

Dear Lehman Senate Colleagues,

I am writing this report/update in lieu of my presence (yet again). Unfortunately, I will be out of state during much of the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> and will not return until Sunday. My apologies. I know this, like the several other absences, can be frustrating and my primary defense is that the commitments I have to CUNY, on behalf of Lehman, and those made to my discipline in early to mid 2025 have proven to be perhaps too much.

Nevertheless, I am always heartened by the fact that we have a learned and able faculty member to preside over the meetings and Dr. Fera has been a great partner in this endeavor and it is only fair to acknowledge the load he has shouldered. My hope is that a) I do not overcommit to external activities next year and b) the coordination of schedules across the system is more seamless and easier to manage. I appreciate your patience.

In terms of budget, we are a couple of weeks behind in the state budget process but while things do not look perfect for specific CUNY wide items things do seem to be fairly positive for Lehman. Several capital projects have funding and are green lit to move forward this summer and fall. Similarly, we have assurances that the base funding for MSI remains and, lastly, the plan a and plan b for moving forward on the science/business building project look good. If we have to move to plan b there will need to be discussions with the Chancellor's office so we hope that the full \$15 million dollars needed for site study, design, and building programming will be allocated to Lehman when the close the budget shortly.

With respect to the city, we have a handful of requests to support programming out as well as a slightly larger number for renovation projects on the campus. One challenge, not necessarily the City's responsibility, is that the Carman HVAC project has cost overruns projected and we have had to cannibalize some other projects, including phase 3 of the library. Library Director Kenneth Schlesinger has been notified and assured that we are already seeking to replace those funds either by a combination of city/state funds or the state itself. We are optimistic we can get back to the library within a year.

You are all aware of the many construction projects undergoing and, as always, we appreciate your patience. The campus will look better and be better prepared to support our teaching, research, and creative activities moving forward but it is indeed an inconvenience to many. Within our buildings a number of important searches have occurred, including those for cabinet and extended cabinet positions. We are coming to positive conclusion on those searches and it will feel good to be back to a space with permanent rather than interim titles around the table.

Finally, the cabinet members have been reviewing the more than 80 requests for M. Scott funds. We are convening shortly to assess, discuss and make some decisions.

In many ways it is has been an exceptional year for the college and that is a reflection of the work of our faculty, staff and students. Thank you to everyone and congratulations for advancing the college. And, as you look forward to the end of the semester and the writing and grading that is associated with it, best of luck and pace yourselves.

Best,  
Fernando Delgado, President  
Lehman College