

CAMPUS LIFE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

LEHMAN COLLEGE SENATE

MINUTES OF CAMPUS LIFE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Feb 4, 2026

VIA ZOOM 2-2.42 pm

- 1) CALL TO ORDER: Wednesday, Feb 4, 2026, meeting of the Lehman College Campus Life and Facilities Committee was called to order at 2:00 pm by committee chair, Kofi Benefo. The meeting was held online via Zoom.
- 2) COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Deri, Kofi Benefo, Di Wu, Anne Pelisson, Penny Prince, Administrator Charlotte Diehl, Christian Toro
- 3) COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Danielle Magaldi, Gabrielle Jackson, Daniel Schwartz
- 4) GUEST VISTORS: Mr. Denny Santos, Dr. Takiyah Ali
- 5) PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of our November and December meetings were approved.
- 6) FACILITIES REPORT: Charlotte Diehl presented:
  - a. Benches will be set up this semester outside the Bursar and ID offices in Shuster Hall.
  - b. Pause in construction to ride out exceptionally cold weather
  - c. Library windows project continues. Windows on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor have been masked for testing purposes.
  - d. Campus Bridge-underside will be blocked off with fencing for public safety while work on the bridge is ongoing. The music building exit will also be blocked temporarily
  - e. Roof replacement for Speech and Theater Building on temporary hold
  - f. Teaching and Learning Center work is nearing completion. Shooting for May occupancy
  - g. Conflicts between construction and teaching are delaying some projects – eg Carman courtyard project
- 7) CAFETERIA COMMITTEE: Dr. Prince attended a meeting in December and reported on concerns aired. These included
  - a. Overly high prices and limited variety: Students would like fresh sandwiches, additional soups, ingredients listed, no charge for utensils, and specials each day.
  - b. The committee will meet every 2 months.
  - c. Students reported not being treated\* nicely and problems with spoiled packaged food and burnt (pizza)
  - d. \*Staff needs training on customer relations
  - e. Need for Metro Cards for students; food insecurity and choosing between coming to campus or eating here

- f. Phone app being considered for delivery of food around the campus and offers of rewards. Committee members had question about whether the cafeteria would accept orders from all parts of our campus.
  - g. Need for INGREDIENT listing for foods (especially for people who cannot eat gluten)
  - h. Need for more soups and longer availability of soups
  - i. Need fresh sandwich making and salads
  - j. Utensils and napkins should be free
  - k. Suggestions box and an email address (luz.andujar@lehman.cuny.edu for complaints and comments
  - l. Dr. Ali raised concerns about arbitrary food pricing: people not being charged the same rates for the same food and ingredients, and she suggested that prices should be more clearly marked than they currently are.
- 8) UPCOMING STUDENT DORMITORY: Mr. Santos provided updates
- a. 183-bed Dorm is on target to open in September. There will be quads, triples, and doubles in a 10-floor building
  - b. College is looking into a student discount program with nearby vendors
  - c. Committee members wondered if the Cafeteria Committee could be involved in meal plan development
  - d. College is considering a shuttle service between the dorm and the campus
- 9) FREE METRO CARDS: Item from the Cafeteria Committee meeting that Dr. Prince reported on came in for discussion:
- a. Students' need for FREE Metro Cards was highlighted and stressed by Dr. Prince, Mr. Santos and Mr. Toro.
  - b. Mr. Santos informed committee that Dr. Jones in the Student Affairs Division managed the program, and it is run out of the Basic Needs Center
  - c. Dr. Prince wondered whether reaching out to the Mayor's office for support might help
  - d. Dr. Prince forwarded Dr. Jaye Jone's response to an inquiry after the meeting: "Regarding the MetroCards: I know this is a major issue for students. Student Affairs is committed to doing everything possible with our current resources, though we recognize the need is significant. The vision of providing free MetroCards to all CUNY students is one that faculty, staff, and advocates have championed for years. For example, [this article by Emily Tai](#) explains the crucial role New York City would need to play in order to make a program of this type sustainable. In the meantime, Student Affairs is also working closely with CUNY CARES to ensure students are aware of and can apply for the MTA [Fair Fares](#) program, which offers a 50% discount to those who qualify."

10) STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY: In response to questions, Mr. Santos promised to update the committee on the results of the Student Experience Survey that the Student Affairs Division conducted during the Fall 2025 semester at a later meeting

11) STUDENT MEMBERS:

- a. Mr. Schwartz informed us by email that his lab class coincided with meeting time and so he could not be present. Dr. Prince emailed in return to ask him to inform the Chair of the Governance Committee

12) NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2:00 on Zoom

13) ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 2.42 pm

Respectfully submitted, Penny Prince