

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Hunter College Senate 19 February 2003

1 The 423<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:15 PM in Room W714.

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3 **Presiding:** Alan Hausman, 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 **Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as presented.

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9 **Report by the** The following is a summary statement of President Raab's report. She said:  
10 **President:**

11 "I know that the financial situation is on your minds, and I want to reiterate that we are taking a very  
12 proactive position in lobbying against any potential cuts to the TAP and SEEK programs. I had an  
13 important meeting with the SEEK Student Leadership Council, and we will work with them in  
14 arranging visits to district offices and to Albany. We are also hoping to work with NYPIRG and any  
15 other student groups who would like to work with us in planning these visits and in making our voices  
16 heard. The question of financial aid for our students is one of the most serious issues facing us now,  
17 and we are extremely concerned about it. We are doing whatever we can at the college level to  
18 provide access to the available scholarship monies, so that all students in need understand what is  
19 available and how we can help them. We will also focus on how we can bring in additional money for  
20 scholarships. That is our top priority at the moment. The budget cuts that are proposed would have a  
21 really dramatic effect on the college and we going to make our voices heard in Albany to protest these  
22 budget cuts.

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24 There is a proposal for an \$81M budget cut for CUNY on top of a \$40M hole that CUNY is already  
25 facing. Hunter College would be facing a \$15M reduction if we take what we expect would be about  
26 12% of that cut. If we eliminated the entire education school and our entire adjunct faculty we would  
27 just about cover that number. If we eliminated half of the full time faculty we would cover that  
28 number. The impact is just devastating. I give you these numbers to go to another very problematic  
29 subject and that is the possibility of a potential tuition increase. This is very upsetting and it is  
30 certainly something that I am not looking forward to. But it would be very disingenuous to stand here  
31 and say that we cannot look at a tuition raise if the other option is to close the school, or to lay off  
32 faculty, or to lay off all adjuncts. Tuition is the revenue and the way we balance our budget if the  
33 money is not coming from the State. At the beginning of this year we sustained a 2% budget cut, and  
34 I am happy to report that it had a limited impact on the academic functioning of the school. But we  
35 can't absorb a budget cut of this magnitude through hiring freezes and through economy measures.  
36 Our voices have to be heard in Albany, but we also have to look with an open mind at the Chancellor's  
37 position that would increase tuition in order to sustain the academic quality of CUNY. He is focusing  
38 on the new CUNY Master Plan which calls for hiring and retaining full time faculty, increasing  
39 programs, increasing the number of classes we offer students, increasing student services so that there  
40 is counseling and advising available to the students, and keeping students in school and to help them  
41 graduate. CUNY will be looking at differential pricing for tuition increases with the possibility of  
42 increasing graduate tuition more than undergraduate, and increasing tuition for programs where  
43 employment is more certain. These are the types of things that the CUNY Board and the Chancellor  
44 are looking at in order to ease the burden on the undergraduate population. We need to do all we can  
45 to retain State support for Financial Aid and to raise scholarship money in order to keep our students  
46 in school. My efforts will be focused on making sure that none of our students have to leave school if  
47 there is a tuition increase.

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I am appealing to all of you to help us move the school forward as one community and not as a community in conflict in the hard times ahead. I am very much hoping that we can get through the difficult period and voice our opposition to political activities, tuition increases, budget cuts, and cuts in financial aid in a constructive way, addressing the legislators who can make a difference. I have been asked by a certain group of students to take a position against the war. I appreciate that there is a viewpoint that the war is linked to potential tuition increases and budget cuts. While I respect that position, I also know that an official stand from the administration destroys the rights of speech of others. I am committed to ensuring that every group and every person feels free and safe to speak their minds and to argue their positions. I was a first amendment litigator in one of my earlier careers and I have spent a lot of my professional and personal passion defending first amendment rights of peoples' ability to protest. That is something I believe in greatly and I am convinced that taking a position as the president would chill the rights of others to speech. That was my answer to the students who made that request. I have reached out to a number of student groups. I have requested that the student government meet with me, and it is my hope that they will keep that meeting which is scheduled for Friday. I am very open to hearing what is on the students' minds and how we can work together as a community. While we may not always agree, I am very interested in hearing how we can respond and how we can be supportive."

The floor was open for questions.

**Report by the Administrative Committee:**

The Chair presented the report as follows:

Approved Curriculum Changes

The following curriculum changes as listed in the report dated 19 February 2003 were approved as per Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information. Items: UE-1289 (Mathematics & Statistics/Philosophy), UE-1290 (Sociology), and UE-1291 (Russian/Classics).

**Items Carried Over:**

Teacher Evaluations Committee

Ms. Jillian Murray, Chair of the Committee, presented the revised report dated 19 February 2003.

After discussion Professor Sherrill moved that the wording of the statements on the front and back page of the questionnaire be amended to read follows: (a) "These forms are used in the formal evaluation of teaching faculty at Hunter College in consideration of retention, promotion, and tenure. Results of the..."; (b) that the sentence "Free response sections will be submitted to your instructor after the semester's end" be deleted from the statement on the back page; and (c) that "(This section will be submitted to your instructor)" be deleted from the box on the back page.

Dean Linda Chin moved that the amendment be amended to read as follows: "The summaries of questions 1 through 24 are used in the formal evaluation of teaching faculty at Hunter College in consideration of reappointment, promotion, and tenure..."

After discussion the question was called and carried. Dean Chin's amendment to the amendment was defeated.

Professor Sherrill's amendment was on the floor.

After discussion the question was called. The motion to call the question was defeated.

After further discussion the question was called and carried. Professor Sherrill's motion to amend was defeated.

The main motion was on the floor.

Professor Beaujour moved that the statements on the front and back of the form be amended by inserting the word "reappointment" before the words "promotion and tenure."

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The question was called and carried. Professor Beaujour’s amendment was approved by voice vote and became part of the main motion.

After discussion it was moved that the motion be further amended by changing the statement on the front of the form to “This side of the form is used in the formal evaluation...”, and the statement on the back of the form to “The other side of this form is used in the formal evaluation...”

After discussion the question on the motion to amend was called and carried. The amendment was approved by hand vote and became part of the main motion on the floor.

Because of the late hour, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Picciano,  
Secretary