



Office of The General Faculty
& The Faculty Delegate Assembly
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<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda>

Recent FDA Activities

FDA/Hunter PSC-CUNY Combined Meeting, March 2014

The theme of the joint meeting was academic freedom. The first speaker was Professor Stephen Leberstein, Chair of the PSC-CUNY Academic Freedom Committee. Professor Leberstein began by discussing the subtle threat to academic freedom implied by CUNY's increasing reliance on at-will employees. He was also sharply critical of Pathways. Academic freedom, he argued, is about much more than professors' being able to say what they want in the classroom or in print. It is also about faculty control of the curriculum, and Pathways seriously undermines this prerogative. Finally, Professor Leberstein denounced CUNY's recent crackdown on dissent, particularly regarding the arrest of students at Hunter and City last semester.

The second speaker was Professor Sarah Chinn (English), Chair of the Hunter Senate's Standing Committee on Academic Freedom. Professor Chinn explained that the committee came into existence as a result of serious faculty concerns about academic

freedom at Hunter in the early to mid 2000s. This led to the formation of the Senate Select Committee on Academic Freedom in December 2004. The committee issued its report in February 2006. It found no explicit violations of academic freedom but nevertheless described an atmosphere that was sometimes uncongenial to such freedom. The Senate resolution to accept the report failed narrowly, due to low attendance. The Senate Standing Committee on Academic Freedom was established in the wake of the report.

The committee has two charges. The first is to make academic freedom policy. To this end the committee is currently updating the policy, with the goal of making its guidelines more specific. The other charge is to investigate accusations of violations of academic freedom. If the committee finds that a violation has been committed, it passes its findings on to the Senate Administrative Committee.

Professor Chinn pointed out that most of the issues raised before her committee don't have directly to do with "classic" academic freedom issues like teaching and publishing. Rather, the main complaints that the committee deals with relate to interference with hiring and P&B decisions. The committee has also recently heard complaints from some student groups claiming that they have had trouble booking a space at Central Reservations, allegedly because of their politics.

Thanks to Professor Tami Gold (Film and Media), outgoing chair of the Hunter Chapter of PSC-CUNY, for helping to make this event a success!

FDA General Meeting, April 2014

Part 1 of the program was a panel of Hunter book authors consisting of Professor Christa

Acampora (Philosophy), Professor Terrie Epstein (Curriculum and Teaching), and Professor Nicholas Freudenberg (Urban Public Health). The panelists discussed both their most recent book as well as their experience with book publishing. Professor Acampora contrasted her work as an author, particularly on her recent *Contesting Nietzsche* (Chicago, 2013), with her experience as an acquisitions editor at Rowman and Littlefield. Professor Epstein talked about the positive experience she had working with Routledge on her 2009 book, *Interpreting National History: Race, Identity and Pedagogy in Classrooms and Communities*. Professor Freudenberg discussed his latest book, *Lethal but Legal: Corporations, Consumption, and Protecting Public Health* (Oxford, 2014). This is his first trade book, and he drew striking contrasts between writing for an audience of non-specialists and writing his earlier, scholarly books.

Professor Terrence Martell, chair of CUNY's University Faculty Senate, spoke next. Professor Martell provided an update on the recent activities of the UFS and expressed high hopes for working with chancellor-to-be James Milliken. He also urged more Hunter faculty to get involved with the UFS, pointing to the college's relatively low participation in recent years.

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

The committee recommended three finalists to President Raab on April 28. The committee was very capably chaired by Acting Vice Provost Brian Duffy.

Other committee members were:

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

Executive Committee Vacancy

The FDA is seeking to fill an open seat on its 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.

If you are interested in serving, please get in touch with the FDA at fda@hunter.cuny.edu.

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

Faculty/Staff Lounge, 8th Floor, Hunter West
The space is available to book most times during the summer. To see when the lounge is available go to <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/fda/fda-resources/meeting-event-rooms/the-faculty-lounge>. To book contact Ms. Shemeika McLaren or Mr. James Regan at

fda@hunter.cuny.edu, 212-772-4123, or in HE 1414.

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>. To book contact Ms. Shemeika McLaren or Mr. James Regan at fda@hunter.cuny.edu, 212-772-4123, or in HE 1414.

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:

Shemeika McLaren and James Regan