

Whereas the budget is the context in which we make the sum of our decisions

Whereas the past year has seen a significant increase in overall class size and adjustments to teaching modalities produced by changes in revenue and the need to close the campus suddenly due to the COVID pandemic. In many instances, the exigencies of the pandemic necessitated changes in staffing, reduced the time instructors had to adopt new instructional practices, and necessitated changes to ongoing courses that were stressful for students and staff.

Whereas class size is related to workload and is of interest to students and faculty alike

Whereas students need guidance from faculty to make new connections and advance their careers, and each course has unique relationships between the scale of a class, scope of assignments and content generated by students, class format, and student-teacher interactions

Whereas class size is related to pedagogical models

Whereas pedagogy must be matched by appropriate class size and teaching modalities, and that Lehman’s mission statement of the past 15 years made clear that the college is recognized for “close interaction between students and faculty” and values this

Be it resolved that categories of classes should be developed in cooperation with schools, departments, and the registrar to reflect pedagogy adequately in CUNYFirst.

Be it resolved that the college will articulate course attributes as they relate to class size-- e.g. seminar, lab, independent study, REC, lecture (midsize lecture, and/or other categories of lecture, including jumbo, etc.) so that faculty and students can know what to expect of courses to which they're assigned and for which they register.

Be it resolved that approximate class size and modality should be transparent when faculty are assigned to classes and every effort should be made to maintain modality and class size. Similarly, class size and modality should be transparent to students at the time of registration.

Be it resolved that the college will share best practices around the communication process and timelines related to changes to class size that reflect the needs of faculty who require time to modify their courses and chairs who require time to discuss changes to course attributes, compensation and pedagogy with faculty.

Be it resolved that pedagogical and human concerns should drive class size, with a transparent process for reconciling budgetary factors.

Be it resolved that the conditions produced by the pandemic should not be accepted as the new normal. Lehman should resume planning that is guided by long-term goals and the need to offer high quality instruction.