

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate  
11 May 1994

	The 308th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:30 PM in Room W714.	1 2
<b>Presiding:</b>	Kenneth S. Sherrill, Chair	3
<b>Attendance:</b>	The elected members of the Senate, with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5
	The Agenda was adopted with the amendment that the Senate discuss contingency plans concerning the Chancellor and the appointment of a president for Hunter College at the end of the meeting.	6 7 8
<b>Minutes:</b>	The Minutes of March 23rd were approved as per Senate resolution	9
<b>Report by the President:</b>	The following is a summary statement of President Blank's report to the Senate:	10 11
	She said: "It occurred to me that part of what could be worrying people is that I might be continuing my role here, and you may want to think about it. In any event, I do have a couple of happy things to report which should cheer you up.	12 13 14 15
	We have received a \$1M gift from Leona Chanin and her husband Marcy Chanin that will make it possible for us to convert the firehouse to a state-of-the-art language laboratory. I think we can be very pleased with that. Leona Chanin is an old time alum of this college, who has a long history of generosity here and elsewhere. I happen to know the Chanins, and it will be a big pleasure for me to greet them at commencement. But the fact of the matter is that this is something that Paul LeClerc worked very hard on for a long time, as he did on so many other fund-raising activities. I have tried (as a modest good) not to alienate any would-be donors. So, I managed not to alienate the Chanins, and we received the \$1M which is also going to serve another useful purpose. It is going to be the lead gift of what is called the new capital campaign for the Hunter Foundation. So, it does double duty for us. It came in fortuitously to match the amounts of money we are getting from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York State Government. This triangle was what we really needed to convert the firehouse. All in all, it is a blessing.	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
	The second thing I want to mention to you is simply that all promotions have been dealt with. So, that piece of business has been concluded and all of the chairs and deans know all about it. If you need any information, you can collect it from your respective chairs.	32 33 34 35
	I also want to give you some quick highlights about commencement. It goes like this. Two days. On day one, June 1st, the Divisions of Humanities & the Arts, Programs in Education, and Sciences & Mathematics will be represented. One of the President's medals will be given to Michael Meyers and another to Floria Lasky. Michael Meyers is an African American who has stood up under a great deal of pressure to defend freedom and civility. Floria Lasky is the Chair of the Hunter Foundation. She is a lawyer, and she has provided many services for the college for many years. The honorary degrees on that day will go to Leona and Marcy Chanin and Lani Guinier. Lani Guinier—you all, know who she is— will be the speaker on that day's commencement. Then there will be valedictory remarks by three excellent students. The program will altogether last one hour and forty minutes. If you are going to join us, the faculty lineup is at 2:30 in Room 217 West Building. We expect about 500 graduates, and it would be very nice to have a good outpouring of faculty. I hope as many of you as possible will come. It is very important for the students, and they love to see the faculty all dolled up. Wear everything you've got. If you have old service medals or other decorations pin them on.	36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

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On the second day of commencement, June 2nd, the Schools of Nursing, Health Sciences and Social Work, and the Division of Social Sciences will be represented. The President's medals on that day will go to Olga Mendez and Julius Edelstein. These are people who are probably well known to you, who have done great service for the college. An honorary degree will go to Wei Jingshen and will be received by Liu Quing. Wei Jingshen from the mainland of China is the man who has been, and still is, in prison for the last fourteen years. Liu Quing was his colleague who managed to escape. He is every bit as deserving as Wei, and he will be here. He does not speak English and a translator will be provided so that he will understand what is going on. The other honorary degree will go to Hugh Downs, a television celebrity newscaster, who has been very active and very helpful to us and particularly to our Brookdale campus and programs. There will be valedictory remarks from Leslie Burgos. The program length again will be one hour and forty minutes. Faculty lineup is at 2:30 in Room 217 West. Again approximately 500 graduates. Same plea. Please come. You are all invited to both events.

I will just conclude by telling you that Roosevelt House was reopened for the benefit of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club—a worthy cause—and cosmetic improvements were done by a group of decorators. It is going to wind down in a few days. On Friday Sylvia Fishman and Claire Miller, Chair of the Roosevelt House Association, will be officiating over what improvements should be retained and what decisions should be made. It is not as though I can invite general participation in this, but I did want you to know what is going on. I think the general feeling is that we are going to let them leave anything they are willing to leave, because almost anything that may remain will turn out to be an improvement over what we had.

That is my report. I wish you well. I hope you all have a very good vacation and a good summer. You deserve it, and maybe I will see you around here and there before we part."

**Report by the Ombuds Officer:** Professor Giuseppe Di Scipio, Ombuds Officer of Hunter College, presented the following report:

During the current semester, the activities of the Ombuds Officer have maintained a steady pace. There have been a total of sixty-five cases dealing with all kinds of problems. Ninety percent involved students, ten percent the instructional staff. Most cases concerned students' problems, such as conflicts with faculty members regarding grades, incompletes, insensitivity, tension, alleged plagiarism, unavailability, racism, sexism, discriminatory practices or practices perceived as such.

There were also problems with financial aid, students being dropped from courses without being aware of the requirements, registration and preregistration complications, transfers of credits, conflicts of personality between instructors and students, or even among instructors.

I have worked closely with Student Services, the Registrar, the Office of Financial Aid, the Bursar, chairs of departments and deans. It has proved very important to develop a working relationship with these services and individuals in order to resolve problems and avoid larger conflicts. At times, I have had to refer people to the school psychologist and there have been cases that continued for months. I have also worked more and more closely with the Affirmative Action Officer this semester.

The ancillary or support services at Hunter College are very important too. There is a large population of the college that needs assistance; at times, people simply need someone to talk to, even though there isn't always much one can do. At the same time, I have discovered that nothing is impossible at Hunter. There is a continuous thirst for human understanding and a sense of caring.

I have also been made aware that students are often afraid to come forward and denounce inappropriate behavior by faculty members. The Administration and the Chairs know this, but it is very difficult to act when the word of one person against the word of another is involved. That is why the Office of the Ombuds is so significant: Members of the campus community feel that it is a neutral and welcoming space available to them, so that they can at least voice their concerns, even if they do not choose to pursue them to the end.

All in all, however, I wish to stress that I have encountered mostly goodwill from everyone, and for this reason I wish to thank all of those of you who, whenever I call, are always eager to help.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Provost and the President for their support. I also wish to thank Ms. Judith King, my assistant in the Office of the Ombuds, for her professionalism and invaluable assistance. My thanks also go to Ken Sherrill, Chair of the Senate, and Renate Murray, the Executive Assistant in the Senate.

**Report by the  
Administrative  
Committee:**

Professor Sherrill presented the report as follows; 128

Approved Curriculum Changes 129

The following curriculum changes, as listed in Part I and Part II of the report dated 11 May 1994, were approved as per Senate resolution, and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items US-904 (Curriculum & Teaching/Health & Physical Education), US-908 (Asian American Studies), GS-379 (Curriculum & Teaching), GS-381 (Classics/Educational Foundations/Curriculum & Teaching). 130-134

He informed the Senate that the proposal to establish a Senate Select Committee on HIV/AIDS would be postponed to the next meeting. 135-136

**Committee  
Reports:**

Undergraduate Course of Study Committee 137

Professor Joan Tronto, Chair of the Committee, presented the report dated May 11th, 1994. 138-139

The motion on the floor was resolution # 1 — approval of the additional courses that satisfy the Pluralism and Diversity Requirement, as listed in Appendix A of the report and the addendum to Appendix A that was distributed before the meeting. 140-143

After discussion the question was called and carried. 144

The motion carried with 46 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions. 145

Professor Shahn moved that consideration of resolutions 2 through 5 be tabled until a quorum is present. 146-147

The motion was defeated by hand vote with 6 in favor, 26 opposed, 11 abstentions. 148-149

The motion the floor was resolution # 2 —approval of Appendix B, the revised "Procedures for Preparing and Submitting Curriculum Proposals for College Approval." 150-152

The motion carried by hand vote. 153

Professor Shahn requested a quorum count. 154

The required number of senators not having been present, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 for lack of a quorum. 155-156

Respectfully submitted,



Khursheed Navder,  
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

**FACULTY:**

Academic Skills:	Trudith Smoke Janice Montague Phyllis Rubenfeld Jo-Ann Morgan "E" Verna Segarra Willie Wimberly	Sociology:	Robert Carter Terry Arendell John Cuddihy "E"
Anthropology:	William Parry John Oates	Special Education:	Marsha Lupi
Art:	Joel Carreiro Juan Sanchez Emily Braun	Student Services:	Howard Tarragon Reva Cohen "E"
Biological Sciences:	David Foster Ed Balboni	Urban Affairs:	Sigmund Shipp
Chemistry:	William Sweeney David Mootoo		Dean Carlos Hortas Dean Erwin Fleissner Dean Susan Lees Dean Everlena Holmes "E" Provost Laura Struminger Vice Pres. Sylvia Fishman "E" Vice Pres. Barry Kaufman Assoc. Vice Pres. Stanley Sokol
Communications:	James Roman		
Computer Science:	Thomas Wesselkamper		
Curriculum & Teaching:	Alene Smith Anthony Picciano	<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Economics:	Howard Chernick Terence Agbeyegbe Nashwa George "E"		Chris Goeken Lucrece Francois Wayne Wilson Rebecca Perez "E" Danielle Fox Erica Petersen Ana Ramirez Charles Beatty Simon Kamara Meg Bruck Marc Quick Patricia Laporte Hema Sareen Moriah Eskow "E" Heather St. Bernard Yvonne Zaharakis Hopeton Smalling Margaret Chin "E"
Educational Foundations:	Joan Buxbaum Mario Kelly		
English:	Floyd Horowitz		
Geology & Geography:	Richard Liebling		
Health & Phys Education:	Nana Koch "E"		
Health Sciences:	Beth Richie		
Library:	Steve Kowalik		
Mathematical Sciences:	Daniel Chess Norma Moy		
Music:	Paul Mueller "E"		
Nursing:	Marie Mosley Eileen Lahey "E" Nancy Jones "E"		
Psychology:	Gerald Turkewitz		
Romance Languages:	Marithelma Costa Maria Paynter Francesca Sautman		
Social Work:	Jayne Silberman George Getzel		