

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate 6 March 2024

1 The 686th meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:59 PM in HW 714.

2
3 **Presiding:** Sarah Chinn, Chair

4
5 **Attendance:** The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those marked absent in Appendix I.

6
7 Alternate Senators were formally seated in accordance with the procedures approved by the Senate for in-
8 person meetings, and they were enabled to vote using iClicker.

9
10 **Minutes:** The minutes of 4 October 2023, 18 October 2023, 1 November 2023, 15 November 2023, and 6 December
11 2023 will be voted on at the next meeting.

12
13 **Report by**
14 **the President:** Interim President Ann Kirschner's report is in Appendix II.

15
16
17 **Report by the**
18 **Administrative**
19 **Committee:**

20 **a) Special Senate Election for Vacant At-large Seats**

21 In accordance with Article IV, 2H i & ii of the Charter for a Governance of Hunter College, the
22 Administrative Committee is presenting the names of all nominees received to date:

23
24 Faculty: Frederick Rogals (Classical & Oriental Studies)
25 At-Large: Susan Barile (English)
26 Student: Ariana McNab (Media Studies)

27
28 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees.
29 The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

30
31 **b) Approved Curriculum Changes**

32 The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached reports Part I and II dated 6 March
33 2024 have been approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for the Senate's information.
34 Items: US-2596 Arts & Sciences (Routine Deregistration of a Program), US-2605 Romance
35 Languages/Italian (New course), US-2600 Film & Media (Change in courses, Add to HCR), US-
36 2602 Film & Media (New courses, Add to P&D/C), US-2603 Film & Media (Change in degree
37 program), US-2604 Film & Media (Change in degree program), US-2597 History (Change in
38 Degree Program), US-2463B Curriculum & Teaching (New courses), US-2597 History (Change
39 in Degree Program), GS-1594 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in degree program), US-
40 2608 Political Science (Change in degree program), US-2614 Political Science (Adding MOI),
41 US-2615 Political Science (New course, Add W), US-2609 Women & Gender Studies (New
42 course, Add Ins, P&D/A, Crosslisting), US-2610 Women & Gender Studies (New course, Add
43 Ins, P&D/A, Crosslisting), US-2611 Art & Art History (Change in degree program), US-2612
44 Art & Art History (New courses), US-2613 History (Adding MOI), GS-1589 Curriculum &
45 Teaching (New degree program), GS-1592 Curriculum & Teaching (Change in degree program),
46 GS-1591 Special Education (New degree program), GS-1593 Urban Policy and Planning
47 (Change in degree program), GS-1600 Urban Policy and Planning (Change in degree program),
48 GS-1594 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in degree program), GS-1595/US-2598
49 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in degree program), GS-1596/US-2599 Mathematics and
50 Statistics (Change in degree program), GS-1597 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in course),
51 GS-1598 Mathematics and Statistics (New courses), and GS-1599 School of Social Work
52 (Change in courses).

57 c) **FGL Statement in Response to EVC Hensel's Cost Savings Memo**

58 Chair Chinn said the following:

59
60 “I am just going to mention in brief right now because we will talk more about it at our meeting
61 on the 20th. So, some people may be aware that there was a memo that came down from CUNY
62 Central officially from the Executive Vice President, Wendy Hensel (thus, named the Hensel
63 memo), about budget cuts around CUNY. The memo identified nine “Colleges of concern.” I
64 would like to reassure everyone that Hunter is not one. We are doing comparatively well. By the
65 metrics that EVC Hensel wants us to measure ourselves, we are doing very well. But I know that
66 this has been an issue that came up at the University Faculty Senate. It came up at the Faculty
67 Delegate Assembly here. The Faculty Governance Leaders meet separately: all the leadership of
68 the various faculty organizations and college Senates meet once a month, and we talked a lot
69 there. Several people of the FGL leadership drafted a letter which everyone looked at, which we
70 now approved and sent to CUNY Central, governance and all over the place. So, you should have
71 received a copy of the memo and a copy of the FGL response. But it was only a few days ago,
72 so we want to give people plenty of time to look them over and then have a discussion next time.
73 If you accidentally deleted it, that is fine. Just let the Senate Office know, and we can resend
74 because we want to have a robust discussion next time around. Again, I will reassure everyone
75 that as of now the measures that were suggested in the memo do not apply to Hunter, but they
76 apply to nine other Colleges. Some people may know that some moves were made at the
77 beginning of this semester to let people go at a very short notice at a couple of different colleges,
78 which is also part of the response to that.”
79

80 **Committee**
81 **Reports:**

82 **Committee on the Budget**

83 Chair Chinn invited Professor Gina Riley, Chair of the Committee on the Budget to present. Professor
84 Riley yielded the floor to Professor Michelle MacRoy-Higgins, Chair of the Department of Speech –
85 Language Pathology and Audiology to present the Academic Excellence Fee for graduate students in
86 Speech Language Pathology proposal. Discussion followed.

87 **Hunter College, Department of Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology - Academic Excellence**
88 **Fees for graduate students in Speech Language Pathology:**

89
90 RESOLVED, that The City University of New York adopt a schedule of academic excellence
91 fees for students in graduate programs in Speech Language Pathology, effective with the Fall
92 2024 semester and as detailed below:

93
94 **Graduate students in Speech Language Pathology**

95 Resident full-time students: \$500 per semester
96 Non-Resident full-time students: \$500 per semester
97

98
99 Chair Chinn asked if there was an objection to passing the proposal by unanimous consent. There was
100 an objection.

101
102 Because some voting members had technical difficulties with iClicker, Chair Chinn decided to conduct
103 voting by roll call. Voting by roll call produced the following results: 60 in favor, zero against, and zero
104 abstentions. The Resolution was approved.
105

106
107 **Graduate Course of Study & Academic Requirements Committee**

108 Chair Chinn called on Professor Peggy Chen, co-Chair of the Graduate Course of Study and Academic
109 Requirements Committee, to present the Resolution Requesting the Inclusion in the Subject Table of the
110 Weighted Instructional Unit (WIU). Questions and discussion followed.
111
112

117 **Resolution Requesting the Inclusion in the Subject Table of the Weighted Instructional Unit**
118 **(WIU) Message Course at Hunter College for Graduate and Doctoral students.**
119

120
121 WHEREAS, the Weighted Instructional Unit (WIU) message course has demonstrated its utility
122 in facilitating full-time academic engagement for students at the Graduate Center of the City
123 University of New York (CUNY);
124

125 WHEREAS, Hunter College recognizes the importance of providing flexibility for students
126 completing full-time academic requirements, including those who are not matriculated or
127 carrying an insufficient credit load, to access financial aid and other crucial resources such as
128 loan deferment;
129

130 WHEREAS, the WIU has proven to be an effective mechanism for enabling students to qualify
131 for financial aid and access essential resources, ensuring equitable opportunities for academic
132 success and promoting retention and graduation;
133

134 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Hunter College to be able to offer the WIU message
135 course to its graduate and doctoral level students;
136

137 BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
138

- 139 1. The City University of New York (CUNY) is hereby requested to add the Weighted
140 Instructional Unit (WIU) message course to Hunter College's subject table, allowing
141 graduate and doctoral level students to enroll.
142
- 143 2. The minimum and maximum units for the WIU shall be set at zero (0), providing the College
144 with the flexibility to utilize the course as needed to provide full-time status for students.
145
- 146 3. The Academic Progress Units associated with the WIU shall be equal to one (1), to allow
147 the Registrar to set the appropriate range of credits in each student circumstance.
148
- 149 4. No tuition fee or Academic excellence fee shall be associated with the WIU message course,
150 ensuring that no financial burden is imposed on students accessing this essential resource.
151

152 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Registrar's Office shall update its procedures to
153 operationalize WIUs at Hunter College determining how students will register for this managed
154 course; and
155

156 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the enrollment in WIU unit(s) is not an automatic process.
157 The Graduate and the Doctoral students in need of WIU unit(s) will make a request through their
158 program director, advisor, or the dean which shall then be passed to the Registrar Office to enroll
159 the students in the appropriate WIU unit(s).
160

161 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect at the beginning of the first
162 full registration period after approval of this resolution by CUNY, allowing for sufficient time
163 for the implementation of the necessary changes and communication to all stakeholders.
164

165
166 **Committee on the Calendar**

167 Chair Chinn called on Professor Zachary Shirkey, Chair of the Committee on the Calendar, to give an
168 update on the assessment of the Bell Schedule.

169 Professor Shirley said the following:
170

171 "As I said when I presented to this body in December, the Committee on the Calendar is working on
172 potential revisions to the Bell Schedule as required to be revisited when the updates were passed several

173 **Minutes**
174 **Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**
175 **6 March 2024**
176

177 years ago. As part of that, this semester we are collecting data. So, the update is that we are going to have
178 two surveys go out later this month. One survey will be sent to students which the administration is going
179 to help deliver. This should be a short survey to keep response rates up asking students questions along
180 the lines of how they use community hours, what their challenges with putting together their schedule are,
181 and things like that. Other survey will go to program heads and department chairs asking somewhat similar
182 questions: if departments use community hours, issues departments have putting together schedules, and
183 things like that. To complement that data, we are going to get data from the administration on room use,
184 day use, and inefficiencies we currently have in the Bell Schedule. Then, the idea is we will put together
185 a report which, of course, will be presented to this body, along with survey results, so that we could design,
186 if any, but probably some improvements to the current Bell Schedule to reduce inefficiency in a manner
187 that works for students and departments. One of the reasons we want to keep the student survey short is I
188 have a strong sense that what works with some students probably does not work for other students. So, a
189 small response rate may skew our responses. You can imagine more engaged students may have different
190 needs than less engaged students who might have other sorts of needs. So, we are quite cognizant that it
191 is important to get a robust response rate.”
192

193
194 **Undergraduate Course of Study Committee**

195 Chair Chinn invited Professor Christopher Mitchell to speak about the process of approving courses for
196 the new Pluralism & Diversity requirement.

197 Professor Mitchell said the following:
198

199 “Basically, we have a process where each of the P&D submission for each course is going to a smaller
200 subcommittee of the UCSC. We have two members of the UCSC voting on each of these proposals in
201 consultation with a member of the GER P&D subcommittee. We are in the middle of that process right
202 now. We have approved, I want to say, over 50 so far. The process is happening in an expedited way. So,
203 please submit those sooner rather than later.”
204
205
206
207

208 Due to the late hour, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.
209

210 Respectfully submitted,
211

212 Sarah Jeninsky
213 Secretary
214

APPENDIX I

The following attendance was noted from the meeting

(A) =Alternate, A=Attended, X=Absent, E=Excused

Faculty					
AFPRL	Anthony Browne	A	Mathematics & Statistics	Sandra Clarkson	A
	Milagros Denis-Rosario	(A) A			0
	Lázaro Lima	(A) X		Robert Thompson	(A) A
Anthropology	Jackie Brown	A		Barry Cherkas	(A) X
	Stephanie Levy	(A) X	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Chad Euler	X
	Milena Shattuck	(A) A		Steven Einheber	(A) X
Art & Art History	Itam Uchenna	A		Muktar Mahajan	(A) X
	Dave McKenzie	X	Music	Michele Cabrini	X
	Chitra Ganesh	(A) X		L. Poundie Burstein	(A) X
	Emily Braun	(A) X			(A)
Biological Sciences	Ben Ortiz	A	School of Nursing	Carolyn Sun	X
	Jesus Angulo	A		William Samuels	A
	Paul Feinstein	(A) X		Stephen Yermal	A
	Carmen Melendez	(A) X		Deidre O'Flaherty	(A) X
Chemistry	Gabriela Smeureanu	A	Philosophy	Laura Keating	A
	Nancy Greenbaum	(A) X		Daniel Harris	(A) X
	Brian Zeglis	(A) X		Omar Dahbour	(A) A
	Nadya Kobko-Litskevitch	X	Physics & Astronomy	Kelle Cruz	A
Classical & Oriental Studies	Yasha Klots	A		Yuhang Ren	(A) X
	Frederick Rogals	(A) A		Ying-Chih Chen	(A) X
	Doron Friedman	(A) X	Political Science	Lina Newton	X
Computer Science	Justin Tojeira	A		Charles Tien	(A) X
	Raj Korpan	(A) A		Michael Lee	(A) A
	Saptarshi Debroy	X	Psychology	Roseanne Flores	A
	William Sakas	(A) X		Darlene DeFour	X
Curriculum & Teaching	Edgar Troudt	X		Glenn E Schafe	(A) A
	Stephen Demeo	A	Physical Therapy	Peter Serrano	(A) X
	Maverick Zhang	(A) A		Jaya Rachwani	A
	Tim Farnsworth	X		Milo Lipovac	(A) X
Dance	Maura Donohue	X	Romance Languages	Chad Woodard	(A) X
	Ana Nery Fragoso	(A) X		Magdalena Perkowska	A
	David Capps	(A) X		Monica Calabritto	(A) X
Economics	Tim Goodspeed	X	School of Social Work	Julie Van Peteghem	(A) X
	Michelle Liu	A		Jonathan Prince	A
	Kenneth McLaughlin	(A) A		George Patterson	X
	Avi Liveson	(A) X		Marina Lalayants	(A) X
Educational Foundations & Counseling Programs				Keith Chan	(A) X
	Sarah Bonner	(A) X	Sociology	Mark Halling	A
	John Keegan	(A) A		Mike Benediktsson	(A) X
English	Sarah Chinn	A	Special Education	Michaela Soyer	(A) X
	Angie Reyes	X		Salvador Ruiz	A
	Mark Miller	A		Melissa Jackson	(A) X
	Janet Neary	(A) A		Kathryn Furlong	(A) A
Film & Media Studies	Larry Shore	A	SLPA	Donald Vogel	A
				Nancy Eng	(A) A
	Tami Gold	(A) X		JungMoon Hyun	(A) A
	Gustavo Mercado	(A) X	Theatre	Louisa Thompson	X
Geography & Environmental Scien	Allan Frei	A			0
	William Solecki	(A) X		Claudia Orenstein	(A) A
	Sun Shipeng	(A) X	Urban Policy and Planning	Lily Baum Pollans	A
German	Christina Mekonen	A		Victoria Johnson	(A) X
	Elke Nicolai	(A) X		vacant	(A)
	Aine Zimmerman	(A) A	Nutrition and Public Health*	Susan Cardenas	A
History	D'Weston Haywood	X		Khursheed Navder	(A) A
	Manu Bhagavan	(A) X		Steven Trasino	(A) X
	Aaron Welt	A	Women & Gender Studies	Jennifer Gaboury	A
Library	Iris Finkel	A		Catherine Raissiguier	(A) X
	Ajatshatru Pathak	A		Rupal Oza	(A) X
	Mee' Len Hom	(A) A			
		(A)			

At-Large, Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty			
Students			
Nicole Palmetto	A	Student Services	Burhan Siddiqui A
Ariadna Pavlidis-Sanchez	A	Library	Luis Roldan (A) X
Aysha Khan	A	English	Jocelyn Berger-Barera A
Ronette Johnson	X	Psychology	Donna Paparella X
Olivia Massey	X	Social Work	Stefan Schlussman A
Lorraine Santana	A	Medical Lab Science	James Mandiberg X
Ermina Chowdhury	A	Religion	Hongxing Li X
Viet Thanh Phan	X	Political Science	Wendy Raver A
Veronica Witkowski	A	English	Rosa Squillacote X
Ariana McNab	A	Special Education	Susan Barile X
			Gina Riley A
			0 vacant
		THHP	Sarah Jeninsky A
		Art & Art History	Peter Dudek X
Ex-Officio			
		President, USG	Bushir Juwara A
		Vice President, GSA	0
		President Alumni Association	Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey X
		President, HEO Forum	Denise Lucena-Jerez X
		President, CLT Council	Amy Jeu X
ADMINISTRATION			
Senators:			
		HBO/CLA Representative	Irina Ostrozhnyuk X
		Vice President for Student Affairs	Eija Ayravainen A
		Provost	Manoj Pardasani X
		Dean, School of Arts & Sciences	Andrew Polsky A
		Dean of Education	Jennifer Tuten A
Alternate Senators (3):			
		Dean of Social Work	Mary Cavanaugh X
		General Counsel & Dean of Faculty	0
		Dean of Nursing	Ann Marie Mauro A

APPENDIX II

“What a rainy, dismal day! But a rainy, dismal day in New York is better than a rainy, dismal day in Albany which is where I was yesterday. Yesterday, the CUNY college presidents and deans went to meet the legislators from the State Assembly who are also from Manhattan. There was a conversation about CUNY’s pressing needs, particularly focusing on covering the labor costs. I was actually pleased by the attention of the lawmakers and their sense of the importance of public higher education in general and CUNY in particular in supporting the 225,000 students at CUNY. I really liked what Assemblymember Alex Bores said. He is a 2009 Hunter High School graduate and his district includes Hunter. He said nobody does what CUNY does. I thought that was a pretty good slogan. I had my two minutes with the legislators and focused on education and healthcare because we contribute to the city in those two areas. I also focused on the quality of our faculty and our students, and how many of our students stay in New York and are part of the economic health of New York. I met with quite a few of the elected leaders afterward one on one. I met with State Senator Toby Stavisky. She is the chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. She is a huge supporter of CUNY and Hunter, as is Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and State Senator Liz Krueger. Then, I had a conversation with Assembly Member Clyde Vanel who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Internet and New Technology. We talked about the importance of the Governor’s initiative with AI, which brings CUNY and a number of other colleges into our special focus on AI for New York State. I am really happy that I have seen more and more of our faculty already engaged in this area, both around pedagogy, but also around how we can start to think about using AI for things like student advising, not to replace human beings but to supplement what they do to help scale our advising efforts. I also spent some time with Assembly Member Harvey Epstein whose district encompasses the Brookdale campus. He is very focused on students at Brookdale and on dorm space. We talked about the fact that the students would stay in the Brookdale dorms until June 2025 and that we are very focused on looking at alternatives for students. Our task force on student housing has already met. CUNY as a whole has commissioned a consultant report that is going to get to the Chancellor in a week or so and eventually will make its way to us, so we can think about what they are doing for Hunter students in the context of what they are doing for CUNY students overall. I went to tour our dorms. We took a field trip to 79th and 51st Streets. Let me tell you those dorms at 51st Street are really something. I think they are pretty spectacular, and what we are going to be focused on is affordable options for our college students.

“I am not going to say too much about the budget. I also won’t address issues of class caps. Manoj will go into that in greater depth. Our budget is stable unlike some of the CUNY campuses that have had enrollment drops and other issues with their budget. It does not mean that we can be profligate. We will be very careful in hiring and managing our expenses.

“I have had the pleasure of meeting with incoming President Nancy Cantor a couple of times now. She is going to be ready to hit the ground running on August 12th when she arrives so that she will be fully immersed in Hunter College. We are providing lots of background on the student body, our faculty, and our facilities. I am telling her about my sense of what Hunter College’s priorities are, which is not to say that she is not going to have plenty of her own. As you have seen from her background, she has deep experience in higher education in lots of different kinds of institutions. She is going to be a fantastic President for Hunter College.

“You are going to hear more in the weeks to come about the efforts of Robert Domanski and Cynthia King Vance. Rob, is our new Dean of Academic Innovation and Outcomes. He is going to be talking to you about a career preparedness initiative that we are calling Hunter Works. The idea is how to get much more accelerated efforts to help our students with their life after college; that pipeline to full-time, really good jobs for our talented, educated, and diverse graduates.

“I mentioned last time the creation of the Presidential Task Force on Civility and Controversy chaired by Dean Andy Polsky. Thank you, Andy. The Task Force will have their first meeting soon. We need this because I do not necessarily feel that we are moving in the right direction on our campus. There are lots of instances I can point to that demonstrate a lack of civility, compassion, and mutual respect all of which I consider to be the essential hallmarks of the college community. I asked this question at our last meeting: “What kind of a future are we building for the Hunter community?” It is really for all of us to answer. We are committed, as I said several times, to free and open discussion about even the most intractable issues of our time. But we are also committed to safety and well-being for everyone at the Hunter College campus. Just as we have discussed the issue of doxxing, I find it unacceptable for us to target community members based on perceived or actual political persuasions, and religious or group affiliations. And so, from my point of view, it is unacceptable for us to have intimidation, threats, or harassment towards any individuals or any group no matter your background. I hope that, with the help of Dean Polsky’s group, but also with the commitment of everybody at Hunter College, we can have some forward movement. I guess I would say nobody has a lock on how to do this. There is bad behavior all over the place, on all sides. I just do not think this is how we want to be at Hunter College because I know how hard this is for many of us. But, I really hope that we can find ways to talk across differences if we truly believe that a university, a college, is a place to have those conversations in our classrooms, hallways, on the bridge, and in auditoriums. I think that is the thing we really have to model, and it starts with all of us, particularly you, the campus leaders at Hunter College.”