

## **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF LEHMAN COLLEGE**

Approved by the Board of Higher Education, February 22, 1971

And amended by the Board of Trustees on June 24, 2002, September 29, 2003,  
April 26, 2010, and June 26, 2017

### I. The Lehman College Senate

#### A. General Statement

The Lehman College Senate shall replace the existing Faculty Council. The Senate shall be a unicameral body, representing the faculty, students, administration, and non-teaching instructional staff (delineated in article 1.C.3) of the College, presided over by the President of the College.

#### B. Functions of the Senate

Subject to the authority and the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, the College Senate shall be responsible for the formulation of academic policy and for legislative and advisory functions related to the programs, standards, and goals of the College.

##### 1. Policy Functions

It shall have the power to formulate policy, to make policy recommendations, and to review the implementation of policy concerning

- a) Academic affairs, including the development of curricula; degree requirements; inter-disciplinary programs; admission and grading practices and standards; and the awarding of credits, degrees and honors;
- b) Long-range planning to achieve the overall goals of the College, within The City University and the College community, including responsibility for the continued development of the College;
- c) Campus life and activities which promote the total educational program, including ancillary services within the College; student organizations; alumni and community relations;
- d) Practices and procedures for protection of academic freedom, the rights and liberties of each member of the Lehman College community, and the equitable settlement of internal campus problems.

## 2. Advisory Functions

It shall have the following advisory functions:

- a) To advise on the appointment of the President of the College and all Full Deans;
- b) To propose amendments to, and revisions of, the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, and to recommend action to other bodies with jurisdiction over The City University;
- c) To assist the College Personnel and Budget Committee in the determination of budgetary priorities within the College;
- d) To advise the President, Deans, and Department Chairs concerning the procedures for faculty appointments, reappointments, promotions, tenure awards, and dismissal.

## 3. Legislative Functions

It shall have the following legislative responsibilities:

- a) To carry out by legislation the aforestated policy functions;
- b) To take such other recommending actions as the Senate may wish.

## C. Composition of the Senate

The Senate shall consist of representatives of the faculty, the students, the non-teaching instructional staff (delineated in article 1.C.3) and the administration of the College, with a total membership of 102 senators.

### 1. Representation of Faculty

- a) Department Representation.  
One representative with at least two years of full-time service shall be elected from each department by and from those members eligible to vote in that department.
- b) At-Large Representation.  
The number of faculty senators elected at-large shall be adjusted to maintain the total number of department representatives and at-large faculty senators at 51.

c) Apportionment of Faculty Elected At-Large.

Faculty Senators elected at-large shall be elected by and from the full-time members of the instructional staff acting as a single electorate. At-large Senators shall be apportioned in the following manner: Group A, consisting of all full professors, all associate professors, and all assistant professors with tenure; and Group B, consisting of all assistant professors without tenure, all instructors, and all lecturers full-time at the time of the election. At least one-third of the at-large seats shall be assigned to Group A faculty, and at least one-third to Group B faculty.

d) Representation of Part-Time Faculty

Three part-time faculty Senators shall be elected from those part-time members of the instructional staff who teach at least six semester hours per week. They shall be elected by all part-time members of the instructional staff.

e) Floor and Voting Rights

All faculty representatives in the Senate, whether departmental or at-large, part-time or full-time, shall have full floor rights and voting rights.

2. Administration Representatives

The President, Vice-Presidents, and Full Deans, shall be members of the Senate with full voting and floor rights. Prior to the first Senate meeting of the academic year, the President shall appoint additional administration representatives for one year terms with full voting and floor rights so that the total number of administrators in the Senate, including ex-officio representatives, shall equal twelve. If the President, the Vice Presidents, and the Full Deans total more than twelve, the President shall designate prior to the first Senate meeting of the academic year which twelve of them shall serve as administration representatives for the year.

3. Non-Teaching Instructional Staff Representatives

There shall be five representatives, elected by and from the Higher Education Officer and College Laboratory Technician series. They shall serve with full voting and floor rights.

4. Student Representatives

For purposes of Senate composition "student" shall be defined as matriculated students.

a) Number of Students.

There shall be 34 students comprising the total student membership of the Senate.

b) Election of Students.

Student Senators shall be elected at-large. Graduate students shall receive at least one guaranteed seat.

D. Length of Service in the Senate

1. At-large Faculty and Non-Teaching Instructional Staff Representatives. All full-time and part-time faculty elected at-large, and non-teaching instructional staff representatives elected to the Senate shall serve two-year terms and shall be eligible for re-election.

2. Departmental Representatives.

Departmental Representatives shall be elected at times coinciding with regular departmental elections for Chair and departmental Personnel & Budget committees, shall serve for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election.

3. Student Representatives.

Students shall be elected annually, shall serve for a term of one year, and shall be eligible for re-election.

4. Vacancies.

(a) Senate seats shall be considered vacant when a senator is no longer employed by or matriculated at the College, or when a senator resigns from the Senate.

(b) Vacancies in seats designated for Faculty at-large, Non-Teaching Instructional Staff, and Student Representatives shall be filled by the person who received the next highest vote total in the most recent election for such seats. If there are no eligible individuals remaining on the list from the previous election, a special election shall be held.

E. Organization of the Senate

The Senate shall establish the necessary offices, committees, and procedures to carry out its responsibilities, and take other necessary actions for the implementation of its aforesaid powers, with the following qualifications:

1. A joint faculty/student/administration committee shall establish procedures and mechanisms for the first election of the Senate, in conformity with the provisions stated under "Composition of the Senate." The faculty and administration members of the committee shall be chosen by Faculty Council. Student members shall be chosen by the student legislature. The committee shall provide for election of at-large student members proportional to the full-time equivalent registration of the Undergraduate and Graduate sessions. Thereafter the Senate itself shall establish procedures and mechanisms for its own elections.
2. As a general policy, membership in committees of the Senate shall include faculty, students, and administrators, and shall be open to nonmembers of the Senate.
3. Meetings of the Lehman College Senate shall be open to all members of the Lehman College community. Floor rights may be granted to nonmembers by vote of the Senate at the request of a member of the Senate.

## II. Nullification of Senate Action

### Enactment of Legislation By Referendum

#### A. Nullification of Senate Action

The General Faculty and the Student Body shall have the power to nullify any Senate decision or action in the following manner:

1. Initiation of an action to nullify a Senate decision or action shall be by petition of 20 percent of the faculty or 10 percent of the student body. The petition shall be directed to the Senate.
2. The Senate shall conduct separate referenda of the General Faculty and the Student Body within 20 class days of submission of a petition to nullify a decision or action, except that when the summer interim intervenes, the referenda shall be conducted within 20 class days of the commencement of the fall semester. Such actions to nullify must be completed by the conclusion of the first full semester following the Senate decision or action in question.
3. Nullification of a Senate decision or action shall require a two-thirds majority vote of both the General Faculty and the Student Body in the separate referenda, provided that 60 percent of the faculty and 30 percent of the student body vote in such referenda.

4. In any action to nullify, should a simple majority of either 60 percent of the faculty or 30 percent of the student body approve the proposal to nullify, the Senate will automatically reconsider the decision or action in question.

#### B. Enactment of Legislation By Referendum

The General Faculty and the Student Body shall have the power to enact legislation in the following manner:

1. Initiation of legislation shall be by petition of 20 percent of the faculty or 10 percent of the student body. The petition, stating the proposed legislation, shall be directed to the President of Lehman College.
2. The President shall submit the proposed legislation to separate referenda of the General Faculty and the Student Body within 20 class days of submission of petition to enact legislation, except that when the summer interim intervenes, the referenda shall be conducted within 20 class days of the commencement of the fall semester.
3. Enactment of legislation shall require a 75 percent majority vote of both the General Faculty and the Student Body in the separate referenda, provided that 60 percent of the faculty and 30 percent of the student body shall vote in such referenda.

#### III. Departments

Department functions and structures shall be retained with the following qualifications:

- A. The Department Chair shall be elected except as otherwise specified in the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, for a period of three years by members of the instructional staff of the department who hold faculty rank or faculty status.
- B. Student participation on department committees shall be as follows:
  1. Personnel and Budget Committees.  
Subject to the authority of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY contract with the Board of Trustees: Students shall serve the departmental Personnel and Budget Committees in advisory capacity, with the method of service and number of students to be determined by the respective departments.
  2. Other Standing Committees.  
Students shall have full voting rights on all departmental standing committees, other than Personnel and Budget Committees, with the number of students and the method of election to be determined by the respective departments.

#### IV. Personnel and Budget

The current Personnel and Budget Committee structures and functions on both the department and college-wide levels shall be retained, with the following qualifications:

##### A. Departments

###### 1. Eligibility to Serve

Members of the instructional staff with full-time appointments in titles of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor may serve as members of the Personnel and Budget Committees of their departments; four of the five members of the committee must be tenured, unless there are fewer than four tenured faculty members in the department.

###### 2. Eligibility to Vote

All full-time members of the instructional staff may vote for members of the Personnel and Budget Committees of their departments.

###### 3. Promotion to Full Professor

Nominations for promotion to full professor shall be forwarded to the College Committee on Faculty Personnel and Budget by the chairperson of the department when there is a positive recommendation of the departmental Committee on Personnel and Budget.

##### B. College-wide Personnel and Budget Committee

###### 1. Student Representation

Subject to the authority of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY contract with the Board of Trustees: Students shall serve the College-wide Personnel and Budget Committee in an advisory capacity, with the method of service and number of students to be determined by the Committee.

#### V. General Faculty

##### A. Composition of the General Faculty

The General Faculty of Lehman College shall be composed of all full-time members of the instructional staff, and all others who teach at least six semester hours per week. All such members shall be entitled to full voting and floor rights at any meeting of the General Faculty, and may vote in any election or referendum in which the General Faculty participates. Other members of the instructional staff shall have full floor rights in meetings of the General Faculty.

## B. Functions of the General Faculty

The General Faculty may:

1. consider any matter related to the interests or welfare of Lehman College;
2. take positions on College issues;
3. deal with any matter related exclusively to faculty interests or welfare, not specifically assigned to another body;
4. make recommendations to the Lehman College Senate and to any agent, department, committee, or organization of the College, and review actions taken in pursuance to its recommendations;
5. elect at-large Senators to the Lehman College Senate, as provided in appropriate sections of Article I;
6. elect by secret ballot faculty representatives to the University Faculty Senate, and other bodies or committees as requested;
7. and shall act through referendum in the process of Nullification of Senate Actions, in the procedure for Enactment of Legislation By Referendum.

## VI. Student Body

### A. Composition

The Student Body of Lehman College shall consist of all matriculated students, and all non-matriculated students.

### B. Functions

The Student Body shall:

1. elect student representatives to the Lehman College Senate and, upon request, to other bodies and committees;
2. act through referendum in the process of Nullification of Senate Actions and in the procedure for Enactment of Legislation By Referendum.



3. Any student or group of students may make recommendations to the Senate and to any agent, department, committee, or organization of the College.

#### C. Student Conference

1. Composition

The student members of the Senate shall constitute the Student Conference.

2. Functions

- a) Shall provide a forum for discussion of, and taking positions on, College issues;
- b) Shall hold monthly meetings, open to the Lehman College community, to ascertain opinion on matters which are the concern of the Senate.
- c) After consideration by the Student Conference, any item may be placed on the Agenda of the Senate.

#### D. Student Governance

An organization to administer student affairs shall be established by student referendum.

### VII. Amendment Procedure

This document may be amended in the following manner:

#### A. Proposal of an Amendment

1. Proposal of an amendment to this document shall be in the following method:

A written proposal signed by 25 faculty and students, including at least 10 from each group, shall be considered as a proposed amendment to this governance document. All such proposed amendments shall be referred to the Senate Governance Committee. The Governance Committee will review the proposed amendment and recommend an appropriate course of action to the Senate.

#### B. Adoption of an Amendment

1. Procedure for adoption of amendments to this document shall be as follows:  
A 75% affirmative vote of Senators present shall be required to adopt an amendment to this governance document, provided that at least 2/3 of all Senators are present for such vote.
2. Amendments adopted by the procedure above shall be presented for approval to the Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Board of Higher Education on February 22, 1971, Cal. No. 20, and February 28, 1972, Cal. No. 2.B; and amended by the Board of Trustees on June 24, 2002, Cal. No. 6.E.; September 29, 2003, Cal. No. 5.A; and April 26, 2010, Cal. No. 5.C.