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**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, May 4, 2011  
Senate Meeting**

**Senators Present:** Alborn, T.; Badru, L.; Bayne, G.; Bennett, M.; Bergmann, R.;  
Borrell, L.; Carrellas, P.; Carey, R.; Carney, J.; Clark, V.; Correa, D.;  
DellaPina, M.; DeSimone, F.; Eleyinafe, O.; Farrell, R.;  
Fernández, R.; Fletcher, D.; Freedberg, S.; Gálvez, A.;  
Gorokhovich, Y.; Greenberg, J.; Gross, C.; Haghghat, E.;  
Holloway, J.; Jacobson, B.; Jitianu, A.; Kabat, D.; Kolb, P.;  
Larimer, A.; Lawrence, A.; Lizardi, H.; Magdaleno, J.;  
Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; O'Connor, N.; O'Hanlon, T.;  
Onyedum, J.; Papazian, M.; Peruyero, C.; Philipp, M.; Raam, R.;  
Rachlin, J.; Rotolo, R.; Tananbaum, D.; Troy, R Warde, B.;  
Wilder, I.; Wunder, A.; Zucchetto, V.

**Senators Absent:** Akan, A.; Almodovar-Salinas, D.; Amaoma, C.; Artinian, A.;  
Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Bard, A.; Barnard, J.; Beard, C.; Blot, R.;  
Brooks, O.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Cheng, T.;  
Choudhary, A.; Deveaux, F.; Di Paolo, M.; Dobson, C.; Duhaney, C.;  
Eldridge, D.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fermín, A.; Garçon, M.;  
Gilbert, F.; Hattori, T.; Henry, P.; Howze, P.; Iddrisu, A.; Jafari, M.;  
Jarroll, E.; Jervis, J.; Jones, L.; Kayaalp, O.; Levitt, J.; Lucente, J.;  
Markens, S.; Martín, O.; Maybee, J.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.;  
Nadeem, S.; Ndukwe, K.; Nyemba, T.; Olabode, A.; Omare, D.;  
Prohaska, V.; Qian, G.; Rice, A.; Ricourt, M.; Ross, S.; Samuels, Y.;  
Schlesinger, K.; Schwartz, G.; Sesay, F.; Sibermintz, N.;  
Silverman, H.; Sloan, H.; Sokol, M.; Soto, M.; Souare, I.;  
Thomas, G.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Twomey, R.;  
Voge, S.; Waldo, I.; Whittaker, R.; Zapata, S.; Zermatt-Scutt, M.

35 The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 3:42 p.m.

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37 A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 6, 2011  
38 with the following changes: line 82, should read "the resolution was endorsed and approved  
39 by all three committees;" line 93, should read "we are recommending reactivating..." and line  
40 115, should read "the resolution was moved and approved unanimously with three  
41 abstentions." The minutes were approved unanimously.  
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43 **Announcements and Communications—**

- 44 a. 1. President Fernández reported that at the Council of Presidents meeting, there was  
45 discussion about the \$40 million in funds being held up in Albany. He added that the  
46 chancellor will be meeting with high ranking administrators and was hopeful that some  
47 resolution of this issue would be forthcoming.
- 48 2. The president reported on a *Daily News* article concerning a press conference with SUNY's  
49 chancellor, the governor, and the lieutenant governor. The article indicates that the governor  
50 supports SUNY's request on behalf of their Board of Regents to set higher tuition at the four  
51 major research campuses. They also announced there would be a number of investments in  
52 terms of capital and other funding for these four units, including Stony Brook University,  
53 University at Albany and Binghamton University. The University of Buffalo is leading the  
54 charge. The elected officials, mostly Republicans, have been pushing very strongly for the  
55 University of Buffalo, which they see as an economic engine that would rejuvenate that city.  
56 If the legislature agrees to allow them to set tuition, the legislature will always maintain the  
57 right to make the final decision. President Fernández believes that if the legislature does this  
58 for SUNY, they will likely do it for CUNY as well. The chancellor was very clear that he was  
59 not in favor of differential tuition by institution within CUNY.
- 60 3. The president reported that for the past year, more than 100 individuals in this community  
61 have been involved in John Gardner's Focus on Excellence (FoE); a study of the transfer  
62 student experience. After six months of intense self-study, they are ready to provide their  
63 recommendations, particularly the creation of the Transfer Council. Dr. Fernández asked  
64 Associate Provost Robert Whittaker to provide more details.
- 65 3. Dr. Whittaker reviewed the Focus on Excellence Study Update included in the Senate  
66 packet (see attachment I.) He reported that this study is the work of over 100 faculty and staff  
67 in nine committees. The result is a review of the whole transfer process at Lehman. The issue  
68 of excess credits will be looked at carefully. Dr. Whittaker thanked Assistant Dean Lynn Van  
69 Voorhis for her work on this study. Discussion followed. The president concluded by stating  
70 that he recently discovered that some graduating students had excess credits due to a change  
71 of major midstream and/or the addition of one or more minors.

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74 **4. Old Business—**

75 It was agreed to move Item 4, “Old Business” up in the agenda. The resolution to approve the  
76 amendment to the governance documents to change the name of *Student Conference* to  
77 *Student Legislative Assembly* was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved. Professor  
78 Duane Tananbaum announced that while there was a quorum present, the required two-thirds  
79 majority was not. However, since the resolution passed unanimously in two consecutive  
80 meetings in which a quorum was present, the CUNY Board of Trustees will take that as a sign  
81 of overwhelming approval.

82  
83 **b. Student Conference—**

84 Mr. Marvin Bennett reported that the last meeting of the Student Conference was postponed  
85 due to the “Big Freeze II.” At the final meeting, they will be voting in members of the  
86 steering committee who will lead the Student Legislative Assembly for the next term. He also  
87 thanked the Lehman College Senate for serving with them.

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89 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES—

90  
91 **a. Governance—**

92 1. Professor Duane Tananbaum announced that the Governance Committee would like to  
93 withdraw the “Resolution Opposing Proposed Changes in CUNY Bylaws.” Professor  
94 Tananbaum reported a couple of weeks ago, that Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, Frederick  
95 Schaffer, had suggested numerous revisions updating the language. Currently, in Section 8.6,  
96 it states that the faculty shall be responsible for the formulation of policy, etc. Vice  
97 Chancellor Schaffer’s original proposal provided that the faculty shall be responsible for  
98 policy recommendations. Our authority would be reduced from making policy under Board  
99 guidelines to making policy recommendations. This was a substantial change and many were  
100 up in arms over this language. The vice chancellor amended his original proposal to now  
101 provide: “The faculty at each college, subject to the board, shall be responsible for the  
102 formulation of policy.” Therefore, since the original language has been revised, it no longer  
103 affects the Senate and we don’t need a motion opposing this change. Part of the context is  
104 that this comes at the same time as the battle for the General Education curriculum. Professor

105 Tananbaum reported that we need to remain ever vigilant about any amendments that take  
106 away the authority of this body.

107 2. The Governance Committee has been very busy with the Senate elections process.  
108 Everyone should have received ballots. Those ballots are due by the end of this week. Please  
109 make sure to cast your votes. Everyone is eligible to vote.

110 3. The Committee on Academic Structure met this past Monday to further discuss  
111 restructuring proposals. Most of these involve a change in the name from divisions to  
112 schools. The proposal closest to fruition is the creation of the School of Health Sciences,  
113 Human Services and Nursing, but it is not expected to happen imminently.

114 4. The next meeting of the Governance Committee is next Thursday, May 12 at 10 a.m. in  
115 Carman 201. Professor Tananbaum thanked the members of the standing committees,  
116 especially the chairs, for their service.

117

118 **b. Committee on Admissions, Evaluations and Academic Standards—**

119 1. Professor Anne Rice presented to the Senate the list of candidates for undergraduate and  
120 graduate graduation for June and September 2011, subject to approval by the registrar. The  
121 list of graduates was approved unanimously.

122 2. There was also a proposal to change the academic standards on probation, particularly the  
123 change in language from “probation” to “probation warning.” See attachment II. Discussion  
124 followed.

125 3. Ms. Lisa Moalem, retention specialist, was granted floor rights to clarify the difference  
126 between “probation” and “probation warning.” She reported that when a student’s cumulative  
127 index falls below good academic standing, the student will now be placed on “probation  
128 warning.” The warning period gives students time to improve their grades. If this doesn’t  
129 happen, they will be placed on “probation.” However, since it is not until the spring semester  
130 that students are “caught” and then “dropped,” this extends that time to the following spring  
131 semester. This is to allow students to appeal and for CAEAS to review them. There is not  
132 sufficient time between the fall and spring semesters to appeal and review. Discussion  
133 followed. A motion was made, seconded and approved to amend the resolution language from  
134 “probation warning” to “academic warning.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

135 4. Professor Rice then presented the new Student Evaluation of Teaching tool as an  
136 informational item. She reviewed the new questions in the document, particularly the section  
137 on the skills learned by the students in the course. Feedback should be directed to Associate  
138 Provost Robert Whittaker. Discussion followed.

139 5. The report was unanimously approved.

140

141 President Fernández left for another engagement; therefore, Mr. Marvin Bennett chaired the  
142 remainder of the meeting.

143

144 **c. Graduate Studies--**

145 In the absence of Professor Janet DeSimone, Dean Deborah Eldridge gave the report. She  
146 presented proposals from the following departments: Counseling, Leadership, Literacy and  
147 Special Education; Early Childhood and Childhood Education; English; History; Middle and  
148 High School Education; Music; and Environmental and Geographic and Geological Sciences.  
149 She also presented informational items from the Department of Middle and High School  
150 Education and the Department of Music. The proposals were approved unanimously. The  
151 next meeting is in the fall.

152

153 **d. Undergraduate Curriculum--**

154 Professor Barbara Jacobson reported she would like to pull the experimental course: LAC  
155 (PRS) 349: Latino Political Economy, from the Department of Latin American and Puerto  
156 Rican Studies proposals. In the past, departments submitted new and experimental courses at  
157 the same time. Now they must be submitted separately and will be entered in separate  
158 Chancellor's reports. She presented proposals from the following departments: History;  
159 Journalism, Communication and Theatre; Languages and Literatures; Latin American and  
160 Puerto Rican Studies; Anthropology's Program in Middle Eastern Studies; Middle and High  
161 School Education; and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The proposals were  
162 approved unanimously.

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166 **e. Academic Freedom—**

167 1. In the absence of Professor Mario González-Corzo, Professor Michael Buckley reported  
168 that the committee met on April 13<sup>th</sup> and is working on creating a virtual presence on campus.  
169 The idea is to create a platform for the Lehman community. The other idea is to serve as a  
170 repository of information; a way for the committee to inform the Lehman community and to  
171 stay ahead of the curve when policy issues arise. They will also be creating a survey. He  
172 expects the survey and website to be completed in the fall.

173 2. The next meeting is Monday, May 16, time and location to be announced.  
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175 **f. Library and Communications—**

176 1. Mr. James Carney reported that he attended a technology/security summit. It was an eye  
177 opening experience about the amount of data that is out there and the onslaught of attacks  
178 against our computer systems on a minute by minute basis. He urged that everyone seriously  
179 take all security measures that the university provides, especially concerning student  
180 information.

181 2. The next meeting will take place sometime next week.  
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183 **g. Campus Life—** See attachment III.

184 **h. Budget and Long Range Planning—** See attachment IV.  
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186 **i. University Faculty Senate Report—** See attachment V.  
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189 New Business—

190 There was none.

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192 ADJOURNMENT

193 Mr. Marvin Bennett adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.  
194

195 Respectfully submitted,

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197 Esdras Tulier