

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

5 February 2003

1 The 422nd meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:10 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 **Items Carried**

10 **Over:** Teacher Evaluations Committee

11 Ms. Jillian Murray, Chair of the Committee, presented the report dated 11 December 2002.

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13 At 4:15PM it was moved that the Senate dissolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for 20 minutes.
14 The motion carried by voice vote.

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16 The Senate reconvened in formal session at 4:35 P.M.

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18 After discussion it was moved that the report be recommitted and that discussion be continued at the
19 next Senate meeting.

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21 The question was called and carried.

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23 The motion to recommit was approved by hand vote.

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25 **Report by the**
26 **President:**

The following is a summary statement of President Raab's report: She said:

27 "We had a wonderful graduation to end last semester, and I thank all of you who participated.
28 The Governor of Puerto Rico gave a wonderful speech as the honorary degree recipient. We were
29 also able to honor Sylvia Fishman with the President's Medal for her years of great service to the
30 community. I am very pleased to report that her health is improving, and we are hoping to see her
31 back here. She is going to be working with me on alumni affairs, special projects and fundraising.
32 We hope to see her back on campus very soon. The Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
33 Benno Schmidt, was here as well and it was wonderful to hear what he had to say about Hunter.
34 He was extraordinarily positive and called us the flagship college of the university. He praised
35 what happens on this campus and he was very impressed with how much emphasis we have put
36 on academic excellence. It was a great feedback to the school.

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38 I know everyone is thinking about the budget. It is not a happy picture, but if we all pull together
39 now and work together, I believe we are going to get through this hard time without affecting the
40 academic quality and success that we have been enjoying at Hunter College. On the City side
41 there is good news. The cuts to our Hunter College Campus School faculty were restored. There
42 are still some proposed cuts in the administrative staff that we are protesting. The City Council
43 will hopefully restore the proposed cuts in the Vallone Scholarship, and we will lobby them to
44 make sure that the money is restored. About \$1M has been committed for long-term capital
45 projects by the City Council and the Borough President, and we are optimistic that this money will
46 also be forthcoming. That is good news.

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48 It is on the State side where we face the largest crisis, and right now the Governor's Budget
49 proposal reduces the state portion of CUNY funding by about \$81M. There is also an ongoing

54 structural deficit, which puts us at a deficit of about \$121M. That is obviously a very serious
55 issue for all of us. You read in the newspapers that the Board of Trustees is going to consider a
56 tuition increase. Now, that is very unfortunate and we can only hope that it will be as minimal as
57 possible, and, in the positive sense, the Trustees are going to be looking very carefully at the
58 concept of differential tuition with higher tuition for certain graduate programs. That way the
59 burden would fall less on our undergraduate population where it is very clear from statistics that
60 the average income per household is \$30,000 CUNY-wide. This is going to be an extremely
61 tough time, and we would like enlist your support to fight the cuts in tuition and financial aid.
62 Those cuts are pending now. It is very much what was proposed in the last go around where a
63 third of the TAP aid would be deferred until the student graduated and there would probably be
64 other cuts in aid as well. This is a true crisis. If tuition has to be raised to support operations we
65 must make sure that the needs of students are met, and we absolutely have to pull together to fight
66 against any cuts in TAP. We are also working very aggressively to make available as much
67 scholarship aid as possible to the student body. On a positive note, the Chancellor's
68 announcements have made it very clear that there will be absolutely no retrenchment as a result of
69 these budget cuts. And not only that, we are under a mandate to continue to hire on the full time
70 faculty lines that are available in the school. I urge all of you to commit yourself to all ongoing
71 searches. There will be absolutely no hiring freezes of faculty. Our recruiting is better than ever
72 and we are very proud of it. We are praised at CUNY meetings for our very aggressive hiring
73 and we are going to continue to do that, notwithstanding the budget issues. It is going to be more
74 difficult to hire in administrative areas. So, on the administrative side we have to be very careful
75 with our resources and be creative in terms of replacing technical support staff and administrative
76 support staff. I completely understand how critical lab support and administrative support are,
77 and we are going to argue for filling existing vacancies. We will put forward the fact that Hunter
78 has traditionally been under funded. A report that was done last year shows that Hunter does not
79 receive the proportional resources needed to function at the level that is expected. We are under
80 funded structurally, and we will continue to say that every time we discuss the allocation of
81 resources.

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83 The good news in the budget picture, notwithstanding the operating budget, is that we did
84 extremely well in the capital budget. The money to restore and reopen Roosevelt House is there.
85 The architects have been hired and we expect construction to start this summer or this fall. So, that
86 money is allotted and the work will begin. We have also been allotted money to begin planning
87 for a new science facility and a new arts facility. Both of those projects are underway, and we are
88 looking for sites. The money is in the budget and when we find sites we will build. We will also
89 have money to renew our contracts with the planners who worked on the original master plan for
90 the College. There is a lot of good news on the capital budget, but on the operating budget we are
91 going to have to pull together to work through this.

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93 With that I want to introduce someone who is going to help us work through this, our new Vice
94 President for Development, Mark Kalish. Many of you met Mark during our search. I again
95 thank Len Zinnanti and all of you who participated on that committee. We had a number of really
96 stellar candidates, and there was a consensus on campus that Mark was the right person for
97 Hunter. He is a product of the public education system and he received his BA at SUNY New
98 Paltz, and his MPA at Baruch. He has had 26 years in the world of fundraising, much of it spent in
99 the educational arena in higher education. AT NYU he was the Director of Alumni Relations and
100 University Development in the 80's. He spent 10 years as the regional director of Johns Hopkins
101 fundraising unit in New York City, and then was at the Weizmann Institute of Science in New
102 York City. Most recently he has been a consultant working with a number of higher education
103 institutions such as Teacher's College. Mark, I want to welcome you."

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105 President Raab then yielded the floor to Mark Kalish who said: "Thank you very much. I
106 am very thrilled to be here. I enjoyed the search process and I did get to meet a number of faculty
107 members. This is helpful in understanding what Hunter's needs are. They are many, and I am
108 committed to helping the college raise that kind of money. I think there is a lot that we can do. We
109 can do a better job of marketing and communicating our needs to alumni, to friends, to

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corporations, to foundations, and we can better organize ourselves to do all that. I believe there is a lot of potential and that was one of the reasons I decided to come here when the offer was made. I look forward to working with the faculty who are key players in this. Over the next several months I will be knocking on your doors and will try to find out more about what is going on. Thank you for your warm welcome here, and I look forward to working with you.”

Vice President Kalish yielded the floor to President Raab who said: “I also want to welcome two people who have been at Hunter for a long time and thank them for their new responsibilities. As all of you know, we have been working very hard to implement the Student Services Report. We had a very successful workshop during January where many of the student service personnel and faculty came together to talk about how we can do more effective advising. The consultant Betsy Barefoot was here in December. She has given us her report and we are going to begin discussions throughout the community about how to strengthen freshmen orientation to help with retention and graduation, and how to support our students. Everyone knows the great job Eija has been doing. I want to announce officially that Madlyn Stokely has become the Acting Assistant Dean of Student Support Services. So, we thank you Madlyn. Everybody knows Mike Escott. He is doing what he has always done and now he is doing even more at a higher level. So, we gave him the wonderful title of Senior Associate Dean. Thank you, Mike.

Finally, Maria Terrone who was with us for quite a long time has left to move on to Queens College. I would like to introduce Debra Sack who has taken Maria’s place with the title of Executive Director of Marketing and Communications. Debbie is working on getting Hunter’s name out into the news. She is also working with us on a number of technology related initiatives and to revamp and improve our publications. President Raab then yielded the floor to Debra Sack, who said: “I am very excited to be here. I am really looking forward to working with all of you because I think there is a lot we can do to promote your research and expertise. As an example, we received a call today from Fox News looking for someone to comment on Colin Powell’s speech to the UN. We get a lot of that. And of course this place is so big it is hard for me to know all the expertise that is here. I will be coming to talk to you, and I look forward to helping to promote everybody’s effort here and also the overall mission of the college. Thank you.”

President Raab concluded the report by opening the floor to questions.

The Chair informed the Senate that the report by the Budget Committee and the Graduate Course of Study & Academic Requirements Committee has been withdrawn and will be resubmitted at a later date.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Picciano,
Secretary