

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate 3 November 1999

The 385th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:15 PM in Room W714.

Presiding: Pamela Mills, Chair

Attendance: The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.

Agenda: The revised agenda was adopted as presented.

Minutes: The Minutes of October 6th were approved as distributed.

Report by the President: Provost Gizis presented the following report on behalf of President Caputo. He said:

"President Caputo regrets that he has to miss today's meeting. He has asked me to make his report for him. First, he would like to mention some significant honors for the college. Professor Peter Kwong of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and Professor Chang-Rae Lee, Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing, were named to the list of the 100 most influential Asian Americans of the past decade by *A. Magazine*, the nation's largest publication for English-speaking Asian Americans. Also, a studio project submitted by Professor Susan Meiklejohn of Urban Affairs and Planning entitled "*The Melrose Commons Co-Housing Plan*" received the Ritzdorf Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. This award goes to studio projects that best address issues of gender, race, and poverty. The third honor I want to mention is that Professor Michael Drain of the Department of Chemistry has been informed that one of his papers has entered the top ten most cited papers in chemistry. So, we would like to congratulate all three professors.

Second, President Caputo has written to Chair Mills, requesting a meeting with her and the Senate's leadership to discuss the Strategic Plan. When he receives the plan, copies of the plan will be prepared and distributed to all members of the Hunter community within two weeks. He would also like to thank the committee for their dedicated work. When President Caputo meets with the Senate leadership, his goal will be to identify recommendations that will require Senate action and to reach agreement on the way to proceed. President Caputo stated: "Clearly we must all work together if the key elements of this plan are to be implemented. I look forward to working with the Senate and our constituent groups as we move ahead." President Caputo also would like to tell you that the Trustees are likely to vote on a restatement of articulation which will make transfer between the community and senior colleges more routine. However, some issues will be created due to this resolution.

In closing, President Caputo would like to remind you to hold Wednesday, December 8th at 5:30 PM, for our reception to celebrate Hunter's entry into the next millennium. You will be receiving an invitation soon. President Caputo is looking forward to seeing you at the November 17th meeting. Thank you very much."

Report by the Administrative Committee: Professor Mills presented the report as follows:

Special Election to fill vacant seats on the Senate

Professor Mills presented the following nominations for seats currently vacant for faculty:

Faculty: Thane Doss (English)

It was moved that the nomination be approved. The motion carried by voice vote.

Approved Curriculum Changes

The following curriculum changes as listed in the Report dated 3 November 1999, were approved as per Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items UR-1095 (Russian/Classics), US-1081 (Schools of Health Professions), US-1091 (Romance Languages), and US-1094 (Film & Media Studies).

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66 **Resolution Opposing the Board of Trustees' Articulation Resolution**

67 Professor Mills presented the following resolution as distributed:

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69 Whereas, the Board of Trustee's Committee on Academic and Program Planning has recommended
70 that the Board, at its November meeting, consider an articulation policy that will permit students
71 who have earned an A.S. or A.A to satisfy Hunter's distribution requirements if they transfer to
72 Hunter (see attached), and

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74 Whereas, the resolution may have the impact of lowering academic standards and creating two
75 classes of graduates because Hunter's distribution requirements are more extensive than many of the
76 programs in the Community Colleges, and

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78 Whereas, the meaning of the Hunter College degree is expressed broadly through its curriculum and
79 specifically through its general education requirements in addition to its major and minor
80 requirements, and

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82 Whereas, employers, graduate and professional schools, alumni, and other parties affiliated with
83 Hunter College associate a set of expectations from the Hunter Degree based on its history, and
84 reputation, therefore,

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86 **Be It Resolved**, that the Hunter College Senate express serious concern with the CAPPR resolution
87 that "students who have earned a City University Associate in Arts (A.A.) or an Associate in Science
88 (AS.) Degree will be deemed to have automatically fulfilled all lower division liberal arts and
89 science distribution requirements for a baccalaureate degree" (see attached CAPPR resolution),

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91 **Be It Further Resolved**, that the Hunter College Senate request that the Board of Trustees modify
92 and/or clarify the transfer policy to allow the colleges flexibility in setting their own general
93 education requirements for transfer students to ensure that academic standards are not lowered, and

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95 **Be It Further Resolved**, that the City University of New York facilitate the transfer of community
96 college students to the senior colleges without the de facto establishment of a reduced set of general
97 education requirements for those transfer students.

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99 After discussion it was moved that the Administrative Committee reword the resolution, taking into
100 consideration suggestions that were made, before submission to the Board of Trustees.

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102 The question was called and carried. The motion was approved by voice vote.

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104 **The Administrative Committee's Response to Professor Shahn's Motion**

105 Professor Mills presented the following response, as distributed:

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107 The Administrative Committee concurs with Professor Shahn that the Senate must remain ever
108 vigilant in maintaining its integrity and authority by ensuring that Presidential and Provostial
109 Committees remain within the bounds of proper governance procedure. However, we believe that
110 the outcome proposed is based on a faulty set of premises and is also not an appropriate response for
111 the Senate to take at this time.

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113 While the Administrative Committee does believe that the Senate's Charter for the Governance of
114 Hunter College could be construed as requiring (at a minimum) all long-range planning of the
115 College to be approved by the Senate, there are precedents to the contrary in Hunter's recent history.
116 For example, President LeClerc convened a Strategic Planning Committee (as well as numerous task
117 forces) with no (apparent) Senate objection and with no Senate approval of the final report. Current
118 practice, which seems to have originated with President LeClerc, appears to use Provostial or
119 Presidential Committees to make recommendations to the Senate for approval when issues of
120 curriculum or academic policy are raised. As long as this is the commonly accepted practice, we
121 believe that the Senate Chair or a designated representative must sit on all Presidential and
122 Provostial Committees that may seek to influence academic policy or curriculum.

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124 Professor Shahn's third "whereas", while inaccurate, raises an important and overlooked item from
125 prior years and prior Presidents. The current mission statement for Hunter College, articulated in the
126 Middle States Self Study, was never approved by the Senate. It is the Administrative Committee's
127 position that the mission statement for Hunter College must be approved by the Senate. The current
128 mission statement, which has been operative for the past eight years, is widely accepted by the
129 Hunter College community. Nevertheless, the process of affirming this mission statement,
130 particularly in the context of the current Strategic Plan Report, may be a worthwhile endeavor.
131 However, such an affirmation is not the subject of the Motion on the floor.

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133 Lastly, it is the opinion of the Administrative Committee that the act (symbolic or actual) of
134 resigning from a Presidential or Provostial Committee by the Chair of the Senate is an extreme act
135 and should occur only when all other forms of communication have been exhausted. No such
136 breakdown of communication between the Administration and the Senate has occurred. Thus in this
137 instance, and for the reasons cited above, an act of resignation is inappropriate and ill timed.

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139 **Items Carried Over** The motion on the floor was the following resolution presented by Professor Shahn at the last meeting:
140 **From Last Meeting:**

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147 1. Whereas, the President of Hunter College has appointed a committee to create a Strategic Plan
148 for the College; and
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150 2. Whereas, the Senate did not participate in the creation of this committee or defining its goal;
151 and
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153 3. Whereas, this committee has stated its goal as implementing a mission that is different from the
154 mission of the college as approved by the Senate and articulated in the Middle States Self Study;
155 and,
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157 4. Whereas, some of the areas treated by the committee in two versions of their Strategic Plan
158 address issues within the purview of the Senate and on which Senate Committees are currently
159 working; therefore,
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161 5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate requests the Chair of the Senate to refrain
162 from further participation in the work of this committee in her capacity as Chair of the Senate.
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164 The intent of this resolution is to reaffirm the integrity and authority of the Senate. It is not intended
165 to prejudge the merit of any proposals or recommendations the committee shall ultimately make,
166 whether such proposals or recommendations are within or outside the jurisdiction of the Senate. We
167 believe that any recommendations put forward by this committee will be submitted to the appropriate
168 standing or ad hoc committees of the Senate for whatever action they feel is called for.
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170 After discussion the question was called and carried. The motion was defeated by voice vote.
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172 **Committee**
173 **Reports:**

172 **Nominating Committee**

173 Dr. Marilyn Rothschild, Chair of the Committee, presented the following nominations:

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175 Departmental Governance Committee

176 Faculty from Health Professions: Dorothy Ross (Health Sciences)
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178 Calendar Commitete

179 Faculty from Sciences & Math.: Shirley Raps (Biology)
180 Faculty from Humanities Arts: Giuseppe DiScipio (Romance Languages)
181 Faculty from Social Sciences: Cheryl Harding (Psychology)
182 Faculty from Health professions: Janet Schoepflin (Health Sciences)
183 Faculty Alternate: Tamara Green (Classics)
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185 Committee on the Library:

186 Faculty from Health Professions: Mary Anne McDermott (Nursing)
187 Faculty from Branch Library: Suzanne Crow (Brookdale)
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189 Nominating Committee

190 Faculty: Pamela Wonsek (Library)
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192 Evening Council

193 Faculty from the Library: Andrea Copeland
194 Faculty from Health Professions: Dorothy Ross (Health Sciences)
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196 Review Comm. on Distribution and P&D Requirements (Appeals)

197 Faculty: Robert Carter (Sociology)
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199 Select Committee on Pluralism & Diversity Requirement

200 Faculty from Sciences & Math.: Ines Miyares (Geography)
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202 The floor was open for further nominations, but none were received.
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204 The nominations were approved by voice vote.
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206 Professor Mills next informed the Senate that the report by the Ombuds Officer would be presented at the
207 next meeting.
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209 **Old Business:**

210 It was requested that the Hunter College Mission Statement be placed before the Senate for
211 consideration.
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213 It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.
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Respectfully submitted,

220 Barbara L. Hampton
221 Secretary