

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2022

Present in attendance: Tiffany Echevarria, Blessing Babalola, Aryeh Kalb, Sunyata Smith, Sarah Ohmer, Joe Fera, Susan Markens, Anne Rice

1. Approval of Minutes: May 25, 2022
 - a. Minutes approved.
2. Election of Committee Chair & Secretary
 - a. Joe Fera nominated and elected
3. Fill Budget Vacancy (Mia Budescu, exp. 6/24)
 - a. Brian Murphy nominated by Joe Fera
 - b. 6 voted yes; 2 abstained
4. Bylaw Amendments
 - a. Process Discussion
 - i. Motion to work on bylaws piecemeal and present changes to Senate to vote on piece by piece: passed.
 - ii. Discussion to share committee description changes with committee chairs to get their feedback, and present to the Senate as changes are amended, no need to have Senate vote on the entire by-laws at the end. Joe will contact Sophia to say that by-laws are under revision.
 - b. Committee on Governance
 - i. Changes suggested [see below]
 - ii. Motion to accept changes – 7 in favor; one abstention.
 - c. Ombudsperson
 - i. Changes suggested [see below]
 - ii. Motion to accept changes – 8 in favor.
 - d. Changes to the Amendments section were also approved – 8 in favor.
5. Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Committee on Governance

Section 67. Committee on Governance

a. Membership:

Nine ~~Ten~~ *Nine* senators as follows: ~~five~~ *six* elected faculty, and three ~~elected~~ students, including the chair of the Student Legislative Assembly.

The committee shall also include ~~and~~ one administrator.

All members of the Governance Committee ~~except for the administrator~~ must be members of the Senate. ~~If no member of the Faculty Executive Committee is elected to the Governance Committee, the Faculty Executive Committee shall appoint one of its members to serve as a non-voting liaison with the Governance Committee.~~

b. Chair

The chair of the Governance Committee must be a fulltime faculty member.

c. Functions:

- i. Serves as the Executive Committee of the Senate;
- ii. Sets the agenda, prepares the calendar of the Senate meetings and consults with the President concerning Senate business;
- iii. Reviews the operation of and recommends changes to the Senate committee system;
- iv. Reviews and makes recommendations on all proposed changes to Senate Bylaws;
- v. Resolves questions of committee jurisdiction;
- vi. Nominates candidates to committees, soliciting nominations and presenting slates of nominations to the Senate no later than the last Senate meeting of the academic year;
- vii. Administers the election of the at-large faculty and Non-Teaching Instructional Staff representatives to the Senate.

viii. If no member of the Governance Committee is elected to the Faculty Executive Committee, the Governance Committee shall appoint one of its faculty members to serve as non-voting liaison with the Faculty Executive Committee

Ombudsperson

Section 15. ~~Ombudsman~~ Ombudsperson

The Lehman College ~~Ombudsman~~ Ombudsperson shall serve as a confidential investigator in cases of alleged unfairness or maladministration. The ~~Ombudsman~~ Ombudsperson shall be the impartial spokesperson for all parties involved in such cases. ~~The Office of Ombudsman shall be governed according to guidelines established in the Senate enabling resolution.~~ The services of the Ombudsperson shall be available to all members of the Lehman College community.

~~of November 1984.~~ The Office of ~~Ombudsman~~ Ombudsperson shall be headed by a *tenured* member of the ~~tenured~~ faculty who shall serve as

~~Ombudsman~~ **Ombudsperson** for a term of two years, and who shall be eligible for re-election. The ~~Ombudsman~~ **Ombudsperson** shall be chosen by the ~~President of the College from a panel of candidates nominated~~ **elected** by the Senate. Nominations shall take place in the Spring **semester of odd-numbered years** by procedures regularly used in Senate elections. In case of a vacancy, the same procedures ~~for submission to the President~~ shall be used in choosing **a successor** for the unexpired term. *The Ombudsperson shall report to the Senate during the Spring semester on their activities during the academic year.*

Article V. Amendments

An amendment to these Bylaws, **including the establishment of a new standing committee**, may be adopted at a ~~stated~~ **regular** or special meeting of the Senate provided that a copy of the proposed amendment is sent to each Senate member at least two weeks before it is to be voted upon. The vote required shall be a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present.