THE FACULTY VOICE
HUNTER COLLEGE FACULTY NEWSLETTER

Office of The General Faculty & The Faculty Delegate Assembly
East 1414
Vol. XXVI
No. 2
February 2014
http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda

Upcoming FDA events

FDA General Meetings

*Wednesday, March 19, 1:15-3:00, 1203 Hunter East

This will be a joint event with the Hunter Chapter of PSC-CUNY.

Featured speaker: Stephen Leberstein, Chair, PSC-CUNY Academic Freedom Committee

Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served.

*Wednesday, April 30, 1:15-3:00, 1203 Hunter East

The FDA will be presenting a panel of Hunter book authors. They will be discussing their most recent book as well as how they went about finding a publisher.

Panelists will include:

Professor Christa Acampora (Philosophy), author of Contesting Nietzsche

Professor Terrie Epstein (Curriculum and Teacher), author of Interpreting National History: Race, Identity, and Pedagogy in Classrooms and Communities (Routledge)

Professor Nicholas Freudenberg (Urban Public Health), author of Lethal but Legal: Corporations, Consumption, and Protecting Public Health (Oxford)

Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served.

FDA Faculty Social

Wednesday, March 26 (tentative), 4:30-6:30, Faculty/Staff Lounge, 8th floor, Hunter West

Wine and snacks will be served.

Recent FDA Activities

FDA General Meeting, November 2013

President Raab was the featured speaker at the FDA’s November meeting. She devoted much of her talk to Hunter’s periodic review for Middle States. The point of the review, which began in the fall, is for Hunter to indicate its progress since the last Middle States accreditation report, issued in 2009. The college needs to show that it is implementing the strategic plan offered by Middle States. Middle States is particularly interested to see that Hunter is engaged in assessment, that the college’s approach to assessment meets the requirements laid out in the strategic plan, and that faculty are participating in the implementation of the plan. The review is due in June.

The president next discussed the importance of interdisciplinarity and collaboration among faculty. She lamented the fact that faculty in different departments can have similar research projects and yet never be aware of the fact. She offered the Human Rights Program at Hunter as a model of
cross discipline collaboration. This program includes full-time faculty members from 14 departments and programs in the humanities and social sciences.

President Raab also expressed concern about retention and graduation rates. After a decade of steadily improving numbers, the latter has plateaued lately. Regarding retention in particular, the administration would like to know what the connection is between grades and the likelihood that a student will leave Hunter. Would early intervention and tutoring help retain more students? A partial solution to both challenges, the president suggested, might be to offer more fully online classes.

Another topic the president broached was the new student advising offices, which will occupy the 7th floor of Hunter East. The offices will include the following: pre-law, pre med, pre-health, and pre-business.

She concluded with a slide show of Hunter’s facilities beyond the main campus, including the Kennedy Child Center, Roosevelt House, and the coming science and nursing building, which will be by the East River between 73rd and 74th Streets.

Joint Meeting with Hunter PSC-CUNY, December 2013

The FDA and the Hunter Chapter of the PSC-CUNY hosted a joint meeting in December. The featured speaker was Barbara Bowen, President of PSC-CUNY. Professor Bowen opened with criticism of CUNY’s June 2013 policy on “expressive activity.” She reminded attendees that academic freedom is a term and condition of employment. Professor Bowen argued that the denial is motivated by the administration’s wish to expand the issues that are on the table during the current contract negotiations.

The second policy, which supersedes the June policy, is slightly more liberal. However, it continues to imply wide-ranging discretion on behalf of the university to curb dissent. For instance, the new policy still asserts the university’s right to call the police if it deems a protest disruptive. (“Why else hold a protest?” Professor Bowen asked rhetorically.) The effect of even the more liberal policy would be to chill dissent considerably. PSC-CUNY has called on the university to withdraw the policy.

Professor Bowen then moved on to the contract itself. She pointed out that Mayor de Blasio faces a tough job: scores of city union contracts have expired, and Mayor Bloomberg left no money in the budget for raises. Adjuncts are a particular concern for the union. PSC-CUNY is looking to provide greater job security for part-timers in the next contract. She also deplored the total lack of symmetry between the hiring of adjuncts and the hiring of full-timers. She drew a contrast between the fact that departments are sometimes constrained to hire an adjunct overnight, while it can take a year to hire a tenure-track professor to teach the same courses.

Before closing Professor Bowen discussed two other issues. First, she urged that Hunter PSC-CUNY, the Senate, and the FDA have a chance to meet with the president’s reviewers. Second, she discussed the PSC-CUNY’s lawsuit against Pathways.

Thanks to Professor Tami Gold, of Film and Media, and the Hunter Chapter Chair of
PSC-CUNY, and Mr. David Pavlosky, also of Film and Media, for helping to make this event a success! Thanks to Professor Gold for the great holiday carols!

Search for a New Chief Information Officer (Director of ICIT)

A Senate committee to fill the current CIO vacancy has been established. Its first meeting was on February 13. The committee is chaired by Acting Associate Provost Brian Duffy.

The committee will recommend three candidates to President Raab. The committee expects to be able to make its recommendations before the end of the spring semester.

Other members of the committee are:

Faculty:
Jochen Albrecht, Geography
Tony Doyle, Library
Mark Halling, Sociology
Yang Hu, Curriculum and Teaching
Gustavo Mercado, Film and Media
Rob Thompson, Mathematics and Statistics

Staff:
Renate Laine, Communications
Denise Lucena-Jerez, Registrar
Stephen Sukhra, ICIT

Students:
Coleen Cash
Diana Howard
Taylor Oshan

Welcome to the Newest FDA Executive Committee Member
The FDA would like to welcome Professor Ann Gaba of Urban Public Health to the FDA’s Executive Committee! Professor Gaba was elected in the fall to a two year term.

Executive Committee Vacancy
The FDA is seeking to fill one open seat on its Executive Committee. We are accepting nominations for these openings, including self-nominations, until Friday, February 28, 2014. The FDA is Hunter’s sole faculty-only governance body. Our chief missions are to inform faculty about campus and CUNY issues at regular meetings, and to advocate for the faculty with the administration. Nominations from all schools and departments are welcome. However, we particularly encourage nominations from the Brookdale and Social Work, both of which are currently not represented on the Executive Committee.

Duties: The FDA Executive Committee meets for an hour once a month to plan FDA events and to set FDA priorities. It also meets occasionally with top Hunter administrators. Serving on the Executive Committee is a great opportunity to meet and work with colleagues outside of your department and to learn about an array of campus and CUNY matters.

Nominees must be full-time faculty but need not be FDA delegates. Please submit nominations to fda@hunter.cuny.edu.

FDA annual dues
Once again, the FDA is asking for a modest contribution from faculty. Your contributions buy the refreshments at our regular meetings, our semesterly socials, and at other FDA-sponsored events. They also support our afternoon coffee, tea, and cookie service in the Faculty/Staff Lounge on the 8th floor of Hunter West. Look for our mailing in your mailbox.

Get in touch
We seek input from all faculty. The best
way to get in touch is to call us at 212-772-4123 or to email us at fda@hunter.cuny.edu. Please don’t hesitate to send your concerns, complaints, or suggestions along. We will address them promptly.

**FDA Spaces**

*1413 Hunter East*

The Faculty Conference Room, located at 1413 Hunter East, has wireless internet and is available for use, first come, first served. To see when the space is available go to [http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda/fda-resources/meeting-event-rooms/the-solarium](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda/fda-resources/meeting-event-rooms/the-solarium). To book contact Ms. Shemeika McLaren or Mr. James Regan at fda@hunter.cuny.edu, 212-772-4123, or in HE 1414.

*The Faculty/Staff Lounge*

The FDA faculty lounge is open to all faculty and staff Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 6:00, and at other times when it is not booked (see below). The lounge provides a comfortable, quiet space to read or meet with colleagues. Tuesday through Friday, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, throughout the spring semester, the FDA provides free coffee, tea, and cookies. Also, check out the latest issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* while you’re there. The lounge on the 8th floor of Hunter West, next to the Faculty Dining Room. The space is also available for small events (except between 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday). To reserve the space go to [http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda/fda-resources/meeting-event-rooms/the-faculty-lounge](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda/fda-resources/meeting-event-rooms/the-faculty-lounge). To reserve get in touch with . To book contact Ms. Shemeika McLaren or Mr. James Regan at fda@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4123.

**The FDA Executive Committee:**

*Bernadette McCauley* (History), President (through 2015; on leave 2013-14)

*Tony Doyle* (Library), Vice President (through 2015); Acting President (2013-14)

*John Toth* (Curriculum and Teaching), Treasurer (through 2015)

*Debbie Sonu* (Curriculum and Teaching), Secretary (through 2015)

*Siochain Hughes* (Art). Part Time Representative (through 2015)

*Ann Gaba* (Urban Public Health) Daytime Representative (through 2015)

Evening Representative: **Vacant**

**Administrative Assistants:**

We would like to welcome Shemeika McLaren! She joins James Regan in the FDA office, HE1414.