

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate  
30 November 1994

	The 314th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:20 PM in Room W714.	1 2
<b>Presiding:</b>	Kenneth S. Sherrill, Chair	3
<b>Attendance:</b>	The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 4
	The Agenda was adopted as distributed.	6
<b>Minutes:</b>	The Minutes of November 2nd were approved as distributed.	7
<b>Report by the President:</b>	A summary statement of President Blank's report to the Senate is as follows:	8
	<u>Announcements:</u>	9
	She said: "First there are a couple of announcements. Most surprisingly and unexpected, there is now a hiring freeze. The State of New York has mandated a freeze that will become operative on a campus-by-campus basis on Monday morning. A copy of the two-page document just received from the Chancellor's Office is being distributed. The "Firing Line" debate has been cancelled for now. It would have cost \$30,000 to soundproof the gym and that discouraged them a little bit.	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
	<u>Re: Restructuring of the Department of Academic Skills</u>	17
	I know how concerned, worried, and uncomfortable the members of the department are. I am offering you the following thought. I am asking the Provost to immediately create a working group, including the deans and chairs of all the affected departments, to work out a detailed implementation plan that will deal with student and faculty concerns. This will be done immediately. The basic ideas in the plan are known to you all, and I did send out an <u>Open Line</u> yesterday with letters to the faculty and the students of the Department of Academic Skills reprinted. I have asked our Ombudsman, and he has been gracious enough to accept this role: i.e. to be a special monitor for this group. It is his particular duty to see to it not only that everybody is equitably treated, but that there be a genuine, warm, and gracious acceptance of all people in all departments. That is his role. He will be there to listen, to monitor, and to be proactive if need be. I know that further discussion of this issue is on the agenda, and I will remain for the duration of the discussion."	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
	President Blank concluded the report by answering questions from the floor.	33 34
<b>Report by the Administrative Committee:</b>	Professor Sherrill presented the report as follows:	35
	<u>Special Election to fill vacant seats on the Senate</u>	36
	Professor Sherrill informed the Senate that Professor David Hodges (Educational Foundations) had been nominated for one of the vacant faculty seats.	37 38
	It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee. The motion carried by voice vote and Professor Hodges was elected to the Senate.	39 40 41
	Professor Sherrill asked the Senate to observe a moment of silence in memory of Ms. Doris Chee, who was the first Vice Chair of the Senate.	42 43
	<u>Approved Curriculum Changes</u>	44
	The following curriculum changes, as listed in Part I and Part II of the Report dated 30 November 1994, were approved as per Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items GR-390 (School of Health Sciences), GS-383 and GS-384 (Curriculum & Teaching), GS-385 (Curriculum & Teaching/History), GS-387 (Economics), GS-388 and GS-389 (School of Nursing), GS-391 (School of Health Sciences), US-921/GS-386 (Economics), US-916 (Classics/Russian), US-923 (Political Science), US-914 (Communications).	45 46 47 48 49 50 51

<b>Committee</b>	<b><u>Nominating Committee</u></b>	52
<b>Reports:</b>	Dr. Marilyn Rothschild, Chair of the Committee, presented the following nominations for seats currently vacant on Senate committees:	53 54
	<u>Undergraduate Course of Study Committee</u>	55
	Faculty from Health Professions: Diane Rendon (Nursing)	56
	Faculty At-large: Sigmund Shipp (Urban Affairs)	57
	Faculty Alternate: Richard Barickman (English)	58
	<u>Graduate Course of Study Committee</u>	59
	Faculty from Social Sciences: Marta Petruszewicz (History)	60
	Student: Priscilla Chang (Anthropology)	61
	<u>Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee</u>	62
	Faculty from health Professions: Deborah Fish Ragin (Health Sci.)	63
	<u>Graduate Academic Requirements Committee</u>	64
	Faculty Alternate: Kate Garnett (Special Education)	65
	<u>Budget Committee</u>	66
	Faculty from Sciences & Math.: Al Bennick (Physics & Astronomy)	67
	<u>Departmental Governance Committee</u>	68
	Faculty from Social Sciences: Nashwa George (Economics)	69
	<u>Calendar Committee</u>	70
	Student: Istvan Busa-Farkas (Film)	71
	<u>Committee on the Library</u>	72
	Faculty from Social Sciences: Philip Kasinitz (Sociology)	73
	<u>Grade Appeals Committee</u>	74
	Faculty Alternate: Joyce Toney (Black & PR Studies)	75
	Student: Mark Weinstock (Economics)	76
	Student Alternate: Shoshana Roland	77
	<u>Teacher Evaluations Committee</u>	78
	Faculty Alternate: Emil Draitser (Classics)	79
	<u>Review Comm. on Distribution and Pluralism &amp; Diversity Requirements</u>	80
	Faculty Alternate: Charles Landesman (Philosophy)	81
	Student: Shoshana Roland	82
	Student Alternate: Priscilla Chang (Anthropology)	83
	It was moved that the nominations be adopted as a slate. The motion carried by hand vote.	84 85
	<b><u>Evening Session Council:</u></b>	86
	Professor Barbara Hampton, Chair of the Evening Session Council, presented the resolution dated 30 November 1994, as distributed.	87 88
	After discussion, Professor Polsky moved that the motion be amended by deleting the following paragraph:	89 90
	"WHEREAS, continued budget austerity measures have had a disproportionately devastating impact on course offerings available to evening majors; and"	91 92 93
	After further discussion, the question was called and carried.	94 95
	Professor Polsky's amendment was approved by hand vote.	95
	The question on the main motion, as amended, was called and carried.	96
	The motion as amended was approved by hand vote, and reads as follows:	97

WHEREAS, Hunter College students who can only attend classes after 5:00 p.m. need advocates; and	98 99
WHEREAS, the new student government classifications of full and part time students supersede the distinction between day students and Hunter students who can only attend classes after 5:00 p.m.; and	100 101 102
WHEREAS, the downgrading of a position within the Dean of Student's Office for the advocacy of evening students' needs has a potentially negative impact on the retention and graduation rates of evening students; therefore,	103 104 105 106
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate urge the Office of the Provost to: (1) collect data from departments and divisions on their evening session graduates for the past five years, (2) monitor departments and divisions so that evening students are able to take all courses required for graduation within a reasonable time period, and (3) launch a long-range study of retention rates of evening students relative to those of the Hunter student population as a whole; and	107 108 109 110 111 112 113
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate urge the President to charge a person in the Office of the Provost with supervisory responsibility, specifically, for ensuring that the college's resources are deployed in such a way as to enable evening students to complete their programs of study and graduate in a reasonable period of time, and, generally, for ensuring the high academic quality of the evening session programs.	114 115 116 117 118 119 120
<b>Old Business:</b> <u>Presidential Search</u>	121
Professor Hodges reported that the meeting of the Search Committee scheduled for November 29th had been cancelled by phone call. The meeting has been re-scheduled for December 13th.	122 123 124
<b>New Business:</b> <u>Proposed Restructuring the Department of Academic Skills</u>	125
It was moved that the Senate dissolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for about 25 minutes. The motion carried.	126 127
[Provost Struminger's chronology of events as read by President blank is attached as Appendix II. The chronology of events presented by Professor Rose Boone for the Department of Academic Skills is attached as Appendix III.]	128 129 130
The Senate rose from the Committee of the Whole at 5:25 PM.	131
It was moved that the Senate reenter the Committee of the Whole for 15 minutes. The motion carried by hand vote.	132 133
The Senate reconvened in formal session at 5:40 PM.	134
It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.	135 136

Respectfully submitted,



Renate Murray  
Executive Assistant

**APPENDIX I**

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

**FACULTY:**

Anthropology: William Parry  
Art: William Agee  
Jane Roos  
Chemistry: Angelo Santoro  
David Mootoo  
Classics: Alex Alexander  
Communications: Samuel Fleishman  
James Roman  
Curriculum & Teaching: Alene Smith  
Anthony Picciano  
Economics: Nashwa George  
Educational Foundations: Linda Perkins  
English: Floyd Horowitz  
Geology & Geography: Richard Liebling  
Health Sciences: Khursheed Navder "E"  
History: Marta Petruszewicz  
Library: Polly Thistlethwaite  
Mathematical Sciences: Daniel Chess  
Norma Moy  
Music: James Harrison  
Peter Basquin  
Philosophy: Sue Weinberg  
Romance Languages: Maritjelma Costa  
Cecile Insdorf  
Diana Conchado  
Social Work: Jayne Silberman  
George Getzel  
Malka Sternberg  
Sociology: Ruth Sidel "E"  
Martin Warmbrand  
Special Education: Marsha Lupi  
Urban Affairs: Stanley Moses

**STUDENTS:**

Jean Lemaitre  
Ana Ramirez "E"  
Mark Quick  
M. Johane Alexandre  
Hopeton Smalling  
Yvonne Zaharakis  
Gary Braglia  
Lucrece Francois  
Meg Bruck  
Shirley Juste  
Rebecca Bergman-Sorenson  
Erica Petersen  
Inacio Pinto  
Adeline Su  
Carol Calmenares  
Mintra Baijnauth  
Joyce Bowden  
Istvan Busa-Farkas  
Shoshana Ronald "E"  
Priscilla Chang  
Bianna Belfer  
Jose Diaz  
Neida Gonzalez  
Peter Davies  
Patricia Laporte  
Mark Weinstock  
Elka Mumizaga

Dean Evelyn Gioiella "E"  
Dean Carlos Hortas  
Provost Laura Strumingher "E"  
Vice Pres. Sylvia Fishman  
Assoc. Vice Pres. Stanley Sokol

APPENDIX II

November 10, 1994

To: President Blanche Blank  
From: Provost ~~Laura Struminger~~  
Re: Decision to Restructure Academic Skills

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The decision to segregate remedial and the developmental courses for SEEK students in a separate department with its own faculty and course numbers long predates my coming to Hunter. I understand from those who were here at the time that it was not a decision which received strong support in all quarters. While most CUNY colleges started programs similar to Hunter's Academic Skills, ours is the only program which has remained totally separated from the other academic departments. Since my arrival at Hunter in September of 1989 I was made aware of a strong suggestion from the prior year's visiting team from Middle States to look into the duplication of effort caused by parallel developmental programs for SEEK and non-SEEK students. I took that request seriously and spent my first year here reviewing many prior studies compiled by SEEK institutional researchers, Cobb and Pereira, and others compiled by Liz Beaujour and still others from 80th St. These reports made it clear to me that despite the good intentions of many faculty and the increasing amount of money spent on remediation we were not making gains in the retention of students to graduation. Too often students who began in remediation had no access to college level work before they dropped out. This was especially true for SEEK students who despite smaller classes and more hours of remediation per course and more tutoring and counseling were failing in large numbers, larger than other students requiring remediation.

In September of 1990 I requested Dean Scott to chair a task force on remediation which included faculty from each of the developmental programs in the College. The deliberations of this committee which included testimony from many faculty and from students and from graduates of the SEEK program were factored into a preliminary report which was submitted in May 1991 and a final report submitted May 1992. Those reports concluded, despite prior faculty misconceptions to the contrary, that each of the programs were well-intentioned and eager to help students. It also pointed to the low retention rates and urged the need for a systematic review by external evaluators of the entire developmental program at Hunter.

During the academic year 1993-94 the departments of Math, English and Academic Skills were all evaluated. The reviewers were asked to comment on the parallel programs and to make recommendations. Each of the external teams referred to the possibility and indeed to the wisdom of removing the parallel structure.

In September 1994 I had discussions with each of the three departments and reviewed with them the need to implement the recommendation for restructuring implicit in each of the reports. These departmental meetings were followed by meetings with Lucille Croom (academic skills chair) and Richard Churchill (math chair) on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and Lucille Croom and Allan Brick (English chair) on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chancellor Nuñez was consulted on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A meeting was held with all instructional faculty in developmental areas on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September urging them to come up with better ways to deliver instruction to students to improve poor retention rates. Subsequent meetings were held by the developmental math faculty. I met again on October 24<sup>th</sup> with Lucille Croom and on October 25<sup>th</sup> with Hugh Scott to inform them of my decision to take action. I spoke with Sarah Aronson of the PSC on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October; Lucille Croom on November 1<sup>st</sup> and Arnold Cantor of the PSC on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. I met with the faculty of Academic Skills to inform them on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. I later met with the counselors on November 7<sup>th</sup>.