

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

8 December 2004

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2 The 449th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 5:00 PM in Room W714.

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4 **Presiding:** Joan Tronto, Chair

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

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

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10 **Minutes:** The Minutes of November 17th were approved as distributed.

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12 **Report by the** Professor Tronto presented the report as follows:

13 **Administrative**

14 **Committee:** Approved Curriculum Changes

15 The following curriculum changes as listed in the report dated 12/8/04 were approved as per Senate
16 resolution, and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items US-1419 (Chemistry), US-1421
17 (Geography), GS-628 (Curriculum & Teaching), and GS-629 (Special Education).

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19 Establishment of Select Committee on Academic Freedom

20 She presented the following report as distributed.

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22 A number of cases of seeming violations of academic freedom have been brought to the
23 Administrative Committee's attention in recent weeks.

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25 In the past, the Administrative Committee has handled abuses of academic freedom at Hunter on an
26 ad-hoc basis. We are now recommending that the Senate establish a committee of faculty and students
27 who will respond to the various cases and propose solutions and highlight areas of concern at the
28 College. We, therefore, propose the following resolution and member slate:

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30 WHEREAS, the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College* give the Hunter College Senate
31 policy-making powers in a number of areas, including "Safeguarding the academic freedom of
32 ALL members of the Hunter Community" (Article II, 1.E); and,

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34 WHEREAS, the Hunter College Senate has received a number of questions about possible threats
35 to academic freedom; and,

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37 WHEREAS, the Hunter College Senate must be vigilant to defend academic freedom; therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate establish a *Select Committee on Academic*
40 *Freedom*. This Select Committee shall investigate reported violations of academic freedom and
41 propose necessary resolution to such problems. It shall also report to the Senate about the state of
42 academic freedom at Hunter College.

43
44 Proposed Membership for the Select Committee on Academic Freedom

45 Faculty:

46 Professor Barbara Welter, Department of History
47 Professor Kenneth Sherrill, Department of Political Science
48 Professor Barbara L. Hampton (Music)
49 Professor Dixie Goss (Chemistry)
50 Professor Thomas Angotti (Urban Affairs & Planning)

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- Professor Stuart Ewen (Film & Media Studies)
- Professor Nicholas Freudenberg (School of Health Sciences)
- Professor Migdalia Romero (Curriculum & Teaching)
- Professor Louise Sherby, Chief Librarian
- Students:
- Marina Stasenکو (Chemistry Major)
- Elizabeth Maglieri (Political Science/THHP)

The resolution and member slate were approved by voice vote after discussion; additional members may be proposed by the Nominating Committee.

Graduation List

She next moved for ceremonial approval of list of candidates for diplomas and degrees to be awarded in January 2005.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Report by the President:

The following is a summary statement of President Raab’s report to the Senate. She said:

"I want to remind everybody that January 19th is commencement. Chuck Schumer, a truly distinguished public servant, will be our graduation speaker. An honorary degree will be bestowed on Robert Moses, a very distinguished mathematician, who was nominated by the Math Department. We have been trying to get him here for a while, and we will have a reception in his honor to which you are all invited. As you know, we try to highlight student achievement during graduation, and would appreciate any help you can give us in identifying students. Please send your ideas to Vice President Ayravainen.

I also want to remind faculty that we are starting a faculty development pilot program to support faculty travel to conferences and participation in conferences. In January each of the deans will send out a memo to their faculty with information on how to apply. I hope that people will participate so that we can have a better sense of how to make this permanent. If there is a demand we will be able to add this to the list of things for which we are soliciting funds from private donors.

The good news at the end of this semester is that we have just received a gift of half a million dollars to name the Writing Center within the Reading and Writing Center. The gift is from Anna Rockowitz, who wants to support student success and is very interested in students becoming better and more proficient writers. She was a 1939 graduate of Hunter College who met her husband when City College was looking for women who could be in a play. She wants to do something in his honor at her school. She is a truly terrific woman in her 90s, and it is a very nice gift. The Center will be the Murray and Anna Rockowitz Writing Center.

We will notify you by e-mail shortly that the former Governor of New Jersey, Christine Todd Whitman, will be the Public Service Speaker this spring. There will be a variety of events, and if people have particular interests or ideas they want to share to make sure that things are integrated with their classes we would appreciate that. So please look for that email in the next few weeks and let us know how we can work with you.

As a final note, I know that there has been some concern about issues regarding graduation audit and Vice President Ayravainen wants to say a few words about the current problem, but also talk about long-term answers. We are purchasing a computer program that will automate graduation audit, and implementation will require the cooperation of everybody."

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113 President Raab yielded the floor to Vice President Ayravainen, who said:
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115 "The College is purchasing Degree Works, a computer program that will be an advising tool for all of
116 us. It is not just for people in Student Services, but for all faculty advisors and, most importantly, it is
117 for students. Without going into all the technicalities I will just say that when a student enters his or
118 her ID number, it will show the program and the major, and it will also tell the student what he or she
119 is missing from graduation, e.g., credits for the major and minor requirements and the General
120 Education Requirement. All of that information is on the same screen so that the major advisor can
121 have the same information that we have and that the student has. Also, for instance, if a student is an
122 economics major it will give all those requirements, but if the student wants to change to an English
123 major in the following semester, it will show what the requirements are and what requirements the
124 student still needs to fulfill as an English major. If for some reason a student came to me and said I
125 need to be exempt from a language and if I were to exempt the student by writing a note and signing it
126 (which, of course, I would never do), it would be on record so that the program advisor or the
127 departmental person looking at it would see that I exempted the student from a language and then of
128 course they would have an issue with me. But there is a record and there is accountability and students
129 will know what is required before they can graduate. A student will be able to keep track of what is
130 missing and what is not missing. It will not solve all of our problems but it will go a long way. It will
131 also help tremendously with the degree audit process.
132

133 As many of you have heard there are some difficulties with the current degree audit process, which is a
134 totally manual process, and what often happens is that students are using it as an advising tool rather
135 than as the last step in a process. We have a number of applications in Graduation Audit where
136 students do not have a major but they want to graduate. We also have a number of cases where
137 students have not filled in the proper course information, and what happens is that the graduation audit
138 worker has to go back to original transcripts to see what course the student is referring to, and that
139 worker would have to write to the student to fill in another course if the course wasn't there. We get
140 records from students that say that there are incompletes because a professor has not turned in a grade
141 or they themselves have not turned in the work for the grade. There are all kinds of problems, and I do
142 appreciate the fact that students who are ready to graduate will want to know that everything is order
143 so that they can get a job and move on with their careers. What we have resolved to do is that I will
144 write a note to all students at the very beginning of February, indicating a checklist of what they need
145 to do before they submit the graduation audit form. We will also have an open forum for students who
146 have submitted their forms who may have questions or issues because of what we have discovered.
147 We will announce this in an e-bulletin. The Registrar and I have recently discussed a different
148 schedule for the degree audit, and rather than doing it in the last semester we are exploring ways of
149 doing it the semester before the last, so that students can plan for the last semester in a timely manner.
150 Please e-mail me if you have any ideas. We will be more than happy to entertain any of the
151 suggestions and ideas that you may have.
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153 However, I can announce with a great deal of excitement that Degree Works is coming and that there
154 are many people in the College who are working very hard on it. It is a college effort. We are now
155 getting all the work done so that you can participate at the next level because we have to authenticate
156 the catalog. We have been told that if something is not scribable it cannot be entered into the system.
157 So, we will have to reconcile those exceptions and we will come to you very shortly in various forms.
158 Thank you."
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160 The floor was open to questions.

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162 **Committee** **Budget Committee**

163 **Reports:** Professor Manfred Kuechler, Chair of the Committee, presented the following resolution for Senate
164 approval:

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WHEREAS, the Charter for a Governance of Hunter College states that:

- the Senate shall have policy-making powers in the following areas:
 - A. Curriculum and related education matters.
 - B. Academic requirements and standards of academic standing.
 - C. College development, review and forward planning of facilities, staff, and fiscal requirements. (Article II, Section 1)

- the Senate shall have the right to express itself formally as an advisory body in any area its considers important, and to transmit its recommendations to the appropriate authorities (Article II, Section 2)

- the Committee on the Budget "will review the resulting consolidated annual budget of the College and report on it to the Senate" (Article VIII, Section 9); and

WHEREAS, it is at times unavoidable to increase tuition and/or fees to preserve the academic integrity of the college and/or one of its units; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that all plans for tuition or fee increases and any plans for new fees in excess of \$25 per student per semester be submitted to the Hunter College Senate for careful deliberation in its Committee on the Budget and a subsequent vote in the full Senate to either recommend or not recommend such a plan, and that the recommendation by the Hunter Senate be included with any such proposal for a tuition/fee increase submitted to the CUNY Board of Trustees by the Hunter Administration.

During discussion, and because of a medical emergency, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Picciano,
Secretary