

MINUTES

**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate  
27 September 1989**

	The 245th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:10 PM in Room W714.	1 2
<b>Presiding:</b>	Jo Kirsch, Chair	3
<b>Attendance:</b>	The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5
<b>Minutes:</b>	The Minutes of April 26th, May 3rd, May 10th, and May 17th were approved as distributed.	6 7
<b>Report by the President:</b>	The following is a summary statement of President LeClerc's report to the Senate:	8 9
	The President said: "Before beginning with my brief remarks, I would like to ask the Senate to pause for a moment in remembrance of George Roscoe, who was one of the most valuable members of this community. He was acting Head of Housekeeping for the College, and was tragically murdered, literally, on the steps of the College in the summer of this year. Those of us who were here during the summer, attended a moving memorial service for Mr. Roscoe. His loss is a real one, and I would ask that we pause for a moment in his memory.	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
	Thank you. I have written to the mother of Mr. Roscoe's children. He left two children, and I have offered full tuition scholarship at Hunter to both should they wish to come to the College. I hope very much that they avail themselves of that, and that through them we are able to continue a tradition of connection of the Roscoe family with Hunter College.	18 19 20 21 22 23
	When I first spoke to the Senate last year, I outlined to this body a set of ten ambitions or goals for the College. A lot of progress has been made on all of them. There are a number of task forces at work on those issues, and I hope to have reports from them during the course of this Fall semester. They have to do with pluralism and diversity, with retention, with AIDS and the role that Hunter can play in fighting the AIDS epidemic in New York City, and they have to do with some other matters as well.	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
	I wish to come back today to one of the things that I said last year. Item number seven in that maiden speech was that all who work and study here at Hunter do so in a safe environment. Environmental concerns are not new to Hunter. I may be new, but before I got here, there was much happening at the College that appeared in the press. I don't need to remind you about the incidents that took place in the North Building with regards to chemicals and toxic materials for you to have a keener appreciation of the necessity of an institution such as this to take corrective measures, and to be ever vigilant about the health and safety of its workers. Since that time we have experienced through the media and sometimes directly in our own lives a series of events having to do with Con Edison and underground steam pipes that seem to be blowing with frightening regularity, and we know that asbestos is also a condition of life in this metropolis. Indeed, there are estimates that about 85% of the buildings in the New York region have asbestos in them. That includes the homes in which we live, at times the buildings in which we work, the subways in which we ride, and so on. In short this would not be New York in 1989 and we would not be here if we were not concerned in some way about asbestos contamination. Unfortunately for us, buildings that were erected at this college prior to 1980 had asbestos used as a building material. In particular that is the case in three of our facilities—the North Building, Thomas Hunter Hall, Brookdale. Asbestos was used, or misused, in a number of areas in all	32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

three buildings. Last year, as part of a CUNY-wide effort to assess the existence of asbestos in all buildings owned by the city university system, comprehensive analyses and location studies were made as to where asbestos existed. This was done by an outside consultant firm paid for by 80th Street.

We should all know that asbestos is a dangerous material when it exists in a certain condition having to do with its ability to move into the atmosphere, which is called a friable condition. If asbestos is contained and exists in sealed areas where it does not escape into the air we breathe, then it is not thought to pose a danger to welfare and health. According to the survey, we have at Hunter a number of areas in which we have to be concerned about asbestos either existing in a dangerous condition, or existing in a condition about which we have to be watchful. We also have conditions that pose no dangers because they are sealed. In the first category we have five rooms. These are: a boiler room at Brookdale, a boiler room in the North Building, a boiler room in Thomas Hunter Hall, the room in which the fire took place in the sub-basement in the North Building, and another sub-basement room also in the North Building. Those five rooms are sealed and they are padlocked. No one is permitted to go into those rooms without the right kind of protective gear, which means a full suit, goggles, and so on. There are strict protocols that are to be followed in terms of the removal of those protective clothing and the destruction when such personnel leave those rooms. In addition to those five sealed rooms, there are some other areas where asbestos can exist in a condition that is not now believed to be dangerous, but which we want to watch very carefully. For instance, asbestos was used to wrap the radiator pipes in the classrooms and laboratories of the North Building. There is no evidence that it is in a friable condition, but I wish us to be reassured that that is indeed the case. Therefore, this Friday we will do air samples in a number of those areas. The consultants have told us that it is unlikely that there will be any friable asbestos, but nonetheless we will do some air samples, and we will make the results of those air samples known to the public.

The State budget allocation to the senior colleges included \$10M for asbestos containment, abatement, and removal for expenditure this academic year. Those monies are not yet available to us because they are to result from the sale of bonds, and the bonds have not yet been sold. We hope to receive about \$2M for our asbestos abatement program at Hunter. The costs are going to be very high. It is estimated that it would cost \$1M to remove the asbestos from the North Building boiler room alone. If the asbestos in the classrooms in the North Building does not turn out to be in a friable condition the best thing to do is to leave it alone. At the same time we wish to monitor these areas and be sure that they do not ever pose a danger to those who work and study and do research in those places.

We are putting into place at Hunter what I hope is going to be a very very vigorous and very comprehensive set of protocols and policies that have to do with environmental issues at the College, including asbestos. The Environmental Health & Safety Committee at the end of last year issued a draft report on such protocols. I have sent this morning a copy of that draft report to Jo Kirsch as Chair of the Senate, and I am seeking the Senate's response and reactions to it. We will then transmit these back to the Committee that is being chaired this year by Bill Sweeney of the Chemistry Department. We will seek input from other areas of the College as well as from the Senate. I don't intend any worker at this college, or indeed any student, or faculty member, or staff person, or any administrator, to have her or his health and safety or indeed those of their families in any way jeopardized by environmental conditions at the College.

I wish to communicate one thing in particular to you this afternoon, and that is that this is an issue that confronts us very, very directly. As soon as the allocation of State monies is made to Hunter we will

move into the expenditure of those monies, keeping in mind always the priorities that were set by the study. We will seek to raise or receive more monies from the State should these be insufficient for our purposes. This is the beginning of a multi-year process at the College. There is no reason for anybody to be panicky at this point, quite the contrary. We have on staff a first rate environmental specialist, who works and reports directly to the Acting Vice President for Administration. If anyone has any concern about his or her safety, or those of their colleagues or students in any space whatsoever on the campus, they should contact Fran Erlitz directly. She has all the equipment, all the capability, and the budget to investigate those areas, and then report directly to the Vice President for Administration, who will report to me on what the conditions are.

I have a lot more to tell you, but I think I'll hold off until a subsequent meeting, because I have to be at a public meeting of the Board of Trustees at 5:00 at City Hall."

President LeClerc next answered questions from the floor. In his concluding remarks the President expressed his best wishes for a very good year. He said: "A lot of exciting things are going to happen on the academic front. We have a brilliant new Provost, and I am absolutely delighted that she is here." He then asked the Senate to warmly welcome Provost Laura Strumingher.

In response to a question from the floor concerning the new system of mailing faculty and staff paychecks, the President yielded the floor to Acting Vice President Barry Kaufman.

Vice President Kaufman informed the Senate that the actual cost of mailing faculty and staff paychecks amounts to approximately \$4500.00. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, Hunter is about the only college in the CUNY system that has provided this service free of charge. He suggested that individuals, or a committee, meet with him to try and resolve the issue in a way that would be considered fair.

During discussion it was moved that:

"The Senate requests the Administration to return to the former method of mailing faculty and staff paychecks at the expense of the College."

The motion was approved by hand vote with 36 in favor, 19 opposed, and 13 abstentions.

**Report by the  
Provost:**

The following is a summary statement of Provost Strumingher's report to Senate:

Provost Strumingher said: "Having now been through the sound and fury of the beginning of a Senate meeting and a few other crises in the last few days, I should like to start by saying that I am still delighted to be here. The first few times that I have been introduced to several of you, I have always had a glass of wine in my hand and you in yours. This is a little more formal and a little more serious. Nonetheless, it is still a great, great pleasure to be at Hunter. I am very excited by the extremely high morale, the intellectual ferment, and the great willingness to engage in debate and discussion that I have seen at this college. It is a tremendous pleasure to be part of an institution where faculty, students, and staff seem to feel so much part of a family. And as is the case in many families, there is a lot of discussion, sometimes more vigorous than others, but always in the interest of making the unit as a whole even better than it currently is. Some of my discussions with students, faculty, and staff members addressed the issues that the President sketched for you last year when he began his meetings with the Senate. We have been talking about remediation, retention, and the role of graduate education and research in this institution. We have also been talking at great length about the special role that Hunter will have from now until the year 2000.

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My own orientation is very much one of thinking about the present and the future simultaneously. In my discussions with many faculty and students I find that we are not only talking about where we are, but also where we hope to be going in the next several months and years ahead. Those discussions have been most fruitful. My early forays into the classroom here at Hunter have been an eye opener. I sat in on a very interesting class this week and learned a lot from the interchange in that classroom. The class was remarkable in its diversity. Younger students, older students, students of many different backgrounds and different levels of preparation provided both an exciting stimulation for the educational environment and also some problems. It is about these problems that I will be spending most of my time. Happily, we have some very remarkable students who have volunteered to serve on committees in addition to their work and full-time student schedules. I am astonished at their great devotion to the College and their willingness to tell us how students feel about issues by participating in committees. I have also met some incredible staff people, who have been at Hunter sometimes 20 years or more. They have told me all kinds of very interesting stories about the traditions of this very special institution, and I am looking forward to working with all of them as well.

My own goals for the next few years are still very much in a formative stage. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with you again in the next several months to outline them much more specifically. For the present, all I would like to commit myself to is building on the strengths we already have, putting tremendous emphasis on programs which are already very strong and doing very well, evaluating those programs where we have problems and working hard on improving those problems, and building new programs very cautiously and in line with the very limited budget that we have. It is my goal as Provost to help with external fund-raising for the College. I know from prior experience that this is possible, and I am certain that it will make a very important difference in the quality of life at the College if we are successful. I think that we have a wonderful student body, an excellent faculty, great staff, and I think we need a tremendous amount of institutional data and institutional research to be able to tell us exactly how good we are and where we have problems. That is something that we need to develop as soon as possible.

Thank you for bringing me to Hunter. It is a pleasure to be here, and I am looking forward to working with all of you in the next few weeks, months, and years.

**Report by the  
Administrative  
Committee:**

- Prof. Kirsch presented the report as follows: 217
- Approved Curriculum Changes 218
- The following changes, as listed in the report dated September 27th, were approved as per Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items US-723 & US-724 (School of Nursing), US-725 (English). 219  
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- The next item of business was the election of Chair of the Budget Committee. 222
- Prof. Saul Cohen (Geology & Geography) was nominated. 223
- A motion to close nominations and to instruct the Secretary to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee carried by voice vote. Prof. Saul Cohen was elected Chair of the Budget Committee. 224  
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- The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Master Plan Committee. 227
- Prof. Rosemarie Parse (School of Nursing) was nominated. 228
- A motion to close nominations and to instruct the Secretary to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee carried by voice vote. Prof. Rosemarie Parse was elected Chair of the Master Plan Committee. 229  
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The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Charter Review Committee. 232  
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Prof. Al Bennick (Physics & Astronomy) was nominated. 234

A motion to close nominations and to instruct the Secretary to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee carried by voice vote. Prof. Al Bennick was elected Chair of the Charter Review Committee. 235  
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**Committee Reports:**

Nominating Committee 238  
 Dr. Marilyn Rothschild, Chair of the Committee, presented the Committee's slate for filling vacant seats on Senate committees. 239  
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The floor was open for further nominations. 241

A motion to close nominations and to instruct the Secretary to cast a single ballot in favor of the slate as presented carried by voice vote. The following were elected: 242  
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Undergraduate Course of Study Committee 245

Faculty from Humanities & Arts: Jane Roos (Art) 246

Faculty from Sciences & Math: Bill Grossman (Chemistry) 247

Graduate Course of Study Committee 248

Faculty Alternate: Tamara Green (Classics) 249

Graduate Academic Requirements Committee 250

Faculty from Humanities & Arts: Tom Mader (Communications) 251

Faculty from Health Sciences: Lynne Clark 252

Student: Guy Conti (Graduate) 253

Committee on the Budget 254

Student Joan Winkfield (Comm.) Day 255

Committee on the Calendar 256

Faculty from Education Rena Subotnik (Educ. Foundations) 257

Faculty Alternate: Helene Sherman (Academic Skills) 258

Advisory Committee on the Library 259

Faculty Alternate: John Holm (English) 260

Committee on Evaluation of Teaching 261

Faculty: Joanna Hofmann (Nursing) 262

Students: Allison Hattan (Geol./Chem.) 263

Dynnah Barthold (Psychology) 264

**Old Business:**

Prof. Kirsch presented the two alternative proposals for Senate meeting schedules for Spring 1990 as distributed. 265  
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After discussion, Prof. Matthews moved that: "Senate meetings be held on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, or as close as possible to that time depending on the availability of the meeting room." 267  
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The motion was approved by hand vote. 270

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM. 271

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Mayer,  
 Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

**FACULTY:**

Academic Skills: Marilyn Daley-Weston "E"  
Anthropology: John Oates  
Art: Wayne Dynes  
Biology: Ezra Shahn "E"  
Chemistry: Angelo Santoro  
Jeff Wijnen  
Classics: Alex Alexander  
Communications: Fulton Ross "E"  
Computer Science: Eric Schweitzer  
Economics: Howard Chernick  
Educational Foundations: Marvin Wayne  
English: John Holm "E"  
Sybil Brinberg  
Geology & Geography: Richard Liebling  
Sara McLafferty  
German: Dorothy James "E"  
Health Sciences: Jack Caravanos  
Jan Edwards  
History: James Harrison  
Mathematics: Daniel Chess  
Sandra Clarkson  
Music: Robert Montesi  
Nursing: Eileen Lahey "E"  
Philosophy: Sue Weinberg  
Political Science: Ken Ericksen  
Carolyn Somerville  
Rosalind Patchesky  
Vincent Tirelli  
Psychology: Sam Korn "E"  
Romance Languages: Alex Szogyi  
Social Work: Judith Rosenberger  
Sociology: Robert Carter  
Charles Green  
Special Education: Marsh Smith-Lewis  
Theatre & Film: Ellen Sumter  
Dan Koetting  
Urban Affairs: Stanley Moses  
William Milzarsky

**STUDENTS:**

Blaise Hancock  
John Nilsen  
Dennis Bianco  
Andrew Dell'Olio  
Shannon Gibney  
Keisha Gaither  
Sandra Maxwell  
Gus Karistinos  
Simon Campbell  
Beatrice Vides  
Michael Hewitt  
Rick Rozos  
Francis Quilang  
Prem Isaac  
Evan Lazarus  
Christopher Burns  
Wayne Hodge  
Lucia Sternberg "E"  
Constance Simmons  
Raymond Dash  
Estelle Sauerstrom "E"  
Kim Ray  
Adria Quinones  
Mark Windley  
Jey-Chin Chu  
Guy Conti  
Norma Moy  
Lisa Brody  
Rudolph Gianaccia  
Teresa Forte  
Evelyn Li  
Dragan Milanovic "E"  
Olga Pajovic