

TO: Members of the Hunter College Senate

FROM: Sandra Clarkson, Chair, Hunter College Senate,
on behalf of the Administrative Committee

RE: Notice of Concern Regarding Action Impacting Hunter's School of Urban Public
Health

DATE: November 25, 2015

This memo serves to alert members of the Hunter College Senate to an action taken by the CUNY Board of Trustees at its November 23, 2015 meeting. Senate leadership is concerned about the impact of the action on Hunter faculty and students, our use and access to facilities and equipment, and the integrity of our academic programs and authority to grant degrees. This matter is presented for discussion by the Senate at the December 9, 2015 meeting.

The Board resolved in an item added to the agenda at the meeting:

“RESOLVED, That the Chancellor shall develop and implement a plan to transition the existing consortial CUNY School of Public Health (CUNY SPH) to a unified graduate school, which will administer all master's level and doctoral degree programs. The unified graduate school will remain a unit of the Graduate School and University Center.

“RESOLVED, That the degree-granting authority for all graduate degrees shall reside with the Graduate School and University Center, of which the CUNY SPH is a division. The CUNY SPH shall be encouraged to collaborate with other CUNY colleges on joint degree programs between public health and other disciplines.

“RESOLVED, That all current faculty in public health, regardless of senior college home, may apply to transfer their appointments to the CUNY SPH at the Graduate School and University Center, without effect on tenure, rank, or seniority.

“RESOLVED, that the name of The CUNY School of Public Health shall be changed to The CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy (CUNY GSPHHP).”

No details about the transition or impact on existing programs and students have been announced except that there is an expectation that undergraduate programs will be subject to accreditation separately.

The Senate Administrative Committee hereby solicits feedback from the community, particularly faculty and students most likely to be impacted by this administrative move, including those in allied programs, which share curricula and students. The Senate will provide a mechanism for expressions of concern and support and requests for clarification to the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of the Chancellor. The Administrative Committee is seeking immediate clarification from CUNY of implications of the statements concerning Hunter's degree granting authority and its rights and responsibilities with respect to its curricula and courses of study.