

**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, September 24, 2008**

**Senators Present:** Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Albelda, V.; Alborn, T.; Banoum, B.; Bernstein, D.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Chowdhury, N.; Decker, C.; DellaPina, M.; DiPaolo, M.; Eldridge, D.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Gerry, C.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Graulau, J.; Haghighat, E.; Happaney, K.; Harushimana, I.; Ho, A.; Holloway, J.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.; Joseph, R.; Kunstler, R.; Levitt, J.; Lewis, A.; Lewis, K.; Mabengue, K.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Mineka, J.; Niedt, P.; O’Hanlon, T.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Phillip, K.; Prohaska, V.; Ramos, R.; Raaum, R.; Reid, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Seiger, L.; Simmons, J.; Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tegeder, D.; Tilley, J.; Trimboli, S.; Troy, R.; Valverde, F.; Vitiello, A.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Watson-Turner, S.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.; Zucchetto, V.; Zwiren, M.

**Senators Absent:** Acosta, G.; Ajayi, D.; Bamshad, M.; Ben-Dan, T.; Bonastia, C.; Boone, R.; Bryant, S.; Crump, C.; Dauben, J.; Diaz, N.; Esteves, C.; Fleitas, J.; Flook, R.; Folsom, C.; Ihearnachor, G.; Kleiman, S.; McNaughton, C.; Merzel, C.; Middleton, J.; Millan, J.; Nnamani, S.; Ona, S.; Oviedo, M.; Patterson-Whilby, N.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Qian, G.; Rice, A.; Sun, M.; Tabachnikov, A.; Totti, X.; Wheeler, D.; Worby, K.

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 April 30, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Change of Agenda**

A motion was made to allow the University Faculty Senate report to come first since Prof. Manfred Philipp had another commitment. It was seconded and approved.

38

39 **Announcements and Communication-**

40

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

42 **1.** The new academic year was formally opened last week at the Convocation  
43 ceremony. This morning there was a ground-breaking ceremony for the new science  
44 building; which was attended by the Chancellor, several vice-chancellors, the  
45 University's Dean of Science, and a several elected officials.

46 **2.** Last Monday, the Board of Trustees approved two new programs at Lehman College:  
47 a master's degree in business with three specializations and a baccalaureate degree in  
48 exercise science.

49 **3.** President Fernández also announced future upcoming activities. On Friday, October  
50 3, the CUNY Center for Sustainable Energy will hold a university-wide conference on  
51 the Lehman campus. The President encouraged senators to attend one or more of the  
52 sessions. A film developed by former Vice President Al Gore, titled "An Inconvenient  
53 Truth," will be shown at the session. This film intended to highlight environmental  
54 problems world-wide, will also be shown on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

55 **4.** The State and the City both depend on revenue from Wall Street and are obviously  
56 going through severe economic times. Some people thought Gov. Patterson was  
57 exaggerating when he commented a few weeks ago that current downturn is comparable  
58 to the Great Depression. President Fernández hoped that would not be the case, but did  
59 say this is a problem that will be with us for a long time. This is a world-wide  
60 phenomenon and will take us a couple of years (or longer) to straighten out. As a result,  
61 we will have to tighten our belts. Fortunately, this State and this City are known for their  
62 resiliency. As mentioned at the convocation, Herbert Lehman was governor of the State  
63 during the entire Great Depression, for ten years, from 1932 to 1942. He recognized that  
64 it was important to invest in the infrastructure—the platform on which progress would be  
65 made. In periods such as this, the single most important investment that can be made is  
66 in education. President Fernández hoped that the governor and the legislature would keep  
67 this in mind. Nevertheless, this will be a difficult year and the beginning of a difficult  
68 period.

69 5. President Fernández indicated that during these tough economic times, the college  
70 community can put its energy to productive use instead of worrying about impending  
71 doom. He expressed confidence in a period of productive change, with an opportunity  
72 for planning. Consequently, he announced the creation of a Strategic Planning Council  
73 which will be made up of faculty, administrators and students. Over several months, the  
74 Council’s task will be to develop a plan which will guide this institution in the next  
75 decade. The Council, chaired by Prof. Ira Bloom, will have its first meeting on Monday.  
76 We expect a plan to be completed by the end of the spring semester. We are now  
77 celebrating 40 years of Lehman College as an independent entity and will turn 50 in  
78 2018. This plan will lay out the main parameters to guide the growth of the college.

79 6. President Fernández called upon Prof. Vincent Prohaska for an update on the status  
80 of our self-study for accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
81 (MSCHE). Thanks was expressed to all those who assisted with the Middle States  
82 accreditation process in the last year and a half. Prof. Prohaska reported that a complete  
83 draft of the self-study is now available for comments from the college community. From  
84 the College home page, look for the “Middle States” link under the main picture. In the  
85 box to the lower right are the 14 MSCHE standards that we must meet. MSCHE is  
86 especially focused on standards 7 (Institutional Assessment) and 14 (Assessment of  
87 Student Learning). Some institutions have been having difficulty in re-accreditation  
88 recently, (having to complete follow-up reports in one or two years, or even being  
89 revisited by evaluation teams). They have failed in completely meeting one of these two  
90 standards, usually 14. Thus, we have begun a major initiative to begin assessing student  
91 learning in all departments this semester to demonstrate our compliance with standard 14.  
92 Along with the standards, the web site also contains the draft of our self study,  
93 demonstrating how we meet the 14 standards. At this point, the committee would  
94 appreciate hearing about anything we’ve missed in the self-study. In addition, the last  
95 three sections in each chapter of the self-study address “Strengths,” “Challenges,” and  
96 “Action Plans.” These are areas in which we especially need comments and suggestions  
97 from the campus at large. These areas are likely to be the starting points for our next  
98 round of college strategic planning. The committee can be contacted directly at  
99 [middle.states@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:middle.states@lehman.cuny.edu). Open forums have been scheduled to discuss our self-  
100 study on Wednesday, October 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. and on Thursday, October 30, from

101 4:30 to 6 p.m., both in Carman B04. The entire college community is invited. The  
102 evaluation committee will be on campus from March 9 to 11.

103 **a. University Faculty Senate**

104 **1.** Prof. Manfred Philipp reported that last night at the University Faculty Senate Plenary  
105 the Chancellor was asked about the possibility of retrenchment in connection with the  
106 fiscal crisis. But it is fair to say that the Chancellor has been warning the Senate about this  
107 crisis for about a little more than a year. He personally is well connected to the financial  
108 world, but he did say last night that it turned out to be worse than he expected, but he did  
109 expect something on this order.

110 **2.** The joint degrees for the sciences at Hunter and City Colleges have now been  
111 approved by the governor. The public health joint degree at Hunter College was also  
112 approved. The engineering degree at City College was approved but it will not be joint.

113 **3.** CUNY has adopted a new technology fee, raising it from \$75 to \$100 per semester for  
114 full-time students. This action was taken in an executive committee meeting of the Board  
115 during the summer without a public hearing. The required public hearing took place  
116 afterward. CUNY has contracted with a vendor for credit card payments that will now be  
117 charged to students. Fees like this are not covered by the tuition assistance program. It has  
118 been suggested that these fees should be incorporated in a future tuition increase so low  
119 income students would not be charged with the fee. Prof. Philipp stated that the  
120 Chancellor declared that there would be an increase in tuition. It hasn't gone up for quite  
121 some time. A long period with a lack of increases means that the students will be the  
122 losers because the increase will be higher. If the financial crisis continues, as it is  
123 expected to, it is certain that this University will feel it. The Governor so far has cut the  
124 University's budget by seven percent which works out to \$51 million. There was also a  
125 previous cut of \$17.7 million. Next year, the colleges will be exposed to the full brunt of  
126 these cuts, foreshadowing a tuition increase.

127 **4.** The University has passed a new domestic violence policy that largely comes from the  
128 State, but the application will be modified by the University.

129 **5.** "Becoming a Faculty Member" is a conference that will be sponsored by the  
130 University Faculty Senate and will be held on November 14 at John Jay College.

131 **6.** Last night the University Faculty Senate adopted a new academic freedom statement.  
132 Since the Board of Trustees has not adopted a clear statement on this subject, nor is it

133 anywhere in line with that of American Association of University Professors, it is  
134 important to have this.

135

136 **b. Student Conference-**

137 **1.** Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair, reported that the Student Conference  
138 has been quite busy over the last month. The Conference has been restructured to include  
139 sub-committees to work on new pathways to promote student involvement in academic  
140 standards and student life. Right now the Conference is promoting a student-inspired  
141 video. Also, the Student Conference is updating its web site and hopes to launch this on  
142 Target Vision by the end of the month. It will include the Conference's new preamble,  
143 new bylaws, pictures, contact information, and student conference numbers so students  
144 can come to the Conference directly with their problems. Problems of students with  
145 disability are being considered to evaluate what steps could be taken. "Students are  
146 coming to us with tears, and that's shameful."

147 **2.** Nominees for election to the Senate Committees were presented as follows:

148 **Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards (CAEAS):** Angel  
149 Vitiello, Justin Simmons, Ayesha Lewis, Kenosha Phillip, and Jason Jeremias; **Library,**  
150 **Technology, and Telecommunications Committee:** Francisco Valverde and Nusrat  
151 Chowdhury; **Campus Life and Facilities Committee:** Kewe Mbengue, Nusrat  
152 Chowdhury, and Ricky Esposito; **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:** Rovna-lyn  
153 Joseph, Justin Simmons, Vered Albelda, Kewe Mbengue, and Lamont Badru;  
154 **Governance Committee:** David Afrani, Justin Simmons, Ayesha Lewis, Jason Jeremias,  
155 and Nusrat Chowdbury; **Budget and Long Range Planning Committee:** Angela Ho,  
156 Lamont Badru, and Angel Vitiello; **Academic Freedom Committee:** Jason Jeremias,  
157 Ricky Esposito, Kenesha Phillip, and Mingfan Sun; **Graduate Curriculum Committee:**  
158 Keith Lewis.

159

160 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

161

162 **a. Committee on Governance-**

163 **1.** Prof. Duane Tananbaum, chair, said a chair person who will preside at the Senate in  
164 the absence of the President needs to be elected at the first meeting of the Senate at the

165 beginning of each academic year. Nominations were taken from the floor for Prof. C.  
166 Alicia Georges and Prof Rosalind Carey. Prof. Georges was elected.

167 2. Elections were also held for two vacancies in the Governance Committee for a term of  
168 two years. Prof. Rosalind Carey and Prof. Manfred Philipp were elected by acclamation  
169 with one vote in opposition. The three continuing members of the Committee are Prof.  
170 Tananbaum, Prof. Marie Marianetti, both of the History Department, and Prof. James  
171 Jervis from African and African American Studies.

172 3. The slate of student nominees presented in the report of the Student Conference was  
173 elected by acclamation.

174

175 **b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**  
176 There was no report.

177

178 **c. Undergraduate Curriculum –**  
179 Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented an experimental course for the Macaulay Honors  
180 College and two experimental courses from the Department of Mathematics and  
181 Computer Science as informational items. Four new courses and changes in other  
182 courses in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science were proposed.  
183 Moreover, she presented two new courses from the Department of Journalism,  
184 Communication & Theatre, and a new course, Global Justice, in the Department of  
185 Philosophy and in the Department of Political Science. Also proposed were changes in  
186 prerequisites for BIO 330 and 490 from the Department of Biological Sciences. The  
187 report was approved.

188

189 **d. Committee on Graduate Studies-**  
190 1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported a change of Overview of Program in the Department  
191 of Early Childhood and Childhood Education; a proposal to establish an Institute for  
192 Health Equity at Lehman College in the Department of Health Sciences; changes in  
193 several courses and two experimental courses in the Department of Mathematics and  
194 Computer Science; an experimental course in the English Department; a new course in  
195 Spanish in the Department of Languages and Literatures; and a change in General M.S.

196 Ed Program information from the Department of Middle and High School Education.  
197 The report was approved.

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

199 There was no report.

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

201 There was no report.  
202

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

204 There was no report.  
205

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

207 In the absence of Prof. Delson, the report was given by Prof. Feinerman.

208 1. The committee meets together with the Faculty Personnel and the Budget Committee,  
209 and a meeting was held yesterday, and Prof. Feinerman was elected as chair.

210 2. At the meeting yesterday, Vice President Derek Wheeler and Provost Mary Papazian  
211 reviewed the budget snapshot, discussed the state of the college budget. As a result of  
212 the State budget problems of this past spring and summer, CUNY's budget has been cut;  
213 CUNY Compact III has been delayed until next year. We seem to have a budget  
214 shortfall of \$1.3 million for this year. As for non-teaching positions, we have \$2 million  
215 worth of vacancies, some of which will not be filled, and there is a possibility of a  
216 tuition increase. If it comes to be, it will be after the election. There were no student  
217 members in attendance; Prof. Feinerman urged them to attend in the future.

218 3. The next meeting will be some time in November or December as needed.  
219

220 **OLD BUSINESS**

221 There was no old business.

222 **NEW BUSINESS**

223 There was no new business

224 **ADJOURNMENT**

225 The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.  
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Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier