

# MINUTES

## Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

### 19 November 2008

1 The 496<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 3:45 PM in Room W714.

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3 **Presiding:** Richard Stapleford, Chair

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

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

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10 **Minutes:** The Minutes of October 15<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup> were approved as distributed.

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12 **Report by the President:** A summary statement of President Raab's report to the Senate is as follows. She said:

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14 "We are in very challenging times, and I want to take the opportunity to renew our commitment at the  
15 College and CUNY to maintaining, protecting, and advancing our core academic mission of providing  
16 superb instruction for our students, and support for faculty and their research endeavors. We have  
17 taken a budget cut of about \$3M at CUNY and at Hunter in the last couple of months. We have worked  
18 very hard to minimize the impact of these cuts on these core academic missions. While there may be  
19 areas in which some of you have felt some decreases, we have worked really hard so that these cuts  
20 would not have an impact on the number of classes we offer, our instruction, and our support services.  
21 Right now there is uncertainty. Many of you may have heard that the Governor did propose a new  
22 budget with a significant cut to CUNY which would have been made up by requiring a tuition increase  
23 on both the undergraduate and graduate level. The Governor's proposal for a 15% increase of both  
24 graduate and undergraduate tuition (\$600 for full-time undergraduates) was supposed to be considered  
25 yesterday by a special session of the Legislature. The various politicians could not agree to go forward  
26 in this discussion. The Governor will probably propose that same budget in the next month unless  
27 other conversations occur. It is likely that there will be no resolution of the Governor's proposed  
28 budget in this calendar year which leads to a new Senate coming back in January with the Assembly to  
29 consider the Governor's proposal for tuition increase.

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31 I want to take a moment to assure all of our students that we are completely and totally committed to  
32 ensuring your success and keeping you in school, and to minimizing the effect of any tuition increase  
33 on your ability to attend classes at Hunter College. One of the good pieces of news within this is that  
34 the level of the increase in tuition proposed by the Governor would be covered by the TAP allowance.  
35 To the extent that the majority of our students receive TAP, they would be held harmless. The students  
36 that we are extremely concerned about are those students who are not eligible for TAP, and we are  
37 asking all students with financial need to please see Dean Ayravainen. We are also asking faculty to  
38 help us to get this word out to our students. During the last couple of years we have raised a significant  
39 amount of scholarship money and we want to get this scholarship money into the hands of students  
40 and we want to keep our students in the school. We urge all of you to come to us if there is any need  
41 on behalf of students.

42  
43 The other positive piece of news within a rather gloomy picture is that in his proposal for a tuition  
44 increase the Governor said for the first time that CUNY would be able to keep 10% of any increase in  
45 tuition revenue. This reflects the discussions we had as a community in the last few years where we  
46 have been talking about the COMPACT investment where the students, faculty and administrators of  
47 CUNY all agreed that there would be a rational tuition policy which included small increases over the  
48 years which would then be able to be used to invest in CUNY. This is a positive sign from the  
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ment. If a tuition increase would go through it is anticipated that that the University would keep 10% this year and 20% next year, and under this proposal considerable resources would be coming back into the academic mission under his proposal.

There is more encouraging news on the Capital Budget. The projects that we are engaged in are moving forward. The building for the new School of Social Work and Public Health is being planned, and we are working very closely with the faculty of both of those schools to design this wonderful new building. That project and Roosevelt House, as well as our Science building are moving forward. There are no anticipated cuts in the Capital budget, and that is very good news. Obviously, there will be discussions with newer projects, but they are still about funding critical maintenance needs. We have received considerable allocations in those funds in the last year and work is going on to plan improvements in both the elevators and the escalators, which I know impact many of your lives.

As we mentioned at the last meeting, we were very lucky to be able to recruit back to the Hunter family Len Zinnanti, who returns as our Acting Chief Operating Officer. He is here just in a nick of time. Len has a long distinguished history in Public Management, particular in Financial Management with the City of New York, and then of course at Hunter College. He recently spent two productive years at the Philharmonic and is now happy to return to academia. I also wanted to introduce another new member of the Hunter family. Doug Jones is our new Director of Community Relations and External Affairs. He also comes in at a very important time when we are very busy working with the East Harlem Community to make sure that the Social Work and Public Health Programs come into the neighborhoods in a way that embraces the neighborhood and reacts to their needs, and as we proceed with our Science and other building projects. Doug had a wonderful career in City Government, most recently at The New York City Economic Development Corporation where he was Vice President and Director of Community and Government Relations, and worked on a number of Community Development Projects. He is a life-long New Yorker and we are very happy to have him at Hunter College.

I want to thank everyone for spending this afternoon thinking about Middle States, and especially Vita Rabinowitz, Sandi Clarkson, and Phil Alcabes for their extraordinary leadership as a head of our Middle States Committee. I also want to thank the members of the Steering Committee and other committees. I urge everyone to get involved and to stay involved with the Middle States process. We are optimistic about our accreditation, and we think we have been doing a wonderful job as a community and promoting the required standards of Middle States. We are looking at this process as the beginning of a strategic planning exercise. So, this is something where it is serving the accreditation needs, but we really want to serve the larger needs of re-envisioning Hunter College in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is therefore important for all of you to become involved and to be part of this conversation. It really requires community input.”

President Raab concluded her report by answering questions from the floor.

**Report by the  
Administrative  
Committee:**

The Chair presented the report as follows:

**Approved Curriculum Changes**

The following curriculum change as listed in the attached Report dated 11/19/08 was approved as per Senate resolution and was submitted for the Senate’s information. Item GS-782 (Theatre/New Academic Program: M.F.A. in Playwriting).

**OPEN FORUM: Discussion of the Middle States Self-Study Report**

It was moved that the Senate dissolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to be chaired by Professor Phil Alcabes, Co-Chair of the Middle States Executive Committee.

The motion carried by voice vote with no dissent.

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**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**  
**19 November 2008**

The Senate reconvened in formal session at 5:05 PM.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Alcabes,  
Secretary

**APPENDIX I**

*The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:*

**Faculty**

Africana&PR/Latino Studies Pedro Lopez-Adorno (A)

Art Reiner Leist (A)  
Paul Ramirez

Chemistry Pamela Mills  
Dixie Goss (A)

Classical & Oriental Studies Fang Dai (A)

Computer Science Ioannis Stamos (A)

Curriculum & Teaching Ann Ebe (A)  
Sema Brainin

Economics Howard Chernick  
Jonathan Conning (A)

Educational Foundations Markus Bidell (A)

English Christina Alfar (A)

Film & Media Studies Michael Gitlin  
Tim Portlock (A)

Health Sciences Mimi Fahs (A)  
Jack Caravanos "E"

History Bernadette McCauley (A)

Library Luis Gonzalez (A)

Mathematics & Statistics Makram Talih (A)

Nursing Donald Smith "E"

Physics & Astronomy Noel Goddard (A)  
Marilyn Rothschild

Political Science Charles Tien (A)  
John Wallach

Psychology Tracy Dennis (A)  
Tricia Striano

Romance Languages Sam Diiorio

SEEK Patricia Martin (A)  
Maria Rodriguez

School of Social Work George Paterson

Sociology Claus Mueller (A)

Special Education Shirley Cohen (A)

**Lecturers and  
Part-Time Faculty**

Barbara Sproul (Religion)  
Barbara Barone (Math&Stat)  
William Mayer (Classics)  
Constantin Radis (Sociology)  
Carmela Scala (Romance Lang)  
Aubrey Ewaroo  
Jeffrey Mongrain (Art)  
Matthew Knip  
William Sakas

**Administration**

Bill Zlata  
Acting Dean Ken Olden (A)

**Ex-Officio**

Deborah Francois, USG Pres.  
Jason Ares, CLT Council President  
Nadine Young, HEO Forum Pres.  
Sarit Levy, GSA Pres.

**Students**

Maria Arettines "E"  
Mariya Kayumova (Poli Sci)  
Kaveh Tabatabaie (PoliSci)  
Claudia Caceres  
Johanna Gurman  
Dulgun Maidar  
Jenny Alcaide  
Glenda Holland (Socio)  
Christina Podkalicki  
Peter Cardenas (Psych)  
Zain Saeed  
Francesca Manieri (SEEK)  
Ian Christner (Grad. Sociology)  
Robert Walko (Econom)  
Kareem Devonish  
Darius Carr  
Jessica Torres  
Lorena Sanchez