

LEHMAN COLLEGE
ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE
Minutes of the committee meeting
4 Nov 2022

Present: Diane Auslander, Duran Fiack, Kevin Johnson, David Manier (chair), Mika Serrantes, Mohan Vinjamuri

1. A quorum having been established, and minutes of the preceding meeting having been approved via email, the (online) meeting was called to order by Prof. Manier at 1:30 p.m.
2. We discussed and reaffirmed the right of members of the Lehman community to make polite, appropriate, and reasonable health-affirming requests of one another, such as, “please wear a face mask,” even though wearing a face mask is now optional at CUNY. We agreed unanimously that being sensitive (for example) to the power dynamics of a classroom does not obviate one’s right to make health-affirming requests of another.
3. We discussed issues related to modalities (e.g., in-person, online) and class attributes (HyFlex). We reaffirmed that these matters have pedagogical significance and that decisions about them must be made with input from the individual professors teaching these courses.
4. We discussed issues related to making changes in department structures – e.g., eliminating or amalgamating departments. We affirmed that, based on academic freedom principles, these are pedagogical decisions that must be made with input from professors. At the very least, administration owes it to professors to be as open and transparent about these discussions and decisions as possible, and to make every reasonable effort to get input from faculty and other stakeholders.
5. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. [Members subsequently followed up on our discussions by sharing email messages with one another, and approved these minutes by email.]

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

Cc: Sophia Diamantis-Fry