

**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009**

**Senators Present:** Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bernstein, D.; Boone, R.; Borrell, L.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Choudhary, A.; Crump, C.; Dauben, J.; Decker, C.; DellaPina, M.; DiPaolo, M.; Eldridge, D.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Haghghat, E.; Happaney, K.; Harushimana, I.; Ho, A.; Holloway, J.; Iheanachor, G.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.; Jones, L.; Kleiman, S.; Kolb, P.; Kunstler, R.; Levitt, J.; Lewis, K.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Niedt, P.; O’Hanlon, T.; Ona, S.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Qian, G.; Raaum, R.; Reid, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Seiger, L.; Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tegeder, D.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Trimboli, S.; Troy, R.; Vitiello, A.; Voge, S.; Wheeler, D.; Wilder, I.; Zucchetto, V.

**Senators Absent:** Acosta, G.; Ajayi, D.; Albelda, V.; Anagboso, N.; Badru, L.; Ben-Dan, T.; Bonastia, C.; Bryant, S.; Chowdhury, N.; Diaz, N.; Fleitas, J.; Flook, R.; Gerry, C.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Graulau, J.; Gulla, A.; Joseph, R.; Lertzundi, P.; Lewis, A.; Magdaleno, J.; Maybee, J.; Mbengue, K.; McNaughton, C.; Middleton, J.; Millan, J.; Nnamani, S.; Ornstein, S.; Oviedo, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Phillip, K.; Prohaska, V.; Ramos, R.; Rice, A.; Sun, M.; Tabachnikov, A.; Thelusmond, A.; Thompson, P.; Valverde, F.; Warde, B.; Watson-Turner, S.; Whittaker, R.; Worby, K.; Zwiren, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 3:40 p.m.

**Minutes Adopted:**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of February 4, 2009. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Announcements and Communication-**

**a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-**

1. President Fernández reported that the situation with the budget was “fluid.” He understands that a real effort is being made to complete the budget by the end of this month. It’s supposed to be adopted by April 1. Lehman College’s budget year is July 1 through June

42 30. And we have a Federal budget on October 1. So we have all kinds of variables in the  
43 mix. People are still trying to sort out what the “stimulus package” means for each of the  
44 states. It is something we are closely watching, along with the University. In the beginning  
45 of April, a conference, “Somos El Futuro,” will be held in Albany and will be attended by  
46 staff and student representatives.

47 2. The President discussed the issue of the college being closed on Monday due to the snow  
48 storm. It didn’t turn out to be what the weather bureau predicted. Normally, we try to get the  
49 information out earlier. The alert was posted on the college website around 7 a.m.; it should  
50 have been there no later than 6:30 a.m. President Fernández apologized for any  
51 inconvenience it caused. He assured the Senate that in any future emergency the notice will  
52 go out sooner.

53

54 **b. Student Conference-**

55 1. Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair, reported that the Conference will hold a  
56 special election on Wednesday. He called on the faculty to encourage students to participate;  
57 intention forms are available at Student Life.

58 2. He presented a report from an Ad Hoc committee that was studying the student  
59 government structure at Lehman College. It raises the question of the governing body  
60 (bodies) of the Conference. In his comments, Mr. Jeremias raised questions concerning the  
61 structure of student governance in having both the Student Conference and CASA. The third  
62 body he addressed was the Judicial Board, an independent board that is referenced in the  
63 CASA Constitution. Its members are directly elected by the student body for two-year terms.  
64 The Judicial Board is charged with adjudication, a governmental function and meets the  
65 criterion for a governmental body. Mr. Jeremias asked, “What does all this mean? The  
66 student government structure has been misconstrued and improperly represented to students  
67 for years.” He pointed out that this is exemplified by the current state of the Judicial Board  
68 which has not functioned for years. He concluded by saying it is not any one person’s fault  
69 that things are not working, but he added that by working together changes can be made for  
70 the better. A motion was made to present the documentation to the Senate Governance  
71 Committee for their study. The Senate Chair ruled that the motion was out of order, since this  
72 is the first time the issue has been presented to the Senate. He recommended that the subject

73 could be on a future agenda, after documentation was distributed to Senate members who  
74 could then come prepared to discuss it.

75 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

76

77 a. **Committee on Governance-**

78 1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that the committee met on February 24 with President  
79 Fernández to discuss various aspects of the governance documents, especially the need to  
80 reduce the size of the committee to a more manageable number. When the documents were  
81 last revised a few years ago, a formula was adopted in which administrators would be 1/6<sup>th</sup> of  
82 the body, students would be 1/3 and faculty would be 1/2. What has happened since then, and  
83 was not anticipated, is that there has been an increase in the number of administrators. This  
84 means for each administrator added, two additional students and three additional faculty  
85 members are required. So we have grown in the three or four years since the document was  
86 amended from a body of 108 members to a body of 132 members. That makes it difficult to  
87 get a quorum. By the end of the last committee meeting, we came to a consensus that a  
88 formal amendment will be written that will freeze the body at 102 members; while still  
89 keeping the stipulated proportions.

90 2. The Committee is also working on a few other amendments. One is that the Governance  
91 Committee itself can have the right to propose amendments (which is not in the current  
92 document). The Committee wants to give administrative representatives on committees the  
93 right to vote, not just to serve as ex officio members. This will make it easier to have a  
94 quorum when committees meet, and there are a few other things in language that need to be  
95 cleared up.

96 3. As to the student documents, some of which were just heard, the Committee believes it  
97 has the authority to look into this whole matter. If the students do bring forward a formal  
98 resolution to the next meeting, the Governance Committee would review it.

99 4. Students have pointed out that the Governance Documents also stipulate that departmental  
100 personnel and budget committees are supposed to include students in an advisory capacity,  
101 and all other departmental committees are supposed to include students as voting members.  
102 We are not clear how many departments are honoring these provisions. We thought the best  
103 way to go about it would be first to gather information. Therefore, the deans have sent out a

104 communication to all department chairs, reminding them of these provisions in the  
105 Governance document and asking how their departments currently comply.

106 5. The Committee is trying to get accurate lists of faculty so we can hold the election for at-  
107 large senators. Unfortunately, our current list has numerous errors. People who have been  
108 adjuncts for many years and are teaching six credits or more are not listed and full-time  
109 lecturers are not listed. Putting this list together has delayed us in sending out the material for  
110 the nomination round of election for at-large senators. We will also be also sending out  
111 forms for nominations to Senate committees. One half of faculty members on each  
112 committee are up for election each year. So we will ask for nominations and will send with  
113 that request a list of current members on committees and when their terms expire.

114 6. The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on March 25  
115 in Shuster 179.

116

117 **Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**

118 There was no report.

119

120 **c. Undergraduate Studies –**

121 1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson submitted proposals from the Department of Biological Sciences,  
122 the Department of History, the Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies and  
123 a new interdisciplinary minor in Middle Eastern studies which will be housed in the History  
124 Department. The proposals were unanimously approved.

125 2. The next meeting will be held March 18 at 12:15 p.m. in Carman 221.

126

127 **d. Committee on Graduate Studies-**

128 1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported on two proposals: One is a new course from  
129 Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences, and a proposal for a Master of  
130 Science, in a Family Nurse Practitioner program offered by that department. The proposals  
131 were unanimously approved.

132 2. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 16 at 2 p.m., place to be determined.

133 **e. Committee on Academic Freedom-**

134 There was no report.

135 f. **Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

136 There was no report.

137 The next meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. next Tuesday in the Library Conference  
138 Room.

139  
140 g. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

141 There was no report.

142  
143 h. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

144 1. Prof. Robert Feinerman reported that Senate & FP&B Joint Budget Sub-Committee met  
145 last Thursday, February 26. At the meeting, Provost Mary Papazian discussed the allocation  
146 of lines starting in fall 2009 based upon the budgetary constraints. This included faculty and  
147 staff lines. She also presented data about adjunct expenditures for this year, and there was a  
148 discussion on class sizes.

149 2. Also at the meeting, Vice President Derek Wheeler presented a four-year budgetary  
150 analysis of Lehman College's Auxiliary Enterprise.

151 3. The Committee will next meet when budget information is received from Albany.

152

153 i. **University Faculty Senate-**

154 1. Professor Manfred Philipp reported that yesterday at the University Faculty Senate  
155 Plenary Interim Executive Vice Chancellor Alexandra Logue addressed the group, stressing  
156 some of the issues that surrounding enrollment. CUNY enrollment is booming and, at the  
157 same time, some of the colleges are full. This obviously creates issues such as how to admit  
158 students under such circumstances. Every high school graduate has the right to go to a  
159 community college. At the same time we are getting applicants from outside the city. The  
160 discussion hinged on whether we should concentrate on applicants from the city or on an  
161 equal basis from the surrounding areas. What happens if we have an increase the number of  
162 students in the community colleges? Will there then be seats for them in the senior  
163 colleges? None of that is very clear, there is no ready solution.

164 2. In terms of the storm issues, the University Faculty Senate noted that CUNY does not tell  
165 which colleges are open and which are closed. Approximately half of the colleges were  
166 closed. While some of the colleges that stayed open informed students to that effect, others

167 did not. As a result, according to Prof. Philipp, this created vast confusion, not to mention  
168 that websites for two of the colleges were down.

169 3. The Chancellor has announced that the School of Pharmacy will go forward. Over the  
170 last few years we have asked for this, and we are optimistic that it is now materializing.

171 4. A conference on Access to Higher Education in the Health Sciences will be held on April  
172 24. More information will be subsequently available.

173 5. The new community college being proposed for Manhattan continues to move forward.  
174 A \$280,000 matching grant has been received from the Gates Foundation to do some  
175 planning.

176 6. Dr. Gillian Small, vice chancellor for research, has set up a task force to discuss the PSC  
177 CUNY Awards Program. The group has come up with a draft recommendation that will turn  
178 the PSC process completely on its head. Under the new rules all evaluations would be done  
179 on the colleges' own campuses which up to now had not been the practice across CUNY.  
180 Under the new method the colleges would put together a faculty committee that would  
181 evaluate the recommendations, which will then be forwarded to the college provost.

182 The Council for Faculty Governance Leaders met last Friday and voted its disapproval of  
183 this draft. Due to several complications, the University Faculty Senate is working on getting  
184 a different chair for the Awards Program.

185 7. The Council for Faculty Governance Leaders has also been looking at some of the  
186 college books of the Research Foundation (not including Lehman). Listed on the books are  
187 employees of the Foundation who are also employees of the University, which struck many  
188 people as interesting.

189 8. At a meeting on March 2 at the School for Professional Studies Governing Board, it was  
190 revealed that the school will not be moving to Brooklyn because the building will not be  
191 available to CUNY. As a result of the financial crisis, the school will stay at the Graduate  
192 Center, where it occupies considerable space.

193

194 **OLD BUSINESS**

195 There was no old business.

196

197 **NEW BUSINESS**

198 There was no new business

199

200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Fernandez