

Office of the Hunter College Senate

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

10 October 2001

- 1 The 405th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:15 PM in Room W714.
2
- 3 **Presiding:** Alan Hausman, Chair
4
- 5 **Attendance:** The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.
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- 7 **Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as distributed with the addition of a resolution by Eleanor Gilpatrick
8 under New Business.
9
- 10 **Minutes:** The Minutes of May 9th and May 16th were approved as distributed.
11
- 12 **Report by the** A summary statement of President Raab's report is attached as Appendix II.
13 **President:**
14 President Raab concluded the report by answering questions from the floor.
15
- 16 **Report by the** Professor Hausman presented the report as follows:
17 **Administrative**
18 **Committee:** Change in Senate Meeting Time
19 The Chair presented the following resolution:
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- 21 Whereas, the Hunter College Senate has traditionally met from 4:10 pm until 5:40 pm, and
22
- 23 Whereas, this time period conflicts with the College's evening bell schedule, and
24
- 25 Whereas, some members of the Senate cannot then attend the entire Senate meeting because they
26 have to leave early for class; therefore,
27
- 28 Be it Resolved, that the Hunter College Senate shall meet from 4:00 to 5:25 p.m.
29
- 30 Election of Committee Chairs
31 The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Budget Committee.
32
- 33 Professor Barbara L. Hampton (Music) was nominated.
34
- 35 It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried by voice vote.
36
- 37 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees. The
38 motion carried by voice vote.
39
- 40 The floor was open for Nominations for Chair of the Master Plan Committee.
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- 42 Professor Elaine Walsh (Urban Affairs) was nominated.
43
- 44 It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried by voice vote.
45
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52 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees. The
 53 motion carried by voice vote.

54
 55 The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Nominating Committee.

56
 57 Professor Marilyn Rothschild (Physics & Astronomy) was nominated.

58
 59 It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried by voice vote.

60
 61 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees. The
 62 motion carried by voice vote.

63
 64 The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Charter Review Committee.

65
 66 Professor Richard Stapleford (Art) was nominated.

67
 68 It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried by voice vote.

69
 70 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees. The
 71 motion carried by voice vote.

72
 73 **Approved Curriculum Changes**

74 The following Curriculum Changes, as listed in the Report dated 10 October 2001, were approved
 75 as per Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items US-1196A
 76 (Russian/Classics), US-1194 (English), US-1195 (English/Women's Studies), US-1198 (Romance
 77 Languages), US-1208A (Political Science), and US-1215 (School of Nursing).

78
 79 **Items Carried**
 80 **Over:**

81
 82 **Continuation of Discussion of Undergraduate Course of Study Committee Report**

83 Professor Roger Persell, Member of the Committee presented the report.

84
 85 The motion on the floor was approval of the following Guidelines for Including Courses with "W"
 86 Designation for Stage 3 of the General Education Requirement:

87 **Guidelines for Including Courses with "W" Designation in Stage 3: Focused Exposure**

- 88 1. ENGL 120 must be a pre-requisite
- 89 2. The course must be offered at least every two years.
- 90 3. The syllabus must state that over 50% of the course grade is based on written work. The
 91 50% can be achieved in a number of ways, but cannot be limited to in-class essay exams.
 92 Writing due dates must allow faculty feedback prior to the final exam.
- 93 4. Decimalized courses that are experimental and 400-level courses are excluded.
- 94 5. A course may be listed in either Stage 2 or Stage 3, but not in both.
- 95 6. All sections of multi-section courses must meet the same requirements for written work.

96 After discussion it was moved that item 1 be amended to read: "1. ENGL 120 or an equivalent
 97 must be a prerequisite."

98 After discussion the question was called and carried. The amendment was defeated by hand vote.

99
 100 It was moved that item 1 be amended by adding the words "or permission of the instructor."

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106 After discussion the question was called and carried. The amendment was defeated by hand vote.

107
108 It was moved that the question be divided into 6 parts. The motion carried.

109
110 The motion on the floor was approval of item 1. The question was called and carried and item 1
111 was approved by hand vote.

112
113 The motion on the floor was approval of item 2. The question was called and carried and item 2
114 was approved by hand vote.

115
116 The motion on the floor was approval of item 3. The question was called and carried and item 3
117 was approved by hand vote.

118
119 The motion on the floor was approval of item 4. The question was called and carried and item 4
120 was approved by hand vote.

121
122 The motion on the floor was approval of item 5. The question was called and carried and item 5
123 was approved by hand vote.

124
125 The motion on the floor was approval of item 6. The question was called and carried and item 6
126 was approved by hand vote.

127
128 It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at
129 5:40 P.M.
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132

133 Respectfully submitted,

134 

135 Renate Murray
136 Executive Assistant
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APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

Faculty

Anthropology	Gregory Johnson William Parry	Nursing	Pamela Dole Kathleen Nokes "E"
Art	Katy Siegel Nari Ward	Physics & Astronomy	Marilyn Rothschild "E"
Black & P. R. Studies	Veronica Gregg Juan Flores	Psychology	Sara Durand
Chemistry	Pamela Mills William Sweeney	Social Work	Elizabeth Danto Glynn Rudich
Classical & Oriental Studies	Joann Spurza "E" Elizabeth Beaujour "E"	Student Services	Terry Wansart
Curriculum & Teaching	Mary Lefkarites "E"	Theatre	Barbara Bosch Laura Drake "E"
Economics	Howard Chernick Michael Schleifer Avi Liveson Mark Weinstock	Administration	Dean David Hodges Dean Laurie Sherwen "E"

Students

Educational Foundations	Gess LeBlanc Jeanne Weiler	Juliet Chin Anna Hristova "E" Charmaine Francis Cowan Cheron Bevin Bulloche Daniel Duque Maya Cohen Angie Lee Ann McGowan Daniel Jones Daniel Sebbag Shane McEvoy Tamiaka Byer Astra Williams Danelco Moxey Guranda Murghu Han Lo Roger Waiters John Enderi Lee Petruzzelli Joshua Caulkins Laura Landor Claudia Terry Peter Lee	
Film & Media	Joel Zuker Greg Morris Michael Gitlin		
Geography	Hongmin Gong		
Health Sciences	Thomas Holland		
Mathematics & Statistics	Barbara Barone		
Music	Brad Stoller		

APPENDIX II Report by the President

The following is a summary statement of President Raab's report to the Senate. She said:

"I want to thank you for welcoming me here today and, belatedly, for the lovely reception. It seems like years ago, before September 11th, but it was a lovely time on the roof.

I also want to thank everyone for coming together in such an extraordinary way since September 11th. From the moment the attack happened, the most important thing for me to do was to send out the message, and to have everyone join in the message, that Hunter was a safe space. That day I walked the halls of the college. I talked to many students and, to the extent that we could guaranty safety that day, I told them that they are safe here and to stay here, that the subways are not working and that the bridges are closed, that we are keeping the cafeterias open and we are all going to be here until the last student and staff person has some place safe to go to. We did that and the cafeteria workers, security guards, faculty and students, everyone, pulled together. From that we began to build community at this campus and Hunter-wide. The social workers were here helping us with crisis counseling, and they were at the high school helping many of our younger population through a very trying time. At Brookdale we opened our doors to the larger community. Many of the nurses who work at Bellevue stayed over at the Hunter Brookdale campus so that they could go back to the hospital in the morning.

At the 68th Street campus we began to build a way to come together to help us through this terrible time. As I have said a number of times since then, it was an imperfect response, but it was a response that we all built together. We created the healing wall where people could write their feelings. We created the memorial, which I found to be very touching. Somebody brought a little trinket from the World Trade Center that probably cost \$2.00. It was a little paperweight, and it assumed an incredible significance sitting there where somebody else had put origami birds around it. We also created the small gatherings during the day that culminated in a larger session. I was pleased and honored to have Professors Hausman and Tronto and a number of students join with us to tell their stories, to share their feelings, and to reinforce the message that Hunter is a safe space. I also reached out to as many student groups as I could to reinforce that message. It was heartbreaking to me to find many students who felt they could not come to school the day after. They were afraid to leave their homes. But it was encouraging that most of them felt they were safe to be at Hunter. That is not to say that we did not have our incidence where people wrote things you did not want to read on the wall. But in general the good speech outweighed the bad. I think that we have created an atmosphere here where people feel safe to be who they are and to say what is on their minds while respecting the feelings and emotions of others in our community. To me that is the most important thing we need to remember as a community as we go forward. We all know that a lot is going to happen and that a lot of opinions will be expressed in this school. Some people will share opinions and some people will disagree. My most important message and plea to everyone is that we keep Hunter a safe space where all feel free to express themselves. We are also asking all departments to help in getting faculty, students, and staff in those departments to come together and to have a response to the September 11th tragedy. We have offered resources from my office to help with arrangements and support for these events.

The Political Science Department was one of the first to have a very successful teach-in. I know that the Senate will be co-sponsoring a teach-in on October 24th, and I hope that every department will come together in a response to September 11th. We are also going to have an official memorial service on November 7th. I am very, very sad to report that we did lose two students at the Trade Center and we will be honoring these students. I am hoping to start a scholarship fund in their name. We will also be asking others in the community who have lost people to come and share their stories to help us honor people we have lost in this tragedy. In terms of other responses that have come as a result of the September 11th tragedy, I think most of you in the academic departments have received a memo from our Provost regarding the academic policies and responses. We have essentially asked faculty to use their discretion to help students through this time in terms of meeting work requirements. In addition, we have had a couple of requests for withdrawal with tuition refunds. We have been looking at these requests on a case-by-case basis. Sylvia Fishman has been making an assessment and I have asked her to reach out to faculty members to also talk about particular student needs.

A final issue that has come to the forefront as a result of the tragedy is the question of security on our campus. As some of you know, this is an issue that I wanted to bring up for community discussion before the horrible events of September 11th. Over the summer I spent a lot of time talking to different constituent groups, and I have found that

Minutes, 10 October 2001 - Appendix I (cont.):

Two things that happened over the summer that I do want to touch on concerns Roosevelt House and the Kaye Playhouse. As many of you know, for about the last nine or ten years the Kaye Playhouse was devoted primarily to a non-profit theatre company that was sponsored by our Foundation. The theory of this production company was that if they produced wonderful things the name Hunter would be important in the world of performing arts and would be well respected in the local community. While a lot of interesting things were done, it was also taking the primary focus of our fundraising efforts to support this private non-profit theatre company. We are now moving away from that. The other side-effect of that was that many of you in the performing arts and the non-performing arts did not have access to this absolutely wonderful space for college events, lectures, or discussion series. We have now moved to turning the Kaye back to the community. I have asked the performing arts departments to fall in love with the Kaye again, to use it, to program it, and to invite us all to come and watch performances. I have sent the same message to student groups and to other departments. It is ours. It is a wonderful forum. We are going to make it available. We are going to use it for rentals in order to support the technical help that will be needed to do productions, but we can do both. I am hoping that in spirit of community building, the more events we can have on this campus of an intellectual, artistic, and fun nature, the more people will stay here, be here, get to know each other, and really come together as a community. That is really my dream, and it is my goal that we will have the resources to do that. The Kaye belongs to the college and now the college can use it.

Regarding Roosevelt House I want to say that Hunter College, through its Foundation, is lucky enough to own the house that Franklin Delano Roosevelt's mother gave to his son and young bride as a wedding present. She was so enamored of her new daughter-in-law and her son's marriage that she built them a townhouse. Then she built herself the adjoining townhouse with one door on every floor adjoined. Young Eleanor was so happy to be with her mother-in-law that she took long walks to the girls' college a few blocks away. And that is how Eleanor's relationship with Hunter College grew. It is a very wonderful thing and it is an amazing house. This is where Franklin Roosevelt found out that he was elected President. This is where the telegrams were addressed. There is an elevator in the townhouse and that is unusual in houses of that vintage. The elevator was there because he had polio. It is just an amazing piece of history that we own, and it has been closed for the last nine years. Unfortunately, it has deteriorated and it is now our challenge to find the resources to reopen it. I believe that in order to find the resources we have to have a vision for how we use the house. I have asked Provost Cohen to convene a committee of representatives of various disciplines to come together and talk about the creation of a policy institute at Hunter College, which would be interdisciplinary. It would create a forum for people to share their ideas, and many people are willing to do this if we would have the right place. We have the right place, but we need to have a very focused fundraising drive to implement this policy institute idea and to get the resources to restore Roosevelt House. It is a huge challenge, but I think it is doable. It would really be a tragedy if we were unable to restore and reopen this home of one of our most distinguished presidents and his truly phenomenal wife. In their honor we are going to really dedicate ourselves to fundraising. We were able to raise enough money, about \$50,000, to clean the façade. This is just about to start, and it is our symbol of beginning to really rejuvenate the campaign to restore Roosevelt House. These are two specific things that we have been working on in the last few months, and more will follow about both.

I want to touch on a few personnel items. As many of you know, we were very sorry at the sudden departure of Courtland Lee, Dean of our School of Education. Courtland received a wonderful teaching offer from the University of Maryland at Baltimore County in his specialty of counseling. I think it was a hard decision. While we were sad to lose Dr Lee we were extraordinarily lucky that David Hodges agreed to be our Acting Dean of the School of Education. Many of you know David from his many important activities on our campus, and I know he is going to make crucial contributions to the School of Education.

In terms of two searches, I believe you are all aware that we are about to begin the search for provost. We have also begun a search for a new position, Special Assistant to the President for Campus Relations and Dean for Diversity. This position is based on the previous position of Affirmative Action Officer. Prior to September 11th I had been very focused on the need to do better in recruiting faculty and staff of color and of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. But how do we really do it and how do we do it right. We need someone that is very experienced to help us, reach out into the larger community to do the recruiting that we would like to do. We also have a number of phenomenal minority support programs in this college, which I think can really grow and for which we can continue to get additional funding from the federal government. I wanted a dean's level position to assist me with these and other types of similar initiatives. Since September 11th the second part of the position, the Special Assistant for Campus Relations, has also become important. Building community and support in community is extraordinarily important. I have begun a search to fill this position and I have also spoken to the Administrative Committee about Senate participation.

Minutes, 10 October 2001 - Appendix I (cont.):

I have one final item to speak about and that is the question of the referendum to increase the student fee. As many of you know it is covered often in the Envoy. As I understand it, the prior presidents had indicated to the student body that they had set thresholds for the number of people who would have to vote to approve an increase in student fees. There were two different thresholds set by two different presidents, but it was not a winner take all election. At one point 10% had to approve – another time it was that 15% had to turn out. I believe that in most elections, with the exception of the recent primary where there was a 40% cap, most of our elections in this country are a winner takes all. We try to get people to come out and vote, but the person or the idea that garners the most support wins. I support this proposition. I think that if students come out and vote to increase their student fees for activities that they deem worthwhile, such as the newspapers, student government, clubs, and other such activities, it is the correct position of the president's office to support the students and to forward that recommendation to the central administration. I have indicated to the students that that is my position and that I am willing to do that. The question right now is whether the students can have an election in time for us to get to the next Board of Trustees meeting November 19th. I have also indicated that I am willing to do anything I can to expedite and work around the rules to be able to achieve that. Anybody who would like to discuss this further should call my office to talk about it. I have talked to the student government. They are not sure they want to have the election.

In closing I want to say that I have email, that I do read it, and that I love to hear from people. It takes a while to respond but it is very important for me to know what is on people's minds and what people are feeling and thinking. I also try to get off the 17th floor. So, if people are having meetings or doing things, please send me an invitation. Thank you very much."