

MINUTES

**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate  
27 March 1996**

	The 329th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:20 PM in Room W714.	1 2																														
<b>Presiding:</b>	Barbara L. Hampton, Chair	3																														
<b>Attendance:</b>	The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5																														
<b>Agenda:</b>	The agenda was adopted as distributed.	6																														
<b>Report by the President</b>	A summary statement of President Caputo's report to the Senate is attached as Appendix II.	7 8																														
<b>Report by the Administrative Committee:</b>	Professor Hampton presented the report as follows: <u>Approved Curriculum Changes</u> She announced that, in accordance with the Senate's appeals procedures, the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee will schedule an open meeting to further discuss curriculum proposal US-957, proposal for a new course ENGL 110, because a number of questions and concerns have been raised. The open meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16 April 1996, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM in Room E1042. Everyone who wishes to comment is invited and welcomed.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16																														
	The following curriculum changes as listed in the report dated 27 March 1996 were approved as per Senate resolution, and were submitted for the Senate's information: Item GS 407 (School of Health Sciences).	17 18 19																														
<b>Items Carried Over From Last Meeting:</b>	The following resolution was on the floor:  "BE IT RESOLVED, that the 100 faculty lines in the Governor's proposed budget be funded, or that authorization be withdrawn because of the financial impact such unfunded lines will have; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our outrage at the cynical maneuver that this represents."  After brief discussion the question was called and carried. The motion was approved by hand vote.	20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27																														
<b>Committee Reports:</b>	<u>Graduate Academic Requirements Committee Re: Plus/Minus Grading System</u> Professor William Parry, Chair of the Committee, presented the Report dated 27 March 1996 as submitted.  The following motion was on the floor:  BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate adopt a system of plus/minus letter grades for graduate courses, running from A+ through C, and retaining F for failing work, with the following quality points and test scale corresponding to each grade:	28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35																														
	<table><thead><tr><th><u>GRADE</u></th><th><u>GPA VALUE</u></th><th><u>"TEST SCALE"</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>A+</td><td>4.0</td><td>97.5 - 100%</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>4.0</td><td>92.5 - 97.4</td></tr><tr><td>A-</td><td>3.7</td><td>90.0 - 92.4</td></tr><tr><td>B+</td><td>3.3</td><td>87.5 - 89.9</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>3.0</td><td>82.5 - 87.4</td></tr><tr><td>B-</td><td>2.7</td><td>80.0 - 82.4</td></tr><tr><td>C+</td><td>2.3</td><td>77.5 - 79.9</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>2.0</td><td>70.0 - 77.4</td></tr><tr><td>F</td><td>0</td><td>0 - 69.9</td></tr></tbody></table>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>GPA VALUE</u>	<u>"TEST SCALE"</u>	A+	4.0	97.5 - 100%	A	4.0	92.5 - 97.4	A-	3.7	90.0 - 92.4	B+	3.3	87.5 - 89.9	B	3.0	82.5 - 87.4	B-	2.7	80.0 - 82.4	C+	2.3	77.5 - 79.9	C	2.0	70.0 - 77.4	F	0	0 - 69.9	36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
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It was moved that the new plus/minus grading system for graduate course go into effect for the Fall 1996 semester.	48 49
The motion was approved by hand vote.	50
<b><u>Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee</u></b>	51
Professor Pamela Mills, Chair of the Committee, presented the report dated 27 March 1996.	52 53
The following motion was on the floor:	54
BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The maximum number of credits that can be earned by outside examination for a Hunter College degree be increased from 24 to 30.	55 56 57
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The section in the College Undergraduate Catalog entitled "CREDIT FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL WORK" be revised as specified in Appendix A of the Report.	58 59 60
After brief discussion the question was called and carried. The motion was approved by hand vote.	61 62
<b><u>Master Plan Committee</u></b>	63
Professor Victor Goldsmith, Chair of the Committee, presented the report dated 15 March 1996 which was addressed to the Chair of the Senate.	64 65
He informed the Senate that, following President Caputo's address at the February 14th Senate meeting, Professor Hampton had asked the Master Plan Committee to consider certain aspects of the President's proposals, including College Initiative # 4. Reorganization, item 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.	66 67 68 69
The Master Plan Committee met twice. In accordance with the President's deadline for responses by March 31st, the Committee prepared the report that was distributed. Professor Goldsmith stated that the report represented the consensus of the committee, but that it should be considered a working document. The Committee will meet one more time on April 11th. He requested that written comments and suggestions be mailed to the Committee c/o the Senate Office. The Committee will look at all comments and discuss them before issuing a final report.	70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77
During discussion, Professor Hampton made the following clarifying statement:	78
She said: "It was my understanding that the Committee would share some ideas with the body and that the body would edit the document word-by-word and sentence-by-sentence until it reflects your ideas. This is not something that is being thrust on the body. The report was brought here so that it would generate open and democratic discussion. I hope that you will contribute your ideas. We are all in this together and we must try to work our way out of it together."	79 80 81 82 83 84 85
In response to a question from the floor, Professor Hampton stated that the Administrative Committee had requested that all Senate committees, charged under the Governance Charter with issues mentioned in the President's Initiatives, meet to discuss those issues, and to prepare a report of their ideas which will then be brought before the Senate for discussion by the full Senate.	86 87 88 89 90
After further discussion, it was moved that the report be recommitted with instructions that the Committee hold a hearing so that everyone will have the opportunity to communicate ideas, views, and positions to the Committee.	91 92 93
The question was called and carried.	94
The motion to recommit with instructions was approved by hand vote.	95

<b>New Business:</b>	Professors Sherrill and Hampton brought to the Senate's attention the following resolution passed at yesterday's meeting of the University Faculty Senate, which had been distributed at the door:	96 97 98
	WHEREAS: a Declaration of Financial Exigency sets in motion processes which are destructive of academic institutions, and	99 100
	WHEREAS: the action of the Board of Trustees on March 25, 1996 was taken with short notice, no public hearing and problematic information supplied by the Chancellor and was a violation of the Board's own guidelines, and	101 102 103
	WHEREAS: the process followed is counter to legislated public policy,	104
	THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:	105
	that the Board of Trustees rescind the Declaration of Financial Exigency, that there be a public hearing on the resolution and its supporting data; that there be an April Board meeting, id necessary; and failing these,	106 107 108 109
	that the University Faculty Senate of The City University of New York condemns the action of the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and, in addition,	110 111 112
	that the University Faculty Senate expresses no confidence in the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board.	113 114
	During discussion, and because of the late hour, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.	115 116

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Sherrill, *ms*  
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

**FACULTY:**

Anthropology:	Ida Susser Marc Edelman Nancy Flowers	Special Education:	Marsha Lupi
		Student Services:	Reva Cohen "E"
Art:	Emily Braun William Agee	Theatre & Film:	Jonathan Kalb "E" Kan Koetting "E"
Biological Sciences:	Roger Persell	Urban Affairs:	Sigmund Shipp
Chemistry:	Joe Dannenberg Max Diem	Provost Struminger Schor "E"	
Classics:	Robert Koehl		
Communications:	Peter Parisi Gregory Morris Stuart Ewen	<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Curriculum & Teaching:	Dolores Fernandez Anthony Picciano Nana Koch	Michael Hernandez Diana Fryda Eloise Jackson Cheri Appel Maria King-Schiro Michael Reyes Marva Constantine "E" Ursula Gunther "E" Maureen Lane Thomas Baglione Patrick Soobrian Danira Munari Karen Waithe "E" Hyon K. Kim Mary Ann Dolan "E" Gary Braglia	
Economics:	Avi Liveson Howard Chernick Terence Agbeyegbe Nashwa George		
Educational Foundations:	Linda Perkins		
English:	Karen Greenberg Trudy Smoke Marcia Lipson "E"		
Geology & Geography:	Richard Liebling		
History:	Barbara Welter Bernadette McCauley Marta Petruszewicz		
Library:	Polly Thistlethwaite Kathleen Conahan		
Mathematical Sciences:	Ada Peluso		
Music:	Melinda Wagner		
Nursing:	Marie Mosley "E" Kathleen Nokes		
Philosophy:	Laura Keating Sue Weinberg "E"		
Psychology:	Gerald Turkewitz Peter Moller		
Romance Languages:	Julius Purczynsky Giuseppe Di Scipio "E"		
Social Work:	Irwin Epstein Eleanor Bromberg Malka Sternberg		
Sociology:	Yaffa Schlesinger		

APPENDIX II  
Report by the President

The following is a summary statement of President Caputo's report to the Senate. He said: "I have a fairly extensive report this afternoon, and I want to make sure that we have enough time if anyone would like to question me.

Re: Fiscal Exigency

As you know, the Board of Trustees at its meeting on Monday has declared fiscal exigency. This is the first step of the process involving retrenchment. The second step is for the Chancellor to formally notify the colleges, and to tell us to begin the process. I have not received such notification yet, but I have been told that it is forthcoming. Once I receive that notification I will be in touch with the appropriate governance bodies and others, asking for nominations for individuals to serve on the college-wide Retrenchment Committee. Knowing that everyone is on spring break next week, I am still hopeful that the organizational meeting of the committee can be held before April 20th after I have had a response from various bodies with suggestions for nominations. The entire community will be kept informed of the committee's progress.

I also thought it might be useful if I had a series of dates well publicized ahead when I would be available to the general community, as well as three specific dates for students where they are welcome to come by and talk with me about their concerns. I want to point out to everybody that these dates are not a part of the formal process, but are informal meetings.

The formal process would be after the Retrenchment Committee makes recommendations and comes up with a retrenchment plan. The plan would then be circulated to the general community. Obviously, since the process is starting later in the semester than last year I would hope that we would be able to complete the process in ample time, so that it can be widely discussed in May before the end of the semester. I will have to wait and see what the Chancellor's guidelines are before I can be more specific about that. Look for an Open Line about the time everyone is back from the break. Hopefully, a lot of this will be clarified by then. It is unfortunate, and I think a historical precedent has been set in that this is the first time that CUNY has had two straight years of retrenchment, after perhaps as many as three to five years of very difficult budgets. I wish I had better news than that, but I do not. I wanted you to know that.

Re: Searches

I am going to ask Dean Fleissner to bring you up to date on the search for Vice President for Administration."

Dean Fleissner informed the Senate that the process had started with 249 applicants. The list was narrowed from 8 to 6 semi-finalists. Scheduling was difficult with some candidates. On site visits with Chairs, Deans, Senate/FDA executive committees, units reporting to the vice president, and the HEO Forum should be completed by the middle of April.

President Caputo said: "Dean Gioiella is not here to bring you up to date on the search for Chief Librarian, but I believe that the initial round of candidates has been scheduled for on-site visits in April. That search is moving along also.

Re: Budgeting

Let me bring you up to date on several matters. You may recall that one of the presidential initiatives dealt with budgeting. There is a four-step process involved with the budgeting. That process has begun. Let me explain specifically where we are with that. The various units, down to the department level as well as the administrative level, have been given base budgets which the Budget Office tells us represent what they have been allocated for this current year. In other words, the idea is that they have been given a base budget that includes lines, adjuncts, temp service, and other things. Now they have been asked to do two things with that: (1) to verify that in fact those figures are correct, so that we have some agreement as to what a base line budget looks like within the college, and (2) to add what they feel is necessary in terms of lines and other things to maintain and obtain excellence for their programs. The third and fourth step would be identified as a 1% reinvestment and what would be proposed as a possible investment. Steps three and four have not been asked for at this point. So, if anyone comes to you and says that we have been asked to identify 1% for reinvestment, they were not asked to do that as part of this enterprise. This process will give me some understanding of exactly how far

away we really are from the type of budget that we need. It will be very useful when I make presentations to other groups and other people. It is not just an exercise in and of itself, it will have practical and pragmatic results.

Re: Middle States

I want to bring to your attention this afternoon the fact that Hunter is in the process of beginning the accreditation process outlined by the Middle States Association. This happens every decade, and we were selected by Middle States to do it. It is a process which takes approximately two years. We are just beginning the process. The Provost and I have met with the FDA Executive Committee and the Senate Administrative Committee to discuss the process. The tentative time table at this point is that there will be some organization done this spring. Then there would be a year of self-study beginning in the fall. Then a college-wide report is written that will be broadly discussed. A final report is then submitted to the Middle States and the tentative date for the site visit is some time in October or November of 1997. It is an important process. Letters are going out to the major constituent groups — alumni, student governments, Senate — asking them to nominate staff, faculty, alumni and students for consideration to serve on a campus-wide steering committee which will be appointed. I am going to try to get that steering committee appointed by April 20th. Note that the steering committee is separate from the retrenchment committee. By early May there will be a representative from Middle States on campus to simply meet with the steering committee to talk about the process and what is involved. This is not part of the actual review or accreditation, but simply to explain the process to the steering committee. We will then ask the steering committee to recommend data that they feel are going to be necessary for work during the fall. Then there will be a series of task forces which will do that work in the fall, based on what the steering committee recommends. Once the steering committee makes recommendations I will be back asking for suggestions of faculty and others to participate in the task forces, which will do their work in the fall, with a draft report back to the steering committee by late December. Then the steering committee will have a report by March 1st. We are limited to one hundred single-spaced pages or two hundred double-spaced pages. The site visit will be in the fall of 1997. While these things are never easy, I personally think that this is the beginning of a long and productive process for the community, and I would encourage everyone to be actively involved with it. The entire community will have ample opportunity to participate at various steps in this process, and I would encourage you to do so.

Re: Alumni Chapter Meetings

I want to mention that as part of my first year I have been trying to get to as many alumni chapter meetings as possible, and that I have been to over a dozen of them. I spent last weekend in Los Angeles and San Diego. There were upwards of 50 people at each of those luncheons. You should be very encouraged in that the alumni remain very much engaged and very much interested in what is happening at the college, and very much committed in terms of their support of scholarship and welfare and other aspects of fund-raising in support of the college. Not everyone is friendly to higher education at this point in time, and especially towards CUNY and Hunter. I want to reassure you that your alumni are in fact very supportive, very concerned, and very active in terms of trying both to write letters and bring some support whenever possible.

Re: Internet:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/> is the Hunter home page address on the internet. If you use that address and then click on the President's home page button a variety of things appear on it including the last three issues of Open Line. In addition there is discussion about the college, a series of announcements about faculty and student achievements, and some upcoming events. It is not a substitute, but it is simply a complement to the other things that are done in terms of communication information. I realize that not everyone has access. We are doing the best we can to broaden that access for as many people as possible.

Lastly, before I answer any questions that you might have, I would like to wish everybody a happy Passover and Easter, and most of all a restful and safe Spring break. We have a lot to do this Spring. When you return it is going to be a very busy and a very problematic Spring semester for us, given the difficult decisions that we have ahead. It is very important that we continue to work in a cooperative fashion."

President Caputo concluded the report by answering questions from the floor.