

**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2009**

Senators Present: Adams, D.; Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Amoama, C.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Beard, C.; Bennett, M.; Borrell, L.; Bouzalakos, H.; Brooks, L.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Cabrera, A.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Carney, J.; Cavallo, S.; Choudhary, A.; Chukwuma, N.; Delgado, M.; DellaPina, M.; Deveaux, F.; DiPaolo, M.; Esteves, C.; Farrell, R.; Feinerman, R.; Fletcher, D.; Fermin, A.; Fernández, R.; Freedberg, S.; Galvez, A.; Gilbert, F. Gordon, M.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Graulau, J.; Greenberg, J.; Gross, C.; Harushimana, I.; Holloway, J.; Howze, P.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jarroll, E.; Jervis, J.; Kelly, C.; Kleiman, S.; Kolb, P.; Larimer, A.; Lertzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Lucente, J.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; O'Connor, N.; Olabode, A.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Raam, R.; Rachlin, J.; Rice, A.; Ricourt, M.; Rotolo, R.; Ruiz, J.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Schwartz, G.; Seiger-Gardner, L.; Silverman, H.; Small, M.; Sokol, M.; Soto, M.; Tananbaum, D.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Towery, T.; Troy, R.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wilson, V.; Wunder, A.; Zucchetto, V.

Senators Absent: Artinian, A.; Barnard, J.; Bodden, A.; Cheng, T.; Deminco, S.; Duru, C.; Eldridge, D.; Haghighat, E.; Hattori, T.; Iheanachor, G.; Kabat, D.; Kayaalp, O.; Maybee, J.; Nadeem, S.; Ona, S.; Sakho, N.; Silbermintz, N.; Totti, X.; Twomey, R.; Watson-Turner, S.; Wilder, E.; Zermatt-Scutt, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes Adopted:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 23, 2009. The minutes were approved with the amendment that lines 134-136 in the Graduate Studies report should read: "Prof. DeSimone announced the need for a new committee member to replace Prof. Timothy Alborn. She nominated Prof. Angela Kelly from the Department of Middle and High School Education as a member. Prof. Kelly was elected."

Announcements and Communication-

a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-

1. President Fernández reported that the Board of Trustees of the City University is getting ready to prepare a budget request. At next week's meeting of the Standing

40 Committees of the Board, including the Budget Committee, a budget request will be
41 discussed and approved. This item is important because it will be acted on by the full
42 Board on November 23 and then submitted to the Governor in Albany as CUNY's formal
43 request for fiscal year 2011.

44 2. Last Friday, President Fernández learned that the CUNY capital project plan for the
45 following fiscal year will include monies for phase two of the science facility at Lehman
46 College. This is for \$195 million on top of what is being done in phase one. Included later
47 on will be some money for equipment, which will be in fiscal year 2014.

48 3. Earlier in the day, the President attended the first town hall open discussion meeting of
49 the Strategic Planning Council. Discussion centered on the draft of a Strategic Planning
50 Report which has been circulated to department chairs. It's also available in the library
51 and on Blackboard. A second town hall meeting is scheduled for November 19.

52 4. President Fernández referred to the college's enrollment growth. It continues to be
53 strong, and that in itself has required the College to expand facilities, especially since
54 further enrollment growth is anticipated. This, among other things, will involve relocating
55 departments. Lehman's day care center will have to be moved because the temporary
56 facilities (which have been here for 40 years) will have to be demolished as we move to
57 phase two in construction of the science facility.

58 5. All in all, it's positive news for the campus. The President is confident that the
59 construction money will receive high priority because these are funds that put people to
60 work. Major reductions are not expected this year, but it remains to be seen what the
61 budget will be for the following year.

62

63 **b. Student Conference-**

64 1. Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos, Student Conference Chair, reported that Conference
65 activities are going well. Membership has increased three-fold after the last special
66 election on September 30, and a strong cooperative effort is evident.

67 2. Ms. Bouzalakos is personally working on helping to create a mandatory women's
68 study course for all students. There is interest in restructuring the commencement
69 ceremony—perhaps having the event in a place other than the Lehman College field.

70 3. Another special election is coming up and may possibly increase membership to 52
71 from the current 24.

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REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-

a. Committee on Governance-

1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that he was re-elected chairman of the Governance Committee for another year, and Prof. Rosalind Carey was re-elected as secretary.

2. Given the presence of three new administrators in the Senate by virtue of their positions as an assistant vice president of Institutional Advancement, an associate dean of Arts and Humanities, and an associate dean of Natural and Social Sciences, it is necessary to add six more student representatives, and nine more faculty representatives to the Senate. This way, the balance of one fifth administrators, one third students and one half faculty remains in effect. For the faculty seats, the following candidates were elected from the last election's list: Prof. Grace Bullaro, Department of English; Prof. David Fletcher, Department of Middle and High School Education; Prof. Keith Happaney, Department of Psychology; Prof. Andrei Jitianu, Department of Chemistry; Prof. Laurentiu Maxim, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; Prof. Milagros Ricourt, Department of Latin and Puerto Rican Studies; Prof. Kevin Sailor, Department of Psychology; and Prof. Heather Sloan, Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences. Since the non-tenured faculty list (Category B) is now exhausted, an election will be necessary to generate a new list from Category B. There are at least three vacancies.

3. The next item was to elect six student members of the Senate with seven students in nomination for the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. This was put aside momentarily for a motion on the floor to elect the students nominated for all the committees other than the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The following students were elected: **Committee on Admissions, Evaluation and Academic Standards:** Ms. Lola Brooks, Mr. Duane Adams, Mr. Charles Beard, Mr. Venchard Wilson and Ms. Mobria Small. **Committee on Graduate Studies:** Mr. Duane Adams. **Library, Technology and Telecommunications Committee:** Mr. Charles Beard, Ms. Algenis Cabrera, Ms. Jane Nopachinda and Ms. Joann Ruiz. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities:** Ms. Kelly Calderon, Mr. Miguel Delgado, Ms. Michaelle Garcon, Ms. Abisola Olabode, and Mr. Christopher Calderon. **Committee on Academic Freedom:** Ms. Anyelina Fermin. **Budget and Long Range Planning Committee:** Ms. Lola Brooks, Mr. Charles Beard, Ms. Joann Ruiz and Mr. Keith Lewis. Prof. Tananbaum then returned to election to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Ballots were distributed and the

106 following students were elected: Ms. Claudia Amoama, Ms. Princess Howze, Mr.
107 Marvin Bennett, Mr. Venchard Wilson, Mr. Charles Beard, and Mr. Lamont Badru.

108 4. The Governance Committee at its meetings on September 30 and October 14 discussed
109 the issues it planned to focus on this year. One of the issues concerns the changes in the
110 amendments to the bylaws in the governance documents. The committee's hope is to
111 present the revisions to the November Senate meeting for preliminary discussion with a
112 vote at the December meeting. The main change is to reduce the size of the Senate, and
113 that change would go into effect at the next election two years from now. Another point is
114 to concentrate on improved communications between the committees and other bodies
115 within the college. The third issue is brand new this year: the marginalization of the
116 Lehman College Senate. Whether it's intentional or not, it seems to many that on a
117 number of issues the role of the Senate is becoming more and more marginalized, more
118 and more limited and important decisions are made elsewhere on the campus. For
119 example, the change that was made late last year to Blackboard as an anti-plagiarism
120 system without any discussion with the Senate's Library Committee. Another example is
121 the introduction this year of divisional-based undergraduate curriculum committees.
122 We're not clear how those fit in to the existing curricula structure from the departments to
123 the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The Governance Committee will be
124 meeting with the Provost in the next few weeks to discuss what she sees as the role of the
125 divisional undergraduate committees. There's a new strategic plan draft that has been
126 circulated to various groups on campus. We're concerned that even though we have a
127 Senate Committee on Long-Range Planning and Budget, there was no involvement of this
128 committee, though the Senate has been asked to comment. And there have been others.
129 While each of these proposals individually may not be interpreted as an attack on the role
130 of the Senate, they may have been undertaken without having the Senate in mind.
131 Consequently, the Governance Committee will address what it has labeled as the
132 marginalization of the Senate.

133 5. The Committee met with Prof. John Mineka, who, at the last meeting, introduced a
134 motion calling for straw votes before formal written votes were taken. He modified his
135 motion somewhat after reading the court decision under which we are bound to operate.
136 The Governance Committee subsequently decided not to recommend the motion. The
137 Committee did, however, share Prof. Mineka's concern over the lack of confidentiality in
138 Senate balloting. The Special Counsel, Mr. Esdras Tulier, informed the committee that to

139 the best of his knowledge nobody has ever asked to see the ballots of a given ballot vote.
 140 Prof. Tananbaum then focused on the resulting resolution before the Senate:

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142 “Resolved that the Lehman College Senate resolves that the College’s legal
 143 counsel inform the Senate, through the Governance Committee, of any requests to
 144 examine the written ballots or the lists of yeas or nays on any votes in the Senate.”

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146 Discussion followed. The proposed resolution was tabled for further discussion by the
 147 Governance Committee. The Committee also withdrew another resolution, pending
 148 further discussions with Mr. Tulier:

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150 “Resolved, that the Lehman College Senate resolves that members of the
 151 Governance Committee be provided with copies of the agenda and minutes from
 152 the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee’s meetings in a timely manner, with
 153 the understanding that material exempt from Freedom of Information requests be
 154 removed from such documents.”

155

156 6. The Governance Committee has asked the chairs of all the Senate committees to send
 157 their responses to the draft of the Strategic Planning Report by the end of this month so the
 158 Governance Committee can compile their responses and forward them to the Planning
 159 Council.

160 7. The next meeting of the committee will be at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4 at
 161 a place to be announced.

162 **b. Undergraduate Curriculum-**

163 1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from the Department of Art; the
 164 Department of English; the Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological
 165 Sciences; the Department of Health Sciences; the Department of Journalism,
 166 Communication and Theatre; the Department of Middle and High School Education; and
 167 the Department of Philosophy. There are also four experimental courses presented from:
 168 the Department of Art; the Department of Environmental Geographic and Geological
 169 Sciences; the Department of Languages and Literatures; and the Department of Middle
 170 and High School Education. The report was approved.

171 2. The next meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. on November 11 in Carman 221.

172 c. **Committee on Graduate Studies-**

173 1. Prof. Janet DeSimone presented two proposals for minor policy changes from the
174 office of Graduate Studies. The report was approved.

175 2. The next meeting will be in November.
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177 d. **Committee on Academic Freedom-**

178 There was no report. But the next meeting will be held on November 19.

179 e. **Committee on Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

180 1. Mr. James Carney reported that at the meeting on Tuesday, October 27 three subjects
181 were discussed: (1) The Lehman 10-year plan as it relates to the committee; (2) Feedback
182 on technology issues from the new Student Conference members on the Committee; and
183 (3) Updates on the Unified Printing System.

184 2. Mr. Carney stated that on the Ten-Year Strategic Plan, the observation was that the
185 plan is related to technology spoken of in general terms, which in such a draft is not
186 unexpected. The Committee plans to formulate specific recommendations on what
187 elements it would like to see included in the final plan, such as a vision for a unified
188 Information Technology network infrastructure for academic use by faculty and students,
189 as well as maintaining state-of-the-art computing technology.

190 3. The new Student Conference members were welcomed and were solicited for feedback
191 on technology issues from their perspective. Issues discussed included access to printing,
192 wireless access, and access to software specific to certain disciplines. Specifically, when
193 an instructor plans on utilizing such specialized software (i.e., “JuMP” and “Foodworks”)
194 that they consult with the library and Information Technology staff so that whatever
195 accommodations are needed to have that software available on computers in common
196 areas for students to work on (subject to license availability and funding).

197 4. Regarding the Unified Printing System, Information Technology is working with the
198 vendor to resolve some outstanding issues with the new system. One problem is the
199 inordinate strain the system is placing on the Library staff which is devoting excessive
200 time assisting students with printing issues. In one remedy, the library has handed out
201 customized literature on how the system works, and the staff is meeting shortly to explore
202 other ways to address this problem.

203 5. The Committee agreed to plan informal meetings with the Student Conference
 204 members to brief them on the work of the committees and background on issues it has
 205 been considering.

206 6. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10
 207 in the Library conference room. At that meeting, Associate Provost, Robert Whittaker,
 208 will discuss online learning and Blackboard issues including the new “Safe-assign
 209 system.”

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211 **f. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities**

212 There was no report.

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214 **g. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

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216 1. Prof. Robert Feinerman reported that the Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee
 217 joined with the Budget Committee of the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee for
 218 two meetings since the last Senate meeting. At both meetings Vice President Derek
 219 Wheeler and Provost Mary Papazian participated in the discussion. At the meeting of
 220 September 24, the Committee received an outline of the faculty hiring including the
 221 number of positions and in which departments faculty were being hired. The budget is
 222 balanced but the bad news is that all the City University Tuition Reimbursement Account
 223 (CUTRA) money has been used.

224 2. At the meeting held four hours ago, the Committee requested a description of the staff
 225 changes in the Executive Compensation Plan (ECP) and the amount of money being spent
 226 on executive compensation. Also requested was information on the number of new hires
 227 in the Higher Education Officer lines. There’s a question about three new people added to
 228 the Executive Compensation Plan, but there is no change in the amount of the money
 229 being spent.

230 3. The Committee discussed proposals for COMPACT 5, which would be the next big
 231 spending plan coming up.

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233 **h. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards-**

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235 Mr. Ralph Boone was granted floor rights. He reported that the Committee met on
 236 October 13, and he was elected chair. The Committee presented one new proposal:

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238 “Resolved, that the admissions standards for Fall 2010 regularly admitted
 239 freshman students, currently set at a total SAT score of 900 (Verbal and Math), be
 240 modified to a total SAT score 940 (Verbal and Math), with all other admissions
 241 requirements remaining the same as those for Fall 2009.”

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243 After extensive discussion, the resolution was passed by voice vote.

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245 **i. University Faculty Senate-**

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247 1. Prof. Manfred Phillip reported that the 2009 University Faculty Senate Fall Conference
 248 on “Funding Public Higher Education” is rescheduled for Friday, December 11. The
 249 Senate was informed to use the University Faculty Senate Twitter page, at
 250 <http://twitter.com/ufscuny> for short updates and other items.

251

252 2. The University Faculty Senate Spring Conference on “Access to Higher Education in
 253 the Health Sciences” took place on May 8 at the Graduate School. The conference was
 254 fully subscribed and resulted in interesting discussions.

255

256 3. The University Faculty Senate Faculty Experience Survey, an effort by Prof. Kathleen
 257 Barker of Medgar Evers College, is now active. Everyone who was on the teaching staff
 258 on April 1, 2009 should have received a postcard containing the login information. The
 259 funding package needed to execute the survey was provided by Executive Vice Chancellor
 260 Lexa Logue. The University Faculty Senate extends its sincere thanks to Prof. Barker for
 261 her leadership on the project and Vice Chancellor Logue for her support. The survey is
 262 being conducted by Votenet.

263

264 4. The new Human {Subjects} Research Projections Program, a document that regulates
 265 the activities of the University Institutional Review Boards goes to the CUNY Trustees
 266 this month. The University Faculty Senate has met with the Chancellery to help improve
 267 the various drafts.

268

269 5. The University Faculty Senate has asked the University to outline preparations for
 270 H1N1 and seasonal influenza. CUNY units have begun to communicate their preparations
 to the college communities.

271

272 6. The previous effort by the chancellery to establish equivalencies for doctoral academic
 273 credentials in faculty hiring has reverted to the practice of establishing such equivalencies
 274 for each Personnel Vacancy Notice (PVN).

271 7. Pursuant to campus-based complaints, the University Faculty Senate has asked the
272 University to examine its implementation of the Workplace Violence Policy. It appears
273 that not all campuses are diligent in making that policy known to the campus community,
274 and not all campuses respond promptly to workplace violence allegations.

275 8. The University Faculty Senate Faculty Advisory Council for the Research Foundation
276 has met with Research Foundation President Richard F. Rothbard and Vice Chancellor
277 Gillian Small to discuss formal training in research ethics, now demanded by federal
278 funding agencies for people associated with federal research grants. Vice Chancellor
279 Small has introduced that on her web site.

280 9. The University Faculty Senate Executive Committee is considering measures meant to
281 strengthen CUNY's academic processes. One suggests making good campus governance
282 an evaluation criterion in the CUNY Performance Management Process used to evaluate
283 college presidents. Another aims at getting the university to do more to confirm the
284 claimed academic qualifications of applicants for teaching and other positions. A third
285 aims at getting the University to respond in a consistent and appropriate manner when
286 employees are discovered to be featuring non-accredited academic degrees, whether or not
287 those degrees are needed for their job title.

288 10. The Chancellor's Task Force to study the PSC-CUNY award process is expected to
289 advocate significant restructuring of the grant program. The proposal now under
290 discussion suggests two-tier grants policy, one tier of high value grants subject to
291 significant review and another tier of low value grants subject to less stringent review. The
292 University Faculty Senate has had discussions on this with the Professional Staff Congress
293 (PSC.) Both have membership on the Task Force.

294 11. It appears that CUNY Compact-related efforts to gradually increase tuition can be
295 expected to continue and that efforts will be made to retain as much of the revenue as
296 possible. The New York State Division of the Budget predicts that the New York State
297 deficit will grow from \$2.1 billion in FY 2009 to \$4.6 billion in FY 2010 to \$13.3 billion
298 in FY 2012. Any undergraduate tuition increase may be limited by the maximum covered
299 by the Tuition Assistance Program. Graduate tuition may increase more.

300 12. Planning continues for proposed new units in the university. These include a seventh
301 Community College, a school of public health, based at Hunter with consortial faculty
302 members at Brooklyn, the Graduate School, and Lehman. Governance of the new school
303 of Public Health is an issue that is being discussed with the Hunter Senate leadership.

304 Planning continues for a doctoral level School of Pharmacy to be based at York
305 College. The idea of more college-based professional doctorates was mentioned in the
306 CUNY Council of College Provosts. The consultants engaged for the Pharmacy program
307 suggests high than normal faculty salaries and a \$16K in state tuition level.

308 13. Since June 2007, six CUNY campuses have seen or are seeing changes in the person
309 serving as president. These are Baruch College, Brooklyn College, City College of New
310 York, College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, and Medgar Evers College.

311 14. Governor David Paterson has appointed Dr. David M. Steiner, Dean of Education at
312 Hunter, to the position of State Education Commissioner.

313 15. CUNY college enrollment plans were due in the Chancellery on October 14 and
314 inquiries have been made on whether college governance was involved.

315

316 **OLD BUSINESS**

317 There was no old business.

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319 **NEW BUSINESS**

320 There was no new business.

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322 **ADJOURNMENT**

323 The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier