

**Minutes of  
The Lehman College Senate Meeting  
Wednesday, April 30, 2008**

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**Senators Present:** Afrani, D.; Albelda, V.; Alborn, T.; Bailey, M.; Bamshad, M.; Banoum, B.; Boone, R.; Brown, K.; Bryant, S.; Buckley, M.; Bullaro, G.; Calvet, L.; Carey, R.; Chowdhury, N.; Decker, C.; DiPaolo, M.; Efthymious, J.; Em, C.; Esteves, C.; Feinerman, R.; Fernández, R.; Figueroa, J.; Fiol-Matta, L.; Fletcher, D.; Ganjian, I.; Georges, C.; Gottlieb, M.; Graulau, J.; Haghghat, E.; Happaney, K.; Harushimana, I.; Hirad, A.; Jacobson, B.; Jafari, M.; Jeremias, J.; Jervis, J.; Jones, L.; Kunstler, R.; Lertzundi, P.; Levitt, J.; Magdaleno, J.; Marianetti, M.; Matthews, E.; Maybee, J.; McNaughton, C.; Mineka, J.; Munch, J.; O’Hanlon, T.; Ornstein, S.; Pant, H.; Papazian, M.; Philipp, M.; Pierre, K.; Polirstok, S.; Qian, G.; Reid, A.; Rice, A.; Rotolo, R.; Sailor, K.; Salvatore, R.; Schlesinger, K.; Seiger, L.; Silverman, H.; Simmons, J.; Tananbaum, D.; Tilley, J.; Totti, X.; Tramontano, W.; Trimboli, S.; Troy, R.; Verdejo, V.; Vitiello, A.; Weiner, A.; Wheeler, D.; Worby, K.; Xia, Z.; Zucchetto, V.; Zwiren, M.

**Senators Absent:** Amaechi, C.; Barnes, C.; Bempah, G.; Bodden, L.; Bonastia, C.; Buckley, M.; Collado, M.; Daci, H.; Dauben, J.; DeRoo, Z.; Dixon, S.; Enweronye-Okiro, P.; Ezeh, S; Figueroa, J.; Fleitas, J.; Folsom, C.; Garanin, D.; Gbenga, A.; Gonzalez, M.; Holloway, J.; Hsueh, T.; Hurley, D.; Joseph, R.; Kleiman, S.; Kouyate, M.; Kulagina, K.; Lacson, J.; Lopez, M.; Lopez, R.; Mazza, C.; Merzel, C.; Myrie, D.; Negron, V.; Niedt, P.; Nnaji, C.; Palaj, M.; Paull, M.; Perry-Ryder, G.; Phillip, B.; Prohaska, V.; Ramos, R.; Rose, J.; Salamandra, C.; Santiago, M.; Swinton, S.; Tabachnikov, A.; Tabing, M.; Taveras, F.; Tegeder, D.; Voge, S.; Watson-Turner, S.; Whittaker, R.; Wilder, E.; Zuss, M.

The meeting was called to order by President Ricardo R. Fernández at 2:10 p.m.

**Minutes Adopted**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 9, 2008. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## 41 **Announcements and Communication-**

### 42 43 **a. President Ricardo R. Fernández-**

44 **1.** President Fernández thanked the students, staff, and faculty who assisted in the Somos  
45 El Futuro Conference this last weekend in Albany and who participated in the Senate  
46 session in the Capitol's chambers during the Albany Legislative Visit.

47 **2.** The President also thanked the students who participated in the New Orleans and Costa  
48 Rica home building projects over the spring break. He also thanked the Division of  
49 Student Affairs, and the staff that accompanied them, for coordinating this important  
50 program.

51 **3.** This morning the President had the opportunity to meet the candidate for Founding  
52 Dean of the CUNY School of Public Health. The School will be located at Hunter College,  
53 and will function as a collaborative effort, drawing faculty from Hunter, Brooklyn and  
54 Lehman Colleges. The candidate is impressive, having a wealth of experience running a  
55 major federal agency involved with public health, especially environmental health.

56 **4.** For the last year, the college has been engaged in a self-study process, and many  
57 faculty members have been part of the Middle States Committee. We are well on our way  
58 to having a draft of their report which will be reviewed over the summer with additional  
59 dialogue in the fall when faculty and students return to campus. Sometime in October, we  
60 will be expecting a visit from the chair of the Middle States Review team that will be  
61 visiting us in Spring 2009. The Middle States Review gives us an opportunity to assess  
62 ourselves and to come up with recommendations and changes in programs and structures to  
63 improve as an institution. It's the type of analysis that only takes place once every ten  
64 years, but it is a thorough, inclusive process. So when the document is available  
65 electronically and in the library, and in every major unit, everyone is encouraged to review  
66 the document and become informed.

67 **5.** On the topic of strategic planning, over the last 20 years, the college has been engaged  
68 in a number of such exercises. When President Fernández came to Lehman in 1990, he  
69 appointed a long-range planning committee. That group produced a report to which the  
70 President responded in May of 1992 at a Senate meeting. Since then, a number of other  
71 planning efforts have taken place. The current strategic plan, accessible on our website,  
72 really runs through 2008. The President is interested in capitalizing on the wealth of the  
73 accumulated data developed as part of the Middle States self-study. Using this careful  
74 analysis of Lehman College, we can begin to craft a plan that will guide us over the next

75 three to five years. As this institution evolves, strategic planning is an ongoing activity  
76 and shouldn't be viewed as an exercise that takes place only every two or three years.

77 **6.** Some weeks ago, President Fernández received a letter from the National Collegiate  
78 Athletic Association. All CUNY Schools participate in this organization in Division III,  
79 with the exception of Queens College which is part of Division II. The only difference  
80 between Division II and III is that Division II offers a series of scholarships for student  
81 athletes. Lehman has been invited to consider joining Division II, and that move should  
82 provide some interesting elements. It would allow us, as it has happened at Queens  
83 College, to recruit students internationally as well as nationally. That, of course, means that  
84 we would have to provide some level of scholarship support for these student athletes.

85  
86 **b. Student Conference-**

87 **1.** Ms. Nusrat Chowdhury, Student Conference Chair, reported that the "Get Loud Event"  
88 was held on April 16 to get more student awareness on the Student Conference's initiatives  
89 and purpose.

90 **2.** The Conference met and made several decisions such as a vote on the bylaws; a  
91 favorable vote on the Walk/Run event; a favorable vote on getting funding back for the  
92 Lehman Radio Station; a vote was passed on holding an information session on Tibet; and  
93 a favorable vote passed on assisting the Political Science Club in providing an event on the  
94 Congo on May 14.

95 **3.** A resolution was discussed to adjust the grades for the nursing program. While in the  
96 program, the grade of C should be regarded as an F so the student is given the option to  
97 retake the course. The report concerned the nursing program raising the standard to a B or  
98 better from a C or better.

99 **4.** The Academic Standards and Evaluation Committee report referred to allotting a Dean's  
100 list award for each semester of satisfactory merit as opposed to one cumulative award.

101 **5.** The Conference's Library Technology Committee addressed the problem of information  
102 literacy and asked for more assistance in researching for students pursuing the education  
103 minor.

104 **6.** In Governance, the bell schedule was discussed, but this was held in abeyance for the  
105 full Senate meeting.

106 **7.** In Campus Life, the Conference agreed that the students should reach out to  
107 newspapers. It was thought that web sites should contain material from the required

108 textbooks. And there was a discussion on the termination of Styrofoam products in the  
109 cafeteria. Finally, an open forum was held on fund-raising events for scholarships.

## 110 **REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

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### 112 **a. Committee on Governance-**

113 **1.** Prof. Duane Tananbaum reported that at the Committee meeting two weeks ago, two  
114 actions were taken. The first was a proposal from the Department of Biological Sciences  
115 concerning the awarding of diplomas for Ph.D. students in Natural Science, whose  
116 dissertation adviser is at Lehman College, that they receive a diploma that recognizes both  
117 Lehman College and the Graduate Center. The proposal recommends that the State  
118 Education Department grant this recognition. The Committee referred this motion to the  
119 Graduate Studies Committee, which is now considering it. The second issue concerns the  
120 Bell Schedule. The Committee voted unanimously to bring a recommendation to the floor  
121 as follows: “Whereas article 1, section 3b of the Lehman College Governance Document  
122 states that the legislative function of the Senate includes ‘to take such other recommending  
123 actions as the Senate may wish, therefore be it resolved that the Lehman College Senate, as  
124 the body in which students, faculty, and administration are represented, be afforded the  
125 opportunity to advise formally on any future changes in the Bell Schedule before a final  
126 determination is made.” Changes in the Bell Schedule came up early in this semester. Not  
127 everyone seemed aware, as one would like, that changes were under consideration. There  
128 was confusion as to what the practice had been in the past. It’s the position of the  
129 administration that changes are an administrative prerogative. This resolution, as it is  
130 worded, does not challenge that. What the Committee is asking is that the Senate, as the  
131 place in which students, faculty and administrators are represented, be given the  
132 opportunity to advise in a formal sense before future changes are made. The resolution  
133 was placed on the floor for discussion, was then put to a vote and was approved.

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

136 **1.** Prof. Kevin Sailor presented to the Senate the list of undergraduate and graduate  
137 candidates for May 29, 2008 and September 1, 2008 graduation subject to verification by  
138 the Registrar. The list was approved.

139 **2.** Qualifications for the Dean’s List and Presidential Scholar were next opened for  
140 discussion. Currently, to qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must have completed a

141 minimum of 61 credits with a 3.5 cumulative index and a minimum of 24 indexical credits  
142 at Lehman College. Students will be placed on the Dean's List only once. Prof. Sailor  
143 suggested a change that would recognize students more often, so that in a given semester,  
144 whenever a student did particularly well, we would have a mechanism to recognize that fact.  
145 After a long discussion, the original motion prevailed as follows: At the end of each fall  
146 and spring semester, the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
147 will publish a list of matriculated students who meet the qualifications for placement on the  
148 Dean's List. Full-time students will be placed on the Dean's List each fall and spring  
149 semester in which they have completed 12 or more credits with a GPA of 3.5 or above.  
150 Part-time students will be placed on the Dean's List on each occasion in which they have  
151 completed 12 or more new credits in two consecutive semesters with a GPA of 3.5 or  
152 above. In either case, no WUs or INCs are allowed even if 12 credits are completed with a  
153 3.5 GPA.

154 **3.** A proposal was made to change the requirements for qualification for the Presidential  
155 Scholar from "[t]his designation is bestowed upon students who have earned 3.9  
156 cumulative indices." The changed proposal reads: "This designation is bestowed upon  
157 students who have met all of the qualifications for the Dean's List and have exceeded the  
158 GPA requirement for the Dean's List by earning a 3.9 GPA or higher; this honor  
159 supersedes placement on the Dean's List. A vote was taken and the change was approved.

160

161 **c. Undergraduate Curriculum –**

162 Prof. Barbara Jacobson presented proposals from three departments. From the Department  
163 of Art: ART 318- change in course title, description, and credits; and change in  
164 requirement for the major in Art (B.A.) with a specialization in Art History. From the  
165 Department of Health Sciences: HEA 493- change in number of course credits; REC 324,  
166 a new course- Therapeutic Recreation for Children and Youth. From the Department of  
167 Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies: LAC 337, a new course- Puerto Rican Music;  
168 PRS (LAC) 337 change in course description and course number (was PRS 236); and  
169 change in requirements for Latin American Studies Major. The report was approved.

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

172 Prof. Timothy Alborn reported that the Committee has three proposals. From the  
173 Department of Music: an experimental course: MSP 763, Topics in Instrumental Music

174 Education. From the Department of Biological Sciences: a proposal to establish a Plant  
175 Science Center at Lehman College; and from the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing  
176 Sciences: a change in Department Grade Requirements/Progression Criteria. The report  
177 was approved.

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

179 There was no report.

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

181 1. Floor rights were granted to Mr. James Carney. He reported that Prof. Patricia  
182 Cockram, of the English Department, has resigned from the Committee, and another  
183 faculty member will soon be elected.

184 2. The Lehman Student Technology survey has been completed and is ready to be  
185 distributed via email to all current students. The link to the survey is:

186 <http://www.surveymonkey.com>.

187 3. A discussion dealt with the potential issues which may arise as student emails are  
188 migrated to the new Microsoft (lc.cuny.edu) server. Vice President Zong-Guo Xia  
189 explained that the independent email systems has been already launched at two other  
190 campuses, and that there should be no disruption of other campus services which currently  
191 rely on email IDs and passwords. Also, full support for student questions will be provided  
192 through the help desk, through email, and phone inquiries and through a web site provided  
193 to students in the initial mail announcement and through follow up announcements.

194 4. Also under discussion was a response to the Student Conference's request on increased  
195 library hours and the computer labs in services in the IT Center on weekend evenings. The  
196 Committee determined that any increase in services would be discussed and coordinated  
197 with the appropriate parties including Library staff, the IT Center, Public Safety, and  
198 appropriate student services.

199

200 g. **Committee on Campus Life and Facilities-**

201 1. Prof. Elhum Haghghat presented the report. The Committee has been informed that the  
202 use of Styrofoam trays, cups, and food containers are generating an excess of non-  
203 recyclable waste. The committee discussed alternatives including potential replacement  
204 materials that could be used and the cost impact associated with the non-disposable  
205 options. Information was gathered on how other campuses and food courts deal with this

206 issue. The Committee found environmentally friendly alternatives to Styrofoam. The cost,  
207 however, is often twice or sometimes three times as much. Other campuses such as  
208 Kingsborough Community College have a mug program where the patrons purchase  
209 reusable plastic coffee mugs. The Committee recommended that Lehman should participate  
210 in the program and also that the use of plastic food trays instead of Styrofoam be  
211 reinstated. Reminders will be distributed throughout the college encouraging people to  
212 become actively involved in the recycling program. Assistant Vice President Rene Rotolo  
213 has had discussions with the Vice President of Administration and Finance, Mr. Derek C.  
214 Wheeler and the foodservice vendor to determine how to eliminate Styrofoam products in  
215 the food service operation.

216 **2.** Recycling bins were requested to be placed in classrooms and have been ordered.  
217 Material on recycling has been ordered from the NYC Department of Sanitation and will be  
218 widely distributed on campus.

219 **3.** Prof. Janette Tilley, faculty representative on the Lehman College Sustainability Project,  
220 also reported. She stated that all institutions of higher learning in NYC were asked by  
221 Mayor Bloomberg to commit to sustainability and to cut greenhouse gas emissions 30% by  
222 the year 2030. Specifically, the Mayor challenged the city's colleges and universities to  
223 reduce their carbon footprint by 30% in 10 years. CUNY agreed to meet the targets by  
224 2017. Lehman College has embraced the Task Force's challenge and has established a  
225 Sustainability Council which has met periodically throughout the year to discuss initiatives  
226 and programs.

227 The good news is that Lehman College is already a leader in the CUNY system, having  
228 initiated energy-saving programs many years ago. Assistant Vice President Rotolo was  
229 recognized for her energy-saving efforts with a CUNY productivity award, and she  
230 continues to be a leader in the Council. The Council anticipates that our target can be  
231 reached with planned upgrades to the plant services (boilers), which are planned for 2010.  
232 In addition, the new science facility anticipates earning a Silver Leadership in Energy and  
233 Environmental Design (LEED) certificate in recognition of its sustainable and energy-  
234 saving features.

235 With these projects well underway, the Council has been focusing its attention on student  
236 awareness and the daily operation of the college in an effort to promote a "green culture"  
237 on campus. The Council has agreed that the College would adopt sustainability as a basic

238 value and asks that faculty members agree to infuse the curricula with themes and  
 239 concepts that connect learning to the environment.

240 Without going into detail on the initiatives that the Council has been discussing, the Senate  
 241 was advised to look for a carbon footprint calculator to appear soon on the Lehman website  
 242 as the first public awareness activity. The Student Spirit Day on May 7 will include the  
 243 participation of the Sanitation Department with information about recycling and material  
 244 on energy-saving ideas from Con Ed. In the fall, we are looking forward to larger campus-  
 245 wide activities, with the possibility of a film fest and the hosting of CUNY's alternative  
 246 fuel vehicle conference here at Lehman. Other concerns include waste produced by the  
 247 cafeterias, healthy and local food options, solar energy options for the student life building  
 248 and recycling.

249 The Council will continue to be active next year and encourages all faculty members to  
 250 participate to educate students in sustainability and to submit proposals and ideas.

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252 **h. Committee on Budget and Long-Range Planning-**

253 There was no report.

254 **i. University Faculty Senate-**

255 **1.** Prof. Manfred Philipp reported on a conference held in Albany. There were quite a few  
 256 politicians there who spoke about funding for CUNY. It did not, however, sound  
 257 optimistic in terms of the next year due to New York budget problems. SUNY was hit by  
 258 a \$108 million budget cut while CUNY was hit by \$20 million.

259 **2.** University Faculty Senate will be holding elections next week and Prof. Philipp is up for  
 260 re-election.

261 **3.** Concerning the draft of the Master Plan, the University Faculty Senate made many  
 262 changes in verbiage, style, and substance. Naturally, there was an emphasis on the  
 263 principle of shared government in the university.

264 **4.** The University plans to issue a new policy on conflict of interests. It has gone through  
 265 one iteration and significant changes were made in the document. The new draft  
 266 document is posted, and it will likely go to the Board of Trustees in June.

267 **5.** The School of Professional Studies is undergoing two changes in Governance. One,  
 268 already done, was to include campus continuing education directors as voting members of  
 269 the Governance Council. The new change will make it possible for the school, which is an

270 independent unit, to be a separate college. In addition the Chancellery is considering a  
271 new community college, likely in Manhattan, and is looking for a theme idea as well as  
272 private money.

273 **6.** Former Governor Eliot Spitzer had proposed an endowment for CUNY to be funded out  
274 of the State Lottery. Governor David Paterson has rejected the idea but supports the  
275 endowment. But that leaves the question, where is the money coming from?

276 **7.** A forthcoming Academic Freedom statement will be something you can put on your  
277 book shelf. So if there is any question, you will be able to look it up, the problem being  
278 that people have different opinions on what academic freedom is.

279 **8.** The University Faculty Senate is planning a faculty experience survey which will be  
280 issued next semester.

281 **OLD BUSINESS**

282 There was no old business.

283 **NEW BUSINESS**

284 There was no new business

285 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Respectfully submitted,

Esdras Tulier