

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

11 April 2007

1 The 478th 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 The agenda was changed, and item #6 was moved to #2.

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12 **Minutes:** The Minutes of March 14th were approved as distributed.

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14 **Report:** **Report by the Director, Mellon Grant Commission on the Undergraduate Curriculum**

15 A summary statement of Dr. Wendy Katkin's report is as follows. She said:

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17 "I have been working now since March first and have been talking with many of you about the
18 Mellon project and what it is and what I hope it will become. What I envision is that the Mellon
19 project will be an opportunity for you as faculty and administrators of this university to really take a
20 look at your General Education Requirements, both in their totality and in light of social, economic,
21 political, and demographic changes that are taking place, changes in the state of knowledge, changes
22 in technologies, and so forth. Then, based on a rather in-depth examination of the General Education
23 Requirements, either stay with it or make modifications, and that of course is up to you. This is your
24 project. My official title is facilitator and that is exactly what I see myself as. There is no preset
25 agenda. When I say that we are going to examine the General Education, I am thinking of General
26 Education in many ways. I am thinking of the content of the GER, but I am also thinking about the
27 administration and the implementation.

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29 I spent the last three weeks interviewing many of you, and there are lots of perceptions of what is right
30 and what is wrong about General Education. I am getting lots of anecdotal information. Many of you
31 are very happy to point out flaws, others have been pointing to the strengths. What I am hoping to do
32 is develop a solid foundation and a solid understanding of what General Education is, where the
33 problems are, and what needs to be changed if change is necessary. The examination is going to
34 involve compilation of existing data, surveys and focus groups with students, surveys and focus
35 groups with faculty, meetings with the departments. We want to get good qualitative and quantitative
36 data. We are also planning to invite visitors from other campuses, some of them have recently
37 undergone general education revision, some have examined their general education and decided that it
38 is fine, and some have addressed issues that appear to be particular challenges. The schedule of
39 visiting speakers and forums will be coming out within the next two to four months. I am starting to
40 develop a calendar, but I am waiting to see what the major challenges are before we invite some
41 people. I want to make sure that we have a solid foundation for whatever we are doing.

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43 We are working through a steering committee that has been appointed by the Provost. The steering
44 committee has representation from just about every department and every unit that is critical to under-
45 graduate education on campus. It has very broad representation. Most of the work will be done
46 through sub-committees. The sub-committees will have a broader representation than the steering
47 committee

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because we really want to involve as many of you in the college community as possible. The strength of the project is going to be full participation and full buy-in, and I will be aiming for that at every level.

One of the first things I am planning to do as soon as we get approval for it is to set up a web-site and what I would like the web-site to do is, number one to report on what the Mellon project is doing, what the various committees are doing, and who is on the various committees so that you are current on everything that is happening. We are going to be having resource pages on the web-site and the resource pages will have annotated bibliography on-line and printed materials on issues that are relevant to undergraduate Education. We are also going to have a spot light that will feature particular challenges that need to be addressed. The issue will be laid out with some of the pros and cons and you will be invited to provide your input. I will ask you to send me e-mails and then we will add the e-mails to the web-site, which seems to be the best vehicle for doing this.

The point is that we want to get your input at every stage. We are in the process of developing a time-line for the project. There is a lot of pressure because it is a two year project. If any of you have been studying general education as I have for the past two years because the Reinvention Center was focusing on it, you know that any examination and revision no matter how small the revisions may be, typically takes six years, and we have two years to get the foundation for whatever you all may want to do. We have a tentative time table. I have been working with Richard Stapleford to ensure that our time table is in tandem with Senate activities, so that we will be working together and whatever approvals and reviews need to go on are done in an orderly fashion. We don't want to simply present a report to the appropriate Senate Committee and say: "Ok, you have got twenty four hours to look it over." We want you to be sure to have time for review. We want there to be a real dialog as we do this. We have tentatively set June 2008 as the date for some kind of report from the steering committee, which will give the project another six months to work with the Senate, work with the committees, modify and so forth. By the end of the project I hope you will have a foundation for whatever it is that you want to do with general education. Thank you."

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

"I want to thank and welcome Wendy Katkin once again. This is a very exciting project for all of us. I also want to thank a student, Kelle Jacob, who has been reminding us that this is about General Education and that students really need to be represented on all the committees. We are doing our best. Wendy knows that as well. We have been hearing a number of things from students that we are trying incorporate into the project, particularly about learning through technology and study abroad, things that are very important to the student body and very much a part of the General Education.

Next I want to point out some good news. Although the Compact was not fully funded in the new state Budget, CUNY has looked within its own resources and made a commitment to fund an increase in the Compact in the next year. What this means is that the new \$3.5M that Hunter received last year will be base-lined in this year's budget. Some of that has been committed to new faculty which the various departments are searching for, and some has been used for equipment. We are now looking again at new requests. That money will be again available next year. In addition, the increase that was basically projected for Hunter without the productivity and philanthropy was another \$700,000 increase from CUNY over last year. We have just learned that CUNY made a commitment to take the \$10M that the State has added for the Compact, we had been hoping for \$24M, and to find \$14M in the CUNY budget to make this new funding possible for the colleges. This is extremely exciting news. It means that we are going to be able to look towards new hiring. It is our focus, and it is very much the Chancellor's focus, to bring in new faculty and strictly address areas where there is need for new faculty.

I am going to ask you to work with your departments and your deans about requests for thinking through the priorities. We are going to be working closely with the Senate Budget Committee on this,

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and we also are going to reconvene the committee that we worked with last year to hear some general ideas about the categories of spending that CUNY has assigned. The categories have been expanded since last year to include technology and facilities, etc. We are working on providing a proposal to CUNY in the next month or so.

I also want to report that Iris Weinsall who is currently the Commissioner of the City Department of Transportation has been appointed Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Capital Planning for CUNY. She will be starting in the next week or so. We have been briefing her about the various plans at Hunter College, and we have been working very closely with her to put in our request for the five-year capital plan that we are starting to talk about now, which will be submitted in the next budget cycle. Hunter is going to take a very large part of that five year capital plan for a science building in addition to other requests that we have been making. I think this is a very important time for Hunter to get its smaller projects done as well as the new buildings. We did get a commitment to help us push through and complete restoration of Thomas Hunter Hall. Unfortunately, the building has been under scaffolding way too long. It is an incredibly beautiful building which is not in particularly good shape. We raised \$2M to begin window restoration. When we began to do that work we discovered all sorts of serious structural problems, which is why the scaffolding is still there. We have been lobbying CUNY for about six months very intensively to not just do another cosmetic job, but to actually do the structural work so that the building can be fixed once and for all, and they have agreed to that. By June we will also be able to use the 68th Street entrance to the Loewe Theatre. The plaza work is moving along very well.

Finally, I just wanted to mention that I am hoping that we will be able to have time within the Senate conversations to hear some of the final recommendations from the Library Task Force. Many of you have been involved and I thank you. This has been a very time intensive and commitment intensive process of committees that have looked both at the resources and physical lay-out facilities of the libraries. They have visited many other libraries to learn about what libraries in the CUNY system and outside the CUNY system have done. Barbara Berney from our School of Health Sciences has been an extraordinary leader of this effort, and many faculty members in all the schools have been involved. We are hoping that during the next month or so we are going to have some final recommendations. I think that this would be interesting to have as a presentation at the Senate, because a lot of work has gone into it.”

Report by the The Chair presented the report as follows:

Administrative

Committee: **Special Election to fill vacant seats on the Senate**

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

Student:

Steven Perchikov (Economics)

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

Continued Discussion About Roosevelt House

Acting Provost Rabinowitz presented her plan for establishing a faculty advisory committee on Roosevelt House. The following is a summary of her statement. She said:

161 “Many of you thought long and hard about the issues involved with Roosevelt House, and the issues
162 raised in Professor Wallach’s resolution. There were two important points that I want to make. The
163 first
164 is that one of the problems with the resolution was that it was predicated on the notion that there has
165 not been a great deal of faculty involvement or input in the important work of Roosevelt House to this
166 date.

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172 Indeed, there was significant faculty involvement from some of our faculty including two
173 distinguished professors: Roselyn Petchesky and Nancy Foner, a named Chair and Professor, Joseph
174 Viteritti, and faculty from all the affected departments. The Chairs of the contributing departments
175 have all been consulted. It is critical to know that there must be faculty involvement in Roosevelt
176 House.

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178 On the matter of a Senate Select or Standing Committee to advise us on Roosevelt House, my stated
179 concern at the last meeting was that there is no precedent for having such a committee to advise a
180 research program center or institute of Hunter College that we know of. That does not mean that they
181 never could have one, but I would ask why Roosevelt House, why now, and should any emerging
182 concern by a group of committee faculty lead to a Senate oversight committee? I pose the question for
183 discussion. It is not clear that it should. Obviously, as things heat up we need more input from the
184 faculty. I would like to make a proposal myself that I have worked on with the President, which I
185 think may meet the underlying concerns of the resolution that we take seriously, and that is this. We
186 propose that all of the participating groups in Roosevelt House, and they are the professional Schools
187 of Education, Health Professions and Social Work, and departments in Arts and Sciences, most notably
188 to date Urban Affairs and Planning, Economics, Philosophy, History, Sociology and Political Science,
189 and that faculty members elected by the P&Bs are chosen to participate on a Faculty Advisory
190 Committee that the Provost would lead. As new departments participate in Roosevelt House, there will
191 be an opportunity for others to join in. Again, this is not meant to be a closed system, but in this way
192 there would be significant faculty input. I do not think we would be setting a precedent that is
193 troublesome and perhaps unsustainable, and I thought you needed to hear a counterproposal.”
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195 After discussion Professor Wallach moved the following resolution:

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197 WHEREAS President Raab has authorized the Provost to be responsible for overseeing plans for the
198 opening and operation of Roosevelt House as a Public Policy Institute; and

199
200 WHEREAS the new Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute promises to be a major addition to
201 Hunter College, affecting its curricular offerings and contributing to the lives of faculty and students
202 as members of the Hunter College community;

203
204 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate urges the Provost to form a Roosevelt House Public Policy Insti-
205 tute Advisory Committee (hereafter known as RHAC) before the end of the current semester; and

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207 THAT the Provost and Administrative Committee of the Senate form an agreeable list of seven faculty
208 members and two students for the RHAC and submit that list to the Senate before the end of this
209 semester; and

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211 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RHAC, under the chairmanship of the Provost, be charged
212 with the following responsibilities:

213 --developing a mission statement for Roosevelt House;

214 --planning its structure of governance and ordinary operation;

215 --initiating a national search for a Director of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, and

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217 THAT the RHAC report to the Senate on its work during the Fall, 2008 semester.

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After discussion Professor Shahn moved the following substitute motion:

“that the Senate Administrative Committee be asked to resolve the differences between Professor Wallach’s motion and the Provost’s plan, and present a revised resolution at the next Senate meeting.”

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After discussion the motion to substitute was unanimously approved by voice vote, and Professor Shahn’s substitute motion was on the floor.

The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Report by the Computing & Technology Committee

Professor Stapleford informed the Senate that the committee had requested that the report be postponed to the next meeting.

IRB Update by the Provost

Acting Provost Rabinowitz made the following statement:

We are working with the Chair of the Senate to form a Committee with half the members selected by the Chair of the Senate and half the members selected by me. This is not an adversarial procedure, but we would like to establish a committee to examine the many IRB issues that have been raised by this body and other forums. There is however, a new development that has put this on hold for just a short time. CUNY is very seriously considering revamping the way IRB’s are run throughout the system. In particular, there is a proposal on the table to consolidate IRBs across campuses, thereby reducing the number of IRBs from about 19 now to something like seven or eight. Whether this will address the concerns of this body or not is not clear, but we are forming a committee to examine IRB issues, and I will keep you posted.

Announcement

Ms. Kelle Jacob, Vice Chair of the Senate, informed the Senate that at the Block Party on April 18th she had arranged for a table representing the Hunter College Senate. She invited faculty, students, and staff to visit the table.

The Chair commended Ms. Jacob for all the actions she has taken on behalf of the students.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Gross,
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

Full-time Faculty:

Africana & P.R./Latino Studies	Pedro Lopez-Adorno (A)
Art	Reiner Leist
Biological Sciences	Thomas Schmidt-Glenwinkel (A)
Chemistry	Pamela Mills William Sweeney
Classical & Oriental Studies	Rivka Friedman
Curriculum & Teaching	David Lee Carlson (A) Laurance Splitter Sara Dubow
Economics	Jonathan Conning (A)
English	Trudy Smoke (A) Marlene Hennessy
Film & Media Studies	Tim Portlock (A) Peter Parisi Michael Gitlin
Geography	Hongmian Gong "E"
Health Sciences	Phil Alcabes Kathryn Rolland
History	Bernadette McCauley (A)
Nursing	Kunsook Bernstein (A) Judith Aponte
Physics/Astronomy	Ying-Chih Chen (A)
Political Science	Scott Lemieux
Psychology	Jeffrey Parsons (A) Tracy Dennis
SEEK	Patricia Martin (A)
School of Social Work	Annette Mahoney Bernadette Hadden

Special Education	Dona Matthews (A)
Student Services	Reva Cohen (A) "E"
Theatre	Joel Bassin (A)

**Lecturers and
Part-Time Faculty**

Anthony Picciano (Curr&Teaching)

Administration

Bill Zlata

Ex-Officio

Ahmed Tigani, USG President
Sarit Levy, GSA President
Jason Ares, CLT Council President
Sarah Jeninsky, HEO Forum Pres.
Agnes Violenus, Alumni Assoc. Pres

Students

Ezra Serrar
Nicole Odom "E"
Jenny Alcalde
Alex Kohen (Poli.Sci.)
George Ra'cz (Film&Media)
Jian Jie Ren "E"