

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**  
**11 February 1998**

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2 The 359th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:10 PM in  
3 Room W714.

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5 **Presiding:** Barbara L. Hampton, Chair

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7 **Attendance:** The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in  
8 Appendix I.

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10 **Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as distributed.

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12 **Minutes:** The Minutes of November 19, December 3, and December 10 were approved  
13 as distributed.

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15 **Report by the President:** A summary statement of President Caputo's report to the Senate is attached  
16 as Appendix II.

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18 Report by the CUNY Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

19 The Chair introduced CUNY Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Louise  
20 Mirrer as follows:

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22 Dr. Louise Mirrer is Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the 21  
23 campus City University of New York. She was recruited from the  
24 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities where she served as Professor in the  
25 Department of Spanish and Portuguese (she was Department Chair in  
26 1994-95), a member of the Graduate Faculty of the Center for Medieval  
27 Studies, and Vice Provost for Arts, Sciences and Engineering. Prior to  
28 her appointment at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Mirrer was a  
29 member of the faculty for many years at Fordham University in New York.  
30 She was a professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature and a  
31 member of the Graduate Faculty of the Center for Medieval Studies.  
32 From 1991-1994 she served as Chair of the Division of Humanities. She  
33 has also been a visiting Professor in the Department of Spanish at the  
34 University of California at Los Angeles.

35  
36 Dr. Mirrer holds a master's degree in Spanish and a doctorate in  
37 Spanish and Humanities from Stanford University and a Diploma in  
38 Linguistics from Cambridge University (England). Her baccalaureate is  
39 from the University of Pennsylvania where she graduated magna cum  
40 laude with Honors in Spanish. She has published widely. Her most  
41 recent book is *Women, Jews, and Muslims in the Texts of Reconquest*  
42 *Castile* (1996), a "deconstruction" of the medieval Castilian canon using  
43 contemporary theories of gender and race.

44  
45 Professor Hampton yielded the floor to Vice Chancellor Mirrer.

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47 A summary statement of Vice Chancellor Mirrer's report is attached as  
48 Appendix III. She concluded her report by answering questions from the  
49 floor.

50  
51 **Report by the Administrative Committee:** The Chair presented the following report:

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53 **Select Committee on the Pluralism & Diversity Requirement**

54 In accordance with Senate resolution of 11 May 1994, the Administrative  
55 Committee is recommending the establishment of the following Select Com-  
56 mittee on the Pluralism & Diversity Requirement, which shall report to the  
57 Senate the results of an assessment of the Pluralism & Diversity Require-  
58 ment:

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67 **Chair:** Mary Lefkarites (Curriculum & Teaching)

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69 **Faculty:** Social Sciences: Janet Poppendieck (Sociology)  
70 Health Professions: Eleanor Gilpatrick (Health Sciences)  
71 Humanities & Arts: Frank Kirkland (Philosophy)  
72 Education: Migdalia Romero (Curric. & Teaching)  
73 Sciences & Math: Ada Peluso (Mathematics)  
74

75 **Students:** Alicia Siebenaler  
76 (additional student to be named)  
77

78 **Ex-officio:** Chair, Undergraduate Course of Study Committee  
79

80 After brief discussion the question was called and carried.  
81

82 The slate was approved by hand vote.  
83

84 **Resolution on Allegations of Grade Inflation**

85 Professor Hampton presented the following resolution:  
86

87 **WHEREAS**, a serious accusation of grade inflation in the City University  
88 system has been made; and  
89

90 **WHEREAS**, grade inflation has neither been defined nor measured by  
91 those making the accusation; and  
92

93 **WHEREAS**, no evidence has been presented to document the accusation  
94 against Hunter College; therefore,  
95

96  
97 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hunter College Senate considers any accusa-  
98 tion of grade inflation to be a serious charge that should not be made  
99 without evidence; and  
100

101 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Hunter College Admini-  
102 stration to communicate to the CUNY Central Administration and to the  
103 members of the CUNY Board of Trustees the damaging impact that this  
104 charge has on student, faculty and alumni morale; on public perceptions  
105 of the quality of students' work and their professional possibilities; and on  
106 the prestige and reputation of the institution; and  
107

108 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge Hunter College Administra-  
109 tion to call upon the appropriate parties to refrain from leveling these  
110 charges unless and until there are supporting data.  
111

112 After discussion the question was called and carried.  
113

114 The resolution was defeated by hand vote.  
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116 It was moved that the meeting time be extended for ten minutes. The motion  
117 carried.  
118

119 **Committee**  
120 **Reports:**

121 **Select Committee on the Distribution Requirement**

122 Prof. Martin DenBoer, Chair of the Committee, presented the report dated 11  
123 February 1998. The following resolutions were on the floor:  
124

125 **1) Resolutions re: Revision of the transfer evaluation process.**

126 **Be it resolved that:**

- 127 a) the practice that departments grant distribution credits for transferred courses which  
128 have no direct Hunter equivalent is confirmed.  
129  
130  
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139 **Be it resolved that:**

- 140  
141 b) transfer students must seek evaluation of transferred courses for dis-  
142 tribution credit from the corresponding department at Hunter, if such  
143 a department exists, and if not, from departmental advisors assigned  
144 to evaluate various subject areas;  
145  
146 c) rules (a) and (b) be publicized and noted in the Hunter College catalog.

147 **Be it resolved that:**

- 148  
149  
150 d) the Office of Student Services will be relieved of its current responsi-  
151 bility for granting substitutions by the Fall 1998 semester, when this  
152 program for faculty evaluation of transferred credits is instituted.  
153 Appeals from departmental determinations would be made to the  
154 appropriate Senate committee, the Review Commission on Distribution  
155 and Pluralism and Diversity Requirements.  
156

157 **2) Resolution re: addition of upper level courses to the Distribution**  
158 **Requirement list.**

159 **Be it resolved that:**

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161 departments be encouraged to add to the distribution requirement list  
162 certain upper level courses, largely 200 level, subject to approval by  
163 the Senate Undergraduate Course of Study Committee. Such courses  
164 could only be taken by students with at least 24 credits or depart-  
165 mental approval. These courses should further develop broad aca-  
166 demic skills such as writing and problem solving in addition to pro-  
167 viding an acceptably general introduction to the discipline, rather than  
168 those which develop specific concepts of the discipline.  
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170  
171 It was moved that the question be divided. The motion carried by voice vote.  
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173 After discussion, and because of the late hour, the meeting was adjourned at  
174 5:55 P.M.  
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178 Respectfully submitted,

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182 Pamela Mills,  
183 Secretary  
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