

**Minutes of
The Lehman College Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2008**

Senators Present: Acosta, G.; Afrani, D.; Akan, A.; Albelda, V.; Alborn, T.; Badru, L.; Banoum, B.; Bernstein, D.; Boone, R.; Borrell, L.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Choudhary, A.; Chowdhury, N.; Crump, C.; Dauben, J.; DellaPina, M.; Diaz, N.; DiPaolo, M.; Eldridge, D.; Esposito, R.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Folsom, C.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Gerry, C.; Graulau, J.; Gulla, A.; Happaney, K.; Harushimana, I.; Ho, A.; Holloway, J.; Iheanachor, G.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.; Joseph, R.; Kleiman, S.; Kunstler, R.; Levitt, J.; Lewis, A.; Lewis, K.; Markens, S.; Matthews, E.; Maybee, J.; Mbengue, K.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Middleton, J.; Mineka, J.; Niedt, P.; O’Hanlon, T.; Ona, S.; Ornstein, S.; Papazian, M.; Patterson-Whilby, N.; Phillip, K.; Philipp, M.; Qian, G.; Rice, A.; Sailor, K.; Schlesinger, K.; Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tegeder, D.; Thelusmond, A.; Thompson, P.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Trimboli, S.; Valverde, F.; Vitiello, A.; Voge, S.; Warde, B.; Watson-Turner, S.; Wheeler, D.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, I.; Zwiren, M.

Senators Absent: Ajayi, D.; Anagboso, N.; Bamshad, M.; Ben-Dan, T.; Bonastia, C.; Bryant, S.; Decker, C.; Delson, Eric; Fleitas, J.; Flook, R.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Haghghat, E.; Jones, L.; Kolb, P.; McNaughton, C.; Millan, J.; Munch, J.; Nnamani, S.; Oviedo, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Prohaska, V.; Raaum, R.; Ramos, R.; Reid, A.; Rotolo, R.; Seiger, L.; Sun, M.; Tabachnikov, A.; Troy, R.; Worby, K.; Zucchetto, V.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 2:13 p.m.

Minutes Adopted:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of November 19, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved with the change that Prof. Maria DiPaolo was present.

39 **Announcements and Communication-**

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

42 **1.** President Fernández announced that the request for extended hours in the library was
43 approved. The library will have extended hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

44 **2.** The Presidential Inauguration will be televised on the campus on January 20, 2009, due
45 to the community's interest in viewing this historic event. The Inauguration will be televised
46 in Music 330 and Carman B39. All are welcome.

47 **3.** At the CUNY Board of Trustees' meeting on Monday, a tuition increase for 2009 was
48 approved. After the governor releases the State budget on December 16, there will be more
49 information as to what's in store for the next year and information will be available by the
50 time the Senate meets again in February. Realistically, the State budget is not expected to be
51 approved by the March 31 deadline. President-elect Barack Obama is in favor of an
52 infrastructure stimulus package and we expect some of those funds to benefit higher
53 education. Senator Charles Schumer is pushing for a portion of the funds to go to education,
54 especially higher education. CUNY is trying to garner support. There will be more
55 information in the coming months.

56 **4.** President Fernández conducted an elaborate presentation on Lehman's financial aid
57 awards for the past year. The president thanked the Financial Aid office for its service to
58 students. Floor rights were granted to Mr. Scott Dames, Testing and Scholarships director.
59 He explained how scholarship funds are allocated in detail. Mr. Dames, joined by Vice
60 President for Student Affairs José Magdaleno responded to questions. One point concerned
61 whether student athletes receive "athletic" scholarships. They both indicated that Lehman
62 College does not provide for such scholarships, only financial support based on academic
63 merit.

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65 **b. Student Conference-**

66 **1.** The report was presented by Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair. He
67 expressed thanks to Provost Mary A. Papazian and Prof. Kenneth Schlesinger, the chief
68 librarian, for allocating funds to make the extended library hours possible.

69 **2.** Mr. Jeremias announced that in an effort to make Lehman a more progressive college and
70 to avoid further confusion about the roles of the two student government organizations, there

71 has been a decision to unite the Student Conference and the Campus Association for Student
 72 Activities (CASA). Both Mr. Jeremias and CASA president, Mr. José Tavarez, (given floor
 73 rights), concurred that this unification will take a lot of work but it will ultimately have the
 74 common goal of meeting the needs of all students.

75 **3.** The event for Darfur, which included an opportunity for people to make donations for
 76 solar cookers, was a huge success. Student forums took place on the issues of scholarships
 77 and library hours. The Conference is grateful to the administration and faculty.

78 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

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80 **a. Committee on Governance-**

81 **1.** Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that at the last meeting there was clarification about
 82 faculty representation in various committees, such as Dr. Robert Valentine replacing Prof.
 83 Heather Sloan.

84 **2.** There were two vacancies on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications
 85 Committee to which the Committee nominated Prof. Emine Kayaalp of the Department of
 86 Economics, Accounting and Business Administration; and Prof. William Woolridge of the
 87 Department of History. There were no other nominations and the nominations were approved
 88 by acclamation.

89 **3.** The Committee will continue to discuss shrinking the Senate body. Also, there is a
 90 general consensus to bring the Governance documents in line with the CUNY Bylaws so that
 91 no more than one untenured faculty member could serve on a department P&B committee.

92 **4.** Prof. Tananbaum noted that the issue of student participation in Department P&B
 93 committees had come up. He said student representatives to department P&B committees
 94 may only serve in an advisory capacity. The process varies in departments. The Committee
 95 will inquire how each department complies with the governance plan; what are the successful
 96 practices of the departments in compliance, and what can be done to bring the non-compliant
 97 departments on board.

98 **5.** The Senate meetings will need to comply with the new bell schedule set to begin next
 99 semester. As a result, the Senate will need to meet at 3:30 p.m. instead of 2 p.m.

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

104 **1.** Prof. Kevin Sailor presented to the Senate a list of Undergraduates and Graduate
105 Candidates for the January 31, 2009 graduation. The list was approved subject to verification
106 by the registrar.

107 **2.** As there has been some concern that the Independent Study courses are not always
108 constructed in such a way that they can be completed within the framework of a single
109 semester, the Committee proposed a change to the description of independent study courses.
110 The Committee recommends adding the following new sentence: “The scope of these plans
111 must be commensurate with the number of credits earned and be designed to be completed
112 within the framework of the semester in which the student is enrolled in the course.” The
113 report was unanimously approved.

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115 **c. Undergraduate Studies –**

116 **1.** Prof. Barbara Jacobson submitted proposals from eight departments and one program:
117 Department of African and African American Studies; Department of Economics;
118 Accounting and Business Administration; Department of Health Sciences; Department of
119 History; Department of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies; Department of Middle and
120 High School Education; Department of Philosophy; Department of Sociology and the
121 Program in Women’s Studies. An informational item regarding an experimental course in
122 the Department of Sociology was also presented. An amendment was introduced, moved and
123 approved concerning the new undergraduate minor for candidates pursuing secondary social
124 studies certification. Specifically, that the word “must” replace the word “can” in the first
125 sentence of the paragraph concerning program requirements. Also, the proposal to eliminate
126 social studies title for the undergraduate minor in Middle and High School Education for
127 candidates pursuing secondary social studies certification was withdrawn. Also, there was a
128 correction (on page 22 of the report) concerning the change in alpha code and cross listing
129 with the Department of History. The change from BLS 246 to AAS (HIW) 248 should read
130 AAS (HIS) 248. The report was approved unanimously.

131 **2.** The next meeting will take place sometime in February 2009.

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

- 136 1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported on a proposal from the Department of Economics
 137 Accounting and Business Administration to establish a degree program in Business
 138 Administration especially designed for liberal arts graduates leading to an MBA in Global
 139 Management. He also presented a change in the admission requirements in the MA program
 140 in History. The report was unanimously approved.
 141 2. The next meeting will take place sometime in February 2009.

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

143 There was no report.

144 **f. Committee on the Library, Technology and Telecommunications-**

145 Floor rights were granted to Mr. James Carney.

- 146 1. Mr. Carney reported on the results of the student survey. Students expressed a lack of
 147 knowledge of library services and databases. The Committee encourages faculty to schedule
 148 their class to get orientation on research. The contact at the library is Mr. Robert Farrell.
 149 2. The Committee is optimistic that there will be a new vendor of printing services by the end
 150 of the spring semester.
 151 3. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. in the Library. The
 152 Committee would like to hold meetings right after the Senate.

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154 **g. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

155 There was no report. The next meeting is scheduled for December 22 at 1 p.m. in Shuster
 156 336.

157 **h. Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

- 158 1. Prof. Janette Tilley reported that several items are being currently discussed and
 159 investigated by the Committee. At the request of the students, the Committee has been
 160 looking into the variety and quality of healthful snack and meal options across the campus.
 161 The Committee is working with various food vendors to meet student needs, but also looking
 162 into the possibility of conducting nutritional studies of food offered on campus.
 163 2. The Committee met with Vice President Derek Wheeler and Public Safety Director
 164 Domenick Laperuta concerning security of computers and related equipment. The news is

165 that there have been no thefts since October and there are now some details about changes to
 166 security and key policy at the college. Vice President Wheeler and Mr. Laperuta support the
 167 use of several deterrents, including, the NYPD etching and identification of college
 168 equipment, shock alarms that will engage when equipment is tampered with, and subscription
 169 to a location and recovery software service plan that would render stolen equipment useless in
 170 the hands of thieves. The Committee is continuing to work with Public Safety and is most
 171 concerned now with departmental and faculty compliance by keeping doors locked and
 172 equipment secured correctly.

173 **3.** The Campus Sustainability Council has submitted its base-line report to the CUNY
 174 Sustainability Task Force and is working on developing a comprehensive plan to reduce our
 175 carbon footprint and make Lehman a model of sustainability. The goal is to reduce our
 176 carbon footprint by 30%.

177 **4.** The next meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 3 p.m. in Shuster 336.
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179 **i. University Faculty Senate-**

180 **1.** Professor Manfred Philipp reported that enrollment has gone up and that Hunter College
 181 and Borough of Manhattan Community College are full. The State is short of funds and has
 182 reduced the CUNY budget. The CUNY Board of Trustees voted on a tuition increase of up to
 183 \$300 per semester beginning in fall 2009. The governor has advocated that only 20% of the
 184 tuition increase be returned to CUNY in the first year. The tuition increase, combined with
 185 continued planned increases in state aid, allow the Chancellery to project 350 net new faculty
 186 hires for the university in the next year. This comes despite significant projected state budget
 187 deficits.

188 **2.** University Faculty Senate Vice Chair Prof. Lenore Beaky and Prof. Philipp met on
 189 December 5 with Prof. Carl Wieszalis, Chair of the SUNY Faculty Senate and Prof. Milton
 190 Johnson, chair of the SUNY Faculty Council for the Community Colleges, to discuss the
 191 financial situation at both universities and possible common initiatives. The meeting outlined
 192 the stark differences between the two systems, and aimed at forging a possible action plan to
 193 help both universities.

194 **3.** The University Faculty Senate and the University Student Senate are engaged in meetings
 195 with PSC-CUNY and the leadership of New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)

196 to discuss responses to the governor's executive budget. All agreed to oppose budget cuts for
197 CUNY.

198 **4.** The Chancellor has asked University Dean John Mogulescu to study the formation of a
199 new community college based in Manhattan. The University has access to a property on West
200 End Avenue, that now belongs to John Jay College. This could be a mixed-use, public private
201 partnership.

202 **5.** The University Faculty Senate Research Awards Committee has experienced problems in
203 getting people to accept assignment as liaisons to the University Committee on Research
204 Awards, which is the committee that administers the PSC-CUNY Research awards. This year
205 there is no liaison to handle the anthropology applications in that program. Vice Chancellor
206 Gillian Small has called a task force to study the issue. University Faculty Senators Prof.
207 Kathryn Richardson and Prof. Thomas Bird are members.

208 **6.** New York City has now provided the necessary funds to begin the reconstruction of
209 BMCC's Fiterman Hall.

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211 **OLD BUSINESS**

212 There was no old business.

213 **NEW BUSINESS**

214 There was no new business

215 **ADJOURNMENT**

216 The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier