

**Minutes of the Meeting  
of the Faculty Delegate Assembly  
Room 709, Hunter West  
Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

- 1. FDA President Prof. Jason Young called the meeting to order at 1:20.**
- 2. The minutes for the March and April FDA meetings were approved.**
- 3. Prof. Tony Doyle, FDA Secretary, read from the Executive Committee report of March 7, 2007.**
- 4. Prof. Young introduced Provost Vita Rabinowitz, who provided the academic update. She discussed the following issues.**

- \* Joint doctorals**

- \* Clearance policy for faculty grants**

- \* Call for volunteers: Middle States and Mellon**

- \* Joint doctorals**

CUNY is interested in offering more joint doctorals with select campuses.

Hunter (and City College) is looking to offer more joint degrees with the Graduate Center, in addition to those already offered at the School of Health Professions. The first disciplines to be considered will be biochemistry and physics.

The CUNY School of Public Health will be at Hunter and is expected to open its doors in 2010. Hunter faculty will be the major contributors to the joint public health Ph.D.s, with help from Lehman and Brooklyn. When this happens, Hunter will be acknowledged for the work that it already does. The Grad Center will have almost no role in public health doctoral degrees. This will enable Hunter to offer better support for its doctoral students. However, doctoral education is expensive, and supporting it might mean a reallocation of resources. Ninety percent of the science faculty at Hunter is doctoral; 70% of the social science faculty is. Hunter will need CUNY Board and state support of the initiative.

Prof. Haft asked Provost Rabinowitz if she could be more explicit about the allocations for doctoral support.

Provost Rabinowitz responded that Hunter intends to support its doctoral students as our competitors do, namely, for 5 years at \$24,000 a year. Only the Biology Department currently comes close to this kind of support.

The graduate students will be teaching here. CUNY Central guarantees the first year of the stipend, tuition for all five years, and health care for all five years. Hunter will pay the last four years of the stipends, \$96,000 all told. Grants won't cover all the expenses. Some will have to come from philanthropy. There will be a three year teaching commitment to grad students in the physical sciences. Only Hunter and City can support this with their faculty and infrastructure.

This move won't change the faculty overall, but the affected departments will perhaps have to change their hiring policies. Faculty will be assigned doctoral students only if they can support them through grants.

--Prof. Young asked whether the money will be routed through the Grad Center.

Provost Rabinowitz replied that the Grad Center will still get an administrative cut of the money.

President Raab's enthusiasm for this initiative is contingent on Hunter's name appearing on the degree. It's not in Hunter's interest to be allocating its money without getting its name on the degrees.

--Prof. Splitter asked why the proposal only covers the sciences.

Provost Rabinowitz responded that it's easier to get political support for the sciences, since science generates money.

--Prof. Guzzetta observed that this would make Hunter and City fit the definition of a university and that Brooklyn and Lehman could resent it.

Provost Rabinowitz acknowledged this.

**\* Clearance policy for faculty grants**

--Administration has a pilot in place now. The policy is a way of gaining data about and having control over solicitations of donors, foundations, and corporations. Most colleges and universities have some kind of control over fund raising. Faculty fund raising ought to be compatible with the goals of the college. This needs approval. Sometimes faculty misrepresent the college by for instance claiming that their department is straitened. Also, sometimes faculty identify wealthy prospective donors when the administration has already approached them.

--Hunter started with some natural disadvantages for fund raising as a public and formerly women's school. City and Baruch are much more successful than Hunter at raising money.

--The clearance policy will be in effect until June 2009 and then evaluated. The form will soon be available. It will ask the applicant to describe the project, specify release time, identify potential donors, and whether the proposal is consistent with Hunter's mission. The administration doesn't yet have an electronic version. Also, if the donor solicits the faculty member or if the deadline is tight, the administration will speed up the process. There is no penalty specified for not following the policy.

**\*The provost then invited questions and comments on the clearance policy.**

--Does the policy cover both grants and fund raising?

It covers soliciting donors, foundations, as well as city and state agencies but nothing federal. Also, if a faculty member is interested in starting a new center or external advisory board, it should be cleared with the administration. The administration should know about all Hunter Centers and Institutes.

--Prof. Kuechler observed that the present system seems to be working well and that the current proposal will arouse faculty opposition.

--Prof. Young mentioned that he was troubled by the fact that the committee meets just once a month and that this could lead to back up.

Provost Rabinowitz acknowledged that she too was worried about the volume.

--Prof. Kuechler expressed concern that the new policy could lead to censorship on research and thus raise issues of academic freedom.

--Prof. Haft mentioned a donor who has been good to her department. She is concerned that in the future that money might go to the college rather than to her department.

Provost Rabinowitz agreed that that would be a bad result and that the college is not looking to steal departments' donors.

**\* Volunteers: Middle States or Mellon**

Provost Rabinowitz would like to hear from faculty interested in working (for money) on either the Middle States self-study report or the Mellon grant this summer.

## **5. FDA Executive Committee candidates**

The FDA welcomes Executive Committee nominees. We'll likely hold the election at the beginning of fall.

Professors David Connor and Fran Scheffler are already running. We're particularly looking for people from arts and humanities, and the natural sciences.

## **6. Issues recently discussed at the University Faculty Senate**

**\* A proposed expansion of online degrees in the School of Professional Studies to include those competing with college programs.**

**\* Course re-numbering:** CUNY wants to make it more seamless for students to register across campuses. However, do we want to have a standardized curriculum across the campuses? If so, why even talk about curriculum at the campuses? Some people are concerned about the homogenization of the curriculum.

## **7. Discussion about the CUNY Compact—funding recommendations from FDA delegates regarding faculty-specific needs: Prof. Manfred Kuechler**

Eightieth Street asked that each campus set up a committee to deal with priorities for how the compact money should be spent. Departments are making recommendations based on their needs, but some needs straddle departments, for instance, those of the libraries. Hunter gets \$5.5 million from the Compact. CUNY gives Hunter the money and Hunter redistributes it according to certain categories. Now we know that we have the money; we'll get \$ 4.5 million from Albany. Hunter can revise the priorities or even the categories. This is the administration's earnest effort to consult with faculty.

--Prof. Splitter asked how faculty put forth their concerns.

Prof. Kuechler responded that anyone with ideas should approach Prof. Young or Associate Provost Potash. It's good if the same request comes from different sources; such a request tends to carry more weight. The requests should probably be made sometime in June. Keep your request brief.

## **8. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **9. New Business**

**\* Prof. Sorman is working on the adjunct handbook; it should be ready in the fall.**

**\* FDA projects:**

--Coordinating research ideas so one doesn't have to go to each department website to find out what people's research interests are. The FDA is trying to come up with a database to make getting this information less laborious.

--Mentoring of younger faculty. This has run into problems, since some want people in their departments, others from outside.

We hope to have both of these things going by August.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Doyle  
FDA Secretary