

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate**  
**29 October 2008**

1 The 495<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 3:45 PM in Room W714.

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3 **Presiding:** Richard Stapleford, Chair

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

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

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10 **Minutes:** The Minutes of September 24<sup>th</sup> were approved as distributed.

11  
12 **Report by the** The Chair presented the report as follows:

13 **Administrative**

14 **Committee:** Approved Curriculum Changes

15 The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached Report dated 10/29/08 were approved as per  
16 Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information. Items GS-774 and GS-775 (Urban  
17 Affairs), GS-776 (Special Education/Letter of Intent: Advanced Certificate Program in Applied Behavioral  
18 Analysis), GS-777, and GS-780 (Special Education), GS-777 (Curriculum & Teaching/Educational Foun-  
19 dations), GS-781 (School of Nursing/New Academic Program: Clinical Nurse Leader M.S.).

20  
21 The Chair informed the Senate that GS-782 (Theatre/New Academic Program: M.F.A. in Playwriting) had  
22 been withdrawn and will be resubmitted at a later date.

23  
24 **One-Time Special Search Waiver Request for Chief Operating Officer**

25 On behalf of the Administrative Committee, the Chair presented the following search waiver request from  
26 President Raab dated October 20, 2008 for Senate approval:

27  
28 To: Senate Administrative Committee  
29 From: President Jennifer J. Raab  
30 Re: Search Waiver Request

31  
32 As we discussed, I am writing to request a waiver of the Hunter College Senate Search Procedures for the  
33 proposed appointment of Leonard Zinnanti to serve as Chief Operating Officer for Hunter College.

34  
35 I firmly believe that Search waiver requests should be made sparingly and only for the most compelling  
36 of reasons. Indeed, in deference to the importance of Senate searches, I have never before requested a  
37 waiver of the Senate search procedures; however, I believe the current circumstances warrant such a waiver.

38  
39 As you know, Mr. Zinnanti served with distinction as Hunter's Vice President for Finance and  
40 Administration from 2002 until 2006. I think it is fair to say that all constituencies of the College were sorry to  
41 see him go when he announced his departure.

42  
43 During his tenure at Hunter, Mr. Zinnanti was able to capitalize on his years of service in the highly  
44 regarded New York City Office of Management and Budget to develop analytical tools that marshaled and  
45 presented financial data in ways to help the President and College Administrators make intelligent decisions  
46 and choices. Under his leadership, Hunter engaged in thoughtful budgeting and planning, ultimately  
47 resulting in the elimination of historic deficits and the building of important reserves.

52  
53 Mr. Zinnanti provided effective and efficient administrative services to Chairs, Deans, Administrators  
54 and the College Community; he understood the goals and responsibilities of an academic community; and he  
55 recruited and selected able professionals who shared his vision of customer service.

56  
57 Since leaving Hunter Mr. Zinnanti has worked as Chief Financial and Administrative Officer at the New  
58 York Philharmonic, where he has been responsible for the financial, administrative and strategic  
59 planning activities and has had oversight responsibility for business and financial policies, operations  
60 systems and controls and administrative practices and procedures. He has managed finance, informa-  
61 tion technology, human resources and administrative support and has provided leadership during a  
62 complex building development. During this time, Mr. Zinnanti also generously donated his time on a regular  
63 basis to serve as an unpaid consultant to Hunter, assisting the various Acting Vice Presidents adjust to  
64 the demands of the position with a better understanding of relevant historical institutional practices and  
65 advising on difficult issues that have arisen.

66  
67 The Chief Operating Officer position will be similar to the position of Vice-President for Finance and  
68 Administration but with added responsibilities that reflect increasingly complex issues and opportunities  
69 facing Hunter and the broadened experience Mr. Zinnanti has gained during his absence from Hunter.  
70 Additional demands being placed on the College now as a result of CUNY First, the New Social Work Build-  
71 ing, the relocation of the Julia Richman Complex and the development of the new Science Building and the  
72 current external financial environment all play to Mr. Zinnanti's strengths.

73  
74 If Mr. Zinnanti is appointed, Conan Freud will step down from the position of Vice-President for Finance  
75 and Administration which he has been serving in an "acting" capacity since July, 2007. Conan has  
76 agreed to stay at Hunter to focus on financial issues in these increasingly difficult financial times as Acting  
77 Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance.

78  
79 As we discussed, to engage in a search is both time consuming and expensive. A Senate search for a senior  
80 administrative position requires time and energy from faculty, administrators and candidates and also  
81 results in expenditures for advertising, search firm fees and candidate travel. While I have never before  
82 requested a waiver of the Senate search procedures, I understand that there is precedent for a search  
83 waiver at other CUNY campuses where warranted by the specific circumstances.

84  
85 In this specific case, where Mr. Zinnanti was previously selected by Hunter as a result of a national  
86 search for a substantially similar job which he performed with intelligence and integrity, left the position  
87 voluntarily, and is willing to return to Hunter, I am hopeful that the Senate will agree that a waiver of the Senate  
88 search procedures with respect to the appointment of Mr. Zinnanti to serve as Chief Operating Officer of  
89 Hunter College at this time is appropriate.

90  
91 Thank you.

92  
93 After discussion it was moved that further discussion be tabled until the President and Provost arrived.  
94 The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

95  
96 **Reports: Middle States Steering Committee**

97 Prof. Phil Alcabes, Co-Chair of the Committee, informed the Senate that open forums are planned on the  
98 following dates to discuss the findings and procedures of the college's self-study for accreditation by the  
99 Middle States Commission on Higher Education:

- 100  
101 Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 3-4 pm, in the School of Social Work Auditorium  
102 Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5 pm, in Room W237 at the Brookdale Campus  
103 Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 4-5:30 pm, in the Chanin Lounge, Room B126 West  
104 Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at the FDA meeting, 1:20-3 pm in E1203  
105 Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at the College Senate meeting, 3:30-5:25 pm, in W714

106  
107 He informed the Senate that a summary of the findings of the self-study would be made available within  
108 the next few days.

112  
113  
114 **Mellon Project Special Committee to Review the GER**

115 Prof. Stapleford informed the Senate that the report had been withdrawn.  
116

117 **Continuation of Discussion of Special Search Waiver**

118 It was moved that the Senate go into recess until the President arrives. The motion carried by voice vote  
119 without dissent.

120  
121 The Senate reconvened at 4:14 PM and discussion continued.

122  
123 After discussion the question was called and carried.

124  
125 Voting by clickers produced the following results: 34 in favor, 15 opposed, and 8 abstentions. The motion  
126 failed, the required number of 51 votes not having been achieved.

127  
128 **Report by the** The following is a summary statement of the President's report to the Senate. She said:  
129 **President:**

130 "I want to tell you, so that there is no surprise, that Len Zinnanti will be starting on Monday as Acting  
131 Chief Operating Officer. There will be a certain period before we have to do the search.

132  
133 I want to make sure that everybody saw the wonderful news about the School of Social Work in the  
134 New York Times. It is an uplifting article and I hope everybody is as happy as we are. It sort of  
135 minimized the co-location of the School of Public Health, but we are very excited that it will also be  
136 located in that building as will the Centro Library.

137  
138 I would like to use my time today to share a very exciting gift to the College. It is the gift of a video  
139 about Hunter College that was made to be shown at our first Inaugural Hunter College Fundraising  
140 Gala which occurred last Thursday at the Plaza. We received wonderful feedback. The room was really  
141 packed with at least 430 people, and we raised \$800,000. There was incredible energy and support for  
142 the mission, the faculty, the students, and the research at Hunter College. One of our two honorees is  
143 an entertainment lawyer, Joel A. Katz. The other honoree is Abbe Raven, President and CEO of A&E  
144 Television Networks, and part of her gift to us was to allow us to create a Hunter College video which  
145 we showed at the Gala to talk about our mission. We can all use it now to get the message out about  
146 what a phenomenal place this is. We will be putting this on the web, and we are going to show this on  
147 some of the flat screens. It will also be made available for recruiting. With your permission I would  
148 love to show and share this great gift with you. Following that, I would like to show the 3-minute  
149 videos of the two honorees, because they tell a little bit about themselves and it links their belief that  
150 their success is attributable to Hunter College. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to work  
151 both with Joe and Abby and get their support. As we look ahead to this rather tough budget year we  
152 are very pleased to have raised this unrestricted money to be able to invest where we most need it this  
153 year."

154  
155 After the presentation of the three videos the President concluded her report by answering questions  
156 from the floor.

157  
158 It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned  
159 at 4:45 PM.

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162  
163 Respectfully submitted,

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165  
166  
167 Phil Alcabes,  
168 Secretary

**APPENDIX I**

*The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:*

**Faculty**

Art	Reiner Leist (A)
Chemistry	Pamela Mills
Classical & Oriental Studies	Fang Dai (A)
Computer Science	Ioannis Stamos (A)
Curriculum & Teaching	Ann Ebe (A) Sema Brainin
Economics	Howard Chernick Jonathan Conning (A)
Film & Media Studies	Michael Gitlin Tim Portlock (A)
Geography	Frank Buonaiuto "E"
German	Annette Kym "E" Elke Nicolai (A) "E"
Health Sciences	Mimi Fahs (A)
History	Bernadette McCauley (A)
Library	Lauren Yannotta "E"
Mathematics & Statistics	Makram Talih (A)
Physics & Astronomy	Noel Goddard (A)
Political Science	Charles Tien (A) John Wallach
Psychology	Tracy Dennis (A)
Romance Languages	Michael Perna
SEEK	Patricia Martin (A)
School of Social Work	George Paterson Lorraine Tempel
Student Services	Madlyn Stokely "E" Reva Cohen (A)

**Lecturers and  
Part-Time Faculty**

Barbara Sproul (Religion)  
William Mayer (Classics)  
Constantin Radis (Sociology)  
Carmela Scala (Romance Lang)  
Aubrey Ewaroo  
Jeffrey Mongrain (Art)  
Matthew Knip "E"  
William Sakas

**Administration**

Dean Shirley Clay Scott  
Dean Jacqueline Mondros (A)  
Acting Dean Ken Olden (A)

**Ex-Officio**

Jason Ares, CLT Council President  
Nadine Young, HEO Forum Pres.  
Patricia Rudden, Alumni Assoc. Pres.

**Students**

Maria Arettines  
Mariya Kayumova (Poli Sci)  
Kaveh Tabatabaie (PoliSci)  
Claudia Caceres  
Johanna Gurman  
Dulgun Maidar  
Jenny Alcaide  
Glenda Holland (Socio)  
Christina Podkalicki  
Peter Cardenas (Psych)  
Zain Saeed  
Francesca Manieri (SEEK)  
Ian Christner (Grad. Sociology)  
Robert Walko (Econom)  
Kareem Devonish  
Darius Carr  
Jessica Torres  
Lorena Sanchez