern that the CUNY policy seems to weaken the strong statement made by the University of Chicago, e.g., with reference to behavior that “substantially interferes with” the person’s ability to pursue an education, etc. Also, members questioned the way that the Henderson Rules are referenced in CUNY’s policy on freedom of expression and expressive conduct.
3. Prof. Manier offered the following motion: <<The Committee expresses its support for the University of Chicago Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression, as appointed in July 2014 by President Zimmer and Provost Isaacs, and expresses its concern that the CUNY Policy on Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct can be understood as weakening the University of Chicago’s strong commitment to “a completely free and open discussion of ideas.”>> The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. Prof. Donna McGregor also expressed her support for this motion by email.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
David Manier, Assoc. Professor
Chair and Secretary Pro Tempore

Cc: Alison Abreu
Sophia Diamantis-Fry