

**Report for Lehman Senate of USF on UFS Plenaries. Submitted by Lehman USF reps: Naomi Zack, David Manier, and Stephen Castellano.**

*To the Lehman College Senate: Below is a report for the March 4, 2026 Lehman Senate meeting consisting of the annotated agenda for the February 24 UFS meeting, with minutes of that meeting forthcoming. Minutes for the December Plenary follow. Please see the CUNY UFS website for further news and updates in the 'archive.'*  
<https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/>

PROPOSED AGENDA  
The 452<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session  
of The University Faculty Senate  
of The City University of New York  
Rooms 0818/0819  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Comments on this Agenda added by Lehman reps in bold, after items.**

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes of December 2, 2025
3. Remarks by Vice Chancellor for Career Engagement & Industry Partnerships Lauren Anderson – 6:35 – 7:05 p.m.
4. Reports from UFS Standing Committee Chairs – 7:05 – 7:30 p.m.
5. Chair's Report – John Verzani – 7:30 – 7:40 p.m.
6. New Business – 7:40 – 8:00 p.m.

Social starts at 6:00 p.m. in Rooms 0818/0819

Committee meetings:

Academic Affairs – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1179  
Academic Freedom – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 0963  
Community Colleges – 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1179  
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1072  
Library and Information Technology – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1002  
Status of the Faculty – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 1102  
Student Affairs – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 42nd Street, Room 0962

**PROPOSED MINUTES**

The 451<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session  
of The University Faculty Senate  
of The City University of New York  
Rooms 0818/0819  
Tuesday, December 2, 2025  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

UFS Chair Verzani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Plenary was held in Room 818/819 at the Central Office, 205 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. 76 of the 137 voting members were present.

**Baruch:** Present – Harel, Karama, Martell and Wine. Absent – Ellis, Grein and Lee. Vacancies – 3. **BMCC:** Present – Belknap, Glaser, Keane, Meltzer and Oram. Absent – Comeau-Kirschner, Kelley and Wiseman. Vacancies – 2. **Bronx CC:** Present – Culkin, David and Fisher. Absent – Rothenberg. Vacancies – 1. **Brooklyn:** Present – Cohen, Evans, Kingan, Levy and Okome. Absent – Arnow, Bassell and Belyayeva. **CCNY:** Present – Davis, Kornhauser, Li and Stemberg. Absent – Binz-Scharf, Jeruzalmi and Mano. Vacancies – 1. **CSI:** Present – Gold and Verzani. Absent – Gruber, LaMassa, Vachadze and Yuan. Vacancies – 1. **CUNY Law School:** Present – Sokkar-Harker. Absent – Loehr. **Graduate Center:** Present – Burke and Shirazi. Absent – Gorman and Riobó. Vacancies – 1. **Guttman CC:** Present – Medina. Absent – Philipose. **Hostos CC:** Present – Amarante, August, Garcia de Souza, Trachman and Alternate Griffin. **Hunter:** Present – Chinn, Clarkson, Dahbour, Kastner, Troudt and Young. Absent – Albrecht, Bondie, Gao, Nicolai and Soyer. Vacancies – 1. **John Jay:** Present – Belcher, Benton, Grossi, Kimora, and Alternate Ilyes. Absent – Carbonell, Grant, Kaplowitz and Narkunas. **Kingsborough CC:** Present – Aranoff, Eaton, Segal and Stubin. Absent – Devany, Krishnan and Navarro. **LaGuardia CC:** Present – Klein and Sokolski. Absent – Albrecht, Armstrong, Fess and Keyes. Vacancies – 1. **Lehman:** Present – Castellano, Manier, Wang and Zack. Absent – Bell, Johnson, Rice and Vann. **Medgar Evers:** Present – Barker, Chevalier, James and Alternate Huggins. **NYCCT:** Present – Bennett, Capruso, Coughlin, Grujicic -Alatriste and Zylstra. Absent – Allahverdi and Rodriguez. **Queens:** Present – Genack, Newman, Pagano, Schwetz, Swedell and Weingarten. Absent – Kumar, Lowry and Pai. Vacancies – 2. **Queensborough CC:** Present – Carroll, Cornick, Puri, Srivastava, Tai and Alternate Sullivan. Absent – Akpinar. Vacancies – 1. **York:** Present – Chirico, Costley, Wani and Alternate Gerena. Absent – Kaufman and Lipkind.

Governance Leaders present were: Barker (Medgar Evers), Burke (Graduate Center), Chinn (Hunter), Cornick (Queensborough), Dahbour (Hunter), Fisher (Bronx CC), Gold (CSI), Ialongo (Hostos), Manier (Lehman) and Swedell (Queens). Guests present were Chancellor Felix Matos Rodríguez, Bruce Simon, President, (SUNY UFS), Candice Vacin, President, (SUNY FCCC), Punita Bhansali, (CUNY Central), Anson Chung (Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council), Jonathan Hanon (John Jay) and Jason Hendrickson (CUNY Central). Members observing via Zoom were Akpinar (Queensborough), (Alexander-Street (Lehman), Allahverdi (NYCCT), Carbonell (John Jay), Fess (LaGuardia), Kelley (BMCC), Kumar (Queens), Mano (City) Pai (Queens) and Rothenberg (Bronx). Guests Observing via Zoom were Jody Clark Vaisman (CUNY BA), Sandi Cooper (CSI), Linda Paradiso (SPS) and Fabiola Salek (York). Executive Director Cotter, Administrative Assistant Pasela and Secretary Blanchard were also present.

7. Approval of the Agenda – After Prof. Chinn requested time under New Business for discussion, the Agenda was adopted as Proposed.
8. Approval of the Minutes of October 28, 2025 – Adopted as Proposed.
9. Remarks by Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez– 6:35 – 7:15 p.m. – After thanking the Senate for the invitation, Chancellor Matos Rodríguez began by discussing the ongoing success of CUNY’s transfer initiative, with a few majors and challenges that were still being worked out at the community colleges but students, on the whole, are happy with the relative seamlessness of the initiative. He also noted that crucial to the success of many ongoing initiatives (Such as CUNY 360) is a stable leadership, so he was pleased to report that the search for a Provost was nearing its end. He repeatedly thanked faculty for their contributions to the search. He also addressed the ongoing deliberations of the Freedom of Expression working group and hopes to have its deliberations concluded in the spring and an announcement shortly afterwards. The remainder of his remarks were directed towards CUNY Beyond, outlining the University’s vision for it, as well as the initiative’s scope and character. He announced that CUNY Beyond is currently being piloted at four campuses, and two faculty ambassadors, who were in attendance, will be the face of the initiative along with University Dean Lauren Andersen. Additionally, he observed that the UFS plans to interact with all the program’s stakeholders moving forward and noted that while faculty roles have not yet been determined stipends would be available in due course for faculty professional development opportunities. He then took questions, many of which were related to the recently instated Title VI training for all CUNY faculty, staff, and administration.
10. Reports from SUNY UFS and FCCC Presidents – 7:15 – 7:40 p.m. – SUNY’s UFS President Bruce Simon and Faculty Council of Community Colleges President Candice Vacin introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of the uniqueness of their organizations and the various ways in which they operate independently of each other as well as in tandem. They each also noted the ways in which SUNY governance bodies have collaborated with the CUNY UFS hitherto and expressed a fervent desire to continue the partnership. They then took questions.
11. Chair’s Report – John Verzani – 7:40 – 7:50 p.m. – Chair Verzani began his report with an overview of the role the UFS and the nature of the work of its committees. He then provided a summary view of several areas where the organization played a meaningful role in shaping policy – from its work on the Board of Trustees Governance Committee, its attempts to revive the currently defunct Committee on Academic Technology, the UFS presence on CUNY’s COACHE Committee, the ongoing search for a University Provost, and the current fracas over Title VI and academic freedom. He closed with an update on the deliberations of the Freedom of Expression Committee, which expects to have something concrete to discuss in the spring semester. He then read some of the features of the recent settlement between Northwestern University and the federal government.

12. New Business – 7:50 – 8:00 p.m. – Prof. Stubin described and then invited the body to attend the upcoming Belle Zeller Awards banquet at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Prof. Chinn also initiated a larger conversation over the recently mandated Title VI training at CUNY.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew J. Cotter