

Office of the Hunter College Senate
MINUTES
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
10 September 2003

1 The 430th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:10 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 as distributed.

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9 **Minutes:** The Minutes of April 30th, May 7th, May 14th, and May 21st were approved as distributed.

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

13 "Hello everyone and welcome back. It is good to see all of you. I have a few announcements. We are
14 very happy to welcome forty-nine new faculty members to Hunter College. Despite the budget pressures
15 it is exciting to be able to add to the intellectual community. We have a new Dean of the Social Work
16 School starting in January, James Blackburn, whom you will all get to meet. In the meantime, we have
17 been lucky to recruit from retirement Professor Harold Weissman, who has been the acting Dean before.

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19 We are doing very well in enrollment at Hunter, which means growing a little bit. There is a difference
20 between enrollment and admission, and we are extraordinarily fortunate that we always have too many
21 people who want to come here. As you know, our goal has been to try to grow minimally so that we can
22 provide classes, library space, resources, technology and counseling for the student body that we have.
23 When you see that Hunter's admissions statistics have gone up, please know that our enrollment has
24 grown under 1% in programs where there was need. The reason for higher admission numbers is that
25 there was a very large graduation rate last year and we have replaced the population. We are not trying to
26 grow the school until we have space and additional facilities to accommodate students.

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28 We have been successful this summer in helping the students who needed financial help because of the
29 tuition increase. About 140 students come forward, and we were able to give aid to over 100 of these
30 students through a variety of sources. It is our goal to insure that nobody leaves school because of the
31 tuition increase, and we need everyone's help to be able to accomplish that.

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33 We are beginning to see some very nice fundraising successes. In June we brought in one million dollars
34 from two benefits, one to help restore Roosevelt House and the other for the Brookdale Center on Aging
35 to endow the position of an Executive Director. We are very lucky to have hired a true specialist in social
36 public health policy to run the Aging Center, Dennis Kodner. Our new Dean of the Social Work School is
37 also a gerontologist, and this will enable us to secure our very strong position in the policy of aging and
38 the needs of the aging population in an urban environment. We have been doing very well in our Annual
39 Fund and that will enable us to help students in need this year.

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41 We have made a concerted effort over the summer to improve the facilities at Hunter and to improve
42 services at Hunter within our budget constraints. I will ask Len to talk about the work we have done."

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44 President Raab yielded the floor to Vice President Zinnanti, who said:

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46 "Good afternoon. I am happy to report that the sub-committee charged with doing the food service
47 contract was successful. They did hit virtually every bureaucratic bump in the road that they could.
48 The sub-committee consisted of students, faculty, as well as administration representatives. A
49 contract was awarded at the end of August to a vendor who came to us with terrific references and,

54 they were able to serve food immediately. There is a transition period through the month of September and we are negotiating the details of the contract. We felt that it was important to get them in here rather than continuing with Culinart through the transition period. The competition for a food service vendor has enlightened the bookstore to do even better. Except for the one unfortunate over-charging that Manfred experienced no other bad news was reported. The bookstore was processing up to 360 student purchases an hour and the average time in line was down to about 12 minutes through the peak. That was a really terrific improvement, and we were very happy with that. The only thing I would ask, especially from the departments, is that textbook orders be made on a timelier basis. As of the first day of classes, only 75% of book orders were in.

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64 I want to talk a little about the technology improvements that were made over the course of the summer through the technology fee. We were able to add 100 new computers. Forty-eight of those will be up shortly in the Library here at 68th Street. We have added more flat screen models on the third and the seventh floor in the East Building. Brookdale received more on the first floor and in the Library, and 79th Street received theirs in the fourth floor Student Lounge and mail room. We were able to successfully purchase and install a plagiarism service that Eija will describe in more detail shortly called TurnItIn.com. We were able to finish three smart classrooms this summer and our goal is to complete five more for the Spring semester, utilizing holidays, weekends and the January break. According to plan, we replaced 160 computers, 130 of which were in the library, and the remainders were in the labs. We also developed and provided the student web server to Student Services. The intensive period of training faculty ended on September 5th. I don't have all the statistics, but I do know that over 200 courses are now on Blackboard. We were able to provide pre-paid printing cards this semester at \$5 for full-time students and \$2.50 for part-time students. This will be replicated in the spring. We now have 27 classrooms that are equipped with TVs, VCRs, and DVDs, and our wireless program has been implemented. We have wireless service at the 68th Street Campus in the lobby of the West building, the third floor cafeteria, the fourth floor lobby, the seventh floor lobby, and in this room, 714. In the East Building there is wireless service on the first floor of the library, and in the North Building the ICS lab on the 10th floor has wireless service. At Brookdale all floors in the dormitory are now equipped with wireless service. We also purchased 100 wireless cards for all branches of the library, so students can take them out and use their laptops with wireless access."

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85 Vice President Zinnanti yielded the floor to President Raab, who said:

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87 "I want to thank everyone who served on the Technology Fee Committee. A lot of work was done and there have been terrific results. We are encouraging faculty to submit proposals to use technology in the classrooms.

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90 We are indebted to the Senate for an initiative that started when I began, which was to look at how we provide services to students. We are implementing the recommendations of the student services task force and have begun a number of initiatives. The Office of Student Services has been sending out an e-bulletin to students every week to inform them about opportunities for scholarships, fellowships, work, counseling sessions, advising, and for whatever we feel would enhance a student experience and support their study skills and their ability to stay in school and to help them graduate. I will ask Eija to talk for a few minutes about some of the changes in the orientation program that she and Dean Friedlander have been working on in cooperation with Professor Tronto, and also a little bit about TurnItIn.com which is an important initiative to help us deal effectively with the problem of plagiarism and academic integrity on the campus.

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102 President Raab yielded the floor to Vice President Ayrvainen who said:

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104 "This year we started a 2-day orientation for all new freshmen and transfer students. When students come in with their parents, we actually give an orientation to parents so that they can ask questions, and we talk to them about what College is all about. We talk to the students in a separate room and we tell them all about College, placement tests, credits. Then they return the following month to register. That is when we have a team approach with representatives from the Registrar's Office,

112 Admissions Office, Immunization Office, and Student Life Offices to help students succeed at being
113 here. We registered quite a number of students this summer starting in May and ending about August
114 30th.
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117 Transfer students have a variety of problems as they come in. We have worked out a system of
118 advising students in groups of 10 with a counselor as well as a peer counselor, and we work with
119 them on one-on-one basis. The Student Center in room 417 West will follow up. We have programs
120 for transfer students as well as for new students. Throughout the semester we will be sending emails
121 and bulletins with information about what they need to do, whether they need to declare their major
122 or check with their advisors and so forth.
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124 We are also instituting a system where we will ask you for help in recruiting new students. I hope that
125 you see yourself as a recruiter, as well as a person who will retain students at the College.
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127 I also want to mention to you that we have a program for students at risk. If you notice during the
128 first weeks of classes that you have students who would benefit from participating in study skills
129 workshops on how to take tests, how to read textbooks, how to study for tests and things of that sort,
130 please refer those students to us.
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132 On July 1st we installed a plagiarism service, TurnItIn.com, in the Library, which faculty may use to
133 check for academic dishonesty or plagiarism. This databank has 2 billion pages, and you can just go
134 on the website to find out how it works. Anand Padmanbhan will arrange workshops for faculty on
135 how to use this service.
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137 We have been able to hire a new Director of Advising and Counseling, Linda Carlson, who joined
138 our staff this summer. Linda is working on a liaison from our office to all departments, so that there
139 will be one individual that you can contact and that will be your person in Student Services. We hope
140 to be working as a partnership and if you have any questions, problems, or suggestions, please email
141 me or come and see me."
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143 Vice President Ayravainen yielded the floor to President Raab, who said:

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145 "A few personnel announcements: We were sad to lose our fearless registrar Yechiel Rosenrauch to
146 N.Y.U., who very smartly recruited him. But we are extremely lucky that another great citizen of this
147 community, Marilyn Daley Weston, has agreed to be the acting Registrar. I can think of nobody better
148 qualified in intelligence, temperament, and everything else to take it over, and I want to give her a round
149 of applause for agreeing to serve. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Sandra Clarkson for
150 extraordinary service as chair of the Sexual Harassment Panel. That was not an easy job, and we truly
151 thank her. I am pleased to announce that Susan Lees of the Anthropology department has agreed to
152 assume that position. Another person I want to thank is Bill Zlata. When we are talking about keeping
153 our enrollment steady so that we can provide the services we need to our students that is due to Bill's
154 secret genius for being able to manipulate all sorts of numbers and guess things that nobody else would be
155 able to guess. Finally, I want to thank Shirley Cohen for being the true leader that she has always been in
156 the School of Education and for agreeing to serve this year as the acting Dean.
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158 Regarding the blackout, the good news is that we have emergency generators in almost all of the schools
159 so that the elevators continued to work and there was power in the hallways so that people could see. The
160 only place that did not happen was unfortunately in Thomas Hunter Hall where two people were actually
161 stuck in the elevator. They were lucky to be rescued by Julio Vasquez who came in and did an incredible
162 job. You should all know, that to the best of our abilities, we will always stay open for the community as
163 an emergency shelter. Because we were the only place on Lexington Avenue with any light we were able
164 to shelter people who were stuck in Manhattan. Some of you who were stranded here all night know that
165 we remained open. We were able to keep the restrooms open thanks to the incredible staff who worked to
166 keep them clean all night. We gave out whatever food we had in the building, and kept people's spirits up
167 to the extent we could. It turned out that one of the women that we were particularly attentive to that
168 night, was a woman who was six months pregnant and started to walk home

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and found herself here. We kept an eye on her and took care of her. I was able to give her a ride home and on the way home she said: ' I think I'll put Hunter in my column'. It turned out that she was a syndicated columnist and we have been getting little notes from Utah, and all over the country saying how great Hunter College is for being a good community activist. It was a nice story.

The collaborative effort between the New York City Department of Education and Hunter College to open a new High School was successful, and on Monday ninety-four ninth graders began at the Manhattan Hunter College High School for Science, which is based at Martin Luther King High School on 66th and Amsterdam. We will tell you more about this initiative to improve science education in high schools, so that we can begin to assist students coming into College to take advantage of our very strong science offerings.

I'm extremely gratified, and I want to thank Richard Pizer for working so hard on this, that Hunter has moved back to where it belongs in the Tier 2 rankings in the U.S. News and World Report. We have not only moved back but we have also moved up. We had been number seventy-four in 2001, eighty-two in 2002, and eighty-seven last year. We are now back at 66, and I thank everyone in this room for their effort and for devoting themselves to this institution. Tier 1 is next."

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

Professor Tronto presented the report as follows:

**Report by the
Administrative
Committee:**

Election of Ombudsman

She informed the Senate that Professor Kathryn Rolland (School of Health Sciences) had declared her candidacy in accordance with established procedures. .

The floor was open for further nominations, and Mr. Mark Weinstock (Economics) was nominated.

It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Election of Committee Chairs

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Budget Committee.

Professor Barbara L. Hampton (Music) was nominated.

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the candidate. The motion carried by voice vote.

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Master Pan Committee.

Professor Elaine Walsh (Urban Affairs) was nominated.

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the candidate. The motion carried by voice vote.

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Professor Marilyn Rothschild (Physics & Astronomy) was nominated.

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the candidate. The motion carried by voice vote.

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Charter Review Committee.

Professor Richard Stapleford (Art) was nominated.

234 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the candidate. The motion
235 carried by voice vote.

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237 **Election of Nominating Committee Members**

238 The floor was open for nominations, and the following faculty members were nominated:

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240 Pam Wonsek (Library)

241 Andrew Browne (Africana & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies)

242 Kimberly Kinsler (Educational Foundations)

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244 It was moved that the nominations be approved. The motion carried by voice vote.

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246 Professor Tronto presented the following resolutions:

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248 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate heartily thank Judith King for her long and
249 dedicated service to Hunter College.

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251 The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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253 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate heartily thank Yechiel Rosenrauch for his
254 long and dedicated service to Hunter College.

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256 The motion carried by acclamation.

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258 **Report by the**
259 **Ombudsmans:**

258 Mr. Mark Weinstock, the current Ombudsman, presented the report as distributed. The complete report
259 attached as Appendix II.

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261 Dean Shirley Cohen responded to the comments made in the report. The following is a summary state-
262 ment of her response. She said:

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264 "Let me say that I have no disagreement with the Ombudsman's goals. I have been in office since
265 July 1st, and he was one of the first people who called me. We discussed goals and we agreed upon
266 goals. He also alerted me to the report he was going to give. I want to respond to the report for a few
267 reasons. First, as he said, he sees the students who have problems and doesn't see the hundreds of
268 students who feel that they have had an excellent experience. Secondly, the Ombudsman said that he
269 is watching us. Let me assure you that we are watching ourselves. We are under review by a
270 national accrediting organization, and we are in the process of sending out an exit survey to every
271 June 2003 graduate. So, we will have the numbers. Third, we need to have the Ombudsman's
272 statistics on the number of complaints. Fourth, Mark has been in office during a period of transition
273 for the School of Education. We have about 50 teacher education programs, each with its own
274 requirements established by the State Education Department. As you may know, the State issued new
275 regulations and we had to move from the old regulations to the new regulations from Fall of 2001
276 until now. This semester will be the last semester where we had to run two sets of programs, one set
277 to meet the old regulations and the other to meet the new regulations. Obviously, there was some
278 confusion, but we are addressing this. Deborah Eldridge who serves as the Assistant Dean is my
279 partner in this endeavor. We started a whole series of training sessions for faculty and staff on
280 August 25th, complete with new staff handbooks, and new adjunct handbooks. We have also
281 established new policies and procedures, and we are sending out newsletters to faculty and staff on a
282 regular basis to communicate clearly where we need to go and how we expect to get there. We are
283 in fact addressing most of the problems that the Ombudsman referred to. Finally, I do want to say
284 that comparing SEEK to the other 50 programs in the School of Education does not make much
285 sense. SEEK is a student support program and that is its sole function. Let me repeat, I don't know

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287 **Minutes**

Page 4031

288 **Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**
289 **10 September 2003**

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292 how many students the Ombudsman saw, because he did not provide us with numbers. However, I
293 know that there are a huge number of students who are not dissatisfied."
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Because of the late hour it was requested that discussion of the Ombudsman's report be continued at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Picciano
Secretary