

Report for Lehman Senate of USF on UFS Plenaries, as proposed on April 30, 2025.**Submitted by Lehman USF reps: Naomi Zack, David Manier, and Stephen Castellano.**

To the Lehman College Senate: Below are proposed minutes for the April 1, 2025 meeting and a proposed agenda for the May 6, 2025 UFS meeting and. Both are likely to be approved and the May 6 Agenda might be of interest to the Lehman Faculty Senate, before the meeting.

PROPOSED MINUTES

The 447th Plenary Session
of The University Faculty Senate
of The City University of New York
Rooms 0818/0819
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

UFS Chair Verzani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Plenary was held in Room 818/819 at the Central Office, 205 East 42nd Street. 75 of the 140 voting members were present.

Baruch: Present – Ellis, Grein, Harel, Karama and Martell. Absent – D’Souza, Lee, Wine and Wymbs. Vacancies – 1. **BMCC:** Present – Belknap, Danison, Glaser, Oram, Wiseman and Alternate Meltzer. Absent – Comeau-Kirschner, Gonzalez-Urbina, Keane, Kelley, Littlefield and Lomask. **Bronx CC:** Present – Culkin, David, Fisher and Rothenberg. Absent – Kaighobadi. **Brooklyn:** Present – Cohen, Evans and Levy. Absent – Arnow, Bassell, Belyayeva, Kingan and Okome. **CCNY:** Present – Binz-Scharf, Davis, Li, Mano, Peele and Stenberg. Absent – Jeruzalmi and Kornhauser. Vacancies – 1. **CSI:** Present – Gold, Gruber and Verzani. Absent – LaMassa, Vachadze and Yuan. Vacancies – 1. **CUNY Law School:** Absent – Loehr and Sokkar Harker. **Graduate Center:** Present – Burke and Shirazi. Absent – Gorman and Riobó. Vacancies – 1. **Guttman CC:** Present – Medina. Absent – Philipose. **Hostos CC:** Present – August, Trachman and Alternate Ridley. Absent – Griffin and Worrell. **Hunter:** Present – Chinn, Troudt and Young. Absent – Chito-Childs, Clarkson, Dahbour, Dudek, Keating, Kenigsberg, Nicolai and Soyer. Vacancies – 1. **John Jay:** Present – Benton, Carbonell, Grant, Kimora, Narkunas, Thompson and Alternate Belcher. Absent – Domashevskiy and Kaplowitz. **Kingsborough CC:** Present – Aranoff, Navarro, Segal and Stubin. Absent – Acosta, Devany and Eaton. **LaGuardia CC:** Present – Albrecht, Fernandez, Fess and Klein. Absent – Keyes, Mann and Sokolski. **Lehman:** Present – Castellano, Wang and Zack. Absent – Alexander-Street, Bell, Johnson, Manier and Vann. **Medgar Evers:** Present – Barker, Chevalier and James. Absent – Huggins. **NYCCT:** Present – Allahverdi, Bennett, Capruso, Coughlin, Zylstra and Alternate Spellane. Absent – Gelman, Grujicic-Alatriste and Rodriguez. **Queens:** Present – Naughton and Pai. Absent – Kumar, Lowry, Newman, Pagano, Sullivan, Swedell and Yearwood. Vacancies – 2. **Queensborough CC:** Present – Adair, Akpinar, Carroll, Cornick, Puri, Srivastava and Tai. **York:** Present – Chirico, Costley and Lipkind. Absent – Abbott and Sheidlower.

Governance Leaders present were: Barker (Medgar Evers), Bruns (LaGuardia), Burke (Graduate Center), Chinn (Hunter), Chirico (York), Cornick (Queensborough), Gold (CSI) and Grein (Baruch). Guests present were Sherif Soliman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Budget & Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Eric Barenboim (Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council), Jonathan Hanon (John Jay), Christina Sharrock and Miguel Davila (CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies). Members observing via Zoom were Alexander-Street (Lehman), Andreescu (NYCCT), Kaplowitz (John Jay), Keyes (LaGuardia), Kingan (Brooklyn), Lee (Baruch), Manier (Lehman), Okome (Brooklyn), Sheidlower (York) and Traver (Queensborough). Executive Director Cotter, Administrative Assistant Pasela and Secretary Blanchard were also present.

1. Approval of the Agenda – Adopted as Proposed
2. Approval of the Minutes of February 25, 2025 – After a slight emendation was suggested, the Minutes were adopted as proposed.
3. Remarks by Senior Vice Chancellor Serif Soliman – 6:35 – 7:05 p.m. – SVC Soliman provided an update on the New York State and City budgets and their implications for the University. He first outlined the process by which the budget is proposed, debated and, ultimately, determined, and then discussed in detail the array of projected academic, facilities, personnel, and program areas targeted for support throughout CUNY's community, comprehensive, and senior colleges. He then took questions related to the budget in the current political climate.
4. Proposed Revisions to UFS Charter – Martin J. Burke – 7:05 – 7:15 p.m. – Prof. Burke outlined for the second time proposed changes to sections of Article II of the UFS Charter, which will be brought to the floor for a vote at the May Plenary.
5. Proposed Resolution on Converting the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee to a UFS Standing Committee – Kenneth Gold – 7:15 – 7:20 p.m. – Prof. Gold briefly outlined the rationale for the proposed conversion, which will be brought before the body for a vote at the May Plenary.
6. Nominations for Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee – Matthew J. Cotter 7:20 – 7:30 p.m. – After announcing election rules and protocols, Executive Director Cotter recorded the nominations of Kathleen Barker (MEC), Ned Benton (JJ; via email), Kerin Coughlin (NYCCT), Douglas A. Medina (GCC), Enid Stubin (KBCC), Jason Young (HC), Hollis Glaser (BMCC), Melanie R.W. Oram (BMCC), Kenneth Gold (CSI), Cynthia Wiseman (BMCC), and Sandra Kingan (BC; via email).
7. Discussion of Recent Events at Hunter College – Sarah Chinn 7:30 – 7:40 p.m. – Prof. Chinn briefly outlined an incident in which the Governor of New York interfered in the faculty hiring process and the various responses from faculty within and without CUNY to promote and defend academic freedom in higher education. She then took questions.

8. Chair's Report – John Verzani – 7:40 – 7:50 p.m. – Chair Verzani began by thanking Profs. Evans and Glaser for coordinating the recent Academic Freedom discussion and Prof. Benton for running the recent Budget Workshop. He then reminded the body to conduct their campus elections in a timely manner. He discussed the contents of recent Board of Trustee meetings, among them were the recently proposed policy related to body cameras on campuses and discussed why the University needed to update or develop some of its policies regarding, the recent online proctoring policy, and the challenges associated with the process by which interim appointments at the Executive Level are determined. He also noted that the results of recent presidential searches are forthcoming, and that a search for a new University Provost would commence soon. He updated the body as well on the status of the Freedom of Expression Committee, which will convene soon, and outlined some of its preliminary language. In addition to announcing his upcoming participation at the SUNY UFS Spring Plenary, the Chair observed that recent discussions over the matter at Hunter College have been civil on the UFS listserv, and he pointed out a couple of opportunities for faculty to publicly voice their concerns related to it, which were forwarded to the listserv by former UFS Chair Sandi Cooper.
9. New Business – 7:50 – 8:00 p.m. – Kristina Sparrock requested and was approved for time on the floor to announce an upcoming Mayoral Town Hall on mental health and invited the Senate to attend. Prof. Kimora thanked Chair Verzani for fostering a welcome communication environment with the Senate, and Prof Coughlin noted that two resolutions passed by the UFS in 2019 and 2021 were being given serious consideration by Provost Alicia Alvero's office and the Board of Trustees Governance Committee.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Cotter

PROPOSED AGENDA
The 448th Plenary Session
of The University Faculty Senate
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Rooms 0818/0819
Tuesday, May 6, 2025
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes of April 1, 2025
3. Nominations and Elections for Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee – Matthew J. Cotter – 6:35 – 7:05 p.m.

4. Proposed Revisions to UFS Charter – Martin J. Burke – 7:05 – 7:15 p.m.
5. Proposed Resolution on Converting the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee to a UFS Standing Committee – Kenneth Gold – 7:15 – 7:20 p.m.
6. Proposed Resolution on Converting the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Advisory Committee to a UFS Standing Committee – Melanie R.W. Oram 7:20 – 7:25 p.m.
7. Proposed Resolution on Shared Governance and Information Technology – Roxanne Shirazi – 7:25 – 7:30 p.m.
8. Proposed Resolution in Defense of Higher Education — John Verzani – 7:30 – 7:35 p.m.
9. Chair’s Report – John Verzani – 7:35 – 7:45 p.m.
10. Announcement of Provisional Election Results – 7:45 – 7:50 p.m.
11. New Business – 7:50 – 8:00 p.m.

Social starts at 6:00 p.m. in Rooms 0818/0819

Committee meetings:

Academic Affairs – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1179

Academic Freedom – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 0963

Community Colleges – 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1179

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access – 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1047

Library and Information Technology – 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1002

Status of the Faculty – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1102

Student Affairs – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 0962