

Faculty Delegate Assemble Minutes of March 17th 2010

President Tony Doyle called the meeting to order.

President Doyle explained that FDA wanted to create a forum for faculty to learn more about publication opportunities. To this end, several Hunter College faculty members, with expertise as journal editors and/or reviewers were invited to share their thought in a forum on scholarly publishing. First Professor Donna Nickitas from the School of Nursing spoke about the importance of scholarship and peer-reviewed journal in the tenure process. She described how journal editors oversee the publication process and also recommended faculty gain experience by volunteering to serve as peer reviewers. Additionally she urged faculty to carefully read the author guidelines.

Next, Professor Gerald Press (Philosophy) spoke about his experiences at the Journal of History of Philosophy. He described how journals gain or lose prestige, urged authors to query editors about potential articles, and to volunteer to write book reviews.

Finally, Professor David Connor (Special Education) shared a handout with thoughts and advice about scholarly publishing. Among his suggestions were to be constantly working on something scholarly in one's field, network at conferences, subscribe to listservs and to be part of a writing group. He urged participants to learn from rejection and to consider being a guest editor.

Following the presentations, there was a lively question and answer session in which many members of the group shared their own experiences and offered further advice and support.

2nd part of Minutes—recorded by Jason Young

Provost Vita Rabinowitz gave a report on the new Policy on Interactions with Public Officials and Public Agencies. She was accompanied by Mr. Doug Jones, Hunter's Director of External Affairs.

Provost Rabinowitz reported that the original version of this policy addressing faculty and staff seeking funding from private foundations was passed and began implementation in December 2007. Since that time, there have been 138 applications from faculty and staff involving this policy; of these, 6 were rejected due to conflicts. The nature of these conflicts usually involved multiple applicants to funding sources that stipulated that only one application could come from each institution.

It was reported that the average response time for applications was 12 days, and that, over time, this response time has decreased and currently is about one week.

On November 18, 2009, the Provost's office issued an announcement about a new "external policy" that was intended to be similar to the private foundation policy, but which applied to contact with public figures. This policy was not vetted in advance with

the college community. Several concerns have been voiced by faculty, both about the lack of advance discussion and about the policy itself. The Provost indicated the policy has 2 purposes:

- 1) to coordinate requests for resources from public officials so they do not get conflicting requests from members of the Hunter community, and
- 2) to ensure that any requests are in compliance with “complex federal and state lobbying laws.” The Provost said she realized faculty are not lobbyists, but the net effect of requests is what is at issue.

The Provost’s office is currently working with the Hunter Senate Academic Freedom Committee to review this policy.

Provost Rabinowitz then took questions from the audience.

In response to a question about whether other CUNY campuses have such a policy, she indicated that some of the senior colleges did, and that some of them were more stringent than Hunter’s policy.

In general, it appeared that faculty agreed with the need for the Clearinghouse function, but they have severe reservations about restrictions on contacts with public officials, especially when such contact is for teaching or research purposes.

The Provost indicated that, among other concerns, if someone chose to invite a candidate for a political office, it was not clear if there was an obligation for Hunter to invite all other candidates. She said that there was no rush to put this policy into motion –her concern now is “to get it right.”

The policy, she said, is not an attempt to be restrictive and intrusive in research; rather, its goal is coordinating across all campus efforts so that Hunter has a unified front for political officials so as to maximize any efforts to obtain resources from them. She noted that it was too early to know if CUNY Central may try to develop its own policy and if it could trump efforts by individual campuses when they may conflict with CUNY Central’s own initiatives involving public officials.

The Provost had to leave for another meeting.

Prof. Tami Gold, Chair of Hunter’s Chapter of the Professional Staff Congress, next led a discussion about her efforts to publically address concern about the Provost’s policy about contacting public officials. She passed out the recent issue of *The Clarion*, which included an article highlighting that the policy had not been vetted with the faculty and that there were concerns about potential violations of academic freedom if the policy were implemented. Prof. Gold further discussed her meetings with the Provost and the Hunter Senate’s Academic Freedom committee to review concerns about the policy.

She closed by reminding faculty about the upcoming PSC-CUNY chapter meeting and the importance of faculty attendance at these meetings given upcoming talks about a new contract and other issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Tuten, FDA Day Session Representative
Jason Young, FDA Vice President