

FDA General Meeting April 21, 2010
Minutes

FDA President Tony Doyle opened the meeting but his remarks were brief because President Raab arrived shortly thereafter.

President Raab began her report on the state of affairs of Hunter with the not-so-cheery budget news which includes the fact that there isn't one. The Governor's budget unclear on cuts for CUNY (either 84 or 64 million) also a tuition hike of 100.00 per semester. She is looking ahead with grave concern to year beginning April 2011; her words were "it's not going to get better." She stressed Hunter has been hiring when others have not, and she feels that this has given us an edge in hiring.

President Raab noted issue of differential tuition being considered. Hunter one of few CUNY schools to have this already with social work and physical therapy programs. CUNY rule has always been only for what are categorized as "unique" programs but thinking now is expanding at Hunter possibly to nursing and accounting. Other points noted: good news of fund raising among alums (we have a good ranking in US NEWS) and always looking for non alums who like us; enrollment way up undergrad and grad; space always a problem; there will be a search for new Dean; Thomas Hunter new roof and windows, faculty much pleased with research grants. President Raab was asked if she will discuss faculty survey and was very agreeable to a discussion with us, but noted that it was a complicated report and had to be read correctly.

Professor Richard Stapleford, Chair of Strategic Plan Committee, discussed the plan for the planning and asked that we go back to our departments and ask people to get involved. Where do you want the college to be in 10 years?

Final speaker was Professor Steven Cahn of the Philosophy Dept CUNY Graduate Center who engaged us with the lively topic of academic ethics. Yes, there is such an animal. Professor Cahn's demeanor did not at all suggest the hilarious guy he is. He began by noting that, unlike other professions, very little academic research has been done on the ethics of our own field. It seems we have been putting our noses in other people's business and have not examined our own. He regaled us with examples of what he considers commonplace unethical behavior: lip service to teaching in hiring, tenure and promotion, star payment at expense of other faculty, inflated claims of scholarship, reliance on adjuncts, no substantive peer evaluation. Much nodding and nudging among assembled and very lively discussion but, alas, no suggestions for correctives other than we really ought to behave.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette McCauley

