

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

9 February 2005

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2 The 450th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:15 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 December 1st and December 8th were approved as distributed.

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

13 **President** The following is a summary statement of President Raab's report to the Senate 2/9/05. She said:

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16 "I just spoke with the Administrative Committee and made a formal request for the Senate to hold
17 elections for a Search Committee for Dean of Arts and Sciences. I also spoke with the
18 Administrative Committee about coming back to a joint Senate/FDA/HEO Forum to talk about
19 recommendations regarding the structure of the new School of Arts and Sciences. As many of
20 you know, we have been talking about this with the chairs. There was a subcommittee of chairs
21 that made a report to me, and I am hoping in the next couple of weeks to put out to the community
22 a report on a proposed structure for the new School of Arts and Sciences. I would like to take the
23 opportunity at Senate meeting on March 23rd, if that is possible, to have an open forum where
24 people can give comments and we can move towards a decision and consensus on the structure of
25 the School of Arts and Sciences.

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27 All of you have been following the not so happy news about the State Budget for CUNY. The
28 Chancellor testified about the impact that the proposal would have on the CUNY system. The
29 most unfortunate is that in order to make up one of the operating gaps, which is \$37 million that
30 the Governor is proposing to cut out of the operating budget, a \$250 increase in tuition for full-
31 time students would be required. Right now I am going to ask all of you to work with us to get
32 the word out to the legislators in Albany to make our case that our students have already been
33 burdened with tuition increases and to really show what the impact would be on our students.
34 There are two other holes in the budget that even with this tuition increase would not be covered.
35 One is the really unfortunate cut in the financial aid for SEEK students which is about \$7 million
36 CUNY-wide, and the other is about a \$27 million hole in general, unfounded costs such as energy
37 and other things that don't come up as budget items and those are costs that have been recurring
38 over the years. Each year we get our budget and then we are asked to hold back a certain amount
39 of money which is usually around \$2 million that we ultimately wind up going to central
40 administration to cover that same \$26 million cost. All three of those items are incredibly
41 important to us. We have managed to deal with this \$2 million cut every year and find ways to
42 compensate and not have it impact on the academic mission here, the availability of classes, and
43 support for the faculty. But we are very concerned about having to keep on doing that. We are
44 particularly concerned about the new \$37 million cut which is a real reduction from last year. As
45 far as we can see at the moment the only proposal to make it up would be a tuition increase. So we
46 will be reporting as we get more information and are asking all of you to work with us again to
47 make the argument to the State Legislature to address this issue.

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54 The capital budget had some better news in it for us because our appropriation of \$95 million in
55 capital funds has been carried over, including money for Roosevelt House, money for a new
56 science building, money to begin a new visual and art building, and money for security and for
57 other work on our phone system. So, that is the good news in the sense that the capital budget for
58 our allocations remain the same and CUNY was also given a \$41 million allocation of money to
59 use for the various colleges for high priority health, safety and environmental violation type
60 projects and we are very busy trying to claim some of that money for high priority projects on this
61 campus. I am optimistic that we will get a share of that new capital.
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63 A new science building here to be able to do some very needed renovations on 1930s facilities
64 that our students and faculty are unfortunately still using is a must. Due to the money we were
65 able to get from our Assemblyman Jonathan Bing, the physics hall in the north building is now
66 under renovation and just about to be completed. We also raised private donations and matched
67 them with a contribution from Assemblyman Bing to do the new Student Lounge in Thomas
68 Hunter Hall. That has been totally redone and will be available soon for students to use as a place
69 for a café and for entertainment. It is really a very nice job. The work on Lowe Plaza which is
70 moving along, and we are planning to use the million dollars we received from the Borough
71 President and the City Council for much needed renovation of the organic chemistry lab. So, we
72 are trying to match the public contribution to private money and really do projects in the campus
73 that are very important to all of us. We are looking forward to talking to departments again about
74 their particular need for private fund raising and public support.
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76 I have asked the deans to put out information in a systematic way regarding the pilot project that
77 supports faculty who need to attend conferences, so that people can take advantage of it this
78 semester. Please make that request to the dean. We are not putting a dollar amount either on the
79 amount available for the program or for the particular request because we are using this as a
80 learning experience. I have spent much of the fall semester meeting with small groups of faculty.
81 Something that came up over and over again was how hard it was for faculty to attend conferences
82 to be able to present their work and meet their colleagues. This obviously has an enormous
83 impact on your ability to do your research and your ability to be superior teachers, researchers,
84 and mentors to the students. This is a pilot program to see where the needs are and what the needs
85 are. So we can systematize it in the years going forward.
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87 We also ask departments to think about new ways to do major advising and said that we would be
88 open to proposals for pilots for that as well. The English Department and the Psychology
89 Department both came forward with new approaches that they are testing and the only caveat
90 there is to ask them to report back to the school to share their successes and failures so that we can
91 continue to develop best practices. That has been part of an overall strategy to try to really
92 improve the graduation and retention rate in the College and to be able to work on the pre major
93 level. We have done a lot of work with advising and thinking through with the Senate committees
94 and with the Dean of Arts and Science Office, the freshman seminar and freshman scheduling,
95 and how we could best help our students to become majors and complete their college education.
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97 I want to take an opportunity to thank all of you for another initiative that could not have
98 happened without the faculty. We were able this year to increase by 16% the class offerings for
99 summer school. And this is enormously important because we are using summer school now to be
100 able to provide the classes that are in demand, that student cannot get into during the year. If
101 something is a prerequisite we will try to make it available over the summer so that a student
102 can stay on course and register for the courses they need in the fall. We are extremely apprecia-
103 tive that's a very large increase, and we have offered incentives to departments that have made
104 significant increases in their offerings and we are going to continue to do that. We want to find a
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way to support what your needs and get us all working together to the same goal. On that vein, you will also receive a request from your deans and chairs about expanding the number of course offerings on the weekends. We are certain that there would be student demand for course offerings on the weekends. We know we have issues. Some of the buildings are used on some days, but we have the Brookdale campus and this campus, and we need to do better in being able to offer classes over the summer and over the weekend to be able to respond to student demand for a number of our basic classes.

My final note is a very happy note. Thank you Tami Gold, Larry Shore, and Jenny Shute who were part of a really terrific experiment of our first foreign study program to the University of Cape Town in South Africa. It was a really extraordinary experience from all the emails I have been reading."

President Raab called on Professor Tami Gold, who stated:

"It was just a fabulous experience and we want to continue it. We had ten students from Film & Media, ten students from the English Program in Creative Writing, and approximately sixteen students from the University of Cape Town. For most of our students it was a life changing experience. It really was brilliant and fabulous. We have four documentaries that were finished in three and a half weeks. And a big documentary is being worked on right now as we speak."

The President continued her report and said:

"Thank you for making this possible. Also thanks to Dean Judith Friedlander. It was a quick expeditious push, but it is a very exciting thing because this is obviously really a new democracy and for us to be part of it and to share it with the student body is just very exciting.

President Raab then called on Professor Michael Turner, who informed the Senate that another very experimental, but fascinating three-week intersession course took place in Brazil where fifteen students from various campuses of the City University of New York went and experienced the magic of Bahia, and that their lives had also changed through that experience in Brazil. The President then continued by saying: "That is amazing, and I think that is what is so wonderful and it goes into my final point, the issue of fundraising.

As we are moving towards the capital campaign, these are the types of things that we need to hear so that we know how the money that we generate can be used for really important purposes. It was a pleasure in this case to be able to provide scholarship money for the students, it is not an inexpensive proposition to travel to South Africa and we were able to help. And, to be able to report to donors that our students are part of a very new program that is a wonderful thing. There are very few schools in the country that are doing anything like this, and I am very proud that we are at the forefront.

I am going to be asking for volunteers and will be reaching out to many of you in trying to put together a Faculty Council on Development that might meet once or twice a year, where some of the people who work in development report on some of the things that we are working on and get some feedback on whether we are going in the right direction and what the general faculty is feeling about these efforts. We are talking to the deans and chairs, but we would also like to make sure you know. Is the development office working for you? Are people getting feedback? Are we responding? What ideas are getting lost or getting pursued? Are you seeing the impact of money raised? Soon we will have some formal documents that will represent the case for Hunter College, and it would be very important to have your feedback as you read this. Does it sound right? Is this the school we should be putting out there?

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President Raab concluded her report by responding to a question raised by Professor Stuart Ewen as follows:

Q: *Jennifer, prior to the spring semester of 2003 you had been vocally committed to building a digital media lab for the MFA Program in Integrated Media Arts. You had articulated that commitment to the Board of Trustees when you and I presented the MFA-IMA proposal to the Board, and the specification of the 5th floor north building space was indicated in the proposal that was sent to the Board of Trustees and then to the State Education Department, I am bringing up a question—and I know Tami asked you this several meetings ago—regarding long promised facilities for the MFA Program in Integrated Media Arts. I believe that you told her at that Senate meeting that our department had voted unanimously not to move ahead with developing space in the north building and instead had chosen to move to a new, as yet unbuilt, Arts Building in the downtown World Trade Center area. I want to say two things about that meeting...*

A: Well, can I say whether that is what I said? Because you shouldn't respond to something I didn't say. Okay?

Q: *You need to respond to this and wait until I'm finished.*

A: Okay.

Q: *At that meeting you came in and talked about this new facility that was going to be built downtown. I tried to raise questions about the promised development of a 5th floor space in the north building that some people may define as outdated 1930s facilities and other people might define as a pre-war building, which is sometimes a good thing. And at that meeting, you did not want to talk about it and, in fact, you refused to talk about it at that time, refused to engage in dialogue. I was there. Regarding the faculty vote, and the circumstances, I disagree with your interpretation. Essentially, what you said to the department is that the train is moving out of the station; and if they didn't get on board this project they would be left behind. You also promised the department 1.5 million dollars to spend in the meanwhile. So, my main question, which is not to hash over what happened at that meeting, is what is happening with the building downtown near the World Trade Center site? My understanding from having asked around is nothing, it isn't going to happen.*

A: Well, maybe you should have asked me. And I will answer the question. I will give you two answers. First of all, when I arrived here you suggested a \$1 million renovation for the former gym in the north building. I have spent a lot of money on engineers and architects. I have costed out that project. It is \$6 million, and with a lot of professional advice that is not what you do in space that old. So, that project as you envisioned it is not on the drawing board. We are investing money in that space to do a project that has been proposed by the chair of your department. I am talking to the chair regularly, Len is, Richard is and we have a proposal. We were given half a million dollars by the City Council person. One day that money in the city budget turned into \$350,000. I am still trying to argue with her to get back that \$150,00, and we had some other money that was supposed to be in the State budget that was lost after 2001. But we are moving ahead with the proposal to do a digital media project in that space. It is not a \$6 million project because the advice between the chair and the Provost and the Vice-President is our judgment that we don't have that money. CUNY is not giving us that money and that is not an investment that we are going to make. We are making an investment in that space. We are also pursuing a new facility for the Art and Film departments because you are intensive, intensive space users. It is extraordinarily expensive between the HVAC issues and other issues to renovate this building. As anyone knows,

224 having spent half my life in preservation, it is not that I don't have a respect for old facilities,
225 but there are limitations and exorbitant costs associated with working with true renovations in
226 the north building. So, we are looking at possible swaps with the MFA building. Could that
227 work? What other money do we have? As I announced, that is a long-term project. We have
228 hired a real estate consultant. I have said it over and over here. We have hired the top real
229 estate consultant in this city. We have hired the top zoning lawyer in this city, and on
230 their agenda of things to do is to look for a new Art and Film facility that can be put together
231 with the various resources that are available to Hunter College. It is a long-range plan, but all
232 real estate programs are long-range plans and it is on the drawing board. I have been frank. At
233 the moment the consultants' first focus is the Science Building because that has been a crisis
234 and that was on the books when I got here in the Master Plan. So, right now we are doing
235 intense work on that, but we also have on the list, as very high priority, the issue of can there
236 be a new facility for the Film & the Art department. And in the meantime we are looking to
237 see what we can do in this building to provide the facilities that the Film students need and
238 the material and equipment that they need. And I talk to Jay Roman constantly about his
239 issue. He is the chair. I respect that structure, and if you have an issue that you feel is not
240 being addressed I would ask you to speak to Jay and tell him what is not in his plan that your
241 students need.

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243 Q: *Well, I have spoken to Jay and there has been very little consultation, I would say nil*
244 *consultation, with the Integrated Media Arts Program in terms of that discussion. I would*
245 *add also that the \$6 million price that you just quoted is something that came out of the*
246 *charge you gave to me when I was the department chair, which was to dream big. So, we*
247 *created in fact a dream with architects that you introduced us to. It was not predicated on a*
248 *million dollars, it was predicated on creating something...*

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250 A: Right Stuart, we can go back and forth. We don't. There is not \$6 million floating around
251 here. We are investing in the film and, okay...

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253 Q: *About the \$6 million, we took you at your word, and when it turned out that the sky was too*
254 *high, instead of rolling it back, you...*

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256 A: It is rolled back. Okay? My position is that that facility is rolled back. The chair has given me
257 a proposal. If you feel that that proposal does not represent the department's desires I would
258 ask you to talk to Richard Pizer who is sitting here, and Dean Friedlander who is sitting here.
259 Speak to the academic leaders if you have a problem with your chair. There are other
260 members of the department here. You hear what I am saying Tami, you hear what I am saying
261 Mike, you don't want what we are planning to do in the north building in that gym, there are
262 seven departments in this room that are dying for that space, dying for that space. Okay?

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264 Q: *We are dying for that space. Our students are desperately in need of that space.*

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266 A: Okay, so if you don't like what we are planning and that we have money on the books
267 to do, please tell the provost or the dean and we can either think of not doing it and
268 giving to another department, or finding another way to make the department happy.
269 But right now when a chair comes to me and signs off and says this is a project that
270 my department wants to do, I am not second-guessing that. So, if there is a problem
271 and the communication in your department isn't working, please speak to your Dean
272 and the Provost. Thank you.

"I am going to give a short report to the Senate about five items that will be on the agenda this semester.

This January marked an important step forward in our thinking about the first year initiative. Provost Pizer, Vice-provost Prisco, myself, members of the staff of the dean's office, and members of the staff of Student Services organized a one-day workshop on talking about learning communities, and moving away from the idea that blocks are an administrative solution to the problem of what do we do with our first year students. Instead, we will be thinking more systematically about how we educate our first year students so that there is some integration to the way that they experience their education and enable them to successfully make the transition from high school to college. The Administration and the Senate's Select Committee on the First Year Initiative are going to work together to create a more faculty oriented and faculty initiated first year initiative. This is one of the items that will be on the agenda for the Senate for this semester.

A second item that is on our agenda is finally to work through the academic integrity report that came from CUNY. There is a Select Committee on Academic Integrity of the Senate, chaired by Linda Carlson. They have prepared a first draft of a proposal that has gone to the committee; there is still some work that needs to be done before it will come before the Senate. In the end we will all be much better served by knowing what academic integrity is, what to do if a faculty member suspects that there has been some violation, and what students can do to make sure that they have not violated such policies.

Third. The Senate will turn over its first meeting in April to organizing a full community discussion on retention and time to graduation. The Administrative Committee was prompted to do this partly because of the Governor's proposal that colleges get a bonus for every student who graduates within four years. Most students don't graduate in four years, but it raises a very important question about why. The Administration, the President and her staff, have been working hard to look at some of these questions. But there are also curricular aspects to these questions and questions about student standing that we as a faculty need to be involved in. So, we will have a broad discussion of those questions in April.

Fourth. The newly created Select Committee on Academic Freedom of the Senate will begin looking at issues of due process and academic freedom at the College.

Fifth. Let me tell you that there are many Senate committees where we are in need of further staffing. For those of you who have thought, "going to Senate meetings I don't really do much," volunteer to serve on Senate committees. The work of the Senate is done through its committees, and I urge to join us there.

**Report by the
Administrative
Committee:**

Professor Tronto presented the report as follows:

Special Election to fill vacant seats on the Senate

In accordance with Article IV.2.H.i & ii of the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College* the Administrative Committee presented the names of all nominees received to date:

Students: Waheeda Sohan (Sociology)
Colleen Boris (Women's Studies)
Aubrie Dillon (Women's Studies/Political Science)

Faculty: Ruth deFord (Music)

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It was moved that the student nominees be declared elected. The motion carried by voice vote.

It was moved that the faculty nominee be declared elected. The motion carried by voice vote.

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Approved Curriculum Changes

The following curriculum changes as listed in the report dated 2/9/05 were approved as per Senate resolution, and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items GR-633 (Film & Media Studies), GS-630 (Special Education), GS-631 (English), US-1425 (School of Nursing), and US-1426 (School of Health Sciences).

Items Carried Over:

Budget Committee

The motion on the floor was the resolution presented at the last meeting.

Professor Manfred Kuechler, on behalf of the Budget Committee, moved that the resolution be amended by substituting the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that all plans that originate at Hunter College for tuition or fee increases that require approval by the CUNY Board of Trustees be submitted to the Hunter College Senate for it to vote either its approval or disapproval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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

The motion to amend by substitution was approved by voice vote, and the substitute motion was the main motion on the floor.

It was moved that the motion be recommitted.

After discussion the question on the motion to recommit was called and defeated.

After further discussion the question on the motion to recommit was called and carried.

The motion to recommit was approved by voice vote.

New Business:

Professor Kirkland moved that the staff of the Registrar's Office be commended for having been able to put together a *Schedule of Classes* for the entire college with only 67 rooms available.

The motion carried by acclamation.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Picciano,
Secretary