

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate 19 February 2020

The 635th meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:54 PM in HW room 714.

Presiding: Laura S. Keating, Chair

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

Alternate Senators were formally seated in accordance with the procedures approved by the Senate, and clickers were distributed to them.

Report by the President President Raab's report is in Appendix II.

Report by the Administrative Committee:

a) Special Senate Election for Vacant At-large Seats

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

Faculty: Gina Riley (Special Education)
Peter Dudek (Art & Art History)

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees.

The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

b) Approved Curriculum Changes

The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached Report dated 19 February 2020 have been approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for the Senate's information: Items: US-2345 Mathematics & Statistics (Change in courses), US-2351 Nutrition (Routine changes in course).

c) Election of Vice Chair

The floor was open for nominations for Vice Chair of the Senate.

The following were nominated:

Naho Hirohata (English, Human Rights)
Nibras Ahmed (Economics and Human Biology)
Dorothy Slater (Political Science)

Candidates' statements are in Appendix III.

Tellers were appointed and written ballots were distributed.

While awaiting the results of voting by written ballot, the Senate moved on to the next item of the business.

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57 d) **Resolution for Consideration by the Senate on the Governance of Programs and**
58 **Interdisciplinary Structures**

59 Professor Keating asked for permission to appoint Tony Doyle, Parliamentarian as a temporary
60 Chair while the Resolution was being debated. There were no objections.

61 Professor Keating read the Resolution into the record (Appendix IV). Discussion and debate
62 followed.

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64 The question to adopt the Resolution was called and carried.

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66 The clicker vote produced the following results: 86 in favor, two against and one abstention.

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68 The Resolution passed.
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71 **Announcement of Election Results for Vice Chair**

72 **Number of votes needed for election: 46**

73 Naho Hirohata: 23

74 Nibras Ahmed: 37

75 Dorothy Slater: 29

76 1 void
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78 There was a motion to continue the election with top two candidates.

79 The question was called and carried.

80 The motion carried by voice vote.
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82 **Election Results for Vice Chair – Second round**

83 **Number of votes needed for election: 42**

84 Nibras Ahmed: 41

85 Dorothy Slater: 40

86 1 abstention
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88 **Election Results for Vice Chair – Third round**

89 **Number of votes needed for election: 34**

90 Nibras Ahmed: 35

91 Dorothy Slater: 37
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93 Due to discrepancy between the number of paper ballots collected (72) and the number of
94 Senators present (67), there was a motion to repeat the election with top two candidates at the
95 next Senate meeting.
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97 There was an amendment to the motion to include all three candidates in the election at the next
98 Senate meeting.

99 The question was called and carried.

100 The motion carried by voice vote.
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102 The question to repeat the election with three candidates at the next Senate meeting was called
103 and carried.

104 The motion carried by voice vote.
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113 Due to the late hour, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

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115 Respectfully submitted,

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118 Sarah Jeninsky
119 Secretary

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	Bill Williams	A
	Milagros Denis-Rosario	(A) A			0
	Lázaro Lima	(A) A			Patrick Burke (A) A
Anthropology	Jackie Brown	A	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Barry Cherkas	(A) X
	David Hodges	(A) A			Abigail Morales (A) A
	Milena Shattuck	(A) A			Chad Euler (A) X
Art & Art History	Harper Montgomery	X	Music	Muktar Mahajan	(A) X
	Thomas Weaver	A			Jewel Thompson (A) A
	Emily Braun	(A) X			Michele Cabrini (A) A
Biological Sciences	A. K. Burns	(A) X	School of Nursing		(A)
	Derrick Brazill	A			0
	Shirley Raps	A			Cheryl Zauderer (A) A
Chemistry	Paul Feinstein	(A) X	Philosophy	Jin Young Seo	(A) A
	Maria Pereira	(A) X			So-Hyun Park (A) A
	Gabriela Smeureanu	A			Laura Keating (A) A
Classical & Oriental Studies	Nancy Greenbaum	(A) A	Physics & Astronomy	Frank Kirkland	(A) A
	Manashi Chatterjee	(A) A			Omar Dahbour (A) A
	David Petrain	A			Kelle Cruz (A) X
Computer Science	Leah Garrett	(A) X	Political Science		(A) A
	Lawrence Kowerski	(A) A			John Wallach (A) A
	Anita Raja	A			Sanford Schram (A) A
Curriculum & Teaching	Felisa Vazquez-Abad	(A) X	Psychology	Michael Lee	(A) A
		(A)			Roseann Flores (A) A
	Lacey Peters	A			Jonathon Rendina (A) X
Dance	Karen Koellner	A	Physical Therapy	Peter Moller	(A) X
	Debbie Sonu	(A) A			Chris Braun (A) X
	Christine Rosalia	X			Nicki Silberman (A) X
Economics	Kathleen Isaac	A	Romance Languages	Thomas Holland	(A) X
	Lori Brungard	(A) X			(A) X
		(A)			Paolo Fasoli (A) A
Educational Foundations & Couns	Randall Filer	X	School of Social Work	Magdalena Perkowska	(A) A
	John Quiang Li	X			Julie Van Peteghem (A) A
	Tim Goodspeed	(A) X			Alexis Jemal (A) X
English	Avi Liveson	(A) A	Sociology	Anna Ortega-Willam	X
	Goeum Na	X			Jonathan Prince (A) X
	John Ranellucci	(A) A			Ilze Earner (A) X
Film & Media Studies	Amanda Crowell	(A) X	Special Education	Mark Halling	(A) A
	Sarah Chinn	A			Mike Benediktsson (A) A
	Amy Robbins	A			Michaela Soyler (A) A
Geography	Chong Chon-Smith	X	SLPA	Virginia Gryta	(A) A
	Janet Neary	(A) A			Kristen Hodnett (A) A
	Tami Gold	A			Sari Gupta (A) X
German	Martin Lucas	(A) X	Theatre	Donald Vogel	(A) A
	Larry Shore	(A) A			Nancy Eng (A) A
	Ines Miyares	E			JungMoon Hyun (A) A
History	Shipeng Sun	(A) X	Urban Policy and Planning	Louisa Thompson	(A) A
		(A)			Jonathan Kalb (A) A
	Elke Nicolai	A			Claudia Orenstein (A) A
Library	Eckhard Kuhn-Osius	(A) A	School of Urban Public Health	Lily Baum Pollans	(A) A
	Lisa Marie Anderson	(A) A			Victoria Johnson (A) X
	Eduardo Contreras	A			Matthew Lasner (A) X
Women & Gender Studies		0 (A)	Women & Gender Studies	Phil Alcabas	(A) A
	Jill Rosenthal	A			Susan Cardenas (A) A
	Sarah Ward	A			Victoria Fischer (A) A
School of Urban Public Health	Adina Milliken	X	Rural Oza	Jennifer Gaboury	(A) A
	Mee' Len Hom	(A) A			Catherine Raissiguier (A) A
		(A)			Rupal Oza (A) A

APPENDIX II

“Welcome back. I just want to start by thanking everybody who came to our January graduation. We graduated eight degrees and about 1,500 students. Eija would like me to remind everybody that students love to see their faculty at graduation. Letitia “Tish” James was our graduation speaker and was incredibly impressed with our students. She gave a wonderful speech. It was a lovely event. I know there is no date out yet on Spring graduation. Eija and I are in very intense conversations with Madison Square Garden which is really the best place for us to have graduation. We had it there last year. We used to be at Radio City Music Hall which was quite elegant. But it is a wonderful thing that we now have more students graduating, more students who want to attend graduation and bring more of their family, so it really is a lovely problem to have. However, to find a venue to seat 10,000 people is quite another challenge. Last year we were able to get Madison Square Garden. I think we had around 12,000 people on the Jumbotron, so it was quite something. We will let everyone know, but I would say to pencil in the last week of May or early June, usually right after Memorial Day.

“Thank you to people who attended and helped create Hunter’s 150th year anniversary party last week. It was really fun. Thomas Hunter came back to celebrate his namesake school. This wonderful woman on the other side of the four of us is a woman whose grandmother attended Hunter College when Hunter was the President. She came back with an original map of the Thomas Hunter building. Her grandmother asked Thomas Hunter, who was President of Hunter at the time, to sign it. He did and she was very excited. That was very lovely. Then, we have a picture of Sylvia Weinstock, a 1951 graduate of Hunter College who started out as a teacher, became a pastry chef, and then became the world’s most famous wedding cake designer. There was a number of people who came up to her and said you made my cake, you made my daughter’s cake. She made that beautiful cake which fed about 700 students, faculty and friends of Hunter College. That was really exciting. We want to thank everyone who contributed names to have a spot honoring our 150 top graduates and alumni for the 150th anniversary. At that event we were able to honor three alumni. At the top is Mitchell Silver. He is our city’s Parks Commissioner. He got his degree in Urban Planning. Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez who is a CUNY Trustee and a commissioner of the city’s Department of Aging. She just joined the MTA Board. We are also hoping to ask your help for another celebration of our alumni, organized by our young alumni. It is called the 40 under 40. We are looking for fabulous alumni who have made their mark and are under 40. We have Vanessa Ruta who is now at Rockefeller University and was just awarded the MacArthur Fellowship. She is a graduate of our Chemistry Department and an incredible star. We have a lot of amazing alumni, and we may or may not have them on our list. We are hoping you will share their names with us.

“On April 4th we are having a full come home to Hunter day. We are going to be asking many of you to join us as we invite all of our alumni to come back to campus. We want to think about events, small lecture, and panels for you to greet and welcome back our alumni. They really do want to come back to see faculty, so we hope you will put that on your calendar and share your ideas with us. We are really looking forward to that. Also, we are very excited to get \$1.5 million matching gift for our 150th anniversary from Leon and Toby Cooperman who funded our library. We have already raised about \$350,000.00 which has already been matched and we are able to receive matching funds for up to \$1.5 million. We are excited about the funds that will support many initiatives here. Finally, we will be publishing an anthology in April about Hunter College’s history which will include chapters by a number of faculty. Virginia Valian wrote the story about women and science, Hunter being the only school in the world to have two women Nobel Prize winners in medicine. Harold Holzer has written a history of Roosevelt House. Blanche Wiesen Cook has written about the Hunter women of the 40s - Bella Abzug and many other leading women political activist of that time. Arlene Alda who is our alumnus has written about our Bronx campus. So, we are working to continue the celebration, and are really thankful to those who helped us with the 150th anniversary, and we look forward to having the April 4th event and welcoming back our alumni. All ideas and thoughts are welcome.

“I want to thank all of you who joined us for the HEO awards. We honored some extraordinary people: Gwenyth Chase, Assistant to Chief Business Officer, Business Office, Rob Lorey, Director of Student Services, Social Work, Michael Medved, Senior Associate, ICIT, Maria Mendoza, Coordinator of Student & Alumni Activities and Community Outreach & Pre-Nursing Academic Advisor, Nursing, Milton Quiah, Executive Assistant to Chief Librarian, Libraries, Elizabeth Wall-O’Brien, Scholar Programs Advisor, Student Affairs, and Paula Wicklow, Internship Coordinator, Student Affairs who has been here for 40 years. Last night we celebrated people who make this school run, who we do not often have enough chances to say thank you to. It was wonderful to share that time with them and their families. It is very moving to be able to recognize their commitment and everything that they do for this school.

“I want to put on your list thinking about engaging and making sure that all New Yorkers sign up for the census. CUNY has a number of initiatives supporting it. Hunter College is working closely with the Association for a Better New York. There are going to be a number of events around campus. I know some of you have thoughts about how we can get our students out in communities to

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engage in the census. We want to work with you. We will also be sending out a lot of information to students in order to let them know about a number of jobs with the Federal Census Bureau paying at least \$20 or more an hour. It could be an interesting experience for students, and again a really important initiative for all of us in New York State. There is so much federal funding that rides on this census, so please engage with us and help us make sure that everybody is counted.

“Also, we want to remind everyone and student representatives here that this semester we are focused on doing what we can to support our DACA students. All of you know that there is a case pending in the Supreme Court which could possibly be a problem and probably be dispositive of DACA status. It is our conclusion that the best that we can do for our Dreamer students right now is to make sure that every student has the opportunity to renew their DACA status before that case is determined. We are providing the resources to help eligible students renew their status. We are not going to leave it up to them alone. We are running fairs. We ran one today where we helped students complete their applications and took the passport pictures they are required to submit. We paid for the postage to help them mail in the applications. We are not going to let everyone walk out and forget to mail them. This is a really important thing that these students could do for themselves right now. We did this for 25 students. We are paying all fees with money we privately raised. In addition to that for the next two Fridays on campus in the student union there will be an immigration lawyer to talk to students who have particular issues with DACA renewal or have question about their eligibility. If any student is expressing concerns, please have them come to the fairs or talk to the liaison office. We cannot do everything that we would like to do, but we can do whatever we can do for our students. Please help us identify students and urge them to come and talk to us. Strategic planning. Because of everyone in this room we had a really successful experience with Middle States. From their report came the obligations to go forward with this new ten year plan. Specifically, Middle States took a number of items that we as a community brought to them as our priorities as part of our strategic vision for the future. The first one was the adjunct experience at Hunter. We have launched a committee that is being chaired by Lisa Anderson and Jenny Tuten. A number of people from around the campuses, offices, schools have indicated interest and expertise in that area.

“We have compiled and created a second task force that will focus on the success of our transfer students. This is also a CUNY initiative now. There is a survey going out to transfer students. We have recruited a number of people from different departments - faculty, staff from all schools to think about how we can improve the experience of transfers. We have done so much better as a community for our freshmen who start with us. Our graduation rate has been going up significantly. When I started, we were at a frightening 35% of our students graduating after 6 years. Now we are at almost 58%, so that is a really rewarding number but it is not good enough. The national average is 60%. We should be there or better. I realize this takes us all working together - from supporting our students through financial aid and advising, supporting our faculty, providing the courses that our students need to graduate to the early alert system for students who are falling behind. It is not one thing but it is many things that are helping move this needle but the needle has not been moving as much for our transfer students. Our transfer populations are coming with credits and trying to decide which courses of study to follow. We as a community need more concentrated efforts to support these students. We have a number of people interested in participating but if anyone else wants to join, please let us know.

“The final committee is a task force on career readiness and professional readiness which are really two sides of a similar issue. The career readiness is more focused on what we can do in our curriculum, particularly our undergraduate liberal arts curriculum to support our commitment to the liberal arts and also think about competencies that our students can learn here, so that they can go out into the job market. With the help of the Economics department, we launched our first Business Certificate at Hunter. We are encouraging people in the liberal arts to add that on to their education. We have an Arts Management Certificate which many of our arts students can take, so that they can have jobs in the arts administrative field. The work we are doing includes Public Policy, Human Rights and a number of areas with a focus on competencies. Another example includes Computer Science. Enormous shout out to that department. We received a \$5 million grant from the City and made a commitment that we would double the number of computer science majors. We have achieved that. We are continuing to support our students who are having great success in internships out in the field. So, those are task forces that are being launched. We are now focusing on creating a new strategic planning committee which will integrate these task forces. We are also looking back at our previous strategic plan to find what is still viable in that plan so that we can integrate it into a new document. We will talk a little more about that as the semester goes on. I want to talk about a few things going on physically around the campus. I am sure all of you have noticed the scaffolding around the North building. There is a lot of scaffolding - some very unfortunate things that have happened on building facades. This scaffolding is actually to repair and replace our North building roof. I know this is important. I have seen some of my friends in the Art department and others regularly worried about the leaks and other things. We have been talking about this for a long time, and we ask for your patience on the scaffolding. It is for a really wonderful purpose of having a leak proof roof in the North building.

“As you know last semester we opened the student union. It is an incredible joy to see it really packed. The students are using the space and enjoying it. We also opened the Zankel Arts Hub in Thomas Hunter Hall which is now a place for students in the arts, our

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new scholars and our office of the Arts where we give out free tickets, advice about internships and a place for arts students to bond. The Zankel Arts Hub is also very popular. We are just about to be finished with the renovation of what used to be known as the Brecher Hall, our main music performance and rehearsal space in the North building. It will be renamed Appel Hall and will open in the next month or so. We are working very hard to launch the connector from the East building to the Baker Theater building and start the fifth floor of the Library. Both of those are fully funded projects. We are just waiting for CUNY to get them moving in the best way we can. One shout out in the arts to remind people who have not seen “Macbeth”. There have been a lot of reviews. The Theater department brought this production here, and we thank Claudia and John for this because students and other people from around the City have really been enjoying this production which is based on high school girls doing Macbeth. It is pretty fascinating. It will be open until Sunday. There are discount tickets for our community, so please let us know if you would like to go see it.

“I just want to spend a minute on an issue that is of concern to all of us which is our current budget situation. We are in a time right now of working through with CUNY, with this legislative and executive branch, where the CUNY funding will wind up once the budget is passed on April 1st. The governor introduced his budget. CUNY had requested \$126 million for new funding to cover collective bargaining, the TAP gap and the number of new needs and general escalating prices that are facing us. The governor’s budget has \$60 million to adjust the \$126 million request. \$35 million of it is from the approved request for a tuition increase and about \$24 million of it is new funding. Right now we, as a collective group at CUNY are working with our State Assembly and State Senator to urge them to fund the full request. They will produce a combined budget of both houses in the next few weeks. We will be able to see where we are. All of us in CUNY, including my office, have been spending a lot of time talking to our local legislators. It is a really challenging budget, and we hope that all of you who were asked to visit Albany and speak to New York legislators will help us continue to advocate for additional funding. There is also a request to the CUNY Board of Trustees by the Chancellor’s Office, independent of this budget, to put through a new fee which will be used to support and expand what we do on the campuses for mental health. Students are going to be asked to pay an additional \$60 a semester which will go to hire more mental health counselors and to support other mental health and wellness efforts on the campus. This request is now in front of the Board of Trustees from the Chancellor’s Office. I think that all of you in this room know that our students’ mental health needs are one of our top priorities. It is an area which we have invested in over the past few years but it is an area that is almost impossible to keep up with the need for. We are trying to really accommodate and address the students’ needs with the student government. The demand is really there. On a positive note on the budget, there is a new program in the Governor’s budget that will provide a 2 to 1 match for private donations for capital funding. If the school were to receive a \$2 million gift for a capital project, the State will provide \$4 million to a total of \$6 million in order to match. We are working very hard to submit to CUNY a very extensive list of capital projects we have funded from donors. We are looking to see how this is going to play out within CUNY because we have millions of dollars that were pulled into the fifth floor of the Library, for example, \$2 million to connect the Baker Building and a million dollars for the Appel Hall. So we have a number of significant capital gifts that we raised, and we are really hoping to take advantage of this project to bring more capital into Hunter so we can do more of these renovations. So, that was something that the governor proposed and again we are waiting to see how it plays out with the Assembly and the State Senate.

“Finally, I want to thank the Administrative Committee. We just spent a lot of time talking about the Bell Schedule. I am going to thank all of my colleagues here from FP&B for helping us get to this point of bringing this Bell Schedule forward. This is a really important initiative. The focus of this project is to increase the number of classes our students are able to take at the times when they need and want to take them and to use our space more efficiently. There is no other goal that could be more important. We know that there are a lot of questions and it involves changing how we have done things before. To remind everybody, the process is that the FP&B approves a new Bell Schedule and brings it to the Senate for the Senate approval. We felt that it would be most efficient in terms of conversation to ask the two committees that are charged with this task- the Calendar Committee from the Senate and the Bell Schedule committee from FP&B to begin their work together so that people could see if they are on the same page and move forward. That committee worked for almost a year last year to come up with parameters for proposed change. I want to give a major shout out to Derrick Brazill for his leadership and Shirley Raps as well for bringing that committee together. Thank you to Derrick and Vice President Lori Mazor for working with FP&B to get us to a point where we voted on proposed new Bell Schedule in the Fall. We now brought that Bell Schedule to Shirley’s Calendar Committee and the Administrative Committee. Mike Steiper, Lori Mazor and Provost Lon Kaufman who are heading this will be available to answer any questions because we understand this is a change. There are a lot of permutations. The goal here is to support students’ success and to provide more class options for our students so they can move towards graduations more expeditiously. We want to do anything it takes to move that conversation forward, and we hope that this would really be a dialogue.

“Finally, I want to end on an issue and on a project we have been working on together. I was very happy to meet and charge the work of the COACHE Committee which is following up on the results of the COACHE study. Those of you who recall, we had positive feedback on the work we have done to support faculty and move associate professors to full professor which have been in

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earlier initiatives that have come out at the last COACHE report. This report suggested that we needed to work on a conversation with our assistant professors thinking about coming up for tenure. Jenny Tuten is leading that committee with a number of faculty from all the Schools to make sure we are providing the support our junior faculty need to reach their goal of tenure. That is also important. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

APPENDIX III

Naho Hirohata Candidacy Statement

Good afternoon. My name is Naho Hirohata. I am in the Thomas Hunter Honors Program and I am majoring in English and Human Rights. I work at the administration for Children Services where I provide research on education policy and child welfare for the first deputy commissioner. Previously I worked at the office of Congressman Carolyn Maloney and am excited to bring the policy expertise to serve the Hunter College Senate. Specifically, I am interested in representing student voices and increasing student participation in the meetings and in teacher evaluations. The way I will do this is through engaging students in the various student groups that I am part of. This includes the Public Service scholars program, the JFEW fellowship and the Roosevelt House advisory board. Thank you.

Nibras Ahmed Candidacy Statement

Good afternoon Senators, Administrators. Thank you for the opportunity to run for Vice Chair. For the past three years, Hunter College has been a home to me and as Vice Chair I hope to be an advocate for my fellow students by contributing to the Hunter community and improving student life. I am pursuing bachelor's degree in Economics and Human Biology. As a proponent of the liberal arts, my interdisciplinary course load allows me to better understand academic student life as it pertains to legislation for off of the floor of the Senate. However, the student experience does not end with coursework or even with the confines of Hunter 68th Street campus. As a student who lives at Brookdale, lived at 79th Street and even attends class at Roosevelt and Silverman, I am able to better represent the diverse campuses that the Senate presides over. These experiences have allowed me to become an effective student leader. As the current president of Hunter's Pre-health mentoring initiative, I have executive experience in dealing with Hunter's complex bureaucracy that I will leverage as Vice Chair of the Senate. Above my qualifications, I hope to use my experience to strengthen the community at Hunter and catalyze a constructive dialogue between its administrations and students. Increasing student participation in the Senate remains a primary goal for its members. Hunter's students are eager to give back to the community and guide future policies. However, I was shocked to find many of my peers are unaware of the existence of Hunter Senate. I hope to inform the Hunter student body of the dialogue of the Senate floor through the creation of a monthly listserv that details the legislation that has gone through the floor supplementing this listserv with the creation of a one credit Senate class for elected student senators and a formal induction process would ensure active participation from the student body. I hope to fill the role of Vice Chair not only in the coming months but also for the next academic year. As a current junior, my capacity to serve on the Senate for over a year will allow me to foster relationships with senators, administrators and leverage my diverse experiences and leadership to benefit the community of Hunter. Thank you so much for your time.

Dorothy Slater Candidacy Statement

Hello everyone. It is wonderful to see your faces. Again, my name is Dorothy Slater. I am pursuing my Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. I am currently a part of the welfare rights initiative which advocates for students to receive public assistance as well as access to public education. I believe that my previous experience being a part of that work has prepared me for this Vice Chair seat because it has allowed me to advocate for students who may not have a voice, and I think particularly at Hunter that is what a lot of students want. I am actually a transfer student, so I especially know what is like to come into Hunter and not know anything that is going on. When I came here, there was a lot of confusion about what Hunter represents and how to go along the ride of particularly knowing not only what to major in but also how to maneuver certain policies that can be confusing. Even when you talk to students that have been here from the beginning, they still do not know what is going on. Since I have been part of the Senate since Fall of 2018, I have been able to get my friends a little bit inside into the Senate particularly what is going on because it is important for them to know, and not be rude to the president of CUNY and all, there's not transparency. I thank you so much and see you in two weeks.

APPENDIX IV

RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SENATE ON THE GOVERNANCE OF PROGRAMS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURES

Resolution I: Ensuring Faculty Governance of Curricula Offered Independently of Departments

Whereas the BOT Statement on the Governance of the University states, “Subject to the Board of Trustees, the faculty is primarily responsible for academic matters, including the criteria for admission and retention of students, promulgation of rules concerning attendance, the awarding of credit and degrees, the quality of teaching, research and the guidance of students, and the general quality and advancement of the academic program of the college. The responsibility for the academic program extends to the personnel responsible for that program and, therefore, includes the selection, retention, promotion and quality of the faculty” (BTM,1971,02-09,001, p.22), and

Whereas, with regard to the academic program of the college, the CUNY Bylaws, Article IX states that departments “subject to the approval of the faculty or faculty council, where existent, and subject to these bylaws, shall have control of the educational policies of the department through the vote of all its members who have faculty rank or faculty status” (Article IX, 9.1.a)¹ and that each department “shall have the fullest measure of autonomy consistent with the maintenance of general educational policy” (Article IX, 9.1.g), while requiring that a department have at least

- a committee on personnel and budget, consisting of five tenure-track faculty, four of whom are tenured including the Chair, elected by tenure-track members of the department (Article IX, 9.1.a and e);
- an elected Chair, who “shall be the executive officer of his/her department and shall carry out the department’s policies” (Article IX, 9.3.a);

and further,

Whereas the Hunter College Governance Charter requires a department’s bylaws to provide for “a department policy committee or committees” (Article XI, section 1) and “shall also provide for the review of curriculum proposals” (Article XI, section 2); and

Whereas through this resolution the Senate is to provide general policy, currently lacking, that would ensure analogous faculty autonomy over credit-bearing curricula including courses, minors, certificates, and degrees when run independently of departmental curriculum or policy committees, and independently of departmental P&B committees (as far as permitted by the negotiated contract and the CUNY Bylaws and Manual of General Policy), and

Whereas, by Article VI, 6.4.b of the CUNY Bylaws, “Except for the appointment of persons whose sole educational duties shall be administrative, all original appointments to the instructional staff shall be made to a department,” and, by the negotiated PSC-CUNY contract (Article 18), faculty evaluation and reappointment to the teaching faculty is to be done through departments, thus,

RESOLVED, That, when credit-bearing curricula, minors, certificates, or degrees are offered independently of departments, they shall be controlled by a unit of full-time teaching faculty with departmental appointments who have expertise relevant to the unit’s curriculum, consisting of at least three appointed to lines bearing tenure (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor) or a Certificate of Continuous Employment (CCE) (Lecturer, Doctoral Lecturer). Full-time faculty on non-tenure or non-CCE bearing lines (e.g., Distinguished Lecturer, Clinical Professor) may in part constitute the unit so long as the number of tenure- or CCE-line faculty members constitute at least two-thirds of the membership. The unit shall operate under unit-approved bylaws that provide for, at a minimum, (1) and (2) below:

(1) a committee(s) whose responsibilities shall include the development, review, assessment, and approval of the credit-bearing curriculum offered by the unit (including courses, minors, certificates, majors, and degrees), the approval of policies involved in the unit’s student advising, and the assurance of the quality of instruction. The committee(s) may be identical to the unit itself or may consist in a subgroup of the unit through election. Full-time faculty on non-tenure or non-CCE bearing lines may serve as members of a committee so long as the number of tenure-track or CCE-line faculty members is greater than a majority, as specified by the unit.

¹ Faculty holding titles of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor have faculty rank; those holding titles of Instructor, Lecturer or Doctoral Lecturer (full time), Distinguished Lecturer or Clinical Professor have faculty status.

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(2) the selection by the unit of leadership to carry out the policies approved by the unit, subject to the approval of the Provost and for a set term. The role of the unit leader(s) should be well-defined. The unit's leadership shall be a member(s) of the teaching faculty with expertise relevant to the unit's curriculum and have a full-time faculty appointment(s) in a department.