

**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, October 29, 2008**

**Senators Present:** Acosta, G.; Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Albelda, V.; Alborn, T.; Badru, L.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bernstein, D.; Boone, R.; Borrell, L. ; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Carey, R.; Choudhary, A.; Chowdhury, N.; DellaPina, M.; Diaz, N.; DiPaolo, M.; Eldridge, D.; Esposito, R.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Gerry, C.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Haghghat, E.; Happaney, K.; Ho, A.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.; Jones, L.; Joseph, R.; Kolb, P.; Kunstler, R.; Levitt, J.; Lewis, A.; Lewis, K.; Mbengue, K.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E; Maybee, J.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; O’Hanlon, T.; Ona, S.; Ornstein, S.; Papazian, M.; Patterson-Whilby, N.; Phillip, K.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Ramos, R.; Reid, A.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Seiger, L.; Simmons, J.; Silverman, H.; Tananbaum, D.; Thelusmond, A.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Trimboli, S.; Troy, R.; Vitiello, A.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Watson-Turner, S.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.; Zucchetto, V.;

**Senators Absent:** Ajayi, D.; Anagboso, N.; Ben-Dan, T.; Bonastia, C.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Crump, C.; Dauben, J.; Decker, C.; Fleitas, J.; Flook, R.; Graulau, J.; Harushimana, I.; Holloway, J.; Ihearnachor, G.; Kleiman, S.; McNaughton, C.; Middleton, J.; Millan, J.; Niedt, P.; Nnamani, S.; Oviedo, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Philipp, M.; Raaum, R.; Rice, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sun, M.; Tabachnikov, A.; Tegeder, D.; Valverde, F.; Worby, K.; Zwiren, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 2:10 p.m.

**Minutes Adopted**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of October 29, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

There was a correction that Professors Maryam Bamshad-Alavi and Amod Choudhary were present on September 24, 2008.

39 **Announcements and Communication-**

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

42 **1.** President Ricardo Fernández called attention to copies of the Senate attendance for  
43 spring 2008; which was e-mailed to the Senators and copies were available at the meeting.  
44 He said he has encouraged the Provost to speak with divisional deans about the  
45 importance of departmental representatives being present. He noted that the Court of  
46 Appeals has held that there have a certain number of votes for the Senate’s actions to be  
47 considered legal. So it is essential that Senate members attend meetings. The President  
48 appreciates those who come regularly, but there are some exceptions, and he asked for as  
49 much cooperation as possible.

50 **2.** From November 10 to December 12 there will be a special exhibit, “When Humanity  
51 Fails,” held in cooperation with the Afikim Foundation. Announcements will be posted  
52 around the campus.

53 **3.** We all read in the newspapers about the dire financial situation of the State. Yesterday,  
54 Governor David Paterson held a major press conference and announced that the budget  
55 deficit this year is \$1.5 billion and will grow exponentially to \$12 billion the following  
56 year. The Governor estimates that over the next four years the deficit will increase to  
57 about \$48 billion; which means he’s calling for significant reductions in spending. He has  
58 called a special session of the legislature for November 18 to deal with this year’s budget.  
59 Lehman College Senators will hear a lot more on this subject at the December and  
60 February Senate meetings. It is clear that with these budget deficits there will be major  
61 reductions.

62

63 **b. Student Conference-**

64 **1.** The report was presented by Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair. The  
65 Student Conference invites the campus community to attend a special night for the people  
66 of Darfur at 8 p.m. on November 20. The Student Conference will lead a diverse group of  
67 faith and socially conscious student clubs in lighting a wreath for peace in Darfur. “The  
68 Student Conference considers it essential that, as a campus community, we promote a  
69 collective voice in saying ‘No More Violence in Darfur,’” Mr. Jeremias stated.

70       **2.** The Student Conference held a monthly forum to obtain student feedback about the  
71 college. One issue is the extension of library hours, especially on Friday when the library  
72 closes at 5 p.m. A meeting was held with Chief Librarian, Prof. Kenneth Schlesinger, who  
73 put together an \$11,000 budget for extending weekend library hours on Fridays and  
74 Sundays. Another subject concerned student dissatisfaction with the increase in the  
75 technology fee; students feel they are getting less for their money since they can no longer  
76 make free copies in the library or the Information Technology Center. This is something  
77 the Conference wants to look into. Still another subject was the thefts of laptops which is a  
78 matter of great concern, given that the students believe replacement laptops will be paid  
79 for out of the Student Technology Fee. The Conference wondered if the laptops are  
80 covered by insurance and asked for information on the thefts.

81       **3.** The Conference voted on an initiative to have “Urban Community” as a minor, a  
82 subject which will be discussed with Prof. Donna Kirchheimer from the Department of  
83 Political Science. It was felt that a number of Lehman students would benefit from such a  
84 program.

85       **4.** Students met with the Scholarship office on the subject of tuition increases and how  
86 scholarships are disseminated at Lehman.

87       **5.** The Conference is working with Media Relations to create a news channel; a pilot  
88 program has been developed and will be released next week.

89       **6.** Several events are coming up: one is to encourage students to vote.

90       **7.** This month the Conference met with the department chairs and thanked Provost Mary  
91 Papazian for the opportunity.

92       President Fernández commented on a couple of points in the report: first of all,  
93 scholarships are funded through private sources, not through tuition. Students qualify for  
94 financial aid either from the State or the Federal government. Next year it is anticipated it  
95 will be even be more difficult due to the financial crisis. On the question of the laptop  
96 thefts, our Public Safety Director, Mr. Domenick Laperuta, is working closely with the  
97 New York City Police Department in an ongoing investigation. While some of the details  
98 are confidential, Vice President Derek Wheeler and Mr. Laperuta would be happy to meet  
99 with the Conference. President Fernández then called upon Vice President Wheeler to  
100 elaborate on these concerns.

101 Vice President Wheeler reported that the rash of thefts over the last six months greatly  
102 concerns the administration. Some of our current strategies cost money and some do not.  
103 One strategy is to prevent theft to the extent we can, and the other is to have a resource to  
104 replenish the lost computers. We do not have insurance for the laptops but this is being  
105 considered.

## 106 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

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### 108 a. **Committee on Governance-**

109 **1.** Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that the committee met on October 15; re-electing  
110 him as chair and Prof. Rosalind Carey as secretary. The first action of the Committee was  
111 to take a tally of Senate membership. There seems to be an expansion in the number of  
112 administrators in the Senate; a significant factor since student and faculty representation is  
113 based on the number of administrators. Since there are now 22 administrative positions in  
114 the Senate, there need to be 44 students and 66 faculty members to retain the proper ratio  
115 of 1/6 administrators, 1/3 students, and 1/2 faculty. This adds up to a total membership in  
116 the Senate of 132 Senators, meaning we now need 67 for a quorum. The Student  
117 Conference will be holding an election soon to get the number of students up to 44. As to  
118 faculty, senators are selected from the list of candidates from the previous election. It's a  
119 question of whether we are reaching the point of diminishing returns, if we're electing  
120 more faculty and students than are really interested in fulfilling this responsibility.

121 **2.** There was a vacancy on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to which the  
122 Committee nominated Prof. Seringue Gningue of the Department of Middle and High  
123 School Education. There were no other nominations and Prof. Gningue was nominated by  
124 acclamation.

125 **3.** Prof. Tananbaum reminded everyone, especially newcomers, that voting members of  
126 the Senate should be seated in the middle section and the section on his far left. The  
127 section on the right is for observers who are not voting members. He also reminded  
128 Senators to sign the attendance sheets at the entrance to the auditorium; if arriving late,  
129 contact Ms. Esther Fernandez, assistant to Mr. Esdras Tulier, before leaving. This is  
130 important since we are legally bound by New York State law to have a quorum, at least 67  
131 members present for every meeting, and the attendance sheets provide proof. Also,  
132 Committee chairs should also send copies of their meeting minutes to Mr. Tulier's office.

133 4. The next Governance meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, in  
134 Room 179 in Shuster Hall.

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136 **b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**

137 There was no report.

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139 **c. Undergraduate Studies –**

140 1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from the Departments of Biology,  
141 Chemistry, Health Sciences, and Language and Literatures. There was one item of  
142 information from the Department of Languages and Literatures. Though some of these  
143 proposals are routine, they also include a new 53-credit major in biology for those  
144 planning to teach in Middle and High School Education and four new minors: Youth  
145 Services, Exercise Science, Public Health, and Irish Language and Literature. The report  
146 was approved unanimously.

147 2. The next meeting will be at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 5, in Carman Hall,  
148 room 221.

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

151 1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported that the Committee recommends proposals from five  
152 departments: from the Office of Graduate Studies: a change in the Academic Probation  
153 policy; from the Department of Social Work: a change in Probation and Continuation  
154 Criteria; from the Department of Physics, a new experimental course, Physics for  
155 Teachers; from the Department of History: two changes in courses, two new courses, a  
156 change in the description of degree requirements for the M.A. in History, and a new  
157 M.A. Program in History for Secondary School Teachers of Social Studies; and from the  
158 Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences, a letter of intent for  
159 a Master's program in Geographic Information Science. The report was approved  
160 unanimously.

161 3. The next meeting will be in the next week or two, depending upon new business.

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

163 There was no report. The next meeting will be in Davis Hall, room 223 on November 12  
164 at 2 p.m.

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

166 Floor rights were granted to Mr. James Carney.

167 1. A student technology survey has been collected and results will be reviewed at the  
168 next Committee meeting on November 18.

169 2. A faculty survey will be developed for Spring 2009. The Committee will continue to  
170 monitor such issues as research information literacy both in the Education Department as  
171 well as in the General Education area to try and monitor technology literacy as well as  
172 students as they go forward.

173 3. Committee members have been asked to put together their own concepts as to what  
174 the priorities for the Committee should be.

175 4. The next meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, in the Multimedia  
176 Center Conference Room in Carman Hall, room B-75.

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178 g. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

179 There was no report.

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181 h. **Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

182 There was no report.

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184 i. **University Faculty Senate-**

185 In the absence of Prof. Manfred Philipp, the report was given by Prof. John Mineka.

186 1. Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Gillian Small, has convened a committee to  
187 examine the review process for the PSC-CUNY awards. Profs. Kathryn Richardson of  
188 City Tech and Thomas Bird of Queens College are the University Faculty Senate  
189 committee representatives. Prof. Philipp had earlier noted the problem in getting faculty  
190 members to coordinate grant reviews.

- 191       **2.** The CUNY Council Faculty Governance Leaders will meet with Mr. Daniel Doktori,  
192       director of Higher Education, in Governor David Paterson’s office on November 7. The  
193       topic is state funding for CUNY.
- 194       **3.** The University Faculty Senate will hold its Fall Conference on Friday, November 14  
195       at John Jay College. The topic is “Becoming a Faculty Member at CUNY.” Those who  
196       were hired in the last three years are given preferential access to the conference; others  
197       will be admitted on a space-available basis. Please RSVP by calling 212-794-5538.
- 198       **4.** Senior University Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. John Mogulescu, will soon deliver a  
199       report to the Chancellor on a possible new CUNY Community College in Manhattan.
- 200       **5.** The expected announcement of new University goals for the CUNY Capital  
201       campaign, originally scheduled for this month, has been delayed.
- 202       **6.** The University Faculty Senate has initiated a discussion and examination for the  
203       application of the CUNY Student Complaint Procedure.
- 204       **7.** The University Faculty Senate has named Prof. Phil Pecorino of Queens Borough  
205       Community College and Dr. Roberta Brody of Queens College to the new CUNY  
206       Academic Technology Committee.
- 207       **8.** The University Faculty Senate is beginning to have discussions with Vice Chancellor  
208       Frederick Schaffer about changes to the structure of the CUNY Intellectual Property  
209       Committee.
- 210       **9.** The leadership of both the City University of New York and the State University of  
211       New York University Faculty Senates, and the Faculty Council for the Community  
212       Colleges of SUNY will meet on December 5 at SUNY’s College at New Paltz to discuss  
213       state funding for both universities. Funding for the two universities is linked. The  
214       testimony of Vice Chancellor Ernesto Malavé, Jr. at the University Faculty Senate  
215       Plenary last night indicated that the disarray at SUNY may not help CUNY get a suitable  
216       budget. Vice Chancellor Malavé added that the university will successfully weather the  
217       current budget cuts, but may have problems with future cuts. He said that there is no  
218       intention or need to solve budget problems by resorting to faculty retrenchment. He  
219       directly criticized the way CUNY handled such cuts in the past, when retrenchment was  
220       one of the first tools used to reduce costs. He said that other past state fiscal crises had a  
221       larger percent impact on the State budget. They were successfully handled without  
222       faculty retrenchment, and he expected this one to be no different.

223 **OLD BUSINESS**

224 There was no old business.  
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226 **NEW BUSINESS**

227 There was no new business

228 **ADJOURNMENT**

229 The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.  
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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier