

CAMPUS LIFE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

LEHMAN COLLEGE SENATE

MINUTES OF CAMPUS LIFE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NOV 13, 2024

VIA ZOOM, 2:05-2:55PM

1. CALL TO ORDER: The Wednesday, Nov 13, 2024 meeting of the Lehman College Campus Life and Facilities Committee was called to order at 2:00 pm by committee chair, Kofi Benefo. The meeting was held online via Zoom.
2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Kofi Benefo, Robin Auchincloss, Melissa Deri, Di Wu, Wilmary Dickson, Alex Bux, Amna Ishaq, Penny Prince
3. GUEST: Vice-President Rene Rotolo
4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Danielle Magaldi-Dopman, Kimarea Brown
5. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: We welcomed our new members, Alex Bux, Melissa Deri and Amna Ishaq
6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved Sept. 11, 2024 and Oct. 9, 2024 meeting minutes.
7. ABSENT MEMBERS: There was discussion of absent members. It was mentioned that since the student election just took place, student members might not be aware of their committee responsibilities. The student members present promised to reach out to the absent student. Kofi also promised to reach out to the absent faculty member, Prof. Magaldi-Dopman.
8. CAFETERIA UPDATE: Members continued to express concerns about cafeteria prices. They also thought food offerings might benefit from the addition of a salad bar, making soups available all day, improving the quality and lowering cost of Bubble Tea. In general, members thought making pricing competitive might attract more customers. Members also requested that formal Halal certification be made available by the vendor. Vice-President Rotolo promised to convey the committee's concerns to the vendor. In responding to concerns about the contract with the vendor, she pointed out that the contract for foodservice is held by the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation and was approved by the Auxiliary's Board, not Lehman College. The term of the current contract is five (5) years with the option for an additional two (2) year renewals. Terminating a contract prematurely can be legally challenging so it might be better to work with the vendor to resolve problems.
9. LEHMAN BOOKSTORE CONCERNS: Committee discussed Lehman Bookstore's prices, which were also of concern. Discussion noted that prices might be even higher than Staples'. Also discussed was the possibility of moving to a fully online bookstore. It was noted that other CUNY campuses do not have physical bookstores. Also considered was the possibility of the bookstore offering readings or other events and services that might draw more traffic. Members thought having an oncampus bookstore had considerable appeal, but thought it might be worthwhile continuing to think about how the store can be made more useful. It was also mentioned that contract with the bookstore also is with the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation and may be expiring soon.
10. TOILET PAPER: Some concerns about the quality of toilet paper were expressed. Members suggested we go back to 2 ply paper. Robin will investigate and report back on the possibilities for getting better quality paper.

11. WATER FOUNTAINS: Melissa mentioned some problems with water fountains in Davis. She thought the taste may have become more metallic than in the past, and wondered if there were some changes in pipe quality that might be accounting the change. She requested the addition of bottle fillers to fountains. Robin will look into the issues and report back.
12. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: We held an election and Dr. Kofi Benefo will continue as Chair and Dr. Penny Prince will continue as Secretary.
13. AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS: Kofi informed the committee about the emails he received from Demetrice Gumbs, a student, and Prof. Jennifer McCabe (through Joe Fera, the senate president) expressing concerns about the termination of student access to Lehman's afterschool childcare program. Kofi checked with Jaci Maurer, its director, who indicated that there had been a temporary suspension of the program because of budgetary shortfalls and declines in student enrollment, but the program had been re-activated and was working. It was expected to be working in the spring as well. The student and professor who first raised concerns about the program were informed.
14. ELIN WARING'S CONCERNS: During the Oct. 9 meeting, Prof. Waring brought several issues to committee about traffic/bike lanes/crosswalks/solar panels canopies in the parking lots on Goulden Avenue. For the traffic issue, Robin investigated and found that signs already exist for traffic exiting the faculty parking lot. As she had pointed out in the Oct 9 meeting, pedestrian and bike traffic on the sidewalk have right of way. Committee responses to Elin's concerns have been communicated to her.
15. FACILITIES DEPARTMENT REPORT:
 - a) Construction Project Highlights
 - i. MUSIC CHIMNEY RESTORATION – Scaffolding and cover down before in December.
 - ii. DAVIS ROOF REPLACEMENT –construction fence around Davis.
 - iii. GILLET ROOF REPLACEMENT – contractor is on board – roof replacement will start next summer.
 - iv. SHUSTER WINDOW REPLACEMENT - This window replacement project has a contractor on board now and windows being ordered, work will be starting next spring.
16. NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting will be December 4, 2-3 on Zoom.
17. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 2.55 pm

Respectfully submitted, Penny Prince