

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

1 April 2009

1 The 501st meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 3:50 PM in Room W714.

2
3 **Presiding:** Richard Stapleford, Chair

4
5 **Attendance:** The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.

6
7 Alternate Senators were formally seated in accordance with the procedures approved by the Senate, and
8 clickers were distributed to them.

9
10 **Minutes:** The Minutes of February 18th and March 4th were unanimously approved as distributed.

11
12 **Report by the** The following is a summary statement of President Raab's report to the Senate. She said:
13 **President:**

14 "It looks like the State budget that we have discussed will be adopted by the State. There is still some
15 back and forth, mostly about MTA details. The unfortunate news is that the budget does call for a 15%
16 increase in undergraduate tuition and a 15%-20% increase in graduate tuition. Fortunately, this will let
17 us plug the very large budget decrease that the State applied to our budget, and it will do more than
18 hold us harmless. This budget, if it passes, will allow a 20% increase in the academic mission of
19 CUNY. So, we have to find out exactly how much money will be forthcoming and how it will be
20 distributed to the campuses, but this increase allows us to continue our investment in hiring faculty and
21 supporting academic programming. The increase is still under the TAP ceiling and all students that are
22 eligible for TAP would be held harmless. For all other students we have been raising scholarship money
23 in the last few years and we continue to do so. If anyone has any need, please see Vice President
24 Ayravainen. There are a lot of different funds. We want you to stay in school. We also have various
25 funds to support emergency needs, such as losing your job and your need to continue to pay rent. So,
26 please come see us. The other piece of good news in the budget is that there was no change in the TAP
27 rules. I just want to reiterate to the students that if you ever sense that anybody is in distress, that they
28 are in need, please send them to speak to us because in this difficult time we want to do all that we can
29 to make sure students can stay in school.

30
31 I want to first congratulate everyone on the Steering Committee and the community and particularly our
32 Co-Chairs of the Middle States Steering Committee for a really wonderful report in response to the 14
33 standards that needed to be met for accreditation. I would like everyone to join me in a round of
34 applause for Sandi Clarkson, Phil Alcabes, and Vita Rabinowitz. It is a comprehensive and thoughtful
35 document and we hope to use this as a foundation for strategic planning and program development into
36 the future.

37
38 Before we move on to that stage we still need to complete the Middle States visit and hopefully the
39 accreditation that will follow. We want to remind all of you that from April 26 to April 29 the Middle
40 States team will be visiting the campus. We do not know yet which groups they will be interested in
41 meeting with, but we hope that many of you will be available. As soon as we know who will be asked to
42 come and meet the evaluators, we will let you know. The report can be accessed from the Hunter home
43 page and I do hope that all of you will read it. It has a lot of very important information and thoughts
44 and ideas in it."

45
46 The President yielded the floor to Gail Scovell who informed the Senate about the new parental leave
47 policy. A summary of the new policy is attached as Appendix II.
48

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55 **Report by the** The Chair presented the report as follows:
 56 **Administrative**

57 **Committee:** Special Election to fill vacant seats on the Senate

58 In accordance with Article IV.2.H.i & ii of the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College* the
 59 Administrative Committee presented the names of all nominees received to date for the at-large seats:
 60

61 Students:

62 Raiban Habib Mirza (Medical Lab. Science)
 63 Letitia Ribeiro (Math&AStat)
 64 Jane Dzielski (Math&Stat)
 65 Daniel Fried (Math&Stat)
 66 Kyle Sabo (Graduate)
 67

68 Faculty:

69 Eckhard Kuhn-Osius (German)
 70

71 It was moved that the entire slate be accepted. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.
 72

73 **b. Approved Curriculum Changes**

74 The following curriculum changes, as listed in Part I and II of the Report dated 4/1/09, have been
 75 approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for the Senate's information: Item US-1565 (School
 76 of Nursing: Accelerated Second Degree Pathway within Nursing B.S.), UR-1570 (German: Changes in
 77 Title and/or Description), GS—791 (C&T/Educational Foundations/Special Education: Dual Alternative
 78 Certificate in Childhood Education Middle School Generalist), GS-792 (Special Education: Advanced
 79 Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis), and GS-793 (C&T/Mathematics & Statistics: Master's
 80 Degree in Mathematics Education Professional Certificate).
 81

82 **Update on Middle States Self-Study Report**

83 Provost Rabinowitz informed the Senate that we expect to hear within the next two weeks which groups or
 84 individuals the visiting team would like to meet. As soon we know we will let you know. There will be a
 85 special open meeting at the end of the process about midday on the 29th to which all are invited. At that
 86 time the team will preview their evaluation. We will let you know as soon as the time is set.
 87

88 Professor Alcabas added that the Provost Office has posted the Self-Study Report that the President
 89 submitted to the Middle States Commission on the Hunter Middle States web-site. On the Hunter home
 90 page there is a box that says "Hunter Middle States Accreditation." You click on that and you go
 91 immediately to the public Middle States web-site. On the bottom of the front page there is a link that will
 92 take you to the full report that was submitted by the President's office.
 93

94 **Committee**
 95 **Reports:**

96 The Chair informed the Senate that the Charter Review Committee Report has been withdrawn
 97 at this time, and that the Administrative Committee would report at the next meeting concerning the
 98 procedures for seating alternate senators.
 99

100 **Undergraduate Course of Study Committee Re: Implementation of New Minor Policy**

101 Professor Eckhard Kuhn-Osius, Chair of the Committee presented the following report dated 4/1/09:
 102

103 The Hunter College Senate resolution of March 4, 2009 makes it optional for students to declare a minor
 104 and leaves the determination of courses required in a minor concentration to the minor departments or
 105 programs which choose to offer such sequences. In the interest of an orderly and timely transition to the
 106 new situation, the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee recommends the following implementation
 procedures for Senate approval:

Procedures for Implementing Minor Policy

112
 113 Note: In the following, the department or program offering (or overseeing) a minor will be referred to as the
 114 “minor department.”
 115

1. Dates of implementation:

- 116
 117 a. The fulfillment of a minor sequence has become optional as of March 4, 2009.
 118 b. A student has the right (but not the obligation) to complete any minor sequence that was declared
 119 and approved by his/her major department prior to the last day of the current Spring term, May 26,
 120 2009.
 121 c. After the last day of the Spring term 2009 only courses of study approved for the purpose by the
 122 minor department may be declared as minors.
 123 d. The Senate resolution of March 4, 2009 does not affect the ability of departments or programs to
 124 require that students who want to register for certain classes must have taken specific prerequisite
 125 courses from within or without the department prior to registering for such classes.
 126

2. Approval of Minor

127
 128 Course sequences leading to a minor and other departmental requirements for the minor must be approved
 129 by the appropriate Departmental Curriculum Committee and the Undergraduate Course of Study
 130 Committee. To expedite the transition, the Senate Undergraduate Course of Study Committee will accept
 131 proposals for minors directly from academic departments or programs during the Spring and Fall semesters
 132 of 2009.
 133

3. Scope of the minor:

134
 135 A minor must consist of at least 12 credits and at most 18 credits as specified by the minor department.
 136

4. Student Information:

137
 138 In order to facilitate student planning, the department offering the minor must explicitly state the courses
 139 required for the minor and the total number of credit hours necessary to fulfill all minor requirements,
 140 including the number of credits for all pre-requisites and co-requisites for minor courses, no matter whether
 141 these are to be taken inside or outside of the department offering the minor. [This does not affect the
 142 department's definition of the courses to be included in the minor but refers to the need for a full disclosure
 143 of pre-requisites to these minor courses.]
 144

5. Departmental Proposal of Minor Courses of Study.

145
 146 The proposal for approval of a minor must include the following:
 147

- 148 a. Catalog description of the minor program including the information specified in points 3 and 4
 149 above.
 150 b. Brief “Learning Outcomes” statement
 151 c. Rationale

152
 153 After discussion the question was called and carried.

154
 155 The report was unanimously approved by voice vote.

UCSC Report Re: Clarification of Exemptions for Foreign Language Requirements

156
 157 Professor Kuhn-Osius, Chair of the Committee, presented the Report dated 4/1/09 as distributed.
 158

159
 160 After discussion it was moved that the report be postponed to the next meeting in order to clarify wording.

161
 162 The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

New Business: CUNY Threat to PSC/CUNY Awards Program

163
 164 Professor Jim Gordon presented the following resolution for Senate approval:
 165

171 **Joint Resolution concerning the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program**

172 Adopted by the UFS Research Committee and the
173 University Committee on Research Awards (UCRA)

174 March 12, 2009

175
176 **Whereas**, the monies that fund the PSC-CUNY Awards program result from the PSC-CUNY Contract,
177 which are funds that by consent of PSC members, are excluded for use as salary and other
178 compensation and are not part of general city or state funding of the University; and,

179
180 **Whereas**, the task force set up by the chancellery is an inappropriate body to alter the present
181 arrangement of making these awards,

182
183 **Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the UFS Research Committee and the University Committee on
184 Research Awards reject the restructuring proposal in the task force draft report, and

185
186 **Be it Further Resolved**, that the UFS Research Committee and the University Committee on Research
187 Awards ask that the Task Force on the PSC-CUNY Awards Program be disbanded and that its
188 suggestions be presented to the UCRA and its Executive Committee, for their consideration.

189
190 After discussion the question was called and carried.

191
192 The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

193
194 **Sustainability Commitment**

195 Professor Laxmi Ramasubramanian, on behalf of the Hunter College Sustainability Council, presented the
196 following statement for Senate endorsement:

197
198 **Sustainability Commitment Statement**

199 Hunter College is fully committed to the principles and practices of sustainability, as outlined in
200 PlaNYC 2030. In order to fulfill our commitment to sustainability, we will:

- 201 • Strive to integrate the principles of sustainability in all business decisions;
- 202 • Consult with all campus stakeholders to identify sustainability goals and promote their
203 achievement;
- 204 • Measure and report on campus sustainability initiatives;
- 205 • Evaluate and redesign all our operations to reduce their environmental impact;
- 206 • Develop our educational and research agendas to meet the long-term goals of sustainability;
- 207 • Promote awareness about the consumption of natural resources by individuals and groups;
- 208 • Encourage environmentally sound practices among students, faculty and staff; and,
- 209 • Seek strategic collaborations with other organizations to advance our sustainability goals.

210
211 After brief discussion the question was called and carried.

212
213 The motion to endorse the statement was unanimously approved by voice vote.

214
215 **Turnstiles**

216 During discussion Mr. Beard moved for approval of the following resolution:

217
218 WHEREAS, Hunter has a tradition of having an open campus; and

219
220 WHEREAS, the implementation of turnstiles will create conflicts and delays with regard to access to
221 Hunter; and

222
223 WHEREAS, there are internal safety measures which can be reformed without compromising the open
224 campus; and
225

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231 WHEREAS, we do not have the resources to waste especially in these economic times; therefore,
232

233 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate voices to CUNY and the Hunter Administration
234 that it disproves of any plans to put in turnstiles and card swipers.
235

236 After further discussion the question was called and carried.
237

238 Voting by clickers produced the following results: 21 in favor, 28 opposed, and 5 abstentions. The motion
239 was defeated.
240

241 It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.
242
243
244
245

246 Respectfully submitted,
247

248 

249 Phil Alcabes, *mn.*
250 Secretary
251

**Minutes
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1 April 2009**

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

Faculty

Anthropology	Elizabeth Harmon (A)
Art	Reiner Leist (A) Paul Ramirez
Chemistry	Pamela Mills Dixie Goss (A)
Classical & Oriental Studies	Lawrence Kowerski (A) Nadya Peterson
Computer Science	Saad Mneimeh (A)
Curriculum & Teaching	Bede McCormack (A)
Economics	Howard Chernick
Film & Media	Shanti Thakur
Health Sciences	Mimi Fahs (A)
Library	Lauren Yannotta
Mathematics & Statistics	Makram Talih (A)
Music	Jewel Thompson (A) Richard Burke
Nursing	Judith Aponte Elizabeth Simon (A)
Physics & Astronomy	Noel Goddard (A)
Psychology	Tricia Striano
Romance Languages	Michael Perna
School of Social Work	George Paterson
Theatre	Joel Bassin

**Lecturers and
Part-Time Faculty**

Jeffrey Mongrain (Art)
Dana Reimer (Geography)
Matthew Knip "E"
Avi Liveson (Economics)

Administration

Bill Zlata
Acting Dean Ken Olden (A)

Ex-Officio

Deborah Francois, USG Pres.
Jason Ares, CLT Council President
Nadine Young, HEO Forum Pres.
Sarit Levy, GSA Pres.

Students

Kimberly Maurice (Theatre)
Rosemary Beato (Psych)
Glenda Holland (Sociol)
Sarah Alshawish (Undecl)
Jordan Diminich (Poli Sci)
Sabrina Caprioli (Poli Sci)
Sera Yeysides (Econ/Poli Sci)
Scott Powell (Chemistry)
Nieves Veras (Spanish/Engl)

APPENDIX II: Paid Parental Leave

Eligibility.

- Full time
- Instructional Staff (PSC members)
- Minimum of one year of service completed
- Birth or adoption of child/children 5 years or younger

Benefit

- 8 weeks paid parental leave (either mother or father)
- Must be taken immediately at time of birth
 - For birth mothers, begins immediately after approved use of temporary disability (sick) leave. May be taken in advance of birth when medically necessary and mother does not have sufficient temporary disability leave.
 - For adoption, may be taken prior to adoption where necessary to fulfill legal requirements for adoption such as foreign travel.

- 8 weeks must be taken consecutively
 - May be used in combination with sick leave and annual leave
- Note—rules are modified where mother and father are both in the same department

Calculation of 8 Weeks for Faculty

- Does not include annual leave period for faculty -- leave commences at start of Fall semester for births/adoptions that take place during the annual leave period.
- Does include all other vacations and holidays
- Runs concurrently with FMLA
- For births or adoptions occurring between December 15 and start of Spring Semester, faculty members may request to decrease Spring semester course load by one course rather than taking 8 weeks leave—subject to approval of President who will review the request with the Department Chair.
- If Spring Semester ends before 8 weeks of leave have been taken, remainder may be taken at start of Fall semester, although parties agreed that it is their intention that this provision “not result in a faculty member’s being on leave from teaching responsibilities for two semesters.”

Implementation

- Employee must give at least 90 days notice of intent to take leave
- Faculty members who return from leave mid-semester may return wither to teaching or administrative duties for the remainder of the semester at the discretion of the Dept. Chair after consultation with the faculty member.
- An employee’s paid parental leave shall not extend further than his/her appointment.

Service Credit

Paid parental leave counts as service credit for purposes of calculating tenure, CCE or 13.3(b) eligibility unless the employee elects to have the leave period count as a bridge of service. Election must be made within 90 days after birth or adoption and is irrevocable. Election is not available in the year on or after June 1 of the year prior to the year that tenure/CCE/13.3b decision must be made

