

MINUTES
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
16 November 2011

The 530th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 3:50 PM in Room W714.

Presiding: Sandra Clarkson, Chair

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

Alternate Senators were formally seated in accordance with the procedures approved by the Senate, and clickers were distributed to them.

Minutes: There were no minutes.

Report by the President: There was no report.

Report by the Administrative Committee: The Chair presented the report as follows:

a) **Special Election for Vacant At-large Seats on the Senate – Fall 2011**

The Chair presented the following nominations in accordance with Article IV, Sections 2.H.i & ii, of the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College*:

Students: Anna Kovalevska

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the entire slate. The motion was approved by voice vote without dissent.

Clickers were distributed to the newly elected senators.

Committee Report: **General Education Committee**

Professor Pam Mills, Chair of the Committee, presented the report dated 16 November 2011 "Re: CUNY's Proposed Changes to the General Education and Pathways to the Majors".

The following resolution was on the floor.

General Education Committee of the Hunter College Senate passed the following resolution by unanimous consent on November 11, 2011. The resolution is presented to the Hunter College Senate for ratification.

Whereas facilitation of student transfer, for which we recognize a need, can be achieved without the imposition of a standardized new curriculum on the colleges of the City University and

Whereas Hunter College has recently redesigned and reviewed its general education curriculum (the GER) with the help of a prestigious Mellon award and to the acclaim of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, to provide its graduates with an outstanding general education that combines breadth and depth and

Whereas Hunter long ago adjusted its transfer policies so that students who begin their studies at Hunter College and students who transfer to Hunter College accumulate (on average) the same number of total credits for graduation and

55 Whereas the Pathways to Degree Completion Initiative has shown a disregard for the legally
56 defined and traditional rights of faculty governance over curriculum and

57
58 Whereas the imposition of a curriculum by a board of trustees, contrary to the national best
59 practices of curricular reform, will erode the national reputation of the college and university and

60
61 Whereas Pathways would substantially cut the general education curriculum and devalue our
62 students' education and the reputation of Hunter College and the City University of New York and

63
64 Whereas Pathways threatens to make the College less able to recruit and retain outstanding
65 scholars due to its devaluing of the curriculum and undermining of shared governance

66
67 Therefore the Academic Senate of Hunter College concludes that the Pathways to Degree
68 Completion Initiative cannot be redeemed by minor changes to its individual components and
69 rejects Pathways on pedagogical, intellectual, and legal grounds.
70

71 After discussion the question was called and carried.

72
73 The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.
74

75
76 **New Business:** Professor Michael Perna presented the following resolution for Senate endorsement.

77
78 Whereas it was recently revealed in multiple press reports that the New York City Police
79 Department
80 (NYPD) has been carrying out undercover intelligence gathering operations targeting Muslim
81 student
82 organizations and at least one member of the faculty on several campuses of the City University
83 of New York (CUNY), including Hunter College, Baruch College, Brooklyn College, City
84 College, LaGuardia Community College, and Queens College;

85
86 Whereas the official documents cited in press reports suggest that these activities are not based on
87 specific evidence of criminal wrongdoing, but take the form of general background intelligence
88 gathering;

89
90 Whereas the use of undercover police agents and police informants on campus in the
91 circumstances that have been reported has a chilling effect on the intellectual freedom necessary
92 for a vibrant academic community;

93
94 Whereas these activities may violate the legal and civil rights of the groups and individuals
95 targeted for surveillance;

96
97 Whereas the presence of the NYPD in a non-emergency situation on any CUNY campus without
98 the prior request or approval by CUNY officials appears to violate the NYPD-CUNY
99 Memorandum
100 of Understanding Regarding Police Response to Incidents and Events Occurring at the City
101 University of New York; and

102
103 Whereas multiple press reports have also indicated that the NYPD's intelligence gathering unit has
104 benefited from unprecedented help from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), including the
105 assistance of a senior-level CIA operative, raising concerns about CIA involvement in domestic
106 spying;

107
108 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hunter College Senate opposes surveillance activities by
109 the NYPD and affiliated agencies on CUNY campuses, either directly or through the use of
110 informants, unless part of a valid and specific criminal investigation;

111
112 Be it further resolved that we call upon CUNY's central administration to issue a public statement
113 outlining its opposition to on-campus surveillance, based on the principle of academic freedom

118 and on a robust commitment to civil liberties, as well as to detail its knowledge of or involvement
119 in this surveillance and information gathering;

120
121 Be it further resolved that we call upon CUNY's central administration to request publicly that the
122 NYPD inform those groups and individuals that have been the subject of this surveillance of the
123 fact of the surveillance, and the nature of the information gathered;

124
125 Be it further resolved that we call on Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly to account publicly for
126 the extent of NYPD surveillance of CUNY students and faculty;

127
128 Be it further resolved that we call on the New York City Council to exercise meaningful and
129 transparent civilian oversight on the NYPD's surveillance activities targeting New Yorkers in our
130 public university system; and

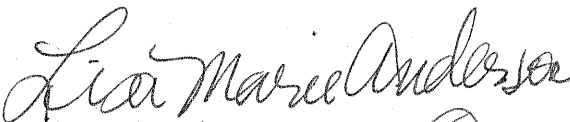
131
132 Be it further resolved that we call on Mayor Michael Bloomberg to stand up for the rights of
133 CUNY students and faculty, and to clarify or rescind past statements that seemed to imply that
134 Muslims may legitimately be targeted for heightened surveillance.

135
136 After discussion the question was called and carried.

137
138 The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

139
140 It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:45
141 PM.

142
143
144 Respectfully submitted,

145
146
147
148 

149 Lisa Marie Anderson
150 Secretary



APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

Faculty

Africana&PR/Latino Studies	Edgardo Melendez (A) "E"
Anthropology	Judith Friedlander (A)
Art	Paul Ramirez
Curriculum & Teaching	Jody Polleck (A)
Economics	Timothy Goodspeed (A) Howard Chernick
Educational Foundations	Arnold Wolf (A)
Geography	Wenge Ni-Meister (A) Allan Frei (A)
Health Sciences	Michelle MacRoy-Higgins
Mathematics & Statistics	Verna Segarra (A)
Music	Maura Donohue (A)
Nursing	Anita Nirenberg David Keepnews Joan Arnold (A)
Physics & Astronomy	Noel Goddard (A)
Psychology	Tricia Striano (A) Peter Moller (A) Michael Lewis
School of Social Work	Nancy Giunta (A) Michael Lewis
Sociology	Joong-Hwan Oh (A)
Special Education	David Conner (A)
Student Services	Nicole Wright-Gordon
Urban Affairs	Stanley Moses
Urban Public Health	Lydia Isaac (A)

Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty

Ashley Vaught (Philosophy)
Carmela Scala (Romance Languages)
Claus Mueller (Sociology)

Administration

Bill Zlata

Ex-Officio

Ranette Garcia, USG Pres.
Sonya Acevedo, CLT Council Pres.
Theodore Ryo, GSA Pres.
Patricia Rudden, Alumni Assoc.

Students

Nada Aziz (Geography)
Kristopher Emanuel
Rochelle Thewet (Philosophy)
Loranzo Donvito (Romance Lang.)
Sarah Alshawish (Biochem/Bio)
Maggi Delgado (Film & Media)
Fei Yan Mock
Jimmy Qiu (Accounting)
Alexander Lemell (Philosophy)
Jarret Freeman (undecl.) "E"
Eli Cohen
Shaun Persaud (English)
Deodat Ruplall (Comp Sci)
Marcin Wisniewski (Music Grad)
Runako Taylor (Grad. Classics)
Meg Krietsch (Anthopology)
Tonya Sylvester (Math & Stat)
Raya Harris (undecl.)