



Office of The General Faculty
& The Faculty Delegate Assembly
East 1414
Vol. XXIII
No.4
May 2011
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda>

Serving as officers of The General Faculty
and The Faculty Delegate Assembly of
Hunter College this year are:

Tony Doyle (Library), President (through
2011)
Jason Young (Psychology), Vice President
(through 2011)
Debbie Sonu (Curriculum and Teaching),
Treasurer (through 2012)
Bernadette McCauley (History), Secretary
(through 2011)
Owen Gutfreund (Urban Affairs and
Planning) Day Session Representative
(through 2012)
Steven Baumann (School of Nursing),
Evening Session Representative (through
2011)
Edward Fernandez (Educational
Foundations) Part Time Representative
(through 2012)

Administrative Assistants:
James Regan and Ilham Kapadia

March General Meeting

The March meeting was devoted to grants
and awards.

The first speaker was Professor Elizabeth
Cardoso of Educational Foundations.
Professor Cardoso has received a \$3.1
million grant from the National Science
Foundation for her project "MIND Alliance
for Minority Students with Disabilities in
Science, Technology, Engineering and
Mathematics," designed to increase the
number of minority students with disabilities
in the sciences in high school, community
college, college, and in the work force. She
is also co-principal investigator for the
Center on Disability Statistics and
Demographics, funded by the National
Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation
Research for \$4.25 million. Her research
interests include substance abuse assessment
and treatment, multicultural counseling,
psychosocial aspects of chronic illness and
disability, and evidence-based practice.

Professor Cardoso talked about her early
failure in getting grants and how she has
benefitted from this experience. In
particular, she discussed how to scale down
a grant to increase its chances of success.

The second speaker was Marie Filbin,
Distinguished Professor of Biology.
Professor Filbin's research interests include
myelination (that is, the insulating of axons),
nerve regeneration, molecular neurobiology,
and signal transduction. The last mentioned
refers to the entire set of pathways and
interactions by which environmental signals
are received and responded to by single
cells.

As a seasoned grant getter, Professor Filbin
had much useful information to share. First,
the applicant should be prepared to take
advice, even when this might be difficult.

Second, before sending a proposal off the applicant should attempt to anticipate the problems that reviewers are likely to raise about it. An applicant should be able to dispel all doubts in reviewers' minds about the validity of the proposal. Third, the earlier one submits one's application the better, since this gives the foundation in question more time to catch any errors. Fourth, the applicant should attend as many conferences as she can. This is an effective way of getting known by others in one's field.

The third speaker was Professor Jonathan Fanton, the inaugural Franklin Delanor Roosevelt Visiting Fellow at Roosevelt House. Professor Fanton served as president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation from 1999 to 2009. Before that he was president of the New School from 1982 until 1999. Earlier in his career he taught history at Yale and the University of Chicago.

Professor Fanton talked primarily about his experience at the MacArthur Foundation. He was critical of the current trend at colleges and universities to centralize fund raising. Also, he advised grant seekers to stick with their interests and not to chase money according to the fashion of the day.

Professor Fanton rightly sensed that those present would be eager to learn about his experience with the MacArthur's celebrated Fellows Program, the so-called genius awards. The foundation tries to identify people on the upswing of their careers. Eligible candidates generally have enough work to be judged but are not so famous that they don't need the money. The money is nothing to sneeze at: the fellows get \$500,000 over five years, no strings attached. As the foundation's president, Professor Fanton made the phone call to

break the good news to the fortunate winners. Reactions typically ranged from shrieking, to dropping the phone, to passing out. However, the moral equivalent of sneezing is what one Harvard researcher did when the special moment came. Initially the recipient refused even to take Professor Fanton's call, asking if he would call back. This is not something that the President of the MacArthur Foundation is in the habit of doing under the circumstances. He persisted. She finally consented to speak to him. But when he informed her that she had won one of the most coveted prizes in or out of the academy, all she could muster was "Thanks very much," before promptly hanging up. She got the money anyway.

The last speakers were from Hunter's Research Administration. The administration's director, Mr. Robert Buckley, was joined by Ms. Carolynn Julien, Associate Director, and Ms. Annmarie Rivera, Assistant Director for Sponsored Projects. Mr. Buckley stressed the importance of checking for deadlines. He also urged grant seekers to be familiar with Hunter's grant clearance policy. His office needs to know beforehand, for instance, that four faculty members aren't applying for a grant that only three could possibly get. Ms. Julien informed the group about workshops that Research Administration would be offering this semester, one on getting published and one each on applying for grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and from the National Endowment of the Humanities.

April Meeting

Professor Jason Young, Vice President of the FDA's Executive Committee, was our first speaker. He offered a characteristically informed summary of the main issues regarding CUNY's general education proposal. Discussion followed both about this topic and about a restructured FDA for next year.

President Raab spoke next. She began by addressing faculty concerns regarding general education and transfer policy. She argued in particular that any transfer policy must ensure the success of community college students transferring into Hunter. She then provided an update on campus buildings. The scaffolding now surrounding Thomas Hunter will be coming down in September, revealing a thoroughly cleaned façade. Also, Hunter is currently negotiating for the acquisition of two significant spaces. One is the Kennedy Child Study Center, on 67th Street between Lexington and Park. This building boasts 67,000 square feet. The other is a floor in the new Weill Cornell Medical College building at 69th Street and York. She then discussed the renovation of the third floor of the main library, scheduled to run from late May until January. The relocation of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies to the new Health Professions/Social Work building will free up 2400 square feet on the third floor. Finally, the president announced that David Steiner will be returning as Dean of the School of Education after two years as New York State Education Commissioner.

Other news around campus

School of Education

As mentioned above, David Steiner will be returning as Dean of School of Education in August. Dean Steiner held the position from 2005 until 2009. Welcome back!

School of Nursing

Gail McCain has been named Dean of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing. Dean McCain comes to us from the School of Nursing and Health Studies at the University of Miami, where she served as Vice Dean/Senior Associate Dean Academic Affairs. Welcome!

Contacting Us

We seek input from all faculty. The best way to get in touch is e-mail at fda@hunter.cuny.edu. Sending concerns, complaints, kudos, or offering assistance will be greatly appreciated and promptly addressed.