

**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, February 4, 2009**

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

**Senators Absent:** Acosta, G.; Ajayi, D.; Albelda, V.; Anagboso, N.; Badru, L.; Ben-Dan, T.; Bernstein, D.; Bonastia, C.; Bryant, S.; Crump, C.; Diaz, N.; Flook, R.; Folsom, C.; Gerry, C.; Gorokhovich, Y.; Gulla, A.; Jones, L.; Maybee, J.; McNaughton, C.; Middleton, J.; Millan, J.; Nnamani, S.; Oviedo, M.; Patterson-Whilby, N.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Prohaska, V.; Ramos, R.; Seiger, L.; Sun, M.; Tabachnikov, A.; Whittaker, R.; Worby, K.;

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo Fernández at 3:30 p.m.

**Minutes Adopted:**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of December 10, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved with the correction that extended library hours are Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 o’clock noon to 8 p.m. The Saturday hours remain the same, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

42 **Announcements and Communication-**

43

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

45 1. President Fernández visited the Bronx delegation of the State Legislature yesterday,  
46 leading the presidents of the CUNY schools in the Bronx as he has done over the last four  
47 years. The meeting was arranged with both the Assembly and the Senate and both visits  
48 were successful. The group managed to speak to all the representatives of the Assembly,  
49 except two, and in the afternoon spoke to all but two of the Bronx Senators. And they also  
50 had a chance to speak to Senator Carl Kruger, chair of the Budget and Tax Reform  
51 Committee and Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, chair of the Higher Education Committee.  
52 As usual, the legislators were keenly receptive, but they emphasized the present difficult  
53 environment and cautioned against undue optimism. The discussion centered on two  
54 issues: (1) what's happening with the 2008-09 budget and (2) the fiscal 2009-10 budget  
55 which begins on April 1. The delegation took the usual priorities that the University has  
56 delineated, namely, the Senior College operating budget and the restoration of funds  
57 recommended for reduction. Also, the state aid for community colleges was a major issue.  
58 There was emphasis on the investments in core activities that the governor put forth in his  
59 plan whereby twenty percent of any increase in tuition would be turned back to the  
60 university. Thus, at least a portion of the funds that people will be asked to pay as a  
61 tuition increase will come back in the form of either increased faculty, staff, better  
62 services, or some investment in the University. This is an important change in the  
63 practice. Typically, what has happened over the years is that the Governor proposes a  
64 reduction, the legislature approves it, tuition is increased, the amount of the increase  
65 closes the gap, and there is no new money for anything. Given the rate of inflation, CUNY  
66 is falling behind. The aggregate impact over the years has created some real imbalances  
67 and deficiencies. The presidents also emphasized the need to address the proposed  
68 reduction in TAP. The Assembly and Senate representatives were provided with a chart  
69 detailing the number of Lehman students who live in their districts who are receiving  
70 TAP. They were impressed by the numbers and fully recognize the value of the  
71 University. The legislators were willing to be of help, while recognizing the restraints they  
72 are working under. Under consideration was the question: what represents a full-time  
73 student? The proposal was to move the criterion from 12 credits to 15 per semester. This

74 would result in a significant reduction in money CUNY students would receive.  
 75 Compared to other institutions, Lehman has relatively few students who are taking 15 or  
 76 more credits. President Fernández believes we will see some movement in that direction.  
 77 President Fernández also emphasized Lehman College's capital budget needs. Specifically  
 78 mentioned was Lehman's Science Facility, Phase II, which deals with the underground  
 79 connections that are needed. This is costly, requiring the University to seek \$20 million to  
 80 cover the work. It's likely that Lehman will receive consideration because it's easier for  
 81 the legislators do that. (It also stimulates the economy.) This year, in the community  
 82 colleges finances, a cut of \$2 million has been made up but this will not happen in next  
 83 year's budget. It's difficult to assume that the budget will be out by April 1. Fortunately,  
 84 New York Senator Charles Schumer is one of the people most directly shepherding the  
 85 stimulus package through the U.S. Senate and he fully understands the importance of  
 86 strengthening higher education in getting the economy back on track. Next Tuesday, a  
 87 group of students will travel to Albany to meet with the legislators since it is important for  
 88 the legislators hear directly from the students.

89. 2. President Fernández introduced Dr. Robin Kunstler, Acting Dean of the Natural and  
 90 Social Science Division, for a report on the fast-approaching Middle States Review.

91 3. Professor Kunstler reported that the Self-Study is posted on the Lehman website and  
 92 she urged that Senators read it, if they haven't already. The Middle States review team  
 93 will visit the campus March 8 to March 11. Groups are being set up for meetings, and  
 94 individuals will be contacted soon. She just wanted to make sure everyone is aware of the  
 95 team's visit and that they receive a proper welcome. The Senate will be kept informed on  
 96 what's happening. A hard copy of the Self-Study document is in the library for anyone  
 97 interested.

98

99 **b. Student Conference-**

100 1. The report was presented by Mr. Jason Jeremias, Student Conference Chair. Reporting  
 101 on the first meeting of this semester, it was decided to go forward with an ad hoc  
 102 committee to consider forming a student government association to supplant the old  
 103 bodies of CASA and the Student Conference. Meetings will be held every other Friday  
 104 starting next week.

105 2. Meetings are also being held on plans for the homecoming event.

106        **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

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108    **a. Committee on Governance-**

109        1. Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that the Committee met on January 26 to continue the  
110        discussion on various issues in the governance documents, including trying to reduce the  
111        number in the Senate to make it easier to form a quorum. The President will join the next  
112        meeting as the discussion continues.

113        2. Ballots for nominations for Senators at large and other constituencies will be going out  
114        within the next month. Nomination ballots will also be going out in March for the Senate  
115        committees. Senators are urged to watch their mail boxes. Elections have two rounds.  
116        First, there is a request for nominations (you can nominate yourself or a colleague can  
117        nominate you). If you nominate someone other than yourself, Senators are urged to first  
118        make sure that the person is interested.

119        3. In answer to a question from the floor, Prof. Tananbaum explained that the only  
120        committee one has to be a senator to serve on is the Governance Committee. People,  
121        faculty and students do not have to be members of the Senate to serve on any other  
122        committees.

123        4. The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled for 4:45 p.m. on February  
124        24 in the President's Conference Room, Shuster 336.

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

127        There was no report.

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129    **c. Undergraduate Studies –**

130        1. Prof. Barbara Jacobson submitted proposals from two departments: the Department of  
131        Biological Sciences and the Department of Economics, Accounting and Business  
132        Administration; and one informational item from the Department of Biological Sciences.  
133        The report was approved.

134        2. The next committee meeting will be at 12:15 p.m. on February 11 in Carman 221.

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

139 1. Prof. Timothy Alborn reported a change in the Department of Economics, Accounting  
140 and Business Administration. This involves a change in ECO 720 (Advanced Auditing,) to  
141 ACC 719 (Advanced Auditing). The new alpha code in the course (ACC 719) and its  
142 prerequisite (ACC 441) appropriately anchor the course in the core requirement of the  
143 Master in Science program in Accounting. The addition of “or equivalent” corrects a  
144 mistake in the original description. A redundant phrase in the course description is also  
145 deleted. The report was approved.

146 2. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10 in Carman B33.

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

148 There was no report.

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

150 1. There was no report.

151 2. The next meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 in the  
152 Library.

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

155 There was no report. The next meeting is still being planned.

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

158 1. Prof. Janette Tilley reported that a request for proposals for the food services has been  
159 issued. Returns are expected within the next couple of weeks. The request was made for  
160 sustainable, local food options as well as Kosher and Halal foods. To get a better sense of  
161 the community’s needs and wishes for food services, the committee will send out a short  
162 survey, asking students and faculty to take the time to communicate their needs.

163 2. The next meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4 in Shuster 325.

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165 **i. University Faculty Senate-**

166 1. Professor Manfred Philipp reported that the Chancellery has indicated that the executive  
167 budget would be consistent with an additional 350 new full-time faculty members over

168 retirements and resignations. Faculty is urgently needed due to the increasing enrollment.  
169 It is clear that the proportion of full-time faculty will decline. The question now is whether  
170 there will be an increase in the absolute numbers. Prof. Philipp commented that this is  
171 becoming a little more doubtful.

172 2. Problems with the Blackboard system were next discussed. Similar reports of the  
173 problem were heard last night at the Plenary. The real question is when will this be settled?  
174 It's not over yet. In the meantime, the IT people have discovered new pathways. As of  
175 yesterday, Blackboard has been running, but there are still open questions.

176 3. The CUNY-Plus library system is having its own problems. The CUNY IT people did  
177 not originally buy the system but they are responsible for maintaining it.

178 4. On April 24, the University Faculty Senate will hold its Spring Conference, on the  
179 theme "Access to Higher Education in the Health Sciences."

180 5. One of the UFS initiatives for the University Master Plan is the School of Pharmacy.  
181 The chancellor has indicated that this is going forward with a study on how this can be  
182 done. Due to overcrowding at Borough of Manhattan Community College, the University  
183 is looking into establishing another community college with a concentration in nursing.

184 6. At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Philipp expressed his appreciation for  
185 the efforts of CUNY's community colleges. He did that because various members of the  
186 Chancellery have been complaining that the graduation rates are too low. The colleges are  
187 graduating students in a smaller proportion than many people would like to see.

188 7. Dr. Jillian Small, vice chancellor of Research, has been asked by the chancellor to  
189 establish a task force on the PSC/CUNY Research Awards. These awards are negotiated  
190 by the union, and the money is managed by the University Faculty Senate.

191 8. Half of the University's capital budget goes to the Advanced Science Research Center  
192 and adjacent buildings at City College. That means that other facilities will get less money.  
193 The University Faculty Senate has been discussing with the Chancellor the governance of  
194 the Center because it's in the interest of the entire faculty in the University. The concern is  
195 that the facilities be available in an equitable way to faculty and their research students  
196 across the University without a concentration on Hunter and City Colleges. Prof. Philipp  
197 believes this effort will be successful.

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199

200 **OLD BUSINESS**

201 There was no old business.

202 **NEW BUSINESS**

203 There was no new business

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205 **ADJOURNMENT**

206 The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Esdras Tulier