

M I N U T E S

Regular Meeting of the Hunter College Senate  
5 December 1979

The 127<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:45 p.m. in the Playhouse. 1  
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Presiding: Allan Brick, Chairperson 3

Attendance: The elected members of the Senate, with the exception of those listed in Appendix I. 4  
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Report by the President: A summary statement of President Shenker's report to the Senate is as follows: 6  
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The President informed the Senate that construction of the Twin Towers is going ahead, and that in a few months' time physical activity on the streets may be observed. All contracts have been signed. 8  
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A series of presentations and slides will be given to various groups, so that we can become familiar again with the occupancy structure of the new buildings. Everyone will be invited to a meeting and have a chance to ask questions. President Shenker pointed out that we should not attempt to alter the plans drawn up by the architects, as this will cause a considerable delay in the completion of the Twin Towers. Once the buildings are completed there is a possibility for adjustments. 11  
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The President reported that over the next couple of months we will see many improvements taking place in this building and at Hunter-Bellevue. 18  
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He informed the Senate that in the tradition of Hunter College a Holiday Party will be given by the Provost and President on December 18th from about 4 to 7 p.m., and that everyone is invited. 20  
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On a more somber note, the President announced that, although there is nothing as yet in writing, there is a clear indication that New York State is facing a \$800M budget problem for this fiscal year and next year. A line freeze and some level of budget cut is anticipated. It is not known what this means for Hunter, but something of this nature will affect all agencies supported by the State. As soon as information becomes available, the President will inform the college community. 23  
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President Shenker informed the Senate that a memorandum dated November 30th to all members of the community is being distributed. This memo contains major issues that the College should be addressing in the coming months. 30  
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He concluded his Report by answering questions from the floor. 34

Report by the Ombudsman: Ombudsman Korn reported on his plan to suggest to Department Chairpersons that a standing department committee on grade appeals be established, so that the grade appeal process could start immediately after an appeal is filed, and to avoid the complaint that any ad hoc Committee was selected in a discriminatory way. He invited comments on the suggestion before it is formally proposed. 35  
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Report by the Administrative Committee: Prof. Tamara Green, Secretary of the Senate, presented the following resolution and moved for approval: 41  
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WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee anticipates many routine changes in course numbers as departments adapt to the definitions adopted in the "Guidelines for College-wide Definition of Course Levels;" 43  
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BE IT RESOLVED, that such changes will not be reported individually to the Senate. The Undergraduate Course of Study Committee will prepare a report indicating the number of such changes and submit it at a later date. A detailed record of all such changes will be kept in the Senate Office and will be available for inspection. 47  
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The question was called and carried, and the resolution was approved by hand vote with one abstention. 52  
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Committee	<u>Nominating Committee</u>	54
Reports:	Prof. Louis Massa, Chairperson of the Committee, presented a two-part report:	55 56
	1. Proposed the nomination of Mr. Darryll Neil Penenberg (Day Student) for membership on the Advisory Committee on the Library.	57 58
	No other nominations having been received, Mr. Penenberg was elected.	59
	2. Prof. Massa then reported on the status of committee membership. He informed the Senate that as of this date all faculty vacancies have been filled, but that there are a total of about 40 vacant seats for students on Senate Committees.	60 61 62 63
	The Committee feels that students are not aware of the problem, and the first effort of the committee therefore is to contact the student body through all vehicles available.	64 65 66
	A. The principal way of doing this would be through the Registrar's Office, where students would pick up a "Committee Selection Form and summary of the Senate's responsibilities," together with the course schedule before registering. Plans are under way to adopt this method.	67 68 69 70 71
	B. The obvious way of informing students would be through the student newspaper. However, the situation is somewhat paradoxical in that the Committee had tried to make these vacancies known to students through three separate issues of <u>Envoy</u> , but has not been successful in getting this information published. The Committee even made arrangements to buy an ad, though it was not printed.	72 73 74 75 76 77
	C. The Committee has taken the following additional steps:	78
	a. contacted Hunter's Radio Station;	79
	b. arranged to flash messages on the slide projector outside the Assembly Hall within the next few weeks;	80 81
	c. sent a letter and selection forms to the President of the three student governments;	82 83
	d. arranged to make available "Committee Selection Forms" in the <u>Envoy</u> bins;	84 85
	e. mailed "Committee Selection Forms" to all departments for distribution on Major Day.	86 87
	Prof. Massa concluded the Report by answering questions from the floor and receiving additional suggestions for contacting students.	88 89
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	Prof. Brick reminded the body that all members of the community may participate in Senate discussion, but that voting is limited to Senators.	90 91
	Mr. Ehrenkranz, Senate Vice-Chairperson, informed the Senate that a member of the <u>Envoy</u> staff had contacted him today regarding a write-up about the Senate and student participation.	92 93 94
	<u>Report by the Hunter College Screening Committee for Presidential Search</u>	95
	Prof. Allan Brick informed the Senate that the Administrative Committee had invited all members of the Screening Committee to the meeting, and that Prof. Arnold Kritz had agreed to report.	96 97 98
	A summary of Prof. Kritz' remarks to the Senate is as follows:	99
	He informed the Senate that after briefly presenting his own report, Mrs. Hadassah Gold of the Alumni Association of Hunter College would address the Senate. Prof. Kritz informed the body that at this time there is not a great deal to report. The search is winding down for the second time. The first time around there were three candidates, one of whom withdrew. Two additional candidates were recently interviewed on campus, which brings the number of the candidates currently being considered to four. The Board is attempting to arrive at a	100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107

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decision before going out at the end of the year. The last regular 108  
meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 17th. There is a 109  
chance that a decision may not be possible because of the requirement 110  
of nine affirmative votes; currently there are fourteen members on the 111  
Board, and to achieve a consensus may be difficult. Prof. Kritz then 112  
yielded the floor to Mrs. Hadassah Gold. 113

Mrs. Gold reminded the body of the differentiation between the 114  
Screening Committee and the Search Committee. The Screening Committee 115  
is a Sub-Committee of the Search Committee. She then read a statement 116  
which she had prepared and presented to the Presidential Search 117  
Committee for Hunter College and the Representatives of the Campus 118  
Groups. The statement is as follows: 119

The Screening Committee has devoted many hours to the search for 120  
a president for Hunter College. We have for the most part been 121  
regular in our attendance at meetings and have given much thought 122  
to our decisions. And yet, whenever something has gone wrong, we 123  
have been blamed. Therefore I wish to make some statements in the 124  
presence of the representatives of the College community so that 125  
should a president be selected whom they find unacceptable, they 126  
will not join the rush to place the blame on the Screening 127  
Committee. 128

Whenever there was a leak, the Search Committee chairman spoke 129  
sternly to us. However, it could not have been a member of the 130  
Screening Committee who had someone approach a candidate some three 131  
months before Jacqueline Wexler formally announced her departure. 132  
On the leak of eight names at the beginning of the second round of 133  
interviews, the Search Committee chairman gave two versions of 134  
what had happened, in one version exonerating the members of the 135  
Screening Committee. And yet we were lectured once again. 136

The Chancellor has criticized us for failing "to put forward for 137  
consideration at least a half-dozen candidates whose credentials 138  
by any standard matched or surpassed some of those who were 139  
considered by the committee to be potentially qualified." The 140  
fact is that on a number of candidates the Screening Committee was 141  
divided five to one in favor or four to two in favor but by the 142  
guidelines, which became bewilderingly amorphous, at least one 143  
board vote was required for an interview and that board vote was 144  
never forthcoming. 145

Again according to the Chancellor "a number of candidates who were 146  
interviewed were not recommended for campus interviews primarily 147  
because of objections interposed by the members of the screening 148  
committee." The fact is that had there been four board votes for 149  
a campus visit, the opposition of the Screening Committee would not 150  
have mattered. It was the lack of board votes, not objections from 151  
the Screening Committee, that made the difference. 152

We have been accused of not doing our homework and checking on 153  
candidates. The fact is that the chairman of the Search Committee 154  
accepted our information only when it agreed with his. If it did 155  
not, his prevailed. 156

A week ago tonight we interviewed a candidate. A majority of those 157  
present favored a campus visit for that candidate. The chairman of 158  
the Search Committee refused to vote for a campus visit, did not 159  
report to the other members of the committee the result of a 160  
telephone poll to the missing board members of the Committee, did 161  
not return phone calls regarding a possible campus visit by the 162  
candidate and refused to accept homework done on the candidate by 163  
a member of the Committee. Of course, it differed from his home- 164  
work and so he could not accept it. 165

Those at 80th Street have always turned to the alumni of Hunter, 166  
along with other CUNY alumni, for support in troubled times. We 167

have been asked to write letters, travel to Albany, or whatever, 168  
and we have done so. The only time we have said no was when we 169  
were asked to help pay for an ad we neither saw nor approved before 170  
its appearance in the New York Times. It has long been quite clear, 171  
however, that when we were not needed, we were to close our mouths, 172  
fold our hands and wait for the next set of marching orders. This 173  
is not what we learned at Hunter. Hunter did not teach us to be 174  
vassals in anybody's fiefdom--it taught us to think and to speak 175  
for ourselves. We will not shoulder blame that is not rightly 176  
ours. 177

I would like--I hope once and for all--to destroy a misapprehension 178  
about Hunter alumni. We are not, as was said a couple of years ago, 179  
ten thousand little old ladies wearing sneakers. There are more 180  
than 60,000 living Hunter alumni, some of whom graduated as recently 181  
as last June. And where does that description put our male 182  
graduates, wearing sneakers or not? As for myself, I am uncom- 183  
fortable in sneakers and never wear them; and I am not as old as 184  
I look and feel at this moment. 185

This whole process has had a very thin veneer of democracy. That 186  
veneer had cracked. The Chancellor has said that the preference 187  
of the groups represented here today "is not part of the process nor 188  
is it a matter which the committee or the Chancellor takes into 189  
consideration." This means that nearly one hundred people have 190  
given of their time, effort and thought for no reason. Of course, 191  
I do have a suspicion that the preference of those groups who agree 192  
with the Committee chairman and the Chancellor will be taken into 193  
consideration. If they do not agree, then off with their heads 194  
and blame the Screening Committee for not doing its job. 195

I have tried throughout this process to act with the dignity I felt 196  
it deserved. I no longer feel bound to this behavior for the 197  
process as it has evolved has had no dignity. I will speak out 198  
here and elsewhere on the travesty perpetrated. The Chancellor 199  
did not approve of my use of that word but I find that its 200  
appropriateness increases with each passing day. 201

Hadassah Gold 202  
Member, Presidential Search Committee 203  
for Hunter College 204

During a question and answer period, Prof. Kritz informed the Senate 205  
that Hunter has seen candidates whom the Screening Committee had 206  
rejected, and that the resolutions adopted by the Senate and the 207  
General Faculty of Hunter College had been completely ignored by the 208  
Board.

Both Prof. Kritz and Mrs. Gold indicated that they would not release 209  
information concerning Screening Committee votes on individual candi- 210  
dates, because they felt to do so would be inappropriate. 211

Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee 212  
Prof. Peter Basquin, Chairperson of the Committee, presented the 213  
Report dated 5 December 1979 and moved for approval of the following 214  
resolution: 215

BE IT RESOLVED, that Hunter College seek Board approval for the 216  
24 Credit, High School Equivalency Program. Under this program, 217  
non-high school graduates, 17 years or older, can be admitted to 218  
non-degree status on the basis of an interview with an academic 219  
advisor. Upon successful completion of 24 college credits (non- 220  
remedial), including one college level math course and Expository 221  
Writing (17.120), the student can apply for a GED from New York 222  
State and apply for matriculation. The 24 credits earned will be 223  
applied towards a college degree upon matriculation. 224

After brief discussion, the resolution was unanimously approved by 225  
hand vote. 226

Prof. Brick informed the Senate that the Administrative Committee had 227  
arranged to hold the overflow meeting as a Holiday Party, and instead 228  
of coming to the Playhouse, everyone is invited to the Senate Offices 229

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on December 19th.

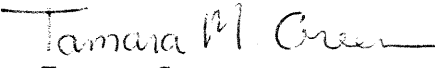
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A motion to adjourn carried, and the meeting was adjourned at  
5:45 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
Tamara Green,  
Secretary

A P P E N D I X I

The following members are noted as absent from the meeting:

FACULTY:

Art: Roy DeCarava  
Dennis McCarthy  
Richard Stapleford

Black & Puerto Rican Studies: Alfred Sears  
Edgarb Pratts-Rivera

Chemistry: David Beveridge

Classics: William Mayer "E"

Communications: Linda Eagle  
Thomas Mader  
Fulton Ross

Economics: Esther Flashner  
Arthur Gruen  
Kenneth Smith

Educational Foundations: Vera Kwochka

English: Linda Kunz

Geology & Geography: Roy Grossman  
Russell White

Health & Physical Education: Edward Gibbons

History: Edith Link "E"

Home Economics: Rose Mirenda "E"

Health Sciences: Russell Sergeant

Library: Milton Mittelman "E"

Mathematics: Jane Matthews

Music: John White "E"

Nursing: Cynthia Sculco "E"

Philosophy: James Muyskens  
Charles Sherover "E"

Physics & Astronomy: Bo Lawergren

Political Science: Gil Alroy  
Ken Sherrill

Social Work: Ben Kazmerski  
Joel Walker  
Barbara Morrison

Sociology: Paulette Pierce  
Janet Poppendieck

Theatre & Cinema: Barbara Leaming

Urban Affairs: Donald Sullivan

Dean Dorothy White "E"  
Dean Evelyn Handler

STUDENTS:

Graduate Students:

Marie Schoeff  
Linda Meany  
Kenneth Molinari  
Charlotte Martin  
Cecile Manners  
Linda Prather  
Ramiro Nunez

Seek Students:

Serena Walker  
Susan Vasquez  
Sharon Bailey

Day Session Students:

Neal Matteo "E"  
Laura Bianchini "E"  
Gail Zinberg "E"  
Richard Flores  
Brian Seirup  
Adam Gerstein  
Gypsy Menor  
Heike Jungblut  
Myra Bachman "E"  
Christine Young  
Anthony Palmieri  
Louis Gonzalez

Evening Session Students:

Josephine D'Addario  
Jeri Beth Arzberger  
Flora Price  
Janet Joyce Belshi  
Patricia Donowski  
Alexandra Matusinka  
Marie Diaz  
Elena Muro  
Karen Snyder