

**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9, 2009**

**Senators Present:**

Adams, D.; Akan, A.; Alborn, T.; Badro, L.; Bamshad, M.;  
Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Beard, C.; Bennett, M.; Bouzalakos, H.;  
Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Carney, J.;  
Cavallo, S.; Choudhary, A.; Delgado, M.; DellaPina, M.; DeSimone, J.;  
Deveaux, F.; DiPaolo, M.; Eldridge, D.; Feinerman, R.; Fermin, A.;  
Fernández, R.; Fletcher, D.; Galvez, A.; Garlon, M.; Gilbert, F.;  
Gorokhovich, Y.; Greenberg, J.; Gross, C.; Haghghat, E.;  
Harushimana, I.; Hattori, T.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jervis, J.;  
Kleiman, S.; Larimer, A.; Lerzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Lucente, J.;  
Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Nadeem, S.;  
O’Hanlon, T.; Olabode, A.; Onemola, O.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.;  
Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Raaum, R.; Rachlin, J.; Rice, A.; Rotolo, R.;  
Sailor, K.; Segura, Y.; Seiger-Gardner, L.; Shiller, J.; Silverman, H.;  
Sokol, M.; Tananbaum, D.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Towery, T.; Troy, R.;  
Villar, F.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.;  
Wilson, V.; Zermatt-Scutt, M.; Zucchetto, V.

**Senators Absent:**

Afrani, D.; Amoama, C.; Artinian, A.; Barnard, J.; Bodden, A.; Borrell, L. ;  
Brooks, L.; Cabrera, A.; Calderon, K.; Cheng, T.; DeMinco, S.; Duru, C.;  
Esteves, C.; Farrell, R.; Freedberg, S.; Graulau, J.; Holloway, J.;  
Howze, P.; Iheanachor, G.; Jarroll, E.; Jitianu, A.; Kabat, D.;  
Kayaalp, O.; Kolb, P.; Maybee, J.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; Ndukwe, C.;  
Nopachinda, J.; O’Connor, N.; Ona, S.; Ricourt, M.; Rosemond, E.;  
Ruiz, J.; Sakho, N.; Schlesinger, K.; Schwartz, G.; Sibermintz, N.;  
Small, M.; Soto, M.; Thompson, P.; Twomey, R.; Weeks, F.; Wilder, I.;  
Wilson-James, C.; Wunder, A.;

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 3:40 p.m.

**Minutes Adopted-**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of  
November 18, 2009. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Announcements and Communication-**

**a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-**

1. President Fernández briefly discussed the New York State Budget. The assumption is

43 that the Governor will not be presenting an early budget—as he did last year on  
44 December 15. There are still many unresolved budget elements, as has been made clear in  
45 the media, and the president said that he expected the budget to be presented on January  
46 15.

47 2. The Board of Trustees met to approve a number of measures included in CUNY’s  
48 budget request, which amounts to approximately \$1.8 billion. We will be looking in mid-  
49 January to see what the actual State Budget contains. President Fernández was pleased to  
50 confirm that the request for Phase II of the Lehman Science facility was included in the  
51 budget draft; he was very hopeful that this item would be approved. Typically, he noted,  
52 in times of budget difficulties, capital projects provide work, and the State tends to look  
53 more favorably upon them.

54 3. The Provost’s Holiday Celebration is scheduled for December 16 at 4:00 p.m. in the  
55 Performing Arts Center lobby, and the usual campus holiday celebration will take place  
56 on December 18 in the afternoon.

57 4. On Tuesday, December 15, Governor David Paterson will be holding an Open Forum  
58 in the Lovinger Theater. It is open to the community. The Governor has been holding  
59 these public meetings in every borough. They enable residents to share their concerns and  
60 questions and hear what the Governor has to say.

61 5. The President wished student members success in their final examinations and  
62 projects. To everyone else, he hoped for a very happy and healthy holiday and New Year.

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64 **b. Student Conference-**

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66 1. Ms. Hyacinth Bouzalakos, Student Conference Chair, reported that the special  
67 elections went well. The Student Conference now stands at 30 members; seven new  
68 senators were elected. We started out with eight members and are now up to 30. Ms.  
69 Bouzalakos thanked everyone who helped make the first semester so productive.

70 2. Ms. Bouzalakos reported that a meeting was held last week to discuss the Student  
71 Government Association documents, including the bylaws; hopefully, by next semester,  
72 the issues will be resolved.

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**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

76 a. **Committee on Governance-**

77 1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum noted that the committee has been quite busy since the last  
78 Senate meeting.

79 2. Members of the committee met today with the Provost and two members of the  
80 Department of Health Sciences to discuss the draft governance document for the new  
81 School of Public Health that CUNY is creating. It was a productive meeting and covered  
82 many substantive points—as well as providing suggestions for revisions. The  
83 Governance Committee also met today and resolved to bring the final governance  
84 document of the School of Public Health to the Senate for its information. We also  
85 believe that if the Senate votes its approval of the document, it will strengthen Lehman’s  
86 participation in the program.

87 3. Last month, members of the committee met with Prof. Ira Bloom, the chair of the  
88 Strategic Planning Council, to convey some of our concerns about the School of Public  
89 Health governance document. We expressed our hope that a clause or article be added  
90 stating explicitly that the report’s recommendations would be implemented in accordance  
91 with the existing governance plan and structure of Lehman College.

92 4. In November, we met with the Provost, and the chairs of the undergraduate curriculum  
93 — as well as the graduate studies committees — to discuss the roles of the divisional  
94 curriculum committees. It is our impression that the only group currently functioning is  
95 the one in the Arts and Humanities. The Provost provided us with her rationale for  
96 establishing divisional curriculum committees. All the committee chairs provided  
97 information on how the process is working, and it was agreed to reexamine the issue in  
98 February to determine the progress that has been made in the fall semester.

99 5. In February, the Governance Committee will be scheduling meetings with all of the  
100 chairs of the Senate’s Standing Committees. A number of these individuals are new to  
101 their roles, and we want to ensure that all committee chairs are aware of issues under  
102 their jurisdictions, as well as some of the prerogatives of the Senate and of their particular  
103 committees. Committee chairs will receive an e-mail in early February to set up a  
104 mutually convenient time to meet.

105 6. Concerning the revisions in the governance documents that were presented in some  
106 detail at the last meeting: there are changes in the language covering “vacancies.” We  
107 want to make it clear that “vacancies” refer to an individual who is no longer employed  
108 or matriculated at Lehman College.

109 7. Another issue that came up at the last meeting was the requirement that four members  
110 of department Personnel and Budget Committees be tenured. We left that provision as is;  
111 the wording mirrors the current statement on the subject in the CUNY By-Laws. So we  
112 brought our document into accord with those provisions: four of the five members of  
113 department P&B Committees should be tenured, unless there are fewer than four tenured  
114 members in the department. We recognize that special circumstances can arise; for  
115 example, if a tenured department member is unwilling to sit on the committee. However,  
116 since the CUNY By-Laws did not cite such an occurrence, it did not make sense for our  
117 by-laws to deal with it either. If need be, this situation may be examined in more detail  
118 and possibly dealt with through the use of a separate amendment. It is my understanding  
119 that CUNY currently handles this situation through separate memoranda issued by  
120 CUNY's General Counsel.

121 8. To restate the main changes the Governance Committee has proposed: the  
122 committee's size will be cut down to 102 members comprised of 51 faculty members; 17  
123 administrators or non-teaching instructional staff; and 34 students. Faculty members will  
124 represent each department; the additional faculty required will be elected at-large. Also,  
125 administrative members were provided with the right to vote in their committees.

126 9. The changes proposed were approved unanimously.

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128 **b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations, and Academic Standards-**

129 There was no report.

130 **c. Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum-**

131 1. Professor Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from the Departments of Biological  
132 Sciences; Economics and Business; Environmental, Geographic, & Geological Sciences;  
133 Health Sciences; and the interdisciplinary program in Linguistics. She also presented two  
134 informational items relating to experimental courses in the Departments of Biological

135 Sciences and Environmental, Geographic, & Geological Sciences.

136 2. Professor Jacobson also read a correction concerning required courses for a proposed  
137 new Interdisciplinary Minor, Business for the Liberal Arts, that should read as “Three  
138 credits in Communication or Ethics (Communications 300 or Philosophy 330),” instead  
139 of 3 - 4 in Communication. She noted in response to a question that this language change  
140 has been through several revisions since the prior Senate meeting. She described the  
141 Senate discussion as very helpful; the committee considered the points raised quite  
142 carefully.

143 3. In regard to a comment urging a description of all the changes that had been made to  
144 the proposal which the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee had distributed to the  
145 Senate in November, Professor Jacobson described these updates: in regard to a new  
146 interdisciplinary minor in the Department of Economics and Business, the number of  
147 credits required has changed from 12-18 credits to 12-17; the program name has been  
148 altered to Business for the Liberal Arts (instead of Business and the Liberal Arts); in  
149 terms of required courses, the number of 100-level courses has been diminished; the  
150 requirements for the 12-credit minor now include one 100-level course, one 200-level  
151 course, and two 300-level courses. The 12-credit minor itself is a new proposal. If  
152 students achieve a 3.0 grade point average, they can then proceed on to take a five-credit  
153 Humanities course. That course, “Humanities Internship (HUM 470),” also received a  
154 new proposal and course description. There was discussion regarding these changes. The  
155 specified program changes were unanimously approved.

156 4. Two additional changes in the description of Business for the Liberal Arts were also  
157 unanimously approved by the Senate: Prof. Orhan Kayaalp, Chair of the Department of  
158 Economics and Business, was designated as Program Director (replacing Ms. Michelle  
159 Carr, of Institutional Advancement, who is the program administrator). Dance was added  
160 to the List of Approved Liberal Arts Majors.

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162 **d. Committee on Graduate Studies-**

163 1. Professor Janet DeSimone described three proposals: from the Office of Graduate  
164 Studies; the Department of Environmental, Geographic, & Geological Sciences; and the

165 Department of Health Sciences.

166 2. All three proposals were approved unanimously.

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168 e. **Committee on Academic Freedom-**

169 1. Professor Jessica Shiller introduced herself: she is the newly elected chair of the  
170 Academic Freedom Committee and is an assistant professor of education in the  
171 Department of Middle and High School Education.

172 2. The Academic Freedom Committee at Lehman College has been essentially inactive  
173 for a few years. We plan to change that and become quite active with our first task being  
174 an examination of the College's Academic Freedom Statement. We had a great meeting  
175 last month with 12 attendees—both students and faculty members—and we began to  
176 consider the statement. We want to bring the issues of academic freedom to the college  
177 community and make people aware that we exist. If any of you discover issues of  
178 academic freedom that need addressing, please contact me or one of the members of the  
179 committee. We hope to increase the presence of the committee on the campus.

180 f. **Committee on Library, Technology, and Telecommunications-**

181 1. Mr. James Carney informed the Senate that there had not been a full committee  
182 hearing, but rather a fruitful sub-committee meeting (with student participation).

183 2. He reminded Senate members that a detailed e-mail had been distributed on December  
184 8 describing the new printing system. Additional information, for example on web  
185 applications, will be provided as the system is phased in.

186 3. The annual CUNY Information Technology conference was held last week. There  
187 was a new item presented: "The CUNY Academic Commons," which might be described  
188 as "Facebook for Faculty." It allows faculty to set up work groups and to conduct  
189 conversations—both on-campus and system wide—and will be a very useful tool. To  
190 access it, go to the CUNY website and search for the CUNY Academic Commons.

191 4. A request was submitted to the Provost's Office for a presentation on the  
192 implementation of the CUNY FIRST system on the Lehman campus.

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194 g. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

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1. Professor Janet Tilley opened by noting that the Initiative to Reduce Second-Hand Smoke on Campus goes into effect January 1, 2010. At the start of the Initiative, there will be friendly reminders to smokers that smoking is prohibited within 20 feet of a building entrance or air intake area. Actual enforcement of the Initiative will begin with the fall 2010 semester.

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2. The Food Services Sub-Committee has met a number of times to monitor the new vendor, who is still getting used to Lehman; there may be more changes over the break as they remodel and institute some new practices. In addition, there will be another Food Services Survey. The Sub-Committee wants to thank the college community for participating so consistently and thoroughly in the prior survey: it was most helpful. We are hoping to receive good feedback from the student body and other campus constituencies. We expect the survey to be distributed at the beginning of the spring term—the end of January or early February—so we can use the spring semester to examine everyone’s input.

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3. We are contemplating another feasibility study in regard to food services. The units now are without kitchens, and yet we need much more robust food services available on campus.

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4. The committee was provided with an update on the status of the Student Housing Feasibility Studies. There have been a number of studies undertaken to assess such issues as demand, unit layout, and pricing. But the current economic situation is not conducive to building at this time. It is however, something we are examining, and it is likely that Lehman will build something down the road.

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5. The committee received an update on the “Swing Space Study.” When Phase II construction begins on the Science Building, we will need to demolish the “T-3” building. That means that all the programs housed in that facility will need to put somewhere else. Should they be housed off-campus or on-campus? This is just one of the questions that are being addressed. Phase One construction is underway; Phase Two of the Science Building will begin in the not-so-distant future.

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6. More generally, our space needs on campus are dire. Enrollment is up 42% over the last seven years, and is slated to rise an additional 21% by 2016. Another study was

226 undertaken to examine the College’s general space requirements. Some of the proposals  
227 in this forthcoming study include: adding on to Phase II construction of the Science  
228 Building (incorporating a tower in one corner); building an extension to Davis Hall; the  
229 possibility of some off-campus siting for certain departments (they have been apprised of  
230 this possibility). All of these suggestions are now in discussion, and we are examining  
231 how these proposals affect the campus.

232 7. The Sustainability Council met and is in the final stages of creating a ten-year  
233 Sustainability Plan, which encompasses a wide variety of topics ranging from waste  
234 management to energy procurement to the curriculum. Faculty should be aware that  
235 double-sided printing is going into effect at all Information Technology labs, and is now  
236 the default. A memo went out yesterday explaining how to print on both sides of a sheet.  
237 The Sustainability Council urges faculty members to accept double-sided papers from  
238 students—if they are still accepting paper (rather than pdfs.)

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240 **h. Committee on Budget and Long Range Planning-**

241 There was no report.

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243 **i. Committee on the University Faculty Senate-**

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245 1. Professor Manfred Philipp alerted the Senate to the cancellation of the December 11  
246 conference; the primary speaker, Vice Chancellor Ernesto Malave, passed away while in  
247 Puerto Rico attending another meeting.

248 2. A meeting planned for December 15 was also cancelled. The primary speakers were  
249 all unable to attend.

250 3. The Faculty Experience Survey is now complete, and we are now going to evaluate  
251 the results over the next month. We had a very good response rate—a little less from  
252 part-time faculty, and a little more from full-time—and we thank all of you who  
253 participated.

254 4. At the last Board of Trustees meeting, one of the items discussed was the budget. In  
255 this area, there were two items of salient interest.

256 The Chancellor’s salary, according to public document, rose by \$40,000 to \$490,000 and  
257 achieved parity with SUNY’s chancellor. Professor Philipp explained that this is a  
258 competitive salary —although much higher than the governor and other State officials.



259 There is a concern on the Board that when the current chancellor leaves, one needs to  
260 attract a topflight person for the position and thus this high salary is required. At the same  
261 time, tuition was raised by \$90 per academic year for the senior colleges and \$60 per year  
262 for the community colleges. We believe this requires confirmation by the State. This is  
263 still below the TAP limit, so that students who are eligible for TAP will still be covered  
264 entirely. Professor Philipp pointed out that SUNY is much closer to the TAP limit—  
265 within \$5 or \$10—so they cannot raise tuition without exposing TAP students to  
266 financial pain. When the Board voted on whether to increase tuition costs, the delegate  
267 from the University Student Senate abstained. Most of the funds gained through this  
268 increase will go to Albany and not the University—although this is not always the case.  
269 In time, increasing proportions of the increase will remain with the University.

270 5. The Task Force on the PSC-CUNY Awards Programs will meet later this month. The  
271 Faculty Senate met with the Professional Staff Congress' (PSC) central officers. The PSC  
272 has decided to take this issue to the negotiation process with the management side to get a  
273 resolution. They will ask that the PSC-CUNY Awards not be altered while these  
274 negotiations are in process.

275 6. The University Faculty Senate has issued a call for liaisons—as it does every year.  
276 Volunteers are needed to serve on the University Committee on Research Awards; that  
277 service essentially makes them chairs of the committee for their disciplines. There are  
278 liaisons in every discipline. The University Faculty Senate proposes three names in each  
279 discipline to the Chancellor, and he picks among those three. The PSC-CUNY contract  
280 does not include this procedure; this is a process specified by the University Committee  
281 on Research Awards bylaws. The contract itself says that the Chancellor appoints the  
282 University Committee on Research Awards (UCRA). There are indications that some  
283 members of the Chancellery are going to advocate that the Chancellor do that without  
284 reference to the University Faculty Senate so as to more rapidly restructure the program.  
285 If there were indications that this was going to happen, I would report that to you.

286 7. The discussions on the State Budget are continuing. We expect to see the proposed  
287 Executive Budget early next year and are hoping for the best. As of now, we have done  
288 fairly well given the current state of affairs.

289 8. In response to a question, Professor Philipp commented on a promise Mayor Michael

290 Bloomberg made during the mayoral election campaign. He vowed to provide an extra  
291 \$50 million for the community colleges, but we have not seen that money yet.

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293 **OLD BUSINESS-**

294 There was no new business.

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296 **NEW BUSINESS-**

297 There was no new business.

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299 **ADJOURNMENT-**

300 The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier