

HUNTER COLLEGE
City University of New York
OFFICE OF THE HUNTER COLLEGE SENATE

M I N U T E S

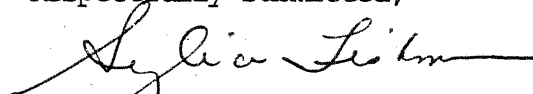
Regular Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
14 September 1976

	The seventy-eighth ^{83rd} meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:45 p.m. at the Playhouse.	1 2
Presiding:	Rena C. Gropper, Chair	3
Attendance:	The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5
Minutes:	The Minutes of May 18th and May 25th were approved as distributed.	6
	The Chair informed the Senate that President Wexler was unable to attend this meeting.	7 8
Report by the Administrative Committee:	Prof. Sylvia Fishman, Secretary of the Senate, presented the Report as follows:	9 10
	1. Announced that the Overflow Meeting on September 28th will be held as scheduled and mandated by the Ombudsman Election.	11 12
	2. Informed the Senate of a memorandum received from the Vice-Chancellor concerning the following resolution which was passed by the Senate at its meeting on November 18th, 1975:	13 14 15
	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate recommend that the P&B Committees of the various departments be given the right to offer each faculty member dismissed on the grounds of budgetary cuts the status of <u>Research Associate</u> which would entitle the person to college affiliation without remuneration.	16 17 18 19 20 21
	In this memorandum permission is requested to reword the resolution by changing the title from "Research Associate" to <u>Departmental Associate</u> .	22 23 24
	After brief discussion it was so moved and seconded. The motion to reword the title carried by voice vote.	25 26
	3. Announced that the Administrative Committee on behalf of the Senate expresses appreciation and thanks to Ms. Meredith Crossman who has been reassigned. Mrs. Iris Stainback will replace Ms. Crossman in the Senate Office.	27 28 29 30
	4. Informed the Senate that during the past summer the Chair was invited to attend FP&B meetings dealing with the Budget Crisis, and that the Administrative Committee was aware of deliberations and procedures in the development of pre-dismissal hearings. She further informed the Senate that the Administrative Committee was involved in recommending persons to serve on the Search Committee for Dean of Sciences & Mathematics.	31 32 33 34 35 36 37
	5. Made the recommendation to the Senate on behalf of the Administrative Committee, that the standard <u>Robert's Rules</u> be followed, and that motions and resolutions be submitted in writing before given orally and be presented to one of two "Courtesy Officers." The Administrative Committee suggested that two courtesy officers be named by the Chair for this meeting, and that the Nominating Committee be asked to select the courtesy officers for future meetings.	38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
	After discussion, it was moved:	46
	that, following reasonable dictates, any motion prior to being voted upon, be submitted in writing to the Chair, so that the Chair may repeat the motion verbally before a vote is taken.	47 48 49

	The motion carried by hand vote.	50
	6. Informed the Senate that item # 5 on the Agenda, the Report on Incompletes, will be postponed to the first meeting in October to provide additional time for consideration.	51 52 53
Report by the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee:	<u>Undergraduate Course of Study Committee</u> Prof. Robert July, newly elected Chairman of the Committee, presented the Report dated May 18th, and moved for acceptance of the entire package. The Report consists of items U-245 (Black & Puerto Rican Studies), U-246 (German), U-247 (Hebrew), and U-248 (Music).	54 55 56 57 58 59
	Prof. Matthews moved that the question be divided.	60
	Following previous Senate procedure, the motion on the floor was acceptance of item U-245.	61 62
	The motion to approve U-245 carried by hand vote.	63
	The motion on the floor was acceptance of U-246.	64
	After discussion, Prof. Bryar moved that debate be closed.	65
	The motion to approve U-246 then carried by hand vote.	66
	A motion to approve item U-247 and a motion to approve item U-248, in turn, was approved by hand vote.	67 68
	Prof. July then moved for acceptance of the Report dated 14 September as a package. The Report consists of items: U-249 (Chemistry), U-250 (History), U-251 (History), U-252 (Health & Physical Education), U-253 (English), U-254 (English), and U-255 (Schools of Health Professions).	69 70 71 72 73
	Prof. Korn moved to divide the question.	74
	After involved and lengthy discussion, motions having been made (some without having been seconded), and urging by Senators that all motions be withdrawn and to go on with the business at hand, it was agreed that the Senate Administrative Committee formulate a standard procedural rule regarding "packages," which shall be presented to the Senate for consideration.	75 76 77 78 79 80 81
	The question was then called on the main motion. The motion to call the question carried by hand vote with 46 in favor which constituted a 2/3 majority vote.	82 83 84
	The motion to accept the Report dated September 14th as a package then carried by hand vote.	85 86
Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee Report:	<u>Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee</u> Prof. Peter Basquin, Chairman of the Committee, moved for acceptance of the entire Report on Plus-Minus Grading as distributed including the resolution: that no change be made in the existing letter grade system at Hunter College.	87 88 89 90 91 92
	After discussion, Prof. Beaujour moved that the resolution be amended by adding the words: "at this time."	93 94
	This amendment was accepted by the mover and became part of the main motion.	95 96

After further discussion the question was called.	97
to call the question carried.	98
The motion to approve the entire Report as amended carried by hand vote.	99 100
(The Report as amended is attached as Appendix II.)	101
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6 p.m.	102
No formal vote was taken as everybody proceeded to leave.	103

Respectfully submitted,



Sylvia Fishman,
Secretary

A P P E N D I X I

The following members are noted as ABSENT from the meeting:

FACULTY:

Anthropology: Daniel Bates

Art: Richard Stapleford

Biology: Edward Balboni
Morris Green
Patrick Cammarata

Black & P.R.Studies: Edgardo Lopez-Ferrer
Mavis Campbell
Jose Perez Santiago

Chemistry: Charles Hecht

Communications: James Aronson "E"

Curric.& Teaching: Elaine Block
Francis Lawlor
Mary Graeber

English: Alan Brick

Geol.& Geog.: John Boylan
Anna Gavasci

German: Anna Gutman

Health & Phys.Ed.: Thomas Burke

History: Edith Link
Pierre Oberling

Home Economics: Darlene Kness

Library: Lucille Bailey

Mathematics: Brian Shay "E"

Music: Sylvia Kinney

Physics & Astron.: Alfred Bennick
John Tigner
Alan Crichton

Political Sci.: Gregory Massell "E"
Kenneth Ericksen

Psychology: Alexander Newman
Rae Silver

Romance Languages: Joan Spitzer

Sociology: Celia Heller

Student Services: Robert Cohen

Theatre & Cinema: Richard Tomkins
Roberta Sklar
Gaylord Cavallero

Urban Affairs: Seymour Mann
Walter Stafford

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Nadine King
Linda Carney
Julia Yeung
Robert Sandler
Anne Benyaminovich

DAY SESSION STUDENTS:

Aida Luz Mendez
A.G. Miller
Rosemary Cacciola
Howard Strongin "E"
Maria Piskorz
Hernando Perez
Evelyn Seda
Susan Fein
Fred Veasley
Richard Van Nort
Jeff Olefson
Bonnie Gardner
Lorraine Kaufman "E"

SGS STUDENTS:

Arpart Fazakas
Jeryl Healy
Thom Burns
Michael Frankel
Harold Pickett
Monica Safford
Frank Werth

A P P E N D I X IIUndergraduate Academic Requirements Committee Report on Plus/Minus Grading:

The Committees have studied and debated the question of changing to a plus/minus grading system frequently in the last few months. As a result the Committees have resolved:

"that no change be made in the existing letter grade system at Hunter College at this time."

In moving to recommend against a change in the grading system, the Committees wished at the same time to inform the Senate of the following facts:

1. Eleven area colleges that use a plus or minus system were consulted. The opinions received were mixed, and rarely gave information leading to a clearcut preference between alternative systems.
2. There is a serious division of opinion in the Committees on the virtues of a change. The final vote on a recommendation was:

	<u>Change to +/-</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Undergraduate Academic Requirements:	2	5	1
Student Standing:	1	1	1

Clearly, while a majority on Undergraduate Academic Requirements opposes any change, no consensus of the Committees has emerged.

3. Members who favor a change in the grading system adduce reasons such as: a plus/minus system gives a more accurate impression of an individual student's achievement; it would be helpful to discriminate a high B from a low B; averages would more accurately reflect students' achievement; the change would reduce the supposed grade inflation.
4. Members who oppose a change give such reasons as: the existing letter system discriminates sufficiently; a plus/minus system would devalue the current B or C grade; no evidence from other colleges suggests that a plus/minus system helps with grade inflation (some evidence to the contrary was received by the Committees); in the absence of a clear reason for change, the inconvenience of the conversion weighs against it. It was noted that Hunter considered going to plus/minus in 1968 but rejected the change.
5. In these times of fiscal stringency, the costs of reprogramming computers and devising new grade sheets and instructions should be taken into consideration. While accurate figures on the costs of conversion are not available as of this writing, it is clear that a considerable cost in programming time and materials would be entailed.
6. Your Committees took seriously the suggestion that some kind of experiment or trial run be held. Two possibilities were suggested: (a) asking some faculty members to report both the actual midterm grade (this semester) and the grade they would have given had a plus/minus system been in effect; or (b) instituting a provisional plus/minus system for the summer term. Various objections were raised as to the practicality of these suggestions, but the overriding criticism was that there would be no way to evaluate the "success" or "failure" of the experiment. Of course, we are capable of giving grades on a plus/minus system, but by what measure can we determine whether such a system is preferable?
7. It becomes more and more apparent that whether one wishes to use plus and minus grades is largely a question of personal preference and previous experience with the system. This being the case, a majority of the Committees felt that to recommend a change for which few felt any enthusiasm and of which most were uncertain of the benefits would be irresponsible, when such a recommendation might well lead to a costly and unproductive change. Consequently, your Committees have acted against a change. They are mindful of the ambiguities and difficulties in any grading system, and will continue to monitor the effectiveness and value of the existing grading alternatives.