LEHMAN COLLEGE
ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE
Minutes of the committee meeting
9 SEP 2019

_____

Present: Diane Auslander, Karen Britt, Duran Fiack, David Manier (chair), Nadine Zerphey

The meeting was called to order by Prof. Manier at 3:00 p.m.

1.	A quorum having been established, and minutes of preceding meetings having been approved via email, Prof. Manier was re-elected as chair.

2.	We reviewed an issue related to an adjunct professor's complaint that his chair and dean had switched his course to an online course shortly before the semester began, and then told him that he must use the Blackboard website for the course, and that he must NOT use any other website or application for the course. Several questions were raised: Does Lehman College have an official policy about this issue? Do deans and department chairs have access to (or exercise control over) the Blackboard websites of individual professors? Are there valid reasons for such a policy that requires using Blackboard, or that forbids using other websites for courses? (For example, are there valid concerns about professors having their classes use non-CUNY websites, presuming that no confidential information is uploaded to those websites?) The committee requested the chair to raise these issues for discussion by the Lehman Senate.

3.	We reviewed an issue related to how labor policies are published and enforced at Lehman College – for example, are there standard policies governing start-up money and relocation costs? Again, the committee requested the chair to raise this issue for discussion by the Lehman Senate.

4.	We reviewed an issue related to concerns about how some faculty have reported instances of being bullied or intimidated by others in positions of power on campus. This issue is currently under review, not only by our committee, but also by the local chapter of PSC-CUNY.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

Cc:	Sophia Diamantis-Fry