

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Faculty Delegate Assembly
Wednesday, February 28, 2007**

1. FDA President Prof. Jason Young called the meeting to order at 1:22.
2. The minutes from the meeting of December 20, 2006 were approved.
3. Prof. Tony Doyle, FDA Secretary, read the Executive Committee report.
4. Prof. Young introduced the president of the University Faculty Senate, Prof. Manfred Philip of Lehman College. Prof. Philip discussed the following issues.
 - * The UFS represents full and part time CUNY faculty.
 - * UFS Committees. Prof. Philip is looking for Hunter Faculty to nominate colleagues for the UFS who would be strong spokespeople on a committee.
 - * The UFS Executive Committee is the most important body. It sets the agenda for the monthly plenary. The chancellor usually appears at the plenary, offering an update. Also, different vice chancellors generally appear.
 - * The February 27 meeting discussed the following issues
 - Research misconduct policy and its negative aspects.
 - The Advanced Science Research Center at City College
 - Restructuring of doctoral programs at the Graduate Center
 - * The chancellor's vision doesn't always harmonize with the faculty's. The School of Professional Studies, which competes with Hunter, is one example. It draws resources from the campuses. Another is the CUNY B.A. Online, which the UFS opposed.
 - * Generally the UFS doesn't address campus specific issues, since each of the campuses has a senate. However, there are exceptions.
 - Academic freedom: If Hunter has an academic freedom case, the UFS will handle it. There is currently a case of academic freedom before the UFS in which the professor in question is prohibited by the college's president from coming on campus. The college has made no accusations against the faculty member.
 - At Medgar Evers a faculty member was removed from the classroom without explanation. The Medgar Evers Senate asked the UFS to intervene, which it did, along with Barbara Bowen, president of PSC-CUNY. Together they solved the problem.
 - * The Construction Committee deals with serious problems like a crumbling building at City College. There are also problems to be overcome regarding the construction of a new science building at City College.
 - * The priorities at the UFS have been dominated by the community colleges because their faculty show up at the meetings.

* The plenary's main purpose is to promote the flow of information from the chancellor's office to the campuses. It's the only formal setting in which to meet the chancellor.

* Collegiate Learning Assessment. This is an outcomes measure of how colleges improve their students' performance when they enter and when they leave. It is mentioned by the Spellings Commission. It has no academic content. It's more like an intelligence test. It was being run by City and Lehman. Students were being paid to take it. Also, the students were self-selected. There was no evidence that the students were representative of the student body. The UFS blew the whistle.

Prof. Young mentioned that he will forward the minutes of the UFS meetings to the FDA list.

5. Hunter Library Resources for Faculty

Prof. Tony Doyle then introduced four speakers on behalf of the library

Prof. Barbara Birney, Chair of the President's Task Force on the Library; Dean Louise Sherby, Chief Librarian; Prof. Clay Williams, coordinator of library instruction; and Prof. Linda Dickinson, Head of Acquisitions.

a. Prof. Birney spoke first. The Task force is attempting to determine the direction in which the library should go. It has several sub-committees, including Faculty, Collections, the Branches, and Technology.

The findings of the committee to date are:

* Demands on the library continue to go up while resources keep going down.

* Relative to other CUNY campuses, the resources of Hunter's library are limited.

* Facilities: The library needs better lighting, new carpeting, new furniture, better signs. And there are fundamental problems with the building, for example, heating and air conditioning.

* Collection: The library is barely able to maintain its serials collection, and there's not enough money for books.

* The library needs to be better informed about faculty and curriculum requirements. There needs to be a better flow of information between faculty and the library.

* Branches. There is talk about moving them. Losing those spaces would be dire, since there's not enough room on the main campus to accommodate their holdings.

* Technology. There needs to be better integration between ICIT and the library.

Prof. Birney was asked about the requests the Task Force is making. She responded that the Task Force will ask about space and how the library might get more of it.

b. Dean Sherby spoke next.

* The Task Force has been comparing data with sister campuses.

* The CUNY Compact. It has benefited the library. Lots of money has gone to books, which has been a boon. The Compact, as well as Graduate money, mean that the library doesn't have to depend as much on gift money for book buying. Compact and Graduate money have also allowed the library to acquire Web of

Science. In addition the Compact provided the library with two new faculty lines. One has just been filled, and the library is currently seeking to fill the second.

* Serials. Before Dean Sherby arrived at Hunter the College decided that it would preserve as many serials as possible. Unlike a given book, the library has to pay for a subscription year in, year out. So the library has been reluctant to let serials go.

Dean Sherby then took questions.

Q: Will the library be moving?

A: The president says no.

Q: What are the prospects of a 24 hour space in the library?

A: The library and the administration are addressing this. Unfortunately the current space can't handle it, and at present there is no administrative plan to expand the library.

Prof. Birney added that the administration's first two priorities are the new science building and a new location for the Social Work School. Other moves or expansions aren't on their radar.

Q: Could CUNY be considered a single institution to increase purchasing power of serials?

A: Generally not. Publishers hold all the cards and often insist that each campus be treated as its own site. However, we have made some serial acquisitions consortially, with multiple campuses signing a single contract. This is a special problem in the sciences. SUNY has the same issues. Consortial purchasing is a constant issue among CUNY's Council of Chief Librarians.

Q: Would it be to our advantage if Hunter had an agreement with Fordham or NYU, for example, to exchange articles electronically?

A: Publishers generally don't allow that.

c. Prof. Williams spoke next, mentioning the following issues.

* He deals with library instruction and information literacy. When assigning classes, Prof. Williams tries to find a librarian who has some academic background or knowledge of the topic. To familiarize students with the library and the fundamentals of research the library holds several hundred instruction sessions per semester. The library serves several hundred classes per semester. Library instruction has grown significantly with the addition in September 2005 of Brian Lym, the science librarian. The library also offers many classes for the School of Education. Our goal is to try to get to graduate students in Education before their final semester.

* SAILS. The library has just finished a survey to attempt to determine student knowledge of the library and of research techniques. It involved three cohorts: freshmen, transfers, and seniors. The data won't be ready until June. We're trying to see what we can do with transfers. This is a big issue among most public colleges and universities.

* Ideally we would like more research tools. However, the students are baffled by the tools that they have.

*Tony Doyle is teaching a one credit course on research. In the future we think about offering a subject specific research course. Some schools have a 3 credit course.

Professor Williams was asked whether a librarians could go around to faculty meetings and find out what the needs are. He said yes and admitted that the library could be getting its message across more effectively. To this end the library has established a marketing committee.

d. Linda Dickinson, Head of Acquisitions, spoke last. She talked about some recent database acquisitions.

* *Web of Science*. This database searches on cited references, enabling faculty to search references to their work. Web of Science goes back to 1981 and covers the social sciences and the humanities, as well as the physical sciences.

**Historical Statistics of the United States*. Can search, navigate, and graph data. Hunter is the only CUNY school to have this database.

**Gallup Brain* (1935 to present). Has results for the Gallup Poll for the dates mentioned. For additional polling information see also Lexis-Nexis and Polling the Nation.

**Gale Virtual*. Has 550 Gale reference titles online.

**Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Will include updates. The print version is in the mail.

*Primary sources online. Hunter has recently added three products: *American Film Scripts Online*; *Asian American Drama*; *Black Drama*.

**Artstor*. Has lately been adding cross disciplinary information.

A faculty member noted that Hunter provides a vast range of electronic resources and journals, rivaling NYU or Harvard.

Professor Birney noted that it's important that people know that databases can graph or manipulate data.

Professor Young added that the faculty needs to know which databases are relevant to their disciplines.

Professor Kuechler suggested that there should perhaps be a contact in each department not only for books but also for electronic resources.

6. Old Business.

There was no old business.

7. New Business.

The next meeting will be March 21. Issues relating to diversity will be on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Doyle
Secretary