

MINUTES
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
14 February 2007

1 The 476th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 3:45 PM in Room W714.

2
3 **Presiding:** Richard Stapleford, Chair

4
5 **Attendance:** The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.

6
7 Alternate Senators were formally seated in accordance with the procedures approved by the Senate,
8 and clickers were distributed to them.

9
10 **Report by the President:** A summary statement of President Raab's report to the Senate is attached as Appendix II.

11
12
13 **Report by the Administrative Committee:** The Chair presented the report as follows:

14
15 **Special Election to fill vacant seats on the Senate**

16 In accordance with Article IV.2.H.i & ii of the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College* the
17 Administrative Committee presented the names of all nominees received to date:

18
19 **Student**

20 Steven Beard (Political Science Major)

21
22 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee. The
23 motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

24
25 **Report Re: Acting Ombudsman**

26 The Chair informed the Senate that Professor Kathryn Rolland, the elected Ombudsman, is away on
27 medical leave for the Spring 2007 semester. At the end of January the Administrative Committee
28 asked Professor William Mayer (Classics) to become Acting Ombudsman for Spring 2007. After
29 consideration and consultation with the Chair of the Classics Division, Professor Mayer agreed to be
30 Acting Ombudsman.

31
32 The motion on the floor was approval of the appointment of Professor William Mayer as Acting
33 Ombudsman for Spring 2007.

34
35 The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

36
37 **College Calendar for 2007-2008**

38 The Chair informed the Senate that the University-wide College Calendar for 2007-2008 as issued by
39 the CUNY Central Administration was submitted for the Senate's information. The Calendar is
40 attached as Appendix III.

41
42 **Resolution Re: Master Plan Committee Report**

43 Professor Stapleford presented the following resolution for Senate approval:

44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hunter College Senate formally adopt the Report by the Master
46 Plan Committee to the Hunter College Senate dated 13 December 2006 and the President's Report
47 to the Master Plan Committee dated 1 December 2006.

48 **Minutes**
49 **Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**
50 **14 February 2007**
51
52

53 After brief discussion the question was called and carried.

54
55 The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.
56

57 **Committee**
58 **Reports:**

Calendar Committee

59 Professor Shirley Raps, Chair of the Committee, presented the report dated 14 February 2007 request-
60 ing Senate approval for the addition of an 8-week Summer Session I schedule, which is attached as
61 Appendix IV.

62 The question was called and carried.

63
64 The 8-week Summer Session I Schedule was approved by voice vote without dissent.
65

Committee on Computing and Technology

66 Professor Stapleford presented the report dated 14 February 2007 in the absence of the Committee
67 Chair. The following resolution regarding a Web Management System at Hunter College was on the
68 floor:
69

70
71 Whereas, An attractive and informative web site is the most important public source of
72 information about the College; and
73

74 Whereas, The usefulness of the Hunter College web site as an informational and recruiting tool is
75 severely compromised by its failure to provide the most recent information about the school's
76 programs; and
77

78 Whereas, The current web site of the College includes links to Schools, Departments and
79 Programs which are not always well-maintained and up-to-date, largely because of the difficulty
80 of adding or changing information at the local level; therefore be it
81

82 *Resolved*, That the Hunter College Senate strongly urges the College to implement the purchase of
83 a content-based web management system to be available as soon as possible but at least by
84 September 2007; and be it further
85

86 *Resolved*, That this system should be structured to allow all appropriate departments and offices to
87 add and subtract information on their own as they deem necessary; and be it further
88

89 *Resolved*, That it should include sufficient funding to support training of department-based web-
90 masters and support of the system at the ICIT level.
91

92 After discussion Vice President Wang moved that the motion be postponed indefinitely.
93

94 Voting by clickers produced the following results: 11 in favor, 53 opposed, and one abstention. The
95 motion to postpone was defeated.
96

97 The main motion was on the floor.
98

99 The question was called and carried.
100

101 Voting by clicker produced the following results: 52 in favor, 10 opposed 1 abstention. The motion
102 carried.
103
104

105 **Minutes**
106 **Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**
107 **14 February 2007**
108
109
110

111 The Chair informed the Senate that the President and Provost had requested that their report on CUNY
112 *Performance Management Process* be postponed to the next meeting.
113

114 **CUNY Procedures for Handling Student Complaints About Faculty in Academic Settings**

115 Professor Stapleford introduced the CUNY *Procedures for Handling Student Complaints about*
116 *Faculty in Academic Settings* as distributed. The “Procedures” are attached as Appendix V.
117

118 During discussion the Chair informed the Senate that the Administrative would refer the document to
119 the Committee on Academic Freedom with the request to report their recommendations to the Senate
120 at a future meeting.
121

122 After discussion it was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting
123 adjourned at 5:25 PM.
124

125
126
127 Respectfully submitted,
128
129

130
131 Jill Gross,
132 Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

Full-time Faculty:		Romance Languages	Michael Taormina
Art	Reiner Leist		Michael Perna (A)
Biological Sciences	Thomas Schmidt-Glenwinkel (A)	SEEK	Patricia Martin (A)
Chemistry	Pamela Mills William Sweeney Dixie Goss (A)	School of Social Work	Carmen Moreno (A) Bernadette Hadden Annette Mahoney
Classical & Oriental Studies	Rivka Friedman	Sociology	Juan Battle (A)
Computer Science	William Sakas (A)	Student Services	Reva Cohen (A) "E"
Curriculum & Teaching	David Lee Carlson (A)	Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty	
Economics	Purvi Sevak	Claus Mueller (Sociology)	
Educational Foundations:	Peggy Chen	Joshua Grumet (Film&Media)	
English	Trudy Smoke (A)	Robert Koehl (Classics)	
Film & Media Studies	Tim Portlock (A) Michael Gitlin	Barbara Barone (Math & Statistics) "E"	
Geography	Hongmian Gong (A)	Administration	
Health Sciences	Jack Caravanos (A) Kathryn Rolland "E" Phil Alcabes	Dean Jacqueline Mondros (A)	
History	Angelo Angelis (A)	Dean Laurie Sherwen (A) "E"	
Library	Clay Williams Mee-Len Hom Lauren Yannotta (A)	Ex-Officio	
Math & Statistics	Ada Peluso	Ahmed Tigani, USG President	
Music	David Capps	Sarit Levy, GSA President	
Nursing	Kunsook Bernstein (A) Leighsa Sharoff "E"	Jason Ares, CLT Council President	
Physics/Astronomy	Ying-Chih Chen (A)	Agnes Violenus, Alumni Assoc. Pres.	
Psychology	Jeffrey Parsons (A)	Students	
		Sonia Parrales (Psychology)	
		Jonathan Alexandratos (History)	
		Anthony McRae (Music)	
		Emily Bell Dinam	
		Sivia Naimer (Economics)	
		Dorothy Wing in Ng "E"	
		Lawrence James (Chemistry)	
		Channel Mellish	
		Christopher Kenny (Poli.Sci.)	
		Sean Kivlehan (THHP)	
		Tithi Ghosh (Math)	
		Sharlene Hamlet	
		Jian Jie Ren "E"	
		Marina Matatov (BA/MA)	

APPENDIX II Report by the President

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

"Good afternoon. I want to start by welcoming and introducing to all of you our new Counsel Gail Scovell. Gail joins us from the Guggenheim Museum where she was General Counsel."

She yielded the floor to Gail Scovell who said:

"I have been here for three weeks now, and I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you. I have left the law firm so that I could work inside in institution and really get to know my clients and understand their objectives. I hope you will visit my office and let me know what you need."

She yielded the floor back to President Raab who said:

"I know that on the agenda today is the new CUNY Student Complaint Procedure. Gail has been talking to 80th Street and is up to speed on some of the apparent requirements of the new process. So, she will be here as a resource in that conversation if wanted. Richard mentioned that the document may go to a committee and she will be happy to be a resource to that committee as well.

We received what for us at CUNY is very good budget news. The Governor's Executive Budget came out a few weeks ago. The first piece of good news is that the new money that was added to our budget last year through the Compact has been base line, meaning that it is included in this year's budget going forward. What that means for all of us is we have security for the people that we are searching for now, and those who have been hired will become part of our faculty and staff. We can also think about the money that we are using this year for one shot items, things that we needed to purchase, construction and that type of thing, and use that money to also bring in new full time faculty. I ask all of you to talk about this within your departments. Let your Chairs know what your priorities are. Chairs will be speaking to the Deans and we will be thinking again going forward about the allocation of those resources. This year we will be making a full presentation but the money has gone in a wide variety of ways. In addition to faculty, there have been a number of new hires in Student Services, which was sorely needed in advising. We have been able to lure scientists that we have been trying to recruit to Hunter, and are able to support their equipment and their labs. We have done renovations. There has been a lot of activity with these funds and it is very exciting and comforting that the money will continue.

Another very good piece of budget news is that the State is also funding all of CUNY's estimated mandatory increases in cost. So, all the increases in energy, fringe benefits and other kinds of contractual requirements are being funded. What has not been completely funded yet is CUNY's request for additional money for the Compact plan. Many of you may remember that this proposal was a five year plan with yearly additional increases from State aid Tuition, productivity at the colleges, and philanthropy at the colleges. The Governor's budget put in \$4M, and there is a gap of about \$24M to fully fund the Compact in terms of what has been anticipated. \$19M of the \$24M was to come from the increase in tuition, and the Governor decided not to ask for a tuition increase. As most of you remember, the Compact was predicated on trying to do increases of tuition that were incremental, that could be expected and predicted, and that would not be too hard to absorb by our students, rather than what typically happened in New York State, which was years of no tuition increases and then students were hit with an increase of couple of hundreds dollars, which was really a very difficult load for them to bear at that time. But the Governor has not funded that and most of us feel that it is unlikely that the Legislature will fund that \$19M through tuition. We will be out lobbying the Legislature to see if they will close that gap. We are hopeful that some of this money will be increased. For CUNY this is a very small amount. At this time we are usually asking for hundreds of millions of dollars, not twenty four million dollars.

One other thing that did not happen this year in the Governor's budget was that TAP was not cut, which is a very positive thing for us and for our students. What has happened is that the independent colleges have come forward with a proposal to increase TAP funding in various ways. One is to raise the income limit for eligibility, and also some other ways. An increase in TAP, anything that can help students, is a positive thing for CUNY. We are also trying to make sure that the Legislature looks at the issue of the operating budgets of the public colleges, because at the end of the day as more and more higher income students become eligible for financial aid, more of that money is going to the private colleges and not into the public system. So, we will be back to you and ask for your support in lobbying our State elective officials.

In his message the Governor announced that there is going to be a Governor's Commission on Public Higher Education. One of the positive notes is that the Commission would look at the issue of tuition and take a cue from CUNY's proposal which is to have the smaller and more regular and more predictable increases in tuition, rather than these very high spikes. We don't know who is going to run this Commission yet and exactly what the other mandates will be, but we see it as a positive sign that in his remarks the Governor really focused on many of the ideas in the Compact. This is the most positive language and spirit towards public higher education that we have seen from the State Government in a long time and it is something that has left us very encouraged.

As you heard the Chancellor speak, CUNY is calling this "The Decade of Science," and this is again a very positive development for Hunter College. One very important part of this focus on science is a movement within CUNY to create joint degrees in the sciences where Hunter College and some of the colleges will be able to give joint doctoral degrees to our science students. The degrees would be from the Graduate Center and from the individual college. This is something that many of our scientists have been hoping for. It would strengthen our graduate programs. We are also hoping that as the Public Health School moves forward that there would also be joint degrees. At the moment there is no mechanism within the State Education structure to have joint degrees from a Graduate Center and a College. So, that is an issue that is pending right now, and something that the Provost is working on very closely with 80th Street. This movement is of great benefit to Hunter College. Two specific issues focus on science. One has been the Chancellor's decision to create a School of Public Health which will be at Hunter College. We have been working very hard and just last week the Letter of Intent for the Doctorate in Public Health was approved. This is moving along very rapidly. We need to have one student receive a Doctorate of Public Health in order to open a Public Health School. So, this is a little bit of a race against time, but it is an exciting development. The second exciting part of this is our plan for the Science building which fits perfectly with the Decade of Science. So, we are looking forward to next year as a five year Capital Budget plan. The Governor moved it up. It was supposed to be in two years, and we will lobby for funding for our Science building in a very significant form. The budgets of the last few years already contained \$80M and \$90M for the planning stages of the building, and we are looking forward to seeing the bulk of the funding in the next five-year plan, which will be worked on in the next year and voted on at that time.

In terms of the plan we had been talking about, this next step was a request for expression of interest, asking the real estate community who would be interested in purchasing the Brookdale campus. That request went out into the market a few weeks ago and the period will close next week. We have numbers of requests, which is good news. What the developers are picking up now in packages are: a description of the property and asking those who will be interested in buying the property with the constraints that the Schools in Julia Richman needs to get a new building on a site which will be designed in consultation with the Julia Richman community and the BOE, that the dorms will either stay on this site or six hundred beds will be replaced in an affordable fashion for our students, and that a developer will be willing to talk to us about working for swing space for our various Programs and the Schools that are on that site. So, we will soon start to meet with the people who have expressed interest, and the next step after that is to turn these discussions and what we have learned from the various people who would be interested in bidding what their needs in terms of information and structure of the deal would be, create that proposal and put that out on the market place to see who would be interested in purchasing the property. That should be out at the end of this school year or right around that time. So, things are moving along and it is actually a very exciting time in terms of our building and real estate agenda.

Roosevelt House is finally under full construction and we are extremely excited about that. We are hoping that some people will be able to move in and be able to use the building in Spring 2008.

I would like to thank Frank Steen and Louise Sherby. We now have a wireless library and we thank you very much."

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