

MINUTES  
FACULTY DELEGATE ASSEMBLY  
February 15, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 1:20PM by FDA President Jason Young.

The November minutes were read and approved.

An FDA-sponsored social to be held at the School of Social Work on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3-5 was announced. This is in response to inquiries from faculty members at Hunter's other campuses who indicated an interest in expanded contacts with colleagues at the 68<sup>th</sup> Street campus.

A March 22<sup>nd</sup> FDA-sponsored coffee hour at the main campus will be held during Dean's hours.

CUNY Vice Chancellor Selma Botman has been invited to address the May 17, 2006 FDA meeting. Faculty should consider questions to be posed to Dr. Botman. She will be informed in advance of issues of concern to Hunter faculty that should be addressed.

President Raab's delivered a College update, touching on a number of matters of concern to faculty:

\* The Governor's budget is now before the Legislature. The CUNY Compact, an attempt to rationalize the budget-planning process, has been well-received in Albany. Hunter's input is included in language of the Compact. Our size is reflected in proposals which would greatly benefit Hunter. There is, however, a gap between what the University needs and what the Governor has proposed in the current budget. CUNY voices need to be heard, especially in regard to a proposed \$300 tuition increase. The Governor has proposed a 15-credit minimum course load for TAP recipients, which is simply not feasible for most of our students because of their employment commitments.

\* Hunter received \$707,000 as a result of the graduate tuition increase. Departmental Chairs were consulted as to how funds should be distributed. Top priorities this year were library funding and the graduate admissions process. The online application process, etc. must be updated and revamped. Consultants with work with administration to bring the College up to speed. Remaining funds were divided among the schools. This money is supposed to be recurring. Requests are being solicited, so that priorities can be set for the future. Departments and Schools with graduate programs are encouraged to think strategically.

\* The Teachers Academy: Plans are evolving quickly. Free tuition will be offered to promising first-year math and science students who may be interested in pursuing teaching careers. The Academy also involves an ambitious placement program.

\* The Chancellor put together a blue ribbon commission to study giving joint and campus-based Ph.Ds, especially in certain sciences. There is discussion of whether the CUNY Graduate Center will begin offering Master's degrees. Many consider these competition for individual schools' grad programs. Grad School President Kelly will be invited to campus to discuss this issue.

\* Fund-raising has seen progress on several levels. Hunter is transforming its self-image and learning to think of itself as a school which is going to aggressively pursue private money. There are significant prejudices to be overcome in soliciting donations from alumnae: many never paid tuition to begin with and have no idea how expensive college has become for current Hunter students; why should a tax-supported public institution be soliciting private donations; gender differences in giving patterns (women generally want to be much more involved in the process; men prefer simply to write a check).

\* Our alumnae development office has to be much more active. For the first time the class of '06 will donate a senior gift. The goal of the College is increasing alumnae participation, regardless of how much they give, is the goal. Hunter is undergoing cultural change, in terms of giving. A major gift is now considered \$100,000. We have received some \$7 million in gifts, including some 18 hundred-

thousand dollar gifts. Mother's Day campaign was very successful last year, and is being done repeated.

\* A college-wide library committee will have wide representation, including Senate nominees, Vice President for Administration representatives, and Library faculty. President Raab would also be open to FDA nominating members.

\* Status of policy re fund-raising efforts undertaken by individual fac members: Hunter has no "clearance process," except for grant proposals that go through Dir. of Research Administration Bob Buckley. The College doesn't want to discourage faculty members, but wants to avoid having 2-3 faculty approaching the same small foundation. Priorities have to be set. All should be raising money for things that the community has agreed are important, and that don't involve costs to college (space, release time, clerical support). A draft, prepared by a faculty committee is due in early March. Jason Young pointed out that faculty ability to solicit outside funding has grown in importance now that the Federal Government has drastically cut available funding in many areas. Timeliness is also a huge issue. Pres. Raab agreed that there is a question of balance. Faculty must be encouraged to be grant-getters, without having their hands tied.

Professors Carmen Mercado, from Curriculum and Teaching was elected to fill the vacancy for Evening Session Representative on the FDA Executive Committee. Dr. Abby Sorman, also from Curriculum and Teaching, was elected part-time faculty representative.

Jason Young discussed preliminary results of the Faculty Survey conducted by FDA in its ongoing efforts to seek productive ways to address faculty concerns. While committees have been suggested as a possibility, faculty have countered that they are expected to attend too many meetings already. The Survey was also meant to help determine content of future FDA meetings.

Summaries are available in four areas: Facilities, Governance, Teaching and Research Support. Sixty-seven faculty members returned the Survey. More have expressed a desire to submit, even past the deadline. Many more complaints were listed than were things that work well. Facilities issues were those most frequently mentioned, especially cleaning and maintenance and functioning of the elevators/escalators (actually a crowding issue). Other matters mentioned included:

workload

governance

lack of transparency in decision-making (top down)

communication

mutual respect

faculty/administration relations

Delegates representing departments located at the Brookdale campus were outspoken in their contentions that the 25<sup>th</sup> St. campus is disadvantaged in every way: facilities, support services, food service, common areas, etc.

Prof. Joan Tronto brought up a University Faculty Senate survey, results of which were made available last fall. Prof. Dean Savage (Queens College) has been asked to make the UFS survey results available electronically. FDA's (11%) response rate has been attributed to the fact that it could not be done online.

Further information concerning survey results will be announced at the next FDA meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Woodard