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**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, September 1, 2010 Senate Meeting**

6 **Senators Present:** Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Almodovar-Salines, D.; Badru, L.; Bamshad, M.;
7 Bard, A.; Bayne, G.; Beard, C.; Bennett, M.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.;
8 Calvet, L.; Carrellas, P.; Carey, R.; Carney, J.; Choudhary, A.; Clark,
9 V.; DellaPina, M.; DeSimone, F.; Eldridge, D.; Esteves, C.; Farrell, R.;
10 Fernández, R.; Freedberg, S.; Gálvez, A.; Gilbert, F.; Gorokhovich, Y.;
11 Greenberg, J.; Gross, C.; Haghigat, E.; Holloway, J.; Jacobson, B.;
12 Jafari, M.; Jarroll, E.; Jervis, J.; Jitianu, A.; Kabat, D.; Kayaalp, O.;
13 Kolb, P.; Larimer, A.; Levitt, J.; Lucente, J.; Magdaleno, J.;
14 Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Maybee, J.; Munch, J.;
15 Nadeem, S.; O'Connor, N.; O'Hanlon, T.; Olabode, A.; Onyedum, J.;
16 Papazian, M.; Peruyero, C.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Raaum, R.;
17 Rachlin, J.; Rice, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.;
18 Schwartz, G.; Segura, Y.; Silverman, H.; Sloan, H.; Sokol, M.;
19 Tananbaum, D.; Thomas, G.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Troy, R.;
20 Twomey, R.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.;
21 Wunder, A.; Zapata, S.; Zermatt-Scutt, M.; Zucchetto, V.

24 **Senators Absent:** Artinian, A.; Banoum, B.; Barnard, J.; Bergmann, R., Blot, R.;
25 Borrell, L.; Brooks, L.; Bryant, S.; Cheng, T.; Deveaux, F.;
26 Di Paolo, M.; Dobson, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fletcher, D.; Hattori, T.;
27 Jones, L.; Mineka, J.; Qian, G.; Ricourt, M.; Ross, S.; Sailor, K.;
28 Schlesinger, K.; Schwartz, G.; Sibermintz, N.; Soto, M.;
29 Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Twomey, R.

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32 The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 3:43 p.m.

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34 President Fernández made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Senate meetings of
35 April 28 and May 12, 2010. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved
36 unanimously.

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38 **Announcements and Communication—**

- 39 **a.** 1. President Fernández welcomed all students, faculty, staff, administrators, senators and
40 visitors interested in the business conducted at the Senate to the new academic year. He
41 introduced Vice President for Administration and Finance, Mr. Vincent A. Clark. He stated
42 that Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Mr. Ronald

43 M. Bergmann was away from campus today but expected him to be present at the next senate
44 meeting where senators and others can meet him. Both administrators are a significant
45 addition to the senior staff.

46 2. In the matter of the State budget, President Fernández reported that the legislature
47 approved the budget for the University; overall \$75.5 million for the coming year. There will
48 be no tuition increase; however, this may be revisited after the fall election. In light of the
49 budget situation, the College was mandated to reduce its budget by 2.5%. The College was
50 also required to set aside 1.25% of the budget in a reserve account. Depending on how the
51 fiscal year progresses, these funds may or may not be available to be spent. This is a total
52 reduction of 3.75% of the budget. Many things have been affected except the hiring of
53 faculty. The College made 29 new faculty appointments. There is a wonderful crop of talent.
54 The president is pleased that faculty is coming from all over.

55 3. President Fernández stated that enrollment continues to be a work in progress. The College
56 is maintaining a steady pace. Our enrollment target was increased by 2%. Enrollment is
57 holding up considering that the College has increased its admission standards. Overall,
58 enrollment is holding up due, in part, to increased retention. The College is on track to
59 continue increasing its standards. We will present recommendations to the Committee on
60 Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards later this month for discussion and action.
61 Yesterday, the president participated in the *Weeks of Welcome* activities for students. This
62 event was organized by the Division of Student Affairs. These activities will run for several
63 weeks during the semester. These activities give students a sense of the richness of the
64 campus and a better understanding of the College's resources and facilities.

65 4. The president extended an invitation to attend Convocation on September 15 at 11 a.m.
66 The keynote speaker will be Dr. Julius Williams, an alumnus of the Music Department, and
67 currently Professor of Composition and Conducting at Berklee College of Music in Boston.
68 President Fernández also announced that at the April meeting, there were several actions. He
69 reported that he selected Prof. Orhan Kayaalp, of the Economics and Business Department, to
70 serve in the Office of the Ombudsman. In addition, there were other recommendations for the
71 president's consideration for appointments to the Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation and
72 Lehman College Campus Association for Student Activities (CASA). The president reported
73 that he will announce his decision on those appointments at the next Senate meeting.

74 **b. Student Conference—**

75 Mr. Marvin Bennett, the new Student Conference chair, introduced himself to the Senate. He
76 welcomed the Senate to the new academic year. Mr. Bennett reported that the Student
77 Conference is already busy at work, creating a new major. He emphasized the importance of
78 student representation in college governance. He introduced Mr. Lamont Badru, Student
79 Conference Parliamentarian and leader of the Black Students Association. Mr. Badru spoke
80 about the minor in Urban Community Management which by its nature is inter-disciplinary.
81 He asked for support for this minor as community development and engagement are
82 components of the strategic plan.

83

84 REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES—

85 **c. Governance Committee—**

86 1. Professor Duane Tananbaum emphasized the importance of signing the attendance sheet
87 as it is the only way to prove that a quorum is present. He also informed those present that for
88 ease of counting votes, voting members of the Senate are to be seated in the center and to the
89 right while observers should sit to the left. Prof. Tananbaum gave a brief reminder to the
90 committee chairs to circulate draft minutes to other committees, and submit the final draft to
91 Mr. Esdras Tulier, the Special Counsel.

92 2. Prof. Tananbaum moved on to standing committee elections. He noted that Prof. Manfred
93 Philipp and Prof. Rosalind Carey's terms as **Governance Committee** members have expired
94 and are eligible for re-election. He called for nominations from the floor. A motion to reelect
95 Prof. Philipp and Prof. Carey was moved, seconded and approved. They were re-elected by
96 acclamation. Prof. Tananbaum then asked for student nominations from the floor for service
97 in the Governance Committee. The student nominees were Mr. Marvin Bennett, Mr. Lamont
98 Badru, Mr. Christian Peruyero, and Ms. Abisola Olabode. The motion to accept the student
99 nominations was moved, seconded and approved. The students were elected by acclamation.

100 3. Prof. Tananbaum then announced that there was a vacancy in the **Committee on**
101 **Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards** as a result of Mr. Ralph Boone's
102 resignation as a member and chair. He submitted the nomination of Prof. Penny Prince, of the
103 Department of Music, to replace Mr. Boone as a committee member. He called for additional
104 nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations from the floor and the

105 motion to accept the nomination of Prof. Penny Prince was moved, seconded and approved by
106 acclamation. Prof. Tananbaum then submitted the nomination of student Ms. Ydelsa Segura
107 and called for additional student nominations from the floor. The additional student nominees
108 were Mr. Christian Peruyero; Mr. Lamont Badru, Mr. Charles Beard, Mr. Derrick Omane, and
109 Mr. Brian Romero. The motion to accept the student nominations was moved, seconded and
110 approved. The students were elected by acclamation. Prof. Anne Rice will convene the first
111 meeting as the committee does not have a chair.

112 4. Prof. Tananbaum then requested student nominations from the floor for membership in the
113 **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**. The student nominees were Ms. Felicia Henry;
114 Ms. Claudia Amoama; Mr. Charles Beard; Ms. Stephanie Zapata; Ms. Gloria Thomas, and
115 Mr. Lamont Badru. The motion to accept the student nominations was moved, seconded and
116 approved. The students were elected by acclamation.

117 5. Prof. Michael Buckley announced that the **Academic Freedom Committee** does not have
118 a chair and is in need of student members. Mr. James Carney, chair of the **Library,**
119 **Technology and Telecommunication Committee** also encouraged students to become
120 involved in that committee.

121

122 **d. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee—**

123 1. Prof. Jacobson pulled from consideration by the Senate the proposal titled “Change in
124 Approved Major Requirements for Undergraduate Teaching Certification in Early Childhood
125 and Childhood Education.” Prof. Barbara Jacobson then presented proposals from 10
126 departments and one program: from the Department of Art and the Department of
127 Mathematics and Computer Science; the Department of Chemistry; the Department of Early
128 Childhood and Childhood Education. The Department of Economics and Business; the
129 Department of History; the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies; the
130 Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; the Department of Middle and High
131 School Education; the Department of Philosophy: a new minor in Disability Studies; the
132 Department of Philosophy, and the Program in Women’s Studies. Prof. Jacobson also
133 presented informational items from the Department of Art and the Department of
134 Mathematics and Computer Science; the Department of Economics and Business, and the

135 Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies. A motion to approve the proposals
136 was moved, seconded and approved.

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138 **e. Graduate Studies—**

139 There was no report.

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141 **f. Academic Freedom—**

142 There was no report.

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144 **g. Library, Technology and Telecommunications—**

145 There was no report. However, Mr. James Carney, the committee chair, announced that the
146 next meeting will take place on September 13 in the Library Conference Room. He added that
147 Vice President for Information Technology Resources, Mr. Ronald M. Bergmann will be
148 present then.

149

150 **h. Campus Life and Facilities—**

151 There was no report.

152

153 **i. Budget and Long Range Planning—**

154 There was no report.

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156 **j. University Faculty Senate—**

157 **1.** Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that CUNY has, for the first time in memory, failed in its
158 mission to admit all NYC high school graduate applicants to its community colleges. It is not
159 at all clear that the city and state will provide the money needed to keep that from happening
160 again next year.

161 **2.** The University Faculty Senate has also been told that the state is interfering with CUNY's
162 attempts to rent emergency instructional space. However, the university has succeeded in
163 renting instructional space for the proposed New Community College (NCC) at a very
164 desirable location near Bryant Park. The university has also secured rental space for the
165 School of Professional Studies. The New Community College, which proposes a special
166 interview procedure for applicants, may take on some of CUNY's best community college
167 applicants.

168 **3.** The Chancellor's selections for members of the University Committee on Research
169 Awards (UCRA) have been delayed pending the completion of negotiations to pilot a
170 restructuring of the PSC-CUNY Awards program. The new agreement provides for three
171 kinds of grants, with the top tier providing \$12,000 per year. The top tier grants are funded by
172 additional funds. UCRA will be reduced from 31 Liaisons to 18 Panel Chairs. The deadline
173 date for PSC-CUNY Award applications has been moved to January 15.

174 **4.** The Chancellery has presented a report at the Fiscal Affairs Committee of the Board that
175 underlines the challenges faced by the senior colleges of CUNY. CUNY's FY 2010 Financial
176 Plan for the senior colleges sees an \$88 million reduction in support. CUNY has seen a \$205
177 million cumulative reduction in state support since FY09. While the university will get
178 through this year without major problems, the next year is quite uncertain.

179 **5.** SUNY and CUNY administrations take a very different approach in their legislative
180 efforts. SUNY attempted to get the state to pass PHEEIA (the Public Higher Education
181 Empowerment and Innovation Act - a.k.a. the "Empowerment Act"). This is a plan that would
182 give the CUNY and SUNY Boards to set tuition and keep tuition revenue, while separating
183 university purchasing from the state purchasing system.

184 **6.** In contrast, the CUNY administration supports the CUNY Compact, which provides for
185 gradual tuition increases, with complete retention of tuition revenue inside the university, but
186 also emphasizes complete State and City coverage of mandatory costs. The Compact also
187 emphasizes safeguarding full student financial aid. The CUNY Administration is very eager to
188 see the Compact be enshrined into law before the next election. The University Faculty Senate
189 Executive Committee has endorsed the Compact.

190 **7.** As you know, CUNY participates in the state Early Retirement Initiative (ERI). According
191 to Vice Chancellor Sapienza, CUNY colleges only retain half the salaries of faculty who retire
192 under the terms of the ERI. Colleges retain all of the salary of faculty who retire without a
193 retirement initiative. Thus, the initiative results in a long term reduction in college base
194 budgets. Retrenchment of tenured faculty has now taken place at a reported six SUNY senior
195 colleges (but not the University Centers.) Retrenchment is not part of the vocabulary used by
196 senior CUNY central office officials. However, that could change if the state budget shortfall
197 increases to \$15.6 billion in FY 2014, and the city shortfall increases to \$5.3 billion.

198 **8.** All state Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards have been reduced by \$75. TAP now
199 requires a 15 credit load in each semester, based on prior credit accumulation. TAP will not be
200 available to graduate students. There is no new money for CUNY capital projects. The
201 University Faculty Senate Executive Committee has asked CUNY to oppose federal student
202 aid to proprietary colleges that have high student loan default rates. The University Faculty
203 Senate has determined that the University Faculty Senate Fall Conference, on the provision of
204 public higher education in the prisons, will take place on Friday, February 4. It is anticipated
205 that a Spring Conference will be held later that semester. The University Faculty Senate also
206 plans to hold a public hearing on Faculty Diversity in CUNY.

207 **9.** The new University Faculty Senate Chair, Professor Sandi Cooper of the College of Staten
208 Island, took office on August 25. Professor Stefan Baumrin of Lehman College and Prof.
209 Philipp remain on the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The University
210 Faculty Senate Executive Committee yesterday named Professor Rosalind Carey of
211 Philosophy to be chair of the University Faculty Senate Academic Freedom Committee. Prof.
212 Philipp becomes chair of the University Faculty Senate Committee on Public Higher
213 Education in the Prisons, University Faculty Senate Webmaster, and liaison to the Faculty
214 Advisory Committee for the CUNY Research Foundation and liaison to the CUNY
215 Intellectual Property Committee, member of the Governing Board of the School of
216 Professional Studies, and member of the CUNY Legislative Action Council. Professor
217 Baumrin becomes the faculty member of the CUNY Board Committee on Faculty, Staff, &
218 Administration and remains as liaison to the University Faculty Senate Legal Affairs
219 Committee and to the CUNY Baccalaureate's University Committee. Professor Emily Tai, of
220 History at Queensborough Community College, becomes editor of the Senate Digest. The
221 next University Faculty Senate Plenary is on September 21; Vice Chancellor Frederick
222 Schaffer will discuss various new university policies.

223
224 President Fernández spoke about the Foundation of Excellence Initiative. He indicated that
225 last year he chaired the task Force on Retention, Progression and Graduation at Lehman. The
226 focus of the Foundation of Excellence is to help transfer students transition smoothly from
227 community to senior college. We have a Freshman Year Initiative but no program to focus on
228 sophomores. We have brought together a team of faculty and staff to focus on transfer and

229 sophomore students this fall and to develop a plan of action based on data to be collected via
230 surveys and from institutional sources.

231
232 Old Business-
233 There was none.
234

235 New Business-
236 The president called for nominations from the floor for the person to chair the Senate meeting
237 in his absence. Prof. C. Alicia Georges, of the Department of Nursing, was nominated, and
238 there were no additional nominations from the floor. The motion to accept the nomination of
239 Prof. Georges as the person to chair the Senate meeting in the absence of the President was
240 moved, seconded and approved. She was elected by acclamation.

241
242 ADJOURNMENT
243 President Fernández adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.
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245
246 Respectfully submitted,
247

248 Esdras Tulier