

# THE FACULTY VOICE

## Hunter College Faculty Newsletter

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### PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN CUNY SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

*(Submitted by Professor Susan Lees, Coordinator of The Hunter College Sexual Harassment Panel)*

Some of you may be aware that the CUNY Women's Coalition has proposed a new CUNY policy on sexual harassment. The Coordinator of the Coalition, Lilia Melani, forwarded a copy of the proposal to President LeClerc, for his support. He, in turn, has passed on the proposal for consideration by the FDA, and other groups within the College.

CUNY has had a sexual harassment policy since 1982, but the actual handling of sexual harassment procedures varies from campus to campus. Most colleges and universities in the country, as in the CUNY system, delegate responsibility to an administrator. Hunter, however, from the start, delegated responsibility to a specially selected group--the Sexual Harassment Panel. The CUNY Women's Coalition proposal argues for the CUNY-wide adoption of Hunter's approach, rather than the approach of delegating responsibility to an administrator. Essentially, the new proposal is in agreement with what we are already doing here at Hunter. Indeed, Hunter has served as a model for the design of the new approach. There are some differences in detail. The proposal specifies a panel of five members, while Hunter's panel is of unspecified size, varying from time-to-time, but always considerably larger than five. Hunter's panel includes students, as well as faculty and staff, and does not include administrators. There are also differences in procedure. Finally, the Coalition proposal wants sanctions to be specified, something neither CUNY nor Hunter has ever done.

In my opinion, Hunter should continue to pursue its own policies and procedures, as they have been developed over the years, with some modifications, which at this time are being developed by the Panel. In general, I support the approach of the CUNY Women's Coalition proposal, and believe that, because it is in conformity with ours, adoption of this proposal--at least its approach--would not result in any substantial change for us at Hunter. My preference would be for the adoption of the general approach, with specification of details for each campus, so that we might each work out these details for ourselves, with input from the whole community, as we have done so far in the formation of the Hunter College Sexual Harassment Panel. It is the input from the members of the community that legitimizes the process. So far, we have been successful in maintaining open avenues for input and responses from the constituencies that make up the Hunter community. Of course, to do this, we must also be knowledgeable about the issues. I urge the faculty to learn about the proposal and about our existing procedures and to discuss them in the FDA and the HC Senate, so that our voices can be heard.

### FACULTY DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

**WRITING AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL**--A Faculty Delegate Assembly Conference Planning Group, headed by Professor Christina Taharally, has begun to design a series of forums relating to Excellence in Teaching in a Multi-cultural Environment. The first forum to be offered, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, is entitled "Writing at the College Level." The Forum will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. in 1203 East. Hunter College Professors Trudith Smoke, Kate Parry, and Gerald Press, who have been involved with innovative work in writing across the curriculum, will be the speakers. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., so come early. Leave a message at EXT 4679 or EXT 4124, by April 19, if you plan to attend.

**CUNY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS**--The Office of Academic Affairs continues its practice of offering seminars for CUNY Faculty. A seminar, entitled "Balancing the Curriculum for Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Class," will be offered 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning September 8. This Fall semester only seminar will be coordinated by Hunter College Professor Dorothy Helly, and John Jay College Professor Altargarcia Ortiz. Another seminar on "Publishing in the Academy," coordinated by Professor Joan Baum, will be offered on Wednesday evenings, in both the Fall and Spring semesters. The application deadline is May 15. Further information may be secured from Roddy Potter, CUNY Office of Academic Affairs, at 794-5444.

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION TRAINING SESSIONS**--Several months ago, a call went out for CUNYVM faculty individual "userid" numbers. We were pleased to receive a fair number of responses to our request. The FDA Communication's Committee is exploring a variety of avenues to enhance faculty communication within Hunter, and hence would like to expand its electronic list. If you already have a "userid", please forward same to JJSHC or MAMHC, so that we can begin to connect with you. If you wish to open a CUNYVM account, and to receive your own "userid", please visit Academic Computing Services on the 10th Floor of Hunter North and request an application form. The FDA would also like to sponsor training sessions for faculty unfamiliar with electronic communication. We need to hear from individual faculty who might be interested in these sessions.

### FDA AND GENERAL FACULTY MEETINGS

Faculty Delegate Assembly and/or General Faculty Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. in Room 1203 East. As the faculty organization, agendas for meetings center around issues of special concern to our faculty. All Hunter faculty, full-time and part-time, are invited to attend these meetings.



## OPEN LETTER FROM OUR OMBUDS OFFICER

*Elected Hunter College Ombudsman, Giuseppe Di Scipio writes:*

"I wish to extend an open invitation to our faculty to contact my office. I have found that most of the cases I handle involve students. Perhaps the faculty feels that the Ombuds Officer is concerned only with students' rights. The Ombuds Office was created for the entire Hunter College community.

I do hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and visit my office even to just get acquainted or to ventilate the many frustrations we, as faculty members, encounter.

The Office of the Ombuds is located in the East Building, Room E1018. For appointments please call Judith King at 772-4203."

For a full description of the position and responsibilities of the Ombudsman, refer to Hunter College Governance Charter, Article XIII, Section 4.

## KNOW YOUR UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATORS

The University Faculty Senate is comprised of elected delegates from each of the nineteen units comprising the City University of New York. At the present time, Queen's College Professor, Robert Picken, is the elected President of The University Faculty Senate, which is housed at 535 E. 80th Street. In his capacity as President, Professor Picken, is also a CUNY Trustee and speaks on behalf of CUNY faculty on policy and program matters at The Board of Higher Education.

As a collective, Hunter College University Faculty Senators have always been untiring in their work and advocacy on behalf of Hunter Faculty. Due to the diminution in the number of full-time faculty in recent years, our delegate entitlement has also decreased. The present complement of ten delegates and two alternates to the CUNY University Faculty Senate are as follows:

Bernice Baxter, Academic Skills  
Marlies Danziger, English  
Jane Matthews, Mathematics  
Kathleen Meier, Library  
Susan Neville, Nursing  
Maria Paynter, Romance Languages  
Ruth Rose, Acad. Skills (2nd Alt.)  
Earl Shaffer, Library  
Kenneth Sherrill, Political Science  
Ellen Steinberg, Health Sci. (1st Alt.)  
Pamela Wonsek, Library  
Carina Yervasi, Romance Lang. (Part-Time Fac.)

Through this fine cohort of faculty, we can be assured of strong connections with and responsible representation within the larger CUNY Faculty Organization.

## DID YOU VOTE YET?

Before Spring Recess, the FDA Nominating Committee, headed by Professor Wendy Tan, mailed out the materials for our annual election for positions on The Executive Committee of The Faculty Delegate Assembly. The ballot included nominations for President, Vice-President, Day Session Faculty Representative, and Part-time Faculty Representative to serve for two-year terms. Please return your ballot no later than April 30.

## OF SPECIAL NOTE

**TOWARD A SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT AT HUNTER COLLEGE**--At the March 17, meeting of The Faculty Delegate Assembly, faculty passed a resolution to prohibit smoking at all times in any College building. While recognizing the need to formulate a Hunter College policy on smoking, faculty were also mindful of personal and community concerns relating to factors influencing implementation and compliance of such a policy.

**PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**--At the Honors Convocation held on March 29, the following faculty received special recognition:

Professor Bettina Knapp, Romance Languages, for Excellence in Scholarship

Professor Sam Korn, Psychology, for Excellence in Service

Professor Rivka Rudner, Biological Sciences, for Excellence in Teaching.

We congratulate our colleagues on these distinctions.

**SYLVIA AND DANNY KAYE PLAYHOUSE**--The first public performance in the newly renovated playhouse was a Spring Concert by The Hunter College Dance Company, on April 15.

What a delightful event in such a glorious theater.

**DOLCIANI LECTURE**--In memory of Mary P. Dolciani, will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. in Room 714W. Guest speakers will be Deborah Hughes Hallett, Harvard University, and John H. Ewing, Indiana University.

**BELLA ABZUG LECTURE**--To be held Thursday, April 22, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room. "The Politics of Race and Gender" will be presented by Kimberle Crenshaw.

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE**--The final examination schedule has been distributed by the Office of the Registrar. Faculty are reminded that exams are to be administered from Thursday, May 20 through Thursday, May 27, and not during the final class session.

**GRADUATION EXERCISES**--Vice-President Sylvia Fishman has announced graduation dates. The breakdown is as follows:

Wednesday, June 2: Social Sciences, School of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, and School of Nursing.

Thursday, June 3: Humanities and Arts, Programs in Education, and Sciences and Mathematics.

We urge faculty to make a special effort to be there for their students as they celebrate this important life event.

The **FACULTY VOICE** is published by the Office of The Faculty Delegate Assembly. Executive Committee Members: Margaret Magnus, President; Paul Kurzman, Vice-President; Maria Rodriguez, Secretary; Marnia Lazreg, Treasurer; Christina Taharally, Day Session Faculty Rep.; Jean-Jacques Strayer, Evening Session Faculty Rep.; Cecile Insdorf, Part-time Faculty Rep.

Forward news, views, and informational items to FDA Office, Room 1414E.