

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

1 December 2021

1 The 659th meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:34 PM via Zoom.

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3 **Presiding:** Laura S. Keating, Chair

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

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7 Alternate Senators were formally seated consistent with the procedures approved by the Senate for in-
8 person meetings, and they were enabled to vote using iClicker.

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10 **Agenda:** Chair Keating informed the body that the President would not report today. The agenda was adopted as
11 revised.

12
13 **Minutes:** The minutes of 24 March and 21 April were distributed by email and will be voted on at the next meeting.

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15 **Report by the**
16 **Administrative**
17 **Committee:**

18 **a) Update on Modes of Instruction**

19 Chair Keating said the following:

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21 “At our last meeting, we had the discussion of a draft resolution called ‘On Moving Forward on
22 Modes of Instruction from the Pandemic Emergency.’ After that meeting, the Administrative
23 Committee drafted a rough revision to incorporate the main suggestions and concerns expressed.
24 I briefly presented the project at the FDA plenary on November 17 and there was substantial
25 discussion and many questions raised. On November 23, I attended part of the meetings of the
26 UCSC and GCSARC to hear concerns and take questions and suggestions as well. After
27 considering all that, the Administrative Committee has decided to hold off bringing anything to
28 the floor this semester so more consultation and discussion can be done. In particular, we plan to
29 meet with the Senate curriculum committees this month to talk more about objectives and the
30 nature of the broader framework within which a review or approval processes would occur. We
31 also plan to consult more with faculty and administration to get faculty and department buy-in
32 and to make sure that whatever processes are set up will be able to be made consistent with
33 CUNY’s new course management system. We hope to be able to update you on developments
34 early in the Spring.”

35
36 **b) Update on Impact Survey**

37 Chair Keating said the following:

38
39 “This is the survey mandated by a resolution ‘Shared Governance & Budgetary Impacts on
40 Academic Policy & Practice’ passed on March 10. We sent out the link to the survey on Qualtrics
41 to department and program reps and leadership on October 4 and then again on November 9. We
42 have received responses from 21 of the 42 departments and programs. The Administrative
43 Committee discussed those responses at our meeting today and I will be presenting a report on
44 them at our December 8 meeting.”

45
46 **Committee**
47 **Reports:**

48 **Committee on General Education**

49 Chair Keating called on Professor Lawrence Kowerski, Chair of the Committee on General Education, to
50 present the **Resolution to Repeal the May 14, 2014, Resolution Restricting the Learning Outcomes**
51 **for Courses in the CUNY Common Core Category of US Experience in Its Diversity.** Professor
Kowerski read the Resolution into the record.

56 **RESOLUTION TO REPEAL THE MAY 14, 2014, RESOLUTION RESTRICTING THE**
57 **LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR COURSES IN THE CUNY COMMON CORE CATEGORY OF**
58 **US EXPERIENCE IN ITS DIVERSITY**
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60 Be it resolved that the Senate resolution that established the learning outcomes for Hunter courses in the
61 CUNY Common Core category of US Experience in Its Diversity (USED) on May 14, 2014, be repealed.
62

63 Rationale:

64 In 2013, Hunter implemented the CUNY Common Core (CCC) and the Hunter Focus (“Pathways”) as its
65 general education requirements. In the discussions of how best to map Hunter’s previous general
66 education requirements onto the CCC and the Hunter Focus, the U.S. Experience in Its Diversity (USED)
67 category was restricted to courses previously approved for Hunter’s own general education requirement
68 (HIST 151, HIST 152, and POLSC 110).
69

70 On May 14, 2014, the Senate approved a set of learning outcomes for USED as a guide for departments
71 and curriculum committees. As a result, other courses could be proposed to fulfill USED, provided they
72 met the selected outcomes prescribed by CUNY and others defined by Hunter. This resolution opened the
73 USED category to more courses, but still maintained the emphasis on US History as part of Hunter’s
74 general education requirements.
75

76 The discussions for both efforts emphasized the need to preserve instruction in US History as part of
77 general education at Hunter. The result, however, has been to place undue burden on students to fulfill
78 this category with a limited number of courses offered by a handful of programs. As it stands, only five
79 courses at Hunter fulfill this category, some of which have only recently been added:
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- 81 ● ANTHC 100: Cultural Diversity in the US
- 82 ● HIST 151: US History to Civil War
- 83 ● HIST 152: US History after the Civil War
- 84 ● PHILO 226: African American Philosophy
- 85 ● POLSC 110: American Government
86

87 The bulk of the enrollments in USED is covered by three courses offered by two programs (HIST 151
88 and 152; POLSC 110). With so few courses in the category, the College has struggled to offer enough
89 seats to meet student demand.
90

91 This resolution does not remove US History from general education at Hunter. Instead, it opens the
92 category to a broader range of courses with topics related to US History. By repealing the resolution of
93 May 14, 2014, Hunter courses in the USED category will, like Hunter courses in all other CCC categories,
94 only need to meet the outcomes prescribed by CUNY. This action will create more opportunities for
95 students to fulfill USED while also maintaining their exposure to US history. It will also help to alleviate
96 some of the burden for general education in US history that is now shouldered by courses in only four
97 programs.
98

99 After discussion and debate, the voting by iClicker produced the following results: 51 in favor, zero
100 against, and six abstentions.
101

102 The Resolution passed.
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104

105 **Charter Review Committee**

106 Chair Keating called on Professor Elke Nicolai, Chair of the Charter Review Committee, to report.
107 Professor Nicolai’s report is in Appendix II.
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112 **Minutes**
113 **Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**
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The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Jeninsky
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	Sandra Clarkson	E
	Milagros Denis-Rosario	(A) A			0
	Lázaro Lima	(A) X		Robert Thompson	(A) X
Anthropology	Jackie Brown	A		Barry Cherkas	(A) X
	Leo Coleman	(A) A	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Abigail Morales	A
	Milena Shattuck	(A) A		Chad Euler	(A) X
Art & Art History	Harper Montgomery	A		Mukhtar Mahajan	(A) X
	Reiner Leist	X	Music	Jewel Thompson	A
	Emily Braun	(A) X		Michele Cabrini	(A) X
	A. K. Burns	(A) A			(A)
Biological Sciences	Ben Ortiz	A	School of Nursing	Carolyn Sun	X
	Shirley Raps	A		William Samuels	X
	Paul Feinstein	(A) X		Ellen McCabe	A
	Carmen Melendez	(A) X		Ah-Yun (Emily) Yeh	(A) X
Chemistry	Gabriela Smeureanu	A	Philosophy	Laura Keating	A
	Nancy Greenbaum	(A) X		Frank Kirkland	(A) X
	Brian Zeglis	(A) X		Omar Dahbour	(A) A
Classical & Oriental Studies	Yasha Klots	A	Physics & Astronomy	Kelle Cruz	A
	Joanne Spurza	(A) X		Yuhang Ren	(A) X
	Doron Friedman	(A) A			(A)
Computer Science	Sven Dietrich	A	Political Science	Robert Jenkins	X
	Felisa Vazquez-Abad	(A) A		Erin Mayo-Adam	(A) X
		(A)		Michael Lee	(A) X
Curriculum & Teaching	Lacey Peters	A	Psychology	Roseanne Flores	A
	Jason Wirtz	X		Darlene Defour	A
		0 (A)		Glenn E Schafe	(A) X
	Tim Farnsworth	X		Michael Lewis	(A) X
Dance	David Capps	A	Physical Therapy	Leon Cohen	X
	Maura Donohue	(A) X		Thomas Holland	(A) A
		(A)			(A)
Economics	Randall Filer	A	Romance Languages	Paolo Fasoli	A
	John Quiang Li	X		Magdalena Perkowska	(A) X
	Tim Goodspeed	(A) A		Julie Van Peteghem	(A) X
	Avi Liveson	(A) A	School of Social Work	Samuel Aymer	A
Educational Foundations & Coun	Goeun Na	X		George Patterson	A
	Jeanne Weiler	(A) X		Marina Lalayants	(A) X
	Markus Bidell	(A) X		Keith Chan	(A) A
English	Sarah Chinn	A	Sociology	Mark Halling	A
	Amy Robbins	A		Mike Benediktsson	(A) X
	Nijah Cunningham	X		Michaela Soyer	(A) X
	Janet Neary	(A) A	Special Education	Elaine Gale	A
Film & Media Studies	Tami Gold	X		Imani Irving Perez	(A) A
				William Longsworth	(A) X
	Andrew Demirjian	(A) X	SLPA	Donald Vogel	A
	Larry Shore	(A) X		Nancy Eng	(A) X
Geography	Allen Frei	X		JungMoon Hyun	(A) X
	William Solecki	(A) X	Theatre	Louisa Thompson	X
		(A)		Jonathan Kalb	A
German	Elke Nicolai	A		Claudia Orenstein	(A) X
	Eckhard Kuhn-Osius	(A) A	Urban Policy and Planning	Lily Baum Pollans	A
	Aine Zimmerman	(A) A		Victoria Johnson	(A) X
History	Daniel Hurewitz	A		Matthew Lasner	(A) X
	Manu Bhagavan	(A) X	School of Urban Public Health	Phil Alcabas	A
	Jill Rosenthal	A		Susan Cardenas	(A) X
Library	Sarah Ward	E			0 (A)
	Jennifer Newman	A	Women & Gender Studies	Jennifer Gaboury	A
	Mee' Len Hom	(A) A		Catherine Raissiguier	(A) X
		(A)		Rupal Oza	(A) X

Students

Hunter Moran	A
Aysheh Barqawi	A
Aamna Arshad	X
Nafeeza Ali	X
Ariana Ahmed	X
Ariel Glazman	X
Fariha Uddin	A
Ketia Newell	A
Feda Hammood	X
Alia Isabekova	X
Junia Sharmin	X
Rida Akhlaq	X
Afrin Ansary	X
Afia Abida	X
Vinh Phan	X
Pearl Gross	X
Tasneem Sultana	X
Betty Wu	X
Nicole Kuznetsov	X
Lauritta Gazaryan	X
Rabia Akram	X
Ariela Radonicic	X
Luisais Taveras	A
Nicole Palmetto	A
Alia Codelia-Anjum	X
Amber Javenero	A
Katherine Unite	X
Michelle Ma	X
Avi Mikhaylov	X
Tabia Ahmed	A
Auroa Hom	X
Christopher Orzech	A
Secura Morgan	X
Noa Hacker	X

At-Large, Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty

Student Services	Kevin Nesbitt	A
	Luis Roldan	(A) X
Library	Jocelyn Berger-Barera	A
Library	Tony Doyle	A
Psychology	Stefan Schlussman	A
Economics	Kevin Sachs	A
Medical Lab Science	Hongxing Li	A
Religion	Barbara Sproul	X
THHP	Jerry Press	X
Special Education	Gina Riley	A
Social Work	James Mandiberg	A
THHP	Sarah Jeninsky	A
Art and Art History	Peter Dudek	X

Ex-Officio

President, USG		0
Vice President, GSA	Kamalpreet Kaur	X
President Alumni Association	Barbara Poseluzny	A
President, HEO Forum	Denise Lucena-Jerez	X
President, CLT Council	Amy Jeu	X

ADMINISTRATION

Senators:		
HEO/CLA Representative	Lori Janowski	X
Vice President for Student Affairs	Eija Ayravainen	A
Provost	Valeda Dent	X
Dean, School of Arts & Sciences	Andrew Polsky	A
Dean of Education	Michael Middleton	A
Alternate Senators (3):		
Dean of Social Work	Mary Cavanaugh	A
General Counsel & Dean of Faculty	Suzanne Piper	X
School of Nursing		

APPENDIX II

“Good afternoon. My name is Elke Nicolai. I have been serving as the Chair of the Committee on Charter Review since 2019. The Senate Charter Review Committee is not really on the forefront like the Curriculum Committee, the General Education Requirements Committee, the Committee on Assessment, etc. However, we do exist. What is the charge of the Senate Charter Review Committee? Article VIII, Section 14 speaks to its charge. It says that the committee “shall be empowered to review the composition, structure and functions of the Hunter College Senate and to propose to the Senate amendments to the Governance Plan in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 2.” It is not just the Charter Review Committee who can make suggestions to amend the Charter. Article XIII, Section 2 speaks to who else can do it: “An amendment may be proposed by the Charter Review Committee or by written petition to the Administrative Committee bearing the signature of not less than 20% of the Senate members or 200 members of the Hunter College community.” This is just a piece of information of no relevance to my report but I found it interesting, so I thought you might find it interesting, too.

“This committee has met three times since 2019. The first meeting in the Fall 2019 was a meeting when the committee was given a charge by Professor Keating, the Chair of the Senate at that time. The committee was tasked with scrutinizing the Charter to identify inconsistencies, inadequacies and procedures that have not been followed by the Senate in the past. These may be outdated and need amendments, or if they are to be kept, the Senate would make every effort to enforce these procedures. My report to the Senate in December 2019 reflected the deliberations of the committee at that time. We did not prioritize any issues in the academic year at that time. In the Spring semester of 2020, the committee met again on March 4th, a week prior to Hunter going into lockdown. The committee discussed our findings after having studied the Charter at length. When the pandemic hit, the committee stopped meeting because we were under the assumption that the pandemic would be over soon, and we would be ready to meet in person to continue to work through language, procedures and processes laid out in the Charter. The semesters went by and here we are already at the end of Fall semester of 2021, and the pandemic is still ongoing. But this semester, the committee met on October 1st over Zoom and came to an agreement of what the issues are and what can be fixed easily and what would take up more time. So, one of the inconsistencies that can be easily remedied in the Charter is the number of departmental faculty alternates serving on the Senate. Article III, Section 1 says that “The Hunter College Senate shall have 100 Senators and Alternates sufficient in number to provide two faculty alternates for each department.” Article IV, Section 3 though speaks “Each department shall be allocated one seat for faculty alternate.” When we talked about it in our committee, we were told by the Senate Office that past practice has it that the Senate follows the process spelled out in Article III, Section 1. If that is the case, and everybody agrees, we can unify the language here. That should be pretty straightforward and an easy thing to do.

“The next item concerns a procedure that has been laid out in the Charter but it has not been followed. Article IV, Section 4A speaks about for how long a senator needs to have served in this specific rank, position or status before being elected to the Senate. Article IV Section 4A says “For every such category, eligibility to be nominated or elected to the Senate, or to vote in Senate elections, shall require one full semester of service in the specified rank, position and/or status, preceding the semester in which such nominations are made, or the elections take place.” So, a senator would have to be in that specific rank or status for a semester before serving and voting on the Senate. This procedure has not been followed for quite a while, maybe even for a decade or two. The question is now: should we want to tackle this? Should we want to say this rule has still some importance? If it has significance, we should follow it. Or if we think it is of less importance or no importance at all, then we might strike this. So, that is the second item that we identified as an easier task to tackle.

“I would like to speak about the constituencies that are represented on the Senate: faculty, students and administration. In regards to faculty, there was one comment that was made in the Charter Review Committee about transparency in regards to departments gaining or losing a senator. It is specified in the Charter that 44% of the faculty senators are elected by departments. Departmental elections happen in May, and the names of the elected senators are forwarded to the Senate. However, sometimes you hear from faculty “Our department lost a senator” or “Our department gained a senator”, and you wonder why that is. This happens because departments shrink or departments expand. So, there should be some transparency from year to year to see how the composition of senators changes from department to department over the academic year. The issue was brought up in the committee, and we would just like to share this with you.

“The next item on the committee’s agenda is the composition of the Senate Administrative Committee as it is also linked to the Evening Council. I have been serving on the Senate Charter Review since 2016 or so. I heard about the issue with the Evening Council back then. It is one of 21 standing committees in the Senate. The issue with the Evening Council is that it was brought into the governance plan of the Charter because it existed even before the governance Charter was written in 1971. The Evening Council has been dormant for a while because college life and scheduling simply do not seem to make that distinct entity necessary anymore. There is no longer a clear division between students attending classes during the day and those attending classes at night. There have

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been several attempts to deal with the Evening Council one way or another in the past. One could replace it with something else that would make more sense. Some circulated the idea of a committee on campus life or something along those lines. One could not simply dissolve it because the Chair of the Evening Council has a seat on the Senate Administrative Committee. If we get rid of the committee altogether, we would then leave the Senate Administrative Committee with one seat vacant. So, in our meeting in October, we shifted the focus to the composition of the Senate Administrative Committee, and we moved away from the Evening Council. We decided to keep these processes separate. Why did we think that that is the way to do this? Article V, Section 1 speaks to the elections of a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Secretary and, such other officers as it deems necessary for the Senate Administrative Committee, hence, the Charter gives the Senate the option to expand the Administrative Committee. Let me take a step back. The elections take place in May for a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Secretary. Article V, Section 1 does not speak about the Chair of the Evening Council, but if you go to the section that talks about the Evening Council, you see there that that Chair has a seat on the Senate Admin Committee. Simply by being the Chair of the Evening Council, you automatically have a seat on the Senate Admin Committee. The Chair of the Evening Council is not elected at the same time as the other officers for the Senate Admin Committee. So, why do we even want to look into an expansion of the Administrative Committee? It has been a practice for some time that the Senate Admin Committee has invited additional faculty to meetings for advice and to get different perspectives because of the small number of three or four faculty and students serving on the Admin Committee (the Vice Chair has been a student for as long as I have been on the Senate). So, there is apparently a need to have more views represented on the Senate Admin Committee. If there is already a practice established, we should make it official and bring it into the Charter. It would make sense to elect the additional members who offer different views. How many additional members should the Administrative Committee have? That is completely open. Everything is open. We would like to open up discussion to see what the Senate as a whole thinks - whether that is a good thing for us to tackle. Then, we would think about representational criteria. We would think about a number of faculty and students or representatives, maybe even an uneven number in case there is a vote, so that there is a possibility to come to a decision. I think at one point somebody circulated the idea of thinking of the Senate Admin Committee as a steering committee. The steering committee might have a different function than the Senate Admin Committee. I am not quite sure about that. We have steering committees at the School of Arts and Sciences. It is in the bylaws - the Dean and four faculty members. So, there are steering committees already on different governance levels at Hunter College. But again, we will have to look at wording and representation. We will have to look how to get this into the Charter.

“This is a lot of work and will take time. This report also serves the purpose to feel the waters. If the Senate thinks that this is something worth tackling, we are very happy to do that. The Senate has a process spelled out, very detailed – the first reading, second reading and third reading. If we wanted to get it done in the next half of this academic year, we would have to get that process started and bring language to the Senate Admin Committee. They will then have to bring it up on the Agenda as the first item on the Agenda. Then, the first reading will happen at a Senate meeting where discussion takes place. The second reading will be scheduled eight weeks later. The third reading happens at the first meeting of the new Senate, which is the last meeting in May. So, that is the process we would follow.

“I would like to close the report with an observation. Article VII, Section 1 speaks to how the Senate operates and how it conducts its business. According to that article, the meetings need to be announced in the Registrar’s annual College Calendar. I think we did have a college calendar. Maybe it was in the Provost’s Office or Registrar’s Office before Hunter’s new website came into being. I tried to locate this college calendar but was not able to. We have academic calendars on the Registrar’s website. We have Senate meetings announced on the Senate website. The Open Meeting Law allows anybody to attend Senate meetings. To provide information about all relevant college meetings at one glance, in a college calendar, would provide orientation. Even the Charter says that Senate meetings shall be in the college calendar that has all the meetings in it: department meetings, FDA meetings, union meetings, etc. That is just an observation. Thank you.