

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Delegate Assembly  
November 19, 2008**

**1:10-3:00 PM in room 1203 HE**

**1. Call to order.** FDA President Jason Young called the meeting to order at 1:16

**2. Approval of the minutes of the October 22, 2008, FDA meeting.** The minutes of the October 22 FDA meeting were approved with one correction.

**3. Executive Committee Report.** Prof. Doyle read the Executive Committee Report from November 5, 2008. He reported on the following.

- \* Update on FDA website. James Regan of the FDA office will be putting a counter on the website so we'll know which pages are being used and to what extent.

- \* Planning the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting with President Raab on November 18. The agenda included the following.

- Appreciation for travel grants, laptops, and other fac initiatives

- Status of capital projects, for instance, new science and social work buildings

- Space in the library and plans for change

- Use of offsite spaces for teaching

**4. Prof. Young provided an update on recent University Faculty Senate topics:**

- \* The UFS is concerned with how CUNY Central is regarding governance. Chancellor Goldstein is looking to make campus senates advisory and not policy making. However, the Perez ruling affirmed that senates are policy making. The chancellor wants "greater flexibility" and would like to change the CUNY charter to make senates merely advisory.

- \*The New York State Legislature has turned down a tuition increase for spring 2009.

**5. College Update: President Raab.** President Raab discussed the following issues.

- \* The budget. The administration is committed to maintaining the core mission of Hunter, despite financial hard times. Hunter has already taken \$3

million dollars in cuts. There is no plan to let adjuncts go. Searches for new full time faculty are still in progress.

\* Tuition increase. The governor's proposal for a \$600 tuition increase seems to be going nowhere for now. The tuition increase would have restored the budget cuts and would have permitted CUNY to keep 10% of the increase; this would be unprecedented. Next year CUNY would keep 20%. The increase would have helped investment in CUNY's core missions. Although no one likes a tuition increase, one is still likely to be approved eventually. The percentage of students who get TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) money would be unaffected. But Hunter needs to ensure that those who don't participate in TAP know that there's scholarship money available for them, particularly for undergraduates. Faculty should let students know in class that the money is there. If students have any further questions, send them to Student Services.

\*Capital budget:

-- The new location for the School of Social Work. (The president distributed copies of a *New York Times* article on the school's new location.) Hunter doesn't own the East 79<sup>th</sup> building, Social Work's current location. The conditions for its use are highly restrictive. We haven't been able to use it for anything but the Social Work School. Other departments have not been able to hold classes there. The owners plan to sell the building. Hunter, which has a long term lease on the building, will get \$40 million of the proceeds for agreeing to leave before its lease is up. This money will go towards the new Social Work building in East Harlem. This new facility will also accommodate the School of Public Health and The Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO). In addition to the \$40 million Hunter will get \$80 million from the state for the project. Construction is being done by a private developer, which means things will move faster than otherwise. The new building will include distance learning technology.

-- The science building is also moving ahead. The money is available. There are currently five entities bidding on the property at Brookdale.

--Roosevelt House should be finished by this coming spring. We will be offering classes there in the spring and it will continue to host faculty seminars.

--Faculty research. The administration is open to suggestions for ways to support faculty research.

\*Middle States. The president thanked Professors Alacabes and Clarkson for their hard work on the Middle States self-study for accreditation. We're doing well on the standards that Middle States has set.

\* The president then took a question from Prof. Haft about the fact that her department (Classics) has lost some adjuncts. The president responded that chairs need to ask for money. However, if there are drops in enrollment, adjunct money might not be available.

\*Len Zinnanti has returned to the president's office.

## **6. Open Forum to discuss the Findings and Recommendations of the Middle States Self-Study. Moderated by Prof. Young.**

\* Prof. Young discussed the following.

-- Hunter is a university within a university. Hunter has more students now than ever, nearly 16,000 undergraduates and 5000+ graduates.

-- Hunter only accepts 30% of applicants.

-- Graduation rates remain low; fewer than 40% graduate after six yrs. This is low relative to similar urban schools. We need to collect more data to understand why we're not retaining more students. One cost of low retention is that Hunter has to offer more freshman level courses to the detriment of higher level courses. Hunter is taking measures to improve retention through better pre-registration advising. And the Mellon Initiative has been reviewing General Education Requirements. The goal is to make these requirements easier to navigate.

Prof. Clarkson pointed out that the California state universities have similar problems. Most people at those schools leave for personal reasons and thus for reasons beyond the schools' control.

-- Hunter has relatively few full time faculty compared to peer institutions like UMass Boston or SUNY Albany.

-- Hunter students were dissatisfied relative to other schools in ease of faculty contact. This might lead to student alienation. Student advising remains a challenge.

-- Faculty workload. The president's response to questions about workload is that it's a union matter. The union's response is that increased workload is what the administration is pushing for.

\* Professors Clarkson and Alcabes addressed the group.

-- The self study consists of seven working groups. Each group has written a report, which they give to the three chairs of the self-study, Professors Alcabes and Clarkson, and Provost Rabinowitz. The chairs then write another report based on these seven. The only document that the committee has made public is the Preliminary Notes on the self-study posted on the Hunter Middle States website (<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/middle-states>).

Whatever the Steering Committee approves can be altered by the president's office. The Senate holds the working group reports and both drafts that have gone to the Steering Committee. The draft is now 200 pages, but the final version can be no longer than 100 pages.

President Earl Richardson of Morgan State College, Chair of the Middle States accreditation team, will be visiting Hunter in the spring of 2009. He has Hunter's draft. President Richardson knows that this draft is one of several to come. On or around March 1 the Steering Committee will turn the report over to the president, who will have a week to make changes. It then goes directly to Middle States. Hunter faculty will be able to see both versions.

Prof. Young added that the FDA staff will do post both versions on the FDA website, clearly indicating the president's changes.

-- One controversial issue in the report has to do with teaching load. The numbers that the CUNY administration is using would seem to indicate that Hunter faculty aren't teaching enough. Professors Clarkson and Alcabes are opposed to using these numbers.

Prof. McCauley pointed out that the contract specifies contact hours, not teaching load. However, the president insists on using the latter expression.

Another faculty member pointed out that the numbers are distorted by the presence of distinguished faculty, since they teach far less than others.

Prof. Young mentioned that the chancellor wants 70% of classes taught by full timers. However, he also wants more research from the sciences, which means fewer hours by full timers in the classroom. The chancellor hasn't yet addressed this tension.

Prof. Alcabes acknowledged that there are more full timers at Hunter than ten years ago but that most of the increase has been in non-

tenure track positions. The increase has been mostly through visiting faculty and full time lectureships.

A faculty member pointed out that CUNY administration might be counting people who have had publications over the past year as full time, but not all of these people are full timers.

Professor McCauley added that Middle States needs to know how difficult it is to determine how many full timers there are at Hunter.

\* Performance Management Process. This process requires CUNY presidents to give a comprehensive evaluation of institutional effectiveness. For any goal a president has to show whether she has met it. If she hasn't met it, she has to explain how she will meet it in the future.

\* Assessment in the School of Arts and Sciences. Arts and Sciences is now being held to the same assessment standards as elsewhere. The trouble is, Arts and Sciences includes many disparate disciplines; coming up with quantitative standards will be difficult.

Prof. Haft asked that the group thank Professors Alcabes and Clarkson for all their hard work.

7. Old Business. There was no old business.

8. New Business. There was no new business.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Doyle  
FDA Secretary