

LEHMAN COLLEGE
ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the committee meeting
4 April 2025

Present: Diane Auslander, Christian Davila, Duran Fiack, Kevin Johnson, David Manier (chair)

1. A quorum having been established, and minutes of the preceding meeting having been previously approved via email, the (online) meeting was called to order by Prof. Manier at 12:00 p.m.
2. We discussed reports about academic freedom and free speech violations at the state and national level, noting the involvement of UFS-CUNY, UMass-Amherst, Rutgers, and other academic entities in endeavoring to address these violations. We share the concerns of our colleagues about these issues, but we did not agree to a resolution to put before the Lehman Senate to address these state/national issues.
3. Regarding Lehman College itself, our main source of concern this academic year has been with reports from faculty and students in the Biology Department. Members of this committee have received similar complaints from eight different individuals, centered on the role of adjunct professors teaching smaller lab sections of courses linked to larger lecture courses. Departmental and NSS leaders were accused of being insensitive to these complaints made by adjunct professors, which relate to micromanagement of their teaching and decisions being made to change the grades these professors submitted to their departmental course coordinators. We have received reports from adjuncts that, after they complained about this situation (which included a “*misconduct* report form” that is reportedly no longer being used), they were not rehired to teach in the Lehman Biology department. Being unable to agree on the text of a Senate resolution to address these issues, we are referring this matter to the Labor Designee, the Provost’s Office, and Human Resources for their further review.
4. We reviewed a complaint about faculty-on-faculty plagiarism at Lehman but agreed that existing Lehman and CUNY policies already sufficiently address issues like these, related to the academic integrity and professional conduct of CUNY employees.
5. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

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

Cc: Sophia Diamantis-Fry