

MINUTES
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
26 April 2006

1 The 468th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:15 PM in Room W714.

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3 **Presiding:** Joan Tronto, 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 **Agenda:** The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

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9 **Minutes:** The Minutes of March 29th and April 5th were approved by unanimous consent.

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

12 "I want to make some announcements about important campus-wide events. First, I am very proud to
13 announce the selection of Professor Andrew Polsky as the TIAA/CREF Lecturer this year. The lecture
14 will take place on May 10th and the subject is "The American Presidency at War." Congratulations
15 Professor Polsky.

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18 I hope that you will join us on Thursday in my Conference Room to celebrate a number of very
19 distinguished faculty for the faculty awards. We are very excited to be able to do that again this year.

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21 Senator Edwards is our distinguished visitor for the Presidential Public Leadership Program. The open
22 lecture is May 11th at noon in the Kaye Playhouse, and I urge all of you to bring your classes. It promises
23 to be a very good speech. We have set aside a time for the Senator to meet with the students in Public
24 Health, Education, and Social Work. Faculty from those areas who are interested in bringing a class
25 should speak to the Associate Provost, David Potash.

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27 I want to thank Joan Tronto, the Administrative Committee, and all of you who have worked on pulling
28 together the Diversity Conference, which is next Wednesday. This is the beginning of what we hope will
29 be a long conversation in the College of how with so many groups on this campus we can continue to
30 work together so well as a community, discuss issues, and really have a substantial conversation on
31 living together in a diverse environment. This is just the beginning of what we hope will be a
32 conversation that expands into the next year.

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34 We are very proud to be part of the CUNY sponsored program to address the issue of the loss of the
35 African American male in higher education, and the fact that our retention and entry rates are way too
36 low, and our graduation rates are completely unacceptable. We have received a \$50,000 grant to address
37 these issues on the Hunter campus. Marcia Cantarella, Associate Dean in the School of Arts and
38 Sciences, is taking the lead in this effort. Their first discussion will be Friday on May 5th at 8:30 a.m. in
39 the faculty dining room. Everybody is welcome to hear and share ideas about how to address these
40 issues.

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42 I am also very happy to announce a very touching gift from Annette Insdorf, the daughter of one of our
43 longest serving adjuncts, Cecile Insdorf. We are going to use the \$100,000 gift to support work that goes
44 on in the Chanin Center, and work with Professor DiScipio and the Romance Languages Department on
45 efforts for the Foreign Film Festival and other things in the department. In her honor we will be naming
46 the club room in the Chanin Center the Cecile Insdorf Room. This is the room where Cecile shows her
47 films and has her program. We will be letting everyone know when you can come and join us for a
48 celebration in Cecile's honor.

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53 The good news within the Budget situation is that we will be in a better budget position than we have
54 been in recent memory even if the Governor's overrides hold, because even the Governor's budget was
55 very supportive of CUNY. The challenge is delay and a prediction of long court cases which may delay
56 implementation. We may have to live on a hand to mouth budget because the increases may not come to
57 fruition, and by the time all this is resolved we may be in the next budget cycle. We have actually seen
58 this in CUNY about three years ago with the Capital Budget. But we remain positive and hope that there
59 will be some compromise.

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61 I want to thank everyone who participated in launching our new website. As you know, we had a link to
62 the new website for the last four to five months trying to get the kinks out and listening to your
63 comments. Now the new website is fully launched and up. I think there was a wonderful community
64 effort, and I thank all of you for participating. The next step is to work with the departments to help
65 them update their websites and have them feed into this new system. That work should begin early in the
66 Fall. We thank Anand as always for the leadership there.

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68 Everyone should look on May 12th for the New York Times ad which we will again be running this year
69 for our Mother's Day Scholarship Program, where we will ask all people whose mothers graduated from
70 Hunter to contribute to this generation of students. Last year we raised \$400,000 and we are at least
71 going to meet that total this year. This is also another great way to bring alums back who have not been
72 participating. We have many more names this year and we are going to a larger ad.

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74 As many of you know, CUNY Guidelines call for the periodic evaluation of all College Presidents after
75 about five years of service. I am in my fifth year, and the review will take place next week on Monday
76 and Tuesday. The team will meet with many representative groups of students, faculty, administration,
77 and campus groups. The leader of the team is Dr. Clara Lovett, former President of Northern Arizona
78 University. The other members of the review team are Dr. Claire Fagin, former Interim President of the
79 University of Pennsylvania, Charles Middleton who is the President of Roosevelt University in Chicago,
80 and Steven Pozkanzer, President of SUNY at New Paltz.

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82 Finally, I want to give you an update on our work towards responding to the issues raised in the Report
83 by the Select Committee on Academic Freedom, and thank everyone involved for moving this process
84 forward. We have been working with the Administrative Committee of the Senate and have mutually
85 agreed to involve campus leaders in a small discussion on the best way to move forward. Joan and I and
86 the Administrative Committee mutually nominated David Hodges as someone who would be a very able
87 person to lead this conversation. We are very thankful to the FP&B for nominating four chairs
88 representing the School of Arts and Science, Education, and Health Science to also meet with the
89 Administrative Committee, the Provost and myself to talk about ways to respond to individual issues
90 and to grievances on an individual basis, and then more general discussions of the issues raised in the
91 report in various forums. I believe we are close to having a meeting scheduled for next week to begin
92 that conversation. In the meantime until there is a mechanism on campus to address individual
93 grievances, I did ask our Dean of Diversity, Laura Schachter, to contact the people who did speak on the
94 floor of the Senate about specific incidents that affected them and ask if they wanted to go further in a
95 type of grievance process that would be modeled after some of the work she does on other complaints of
96 racial and sexual harassment. We left that up to the people involved as a temporary measure. Again, I
97 thank all of those who were involved in this and are working on this process with us."
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99 **Report by the** The Chair presented the report as follows:

100 **Administrative**

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

102 In accordance with Article IV, 2. H. i & ii of the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College*, the Admin-
103 istrative Committee presented the names of nominees received:

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105 Student: Melissa Rosado (Undergraduate)

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107 It was moved that the student nominee be declared elected. The motion carried without dissent.

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Approved Curriculum Changes:

The following curriculum changes, as listed in the Report dated 26 April 2006, were approved as per Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items UR-1462 (Economics), UR-1469 (School of Nursing), UR-1473 (Romance Languages), GR-664 (Geography), GR-666 (English), GR-667 (School of Health Sciences), UE-1458 (change in course pre-fix for various departments), US-1450 and US-1451 (Film & Media Studies), US-1457 (English), US-1468 (School of A&S), GS-663 (Film & Media Studies), and GS-665 (Economics).

Items Carried Over: The following motion and amendment were on the floor:

Procedures for Seating Alternates:

- a. Within each constituency (faculty, students, administration) alternates will receive priority for voting depending upon the order in which they signed in as attending the meeting.
- b. Ten minutes after the scheduled beginning of the Senate meeting, the voting privileges of any absent senator will be surrendered to alternates.

The following amendment to paragraph "b": Department faculty members who inform the Senate Office of their absence at least one hour before the meeting shall be replaced by alternates from their departments."

On behalf of the Administrative Committee the Chair presented the following substitute motion:

Procedures for Seating Alternates:

- a. Within each constituency (faculty & faculty alternates, students & student alternates, administration & administration alternates) alternates will receive priority for voting depending upon the order in which they signed in as attending the meeting.
- b. Department faculty members are responsible for notifying their alternates and the Senate Office if they will be absent from a meeting. Department faculty members will be replaced by the alternate from their department if they inform the Senate Office about this situation at least one hour before the meeting. Ten minutes after the scheduled beginning of the Senate meeting, the voting privileges of any absent senator (or designated alternate) will be surrendered to an alternate from the pool of alternates.

The motion to substitute carried by voice vote without dissent.

The substitute motion was approved by voice vote without dissent.

Recommendations of the Select Committee on Academic Freedom

Professor Sweeney moved for renewal of the motion to approve the Recommendations of the Report by the Select Committee on Academic Freedom.

The Chair stated that the Senate leadership and the Administration have begun a discussion concerning academic freedom issues. The Administrative Committee took the Senate vote on the Recommendations of the Select Committee on Academic Freedom and the sense of the community, and has arranged for a way to begin the discussion in a positive direction. We are in the process of scheduling a meeting for next week, and will be able to report back to you at the next meeting on the question of whether or not to come back to this particular set of recommendations.

Professor Sweeney moved that the motion for renewal be tabled. The motion to table received the following results: 61 in favor, 28 opposed 10 abstentions.

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The Chair informed the Senate that the motion would carry over to the next meeting in accordance with the Senate's minimum vote requirement.

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The following motion by Jessica McCloskey was on the floor:

WHEREAS, Hunter College students could make more informed choices about which courses to register for if they had access to more information about the course before registration, and would benefit from additional information about required texts before the start of the course; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee should discuss this issue and return to the Senate with a report and recommendations next academic year.

After discussion the question was called and carried.

The resolution was approved by voice vote without dissent.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Ewen
Secretary