

Minutes of the Hunter College Faculty Delegate Assembly
February 27, 2013

Bernadette McCauley called the meeting to order and Minutes from November 28th, 2012 were approved.

Bernadette gave a brief report of FDA news including new joint committee with the Senate to review guidelines of Hunter L. (Hunter-L is monitored by FDA and Senate.) Issues have been raised as to propriety, academic freedom and appropriate news; there has not been a review in 10 years. There was some concern that this effort might result in a silencing of speech and point was duly noted with assurances that was not at all the intention; this is an effort to clarify and simplify. All faculty are encouraged to participate in the review.

Siochain Hughes reported on recent discussion at a meeting of University Governance Leaders which addressed a Chancellor initiative to grant PhDs at the college campuses (e.g. Hunter, Queens) which may have negative impact on the other campuses by limiting faculty access to graduate students. Currently there are about 200 consortium lines. This proposal would reduce consortium lines to 40. This is in response to programs that are ranked low by NRC, in particular the sciences. PhD admits would receive \$25,000 in stipends, full scholarships, and faculty would need to acquire grants to fund students which would prove difficult. Other comments were made that the initiative is not limited to the sciences and that other areas have seen a growth in central lines at the GC and, with limited enrollment (programs are taking less students) there will be less opportunities for teaching.

Jason Young reported on the University Faculty Senate functions and the upcoming elections for delegates from Hunter. The FDA handles all elections of UFS seats and is encouraging faculty to consider joining. The UFS is comprised of representative from all CUNY campuses but Hunter College has not been fulfilling their responsibilities. The UFS is overwhelmingly represented by the Community Colleges. All decisions made at UFS will impact Hunter College but without our participation we are not involved in the decision-making process. Ten seats are available, the largest delegation of all campuses, but only three are currently filled. Attending to this is urgent. Meetings are held every second Tuesday from 6:30 to 8pm at the Graduate Center. Please contact Bernadette at FDA office if you are interested in running.

Manfred Kuechler reported on CUNYFirst which will soon be up and running although not totally. It will centralize "campus solutions" which includes grade, registration, textbook information, web attendance etc. On March 25 the SIMS system will be shut down. There is a schedule of workshops to instruct faculty on its use. A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for March 4. Certain programs such as web rosters with student pictures will be kept. This may be part of a larger movement to uniform all courses using a numerical system which will serve to normalize requirements across all campuses. Concerns were raised about the reasons behind this standardization and preserving the uniqueness of programs, courses, and campuses.

Christa Acompora, President of the Hunter College Senate gave a report on the recently constituted Senate Charter Review Committee. The Senate Charter was last reviewed in 2006. Historically the Senate came out of the tumultuous 1970s when students were protesting on

campus. The Senate, comprised of faculty, staff, and students was the attempt to include students into campus governance. There are outdated committees which are being reviewed.

The meeting concluded with a general Pathways discussion and some questions were raised about honors programs at Hunter. There are two law suits being filed in response to Pathways. Campuses that are refusing to comply include Brooklyn, Baruch, Staten Island, BMCC, and LaGuardia, among others. The details of Pathways have not been carefully considered and there remain huge logistical issues including how to assess students who are transferring in. With Pathways and CUNYFirst, faculty should be prepared to face major changes come next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Sonu