

THE FACULTY VOICE

Hunter College Faculty Newsletter

Vol. IV

MAY 1992

Number 7

LESSENING RELIANCE ON ADJUNCTS

At the April 14, meeting of The Faculty Delegate Assembly, a group of faculty presented a forum dealing with budget options in a time of fiscal crisis. A statement was drafted which represented a "sense of the body" in relation to several issues. Due to space limitation, it is not possible to present the entire document in this column. However, a copy of the full statement may be obtained from the FDA Office.

"The FDA recognizes the severity of the budget crisis and the need to lessen reliance on the adjunct budget. The faculty would like to offer the following comments for serious review and consideration:

1. Volunteer efforts by the faculty or the administration to accept an enhanced teaching load, however laudable and valuable, obviously cannot be made the basis for serious planning.
2. Efforts to implement an across the board adherence to a 21 hour workload ignore important difference amongst departments, between programs and divisions, the graduate and professional programs (e.g. School of Social Work). The emphasis on mechanical criteria in defining equity of workload is open to many questions:
 - a) A graduate program like the School of Social Work must define its student and faculty needs differently from an undergraduate division.
 - b) Programs in Education, Nursing, and Health Sciences should determine the special needs of their students and faculty.
 - c) Courses with demanding writing components and active involvement with students impose a heavy teaching burden on the faculty and require different treatment in the construction of faculty programs.
3. Release time for administration based upon the size of the department and interdisciplinary program ignores the fact that a Chair of a smaller department frequently has to perform more functions than a Chair of a larger department, both in terms of department administration and student advisement. The determination of release time for Department Chairs and program directors should be left to the discretionary authority of the Deans.
4. The College has an obligation, as part of CUNY, to provide adjunct teaching opportunities for graduate students. Such positions are a means of modest support for graduate study. This ought to be a governing determination in all policy decisions regarding adjunct staffed courses."

The statement goes on to stress that "We reject all efforts to impose a 21 hour workload on all faculty." And concludes by stating that "We rely on the continuation of the process of consultation between the faculty and the administration for a solution to Hunter College's problems."

OTHER OPTIONS IN A TIME OF BUDGET CRISIS

Paul Kurzman, Social Work, and V.P. of General Faculty

Given the serious CUNY budget cuts underway, the effects on faculty at Hunter College in the next few years could be even more serious than during the fiscal crisis of the mid-70s. With this reality in mind, many creative colleagues have proposed responses, which might be taken into consideration.

Some faculty have suggested that departments might provide attractive options (aside from any the Legislature might vote) for senior faculty to consider retirement, while they maintain a continued institutional relationship through part-time teaching, continued use of their office, and access to core university facilities. Others have proposed discussion of the concept of volunteering by individual faculty to assume additional responsibilities.

Perhaps one of the most interesting ideas was one proposed informally by some faculty at a recent meeting of our PSC chapter. If all other avenues for budget restoration and deficit reduction should fail, faculty and staff might come together to consider ways of collectively protecting the jobs of vulnerable colleagues. Knowing the severe impact of job loss on individuals and families, the notion of pooling ideas (and perhaps resources) to protect the jobs of valued, but vulnerable, colleagues might indeed be a plausible approach.

In a spirit of cooperation and common cause, discussion by faculty on how to protect friends and colleagues, at a time like this, could become an authentic expression of a caring community.

GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT

Cristina Taharally, Curr. & Teach., and Day Sess. Fac. Rep.

It is easy to be generous in good times. It is the lean times that test our ability to be generous. The university has traditionally encouraged and fostered a spirit of generosity toward the "other" through active pursuit of the expression of universal human values, such as equity, fairness, and justice. It is appropriate that members of the academic community continue to reflect this mission, even when the natural tendency in difficult times is for self-preservation to take precedence over altruism. I hope that these lean times challenge each of us to keep the generosity of spirit that characterizes the university, so that we come through these difficult days proud of how we acted towards each other.

PART-TIME FACULTY

Cecile Insdorf, Romance Languages, is the representative of the Adjuncts to the General Faculty and The Faculty Delegate Assembly. Professor Insdorf strives diligently throughout the year to maintain an up-to-date database on part-time faculty. She is an articulate spokesperson for the rights of adjunct faculty and would like to see the General Faculty By-laws changed so that each department/school has at least one adjunct elected to represent his or her unit at monthly meetings. She tries to ensure that everyone at Hunter College understands the importance of adjuncts, especially during this time of fiscal crisis.

1992 TENURE AND C.C.E. LIST

It gives us great pleasure to publish the names of our faculty colleagues whose tenure or certificates of continuous employment become effective September 1, 1992.

Caroline Adkins--Education Foundations

Richard Belgrave--Chemistry

Ying-Chinh Chen--Physics and Astronomy

Bart Constantine--Psychology

Pamela Gillespie--Library

Juan Gonzalez-Millan--Romance Languages

Teri Haas--Academic Skills

Brian Lee Herbert--Biology

Valerie Jaudon--Art

Avi Liveson--Economics

Pedro Lopez-Adorno--Black and P.R. Studies

Sara McLafferty--Geology and Geography

Paul Mueller--Music

Michele Paludi--Psychology

Gary Quigley--Chemistry

Donald Rassler--Campus Schools

Kathryn Rolland--Health and P.E.

Jean-Jacques Strayer--Library

Jayne Silberman--Social Work

Christina Taharally--Curriculum and Teaching

Virginia Valian--Psychology

Leonard Wallock--History

Barbara Webb--English

Stewart Weiss--Computer Science

C.C.E.s

Lila Bergman--Economics

William Mayer--Classics and Oriental Studies

Pamela Wonsek--Library

We congratulate each faculty member on this attainment and wish them a successful career at Hunter College.

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened by the recent deaths of two of our distinguished faculty colleagues. Arthur Harris, Professor of Music, died suddenly on April 7. John Potter, Professor of English and Co-Chair of the Thomas Hunter Program, died of a heart attack on April 11. We are diminished by the passing of Professor Harris and Professor Potter.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following faculty were elected to positions on the Executive Committee of The General Faculty and The Faculty Delegate Assembly: Marnia Lazreg, Treasurer; Jean-Jacques Strayer, Evening Session Faculty Representative; and Maria Rodriguez, Secretary. Newly elected Hunter College University Faculty Senators are: Bernice Baxter, Cynthia Caroselli-Dervan, Susan Neville, Kenneth Sherrill, Pamela Wonsek, and Earl Shaffer (Alternate). Kenneth Sherrill was also elected to serve on the Executive Committee of The University Faculty Senate.

THE FACULTY VOICE is produced by the Office of the General Faculty and the Faculty Delegate Assembly.

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

HUNTER FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR—Charles Landesman, Philosophy, was a recent recipient of a 1992-93 Fulbright Scholar Award. Professor Landesman will lecture at Ben Gurion University in Israel. We wish him success in his work and also ask that he write "home," after he gets settled, to keep us posted on his progress.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE—President LeClerc has announced the names of faculty, who were this year's winners of the Presidential Awards for Excellence. They are as follows:

Excellence in Teaching—Deborah Blocker—School of Health Sciences

Excellence in Scholarship/Creative Activities—Naomi Cohen—History

Excellence in Service—Terry Mizrahi—School of Social Work

We extend congratulations to each one for being the recipient of this honor.

SOCIAL WORK SCHOLARS—Findings of a recent study entitled, "The Attitudes, Experiences and Career Productivity of Successful Social Work Scholars," conducted by Drs. Green and Bentley, Virginia Commonwealth University, ranks H.C. School of Social Work number one among universities employing successful scholars. Congratulations to the Social Work Faculty.

WOMEN' RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND AWARDS—Two Hunter College Faculty, Donna Nickitas, Nursing, and Cordelia Reimers, Economics, were the recipients of competitive grants in women's research at a recent reception. Professor Lila Melani, Brooklyn College, presented the awards.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

END-OF-YEAR FACULTY SOCIAL—On May 20, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Faculty-Staff Dining Room, The Executive Committee of The General Faculty and the H.C. Faculty Club request the honor of your presence at a "lifting of the spirits" and retirement event. If you have not already received your personal invitation, please call 772-4123.

COMPUTERS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM—For information on "A Conference on Technology in the Freshman Year," to be held in New York City on May 29 - 31, contact Max Kirsh, CUNY Office of Academic Computing, at 541-0324.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES—The Divisions of Programs in Education, Sciences and Math., and the Humanities and Arts will hold graduation ceremonies at 3:00 p.m. on June 2. Ceremonies for the Division of Social Sciences, and the Schools of Nursing, Health Sciences, and Social Work will be held on June 3, at 3:00 p.m. We urge all faculty to make a special effort to be there for your students on this most important occasion.

CUNY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS—The Office of Academic Affairs is offering three Faculty Development Seminars for the 1992-93 academic year. June 10 is the deadline for Fall applications for "Balancing the Curriculum for Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Class," and "Publishing in the Academy." Nov. 15 is the deadline for Spring applications for "Publishing in the Academy." Refer inquiries to Roddy Potter at 794-5444.