

**Report for Lehman Senate of USF on UFS Plenaries, as proposed on August 29, 2025.**

**Submitted by Lehman USF reps: Naomi Zack, David Manier, and Stephen Castellano.**

*To the Lehman College Senate: Below is a report for the September 3, 2025 Lehman Senate meeting consisting of a schedule for 2025-6 CUNY Senate meeting, the minutes of the May 6, 2025 Meeting, and a link to the CUNY Senate's curated reports on 2025 political impacts on higher education.*

**Schedule of CUNY Senate Plenary Meetings 2025-6:**

**September 16**

**October 28**

**December 2**

**February 24**

**March 31**

**May 5**

The 448<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session  
of The University Faculty Senate  
of The City University of New York  
Rooms 0818/0819  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Agenda**

1. Approval of the Agenda, Approval of the Minutes of April 1, 2025
2. Nominations and Elections for Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee – Matthew J. Cotter – 6:35 – 7:05 p.m.
3. Proposed Revisions to UFS Charter – Martin J. Burke – 7:05 – 7:15 p.m.
4. Proposed Resolution on Converting the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee to a UFS Standing Committee – Kenneth Gold – 7:15 – 7:20 p.m.
5. 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.
6. Proposed Resolution on Shared Governance and Information Technology – Roxanne Shirazi – 7:25 – 7:30 p.m.
7. Proposed Resolution in Defense of Higher Education — John Verzani– 7:30 – 7:35 p.m. Chair's Report – John Verzani – 7:35 – 7:45 p.m.
8. Announcement of Provisional Election Results – 7:45 – 7:50 p.m.
9. 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

**Minutes** to follow

### **Resolution to Convert the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee into a Standing Committee of the UFS**

**Whereas**, the UFS Academic Affairs Advisory Committee was formed more than ten years ago and its active existence and contributions since then speak to its importance to the purpose of the university and the purview of the UFS; and

**Whereas**, deeper in the past, UFS committees charged with matters pertaining to academic affairs were standing committees; and

**Whereas**, the CUNY Board of Trustees' Educational Policy Committee has a mandate that includes initiatives in curriculum development, instructional support, enrollment, recruitment, retention, transfer, articulation, and student success-all areas of historic and current interest to the UFS Academic Affairs Advisory Committee; and

**Whereas**, according to the UFS Charter, UFS Standing Committees “shall reflect the academic, administrative and financial organization of the University” (Article VI, §2);

**Whereas**, organizational and fiscal changes as well as the current environment for higher education nationwide pose significant challenges to longstanding and valued academic principles and practices;

**Be It Resolved** that the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee be recognized as a Standing Committee (title: Academic Affairs) of the UFS to represent faculty in matters related to CUNY academic policy, including curriculum development, instructional support and modality, enrollment, recruitment, retention, transfer, and articulation before the CUNY Division of Academic Affairs.

Adopted on the 6th day of May 2025 by the University Faculty Senate of the City University of New York

### **Resolution on Converting the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Advisory Committee to a UFS Standing Committee**

**WHEREAS**, The Inclusion Diversity Equity and Access (IDEA) is a Subcommittee of the Status of Faculty Committee that wrote the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) at CUNY Omnibus Resolution which passed in the University Faculty Senate (UFS) Plenary on 5/10/22 and led to the formation of the UFS IDEA Advisory Committee. The charge of the UFS IDEA Advisory Committee was to develop university-wide IDEA [formerly known as Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI)] strategic plans and initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, As stated in the IDEA Resolution: “Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (defined hereinafter as “IDEA”) are City University of New York (CUNY) values that have been institutionalized in the CUNY Mission, that are represented as a CUNY requirement for funding in NY State Education Law, Article 125, Section 6201, and benefit all members of the CUNY community, who represent the diversity of New York City; and **WHEREAS**, We live in a social climate where history is being erased and where marginalized groups including low income individuals, people of color, women, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, ethnic

minorities, religious minorities, older individuals, and other groups that are vulnerable and/or under attack, the formation of the UFS IDEA Standing Committee is urgently needed to protect the intellectual integrity of CUNY and to serve as an instrument for advocacy that will benefit the CUNY Community at large; and

**WHEREAS**, Establishing the UFS IDEA Standing Committee will serve to preserve, protect, and assert the First Amendment Rights and Academic Freedom of all CUNY students, faculty, and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, The UFS IDEA Advisory Committee who collaborates with the University Advisory Committee on Diversity (“UACD”) and other campus-wide IDEA committees and personnel, should become a Standing Committee of UFS given it is uniquely positioned to advise and be consulted on IDEA matters by the Chancellery and the Board of Trustees, under the already established requirements of shared governance; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of the UFS IDEA Advisory Committee have collective knowledge and expertise on matters of IDEA to successfully operate as a standing committee by actively drawing from their legal experiences, scholarly endeavors, grant procurements, and involvement with other comparable campus-wide or university-wide committees on IDEA; and

**WHEREAS**, the CUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) defines Standing Committees as units that “examine, investigate, deliberate, and make recommendations on matters of current and long standing import to the faculty;” and Senate Advisory Committees as units that “engage with the CUNY senior administration” (e.g., Academic Affairs consults with the University Provost), the work of the UFS IDEA Advisory Committee is consistent with the work of and warrants a formalized designation as Standing Committee;

**WHEREAS**, During our three (3) year existence, the UFS Advisory IDEA Committee has demonstrated the productivity and hard work needed from all standing committees by doing primary research in the form of survey responses of Chief Diversity Officers, campus-wide listening sessions, and research for and development of resolutions, to produce an analytical report that offers insights to better understand IDEA issues and concerns of the CUNY community to be addressed; THEREFORE, BE IT

**RESOLVED**, The IDEA Advisory Committee should be established as a Standing Committee of the UFS due to the sustained importance of IDEA to CUNY, one of the largest and most diverse urban universities in the United States. CUNY must uphold the principles of IDEA among its faculty, students and staff as an integral part of its mission, core values, and culture, in accordance with NY State Education Law, Article 125, Section 6201.

#### **Resolution on Shared Governance and Information Technology**

Approved by UFS Committee on Libraries and IT on April 1, 2025

**WHEREAS** the role of faculty participation in IT decision making has been significantly curtailed; and

**WHEREAS** the University’s Information Technology Steering Committee, which historically included an elected faculty representative from the University Faculty Senate alongside campus CIOs and chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, was dissolved in 2023; and

**WHEREAS** the University’s Committee on Academic Technology, which includes two faculty representatives from the University Faculty Senate alongside two appointed representatives from each campus, has been notified that meetings will be convened by the administration on an “as

needed” basis, solely at the discretion of administration and without further clarification on what measures determine such need; and

WHEREAS the University faces urgent issues in information technology including cybersecurity attacks, artificial intelligence, data governance, changes in classroom technology, and aging network infrastructure, among others; and

WHEREAS the University is both an educational and research-intensive environment that requires technological infrastructure, implementations, standards, and policies that differ from municipal or state agency requirements; and

WHEREAS the University has recently created new administrative leadership roles including a Chief Academic AI Officer and a University Dean for Technology and Computer & Information Sciences; and

WHEREAS effective shared governance requires the participation of the faculty in all important institutional decisions, not just those related to purely academic matters for which it holds primary authority;<sup>[1]</sup>

THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate calls on the Chancellor to affirm the necessity of meaningful faculty participation in developing strategic direction for technology acquisition, implementation, and maintenance across the University; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate calls on the Chancellor to work with the University Faculty Senate: 1) to conduct a thorough review of the University’s technology committees, both academic and non-academic; and 2) to identify and implement an appropriate structure that includes regular and full faculty participation in institutional decisions related to the University’s overall technology strategy.

Adopted the 6th day of May 2025 by the University Faculty Senate of the City University of New York

<sup>[1]</sup> AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities

(1966), <https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities>

**Resolution to Build a New York State Alliance in Defense of Higher Education: Teaching, Research, and Academic Freedom**

WHEREAS, Recent and escalating politically motivated actions by governmental bodies pose a significant threat to the foundational principles of American higher education, including the integrity of scientific research, the autonomy of higher education governance, and the rights of academic freedom and to political speech; and

WHEREAS, The CUNY system is part of an immense network that bears a proud tradition of public higher education, serving as an engine of equity and upward mobility that advances the well-being of all residents of the City and State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The preservation of one institution’s integrity is the concern of all, and an infringement against one public college or university in the State of New York shall be considered an infringement against all; and

WHEREAS, College and university governance bodies around the United States, including the University Faculty Senate of the State University of New York, have called upon their administrative leaders to commit to a policy of mutual alliance and defense in the face of assaults on academic freedom and freedom of speech; therefore

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the University Faculty Senate of the City University of New York endorses a statement, Together We Stand<sup>[1]</sup>, by its executive committee calling for unity to preserve the central role higher education plays in civic society.

**BE IT, FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we, like our executive committee, call on the CUNY Board of Trustees and the CUNY Chancellery to recognize and respond to attacks on the fundamental right to higher education by formally proposing and taking a leading role in establishing and fortifying an alliance among the public colleges and universities of New York State in defense of higher education: teaching, research, and academic freedom. This compact would mobilize all members of the alliance to defend and preserve these institutions and the resources they have built to further the common good.

**BE IT, FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we call on the state to engage in necessary legal actions and provide financial support to CUNY and SUNY to defend the integrity and principles of higher education in the State of New York. [1] <https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2025/04/Together-We-Stand.pdf>

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**Curated Record of 2025 Political Impacts on US Higher Education and CUNY specifically CUNY Tracker**

**[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_\\_https://cunytracker.github.io/CUNYTracker/\\_\\_;!!PxiZbSOawA!II96rURiLPCGj\\_-udax3Egpo8t7a9JTJP5-Kxr33SqBUGDtstFT408-jsiT\\_h-92Oi4H2uJKXqcg3zuBWO8PcybI0ODcrFeRG4z\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://cunytracker.github.io/CUNYTracker/__;!!PxiZbSOawA!II96rURiLPCGj_-udax3Egpo8t7a9JTJP5-Kxr33SqBUGDtstFT408-jsiT_h-92Oi4H2uJKXqcg3zuBWO8PcybI0ODcrFeRG4z$)**