

**Minutes of the Meeting  
of the Faculty Delegate Assembly  
Wednesday, October 26, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by Pres. Jason Young.

The meeting agenda was approved. The minutes of the September meeting were corrected and approved.

President Jason Young reported on the work of the FDA Executive Committee. Minutes of the Committee's September meeting with President Jennifer Raab have been distributed to delegates electronically. Information of interest to faculty which was shared at that meeting included:

- Travel grants program – The program, which proved exceedingly popular, is being extended, although procedures still are being finalized by the Provost's office. Faculty are urged to speak with their departmental chairs to indicate their interest in applying for travel funds.
- Cluster hires – The notion of cluster hires is more fluid than commonly thought. Departments should be thinking about possible cluster hires and about creative ways to use these opportunities for new lines.

President Jennifer Raab delivered the college update.

- Personnel – Dr. Marcia Cantarella has joined Hunter as Acting Associate Dean for Student Opportunity, having considerable experience in similar capacities at Princeton, NYU and Audrey Cohen College. One of her principal responsibilities will be pre-professional training and opportunities (e.g. internships, career talks, exam preparation). She will also work with student clubs, many of which are discipline-focused. She will also be involved with summer opportunities, fellowship opportunities, and support for graduate school applicants. Cantarella has done this at Princeton, NYU and Audrey Cohen College.
- The School of Education's new Associate Dean, Carla Asher, comes to Hunter from CUNY Central.
- Hunter was pleased to be able to offer some dorm rooms to student evacuees from Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The school has an exchange program with the University of New Orleans, and we currently have some 15 students from the Gulf Coast enrolled for the fall semester.
- A pilot project to offer additional Saturday classes is under discussion. Consultation with calendar committee is in progress. New classes would be scheduled on a Wed./Sat. schedule, parallel with the Tues./Fri. one. This is another way to maximize our space, and to make courses available to students to improve graduation rates. Saturday classes are an attractive option for students who work full time. Hunter's graduation rate still desperately needs improvement.
- A last-minute increase in graduate course tuition was instituted prior to the current semester, leading to speculation that some students would be priced out of fall classes. However, CUNY made funds available to ease the transition to the higher-tuition environment and Hunter contacted all graduate students to let them know that financial aid is available. The online STARS system will accept applications for financial aid from grad students.
- Additional funding resulting from this increase is being distributed to the colleges. Some \$700,000 has been allocated for Hunter to invest in graduate programs. Deans have been asked to submit plans for spending the money. This is apparently recurring money, and the college is attempting to balance needs and distribute the funds fairly. Technology, smart classrooms, and books all could be purchased with

these funds. Departmental recommendations concerning distribution of the money are due Nov. 7th.

President Raab discussed the CUNY Compact at some length. This request for \$4.5 million in State funding represents an attempt by the Chancellor to implement a more rational financial-planning mechanism for the University. Against a backdrop of decreased investment in public higher education nationally, CUNY appeals to New York State Legislature every year for increases in its operating budget. The University is appealing for indexed tuition increases every year, rather than the large increases which occur every 5-7 years. Legislature will be asked to come up with 70% of the sum requested, while individual CUNY schools will come up with 30% of the money (tuition increase, productivity increases, philanthropy). Combining philanthropy with the operating budget is not easy. If the \$45 mil were received, 10% would be allocated to Hunter, which reflecting the school's status as a research institution. Hunter was given categories by 80<sup>th</sup> Street, with a request that the school prioritize where money should go. A college-wide committee was formed to discuss funding priorities. Deans and individual schools are also deciding their priorities. Other sources of pertinent information include departmental annual reports (which have a "wish list" component), departmental self studies (considered by the President as strategic plans), and presidential meetings with student groups. Student groups have been vocal in their requests for expanded advising, the need for full-time faculty, and enhancement of the library. Faculty requests have mentioned increased administrative support, more laboratory technicians and technology upgrades (smart classrooms, expansion of Blackboard).

The FDA would like to see a more rational routine mechanism whereby the faculty may have more input in the adoption of budget priorities. A resolution proposed by the FDA Executive Committee in support of that goal was discussed by the body. Due to time constraints, Prof. Joan Tronto recommended that the resolution be tabled until the November meeting. Input will be solicited from delegates in the interim.

The second half of the meeting focused on enhancing faculty cooperation with organizations and offices that are directly responsible for student quality of life at Hunter. Guests addressing the delegates included Dr. Marcia Cantarella, Acting Associate Dean for Student Opportunity, Madlyn Stokely representing Student Services, and the Presidents of Hunter's undergraduate and graduate student government organizations, Pierce Varous and Dan Ross. Information on student clubs was provided, along with suggestions as to how faculty might support the work of these organizations and student initiatives in general. Remarks made by Pierce Varous touched on the following items:

- \* HC has 130 clubs. Departmental clubs which have a faculty advisor are much more successful than are others. Faculty were encouraged to reach out to student organizations in their departments.
- \* Faculty were also asked to order textbooks from the Hunter College bookstore rather than from Shakespeare & Co. Students enjoy certain perks if faculty support the bookstore: they can verify prices online prior to the beginning of the semester. Also, a percentage of the funds generated by the campus bookstore are redistributed to students and faculty via the Auxiliary Enterprise Board.
- \* Syllabi should be made available before the beginning of the semester. Catalog course descriptions are not adequate. In some cases, syllabi are distributed only in the second or third week of a course, which is not acceptable.
- \* Blackboard – especially online course documents and discussion – is very popular with students.

Graduate Student Association president Dan Ross (Urban Affairs and Planning) emphasized that grad students express concern over many of the same issues as those affecting undergrads. In general, feedback from grad students is much more difficult to

come by and they are much less likely to want to participate in clubs or extracurricular activities. While faculty may influence graduate students to become more involved, sometimes there has been a lack of student response to faculty initiatives. Currently the student fee for grad students is only \$7.50, while undergrads pay \$82. However, given the recent tuition increase, a student fee increase is not an option currently. Blackboard expansion appears to be of less interest to graduate students.

Dr. Cantarella is seeking collaboration and co-curricular activities. Since students may not always self-identify as persons of great potential, faculty assistance in identifying and referring such students is essential. Mentoring and advising these students is a high priority. Not enough students are applying for the fellowships and grants for which they may be eligible. Faculty will also be needed to serve on selection committees for awards to students, to write substantial recommendations in the cases where these are required, and to support student internships (especially in supervision of credit-bearing internships). A further area where faculty input is solicited is in the identification and referral of students who may require extra support and can benefit from early intervention.

Madlyn Stokely from Student Services also addressed the need of greater faculty involvement in many of the areas traditionally addressed by counselors. Advising is much more effective when there is greater coordination with faculty, especially since Student Services advisors are not always seen as partners by faculty. Agreement is needed on just what good academic advising consists of, "best practices" in departments should be shared. More communication and engagement is needed. One-on-one relationships between advisors and a department would be great, but Hunter's advisor-to-student ratio makes that impossible. While the Health Professions school has a representative present at all advising sessions for transfer students, many departments do not participate.

The following short announcements were made:

- 1) The Academic Integrity Committee is seeking members. Volunteers should contact the FDA office.
- 2) The All-Faculty Social attracted some 50 faculty members.
- 3) On November 16<sup>th</sup> Ernesto Malave, CUNY's Vice Chancellor for Budget, Finance, and Administrative Computing, will address the FDA meeting from 2-3. The entire Hunter community is welcome at that event.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Woodard,  
Secretary