

M I N U T E S

"Overflow" Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
19 March 1980

	The 13 th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:35 p.m. in the Playhouse.	1 2
Presiding:	Allan Brick, Chairperson	3
Attendance:	The elected members of the Senate, with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5
Report by the Ombudsman:	The following is a summary statement of the Ombudsman's Report to the Senate:	6 7
	A sample of 70 cases dealt with by the Ombudsman between 1976-78 indicates the following pattern of problem areas: grades 33%; financial aid and bursar 20%; poor teaching 10%; transfer credits 10%; transcripts 3%; miscellaneous faculty complaints 10%; miscellaneous student complaints 15%.	8 9 10 11 12
	In the last six months there has been a steady flow of cases--by no means of epidemic proportion. Problems have been brought to me by faculty, students and staff. The most common problems concern grades and examination procedures, financial aid, registration and quality of teaching. Most issues involve some intervention by me, but in others, I am asked only for advice on how the complainant can best deal with the problem encountered.	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
	Some problems have broken new ground for me: (a) freedom of information vs. confidentiality of student files...we need clear legal guidelines; (b) faculty authority to change class and examination schedule after classes begin...proper procedures and limitations must be specified; (c) procedures including appeals of credits transferred from community and other colleges.	20 21 22 23 24 25
	Faculty are reminded to carefully follow procedures in cases of academic dishonesty. Check to make sure if proper procedures before doing anything--the allegation of dishonesty cannot be the basis of punitive action or grade assignment. See the Dean of Students (or the Ombudsman if anonymity is desired).	26 27 28 29
	We now have some experienced peer counselors assisting the Ombudsman. They are available to help students to follow proper appeals procedures as well as advise on college policy, etc.	30 31 32
Report by the Administrative Committee:	Prof. Brick announced that the Senate Office still needs envelopes, and any help that can be given in this regard will be appreciated.	33 34
	He then presented, and moved for approval of, the following resolution:	35
	WHEREAS, Section 6 of the Charter for a Governance of Hunter College designated the Senate Master Plan Committee as "the general College development planning group, concerning itself with the priorities that affect long term projections as regards programs and facilities," and adds, "It will make policy recommendations on these matters for adoption by the Senate," and WHEREAS, the anticipated new Hunter buildings and the assignment to programs and departments of space therein will set "priorities that affect long term projections as regards program and facilities," BE IT RESOLVED, that the Master Plan Committee survey all space assignments relating to the new buildings and report to the Senate, making any recommendations for policy action that it deems advisable.	36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
	After discussion, a motion was made to amend the resolution to read as follows:	48 49
	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Master Plan Committee survey all space allocation in the new and existing buildings and report..."	50 51
	The amendment was accepted by the mover and became part of the main motion.	52

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After discussion the question was called and carried.	53
The motion, as amended, carried by hand vote.	54
A motion was made by Mr. Savage, that the Presidents of the Student Governments and the Faculty Delegate Assembly be invited to the Master Plan Committee meetings. This motion was ruled out of order.	55 56 57
The next item on the floor was the election of Chairperson for the Master Plan Committee, and the floor was opened for nominations.	58 59
Nominated were Professor Rena Gropper, Anthropology Professor Hans Spiegel, Urban Affairs, who declined nomination in favor of Prof. Gropper.	60 61 62
Prof. Rena Gropper (Anthropology) was elected Chairperson of the Master Plan Committee.	63 64
<u>Report by the Nominating Committee</u>	65
Mr. Gil Ehrenkranz, Vice-Chairperson of the Senate, presented the Report as distributed and opened the floor for further nominations.	66 67
No additional nominations having been offered, Mr. Ehrenkranz moved for approval of the entire package as presented.	68 69
The motion carried by voice vote, and the following were elected:	70
<u>Charter Review Committee</u>	71
<u>Faculty Alternate:</u> Alfred Bennick - Physics & Astronomy	72
<u>Teacher Evaluations Committee</u>	73
<u>Faculty Alternate:</u> Harry Clawar - Educational Foundations	74
<u>Master Plan Committee</u>	75
<u>Student:</u> Serena Walker - Academic Skills	76
<u>Student Alternate:</u> Millicent Perkins - Sociology - Day	77
<u>Advisory Committee on the Library</u>	78
<u>Student:</u> Patricia Heyman - English - SGS	79
<u>Budget Committee</u>	80
<u>Student:</u> Jo Steele - Social Sciences - Graduate	81
<u>Facilities & Services Committee</u>	82
<u>Students:</u> A.H. Gerrard - Computer Science - SGS	83
Doris Chee - Humanities - Graduate	84
<u>Re: 1980-81 College Calendar</u>	85
Prof. Brick informed the Senate that President Shenker would report next. He then asked Senators to wait with questions regarding the Calendar until all reports on the Calendar are received. The President and/or the Administrative Committee would then respond to questions.	86 87 88 89
President Shenker reported that at the meeting with Deputy Chancellor Egon Brenner, Hunter College was confronted with three different issues simultaneously: (1) It was suggested that Hunter's M.A. Programs be severely curtailed. The President indicated that on this issue the meeting was held with a great deal of success, but that no formal notification had been received to date. (2) We are faced with the possibility of a major budget reduction. (3) The approval of the 1980-81 Calendar. Since Hunter was faced with three different issues at the same time, the President reported that it was his judgment to place emphasis on the M.A. Programs and budget situation. President Shenker informed the Senate that, nonetheless, he, Provost Schneewind and Vice-President Tesoriero had argued the case for the new calendar and associated bell schedule for approximately one hour without success.	90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102
Prof. Brick presented a "Chronology of Events" regarding the 1980-81 college calendar:	103 104
<u>Thursday, March 6:</u> Provost reported a problem: Deputy Chancellor Egon Brenner was opposed to granting Hunter a "variance" that would approve this version of a CUNY Calendar.	105 106 107

<u>Monday, March 10:</u> President Shenker, with Provost Schneewind,	108
<u>presented our calendar and the case for it to Dr. Brenner, who formally</u>	109
<u>refused to recommend it to the Board; their interpretation to the</u>	110
<u>Senate Administrative Committee was that this effectively blocked the</u>	111
<u>new calendar (and associated bell schedule) for the coming year.</u>	112
<u>Wednesday, March 12:</u> Administrative Committee met with Provost, who	113
<u>reported the discussion with Dr. Brenner and the grounds for refusal:</u>	114
<u>i.e., the State Commissioner's Regulations, Chapt. II, Sect. 50.1 (0).</u>	115
Administrative Committee decided to gather as many concerned Senators	116
as possible to discuss what was considered to be an emergency regarding	117
the calendar and the implications for Senate governance and College	118
autonomy.	119
<u>Friday, March 14:</u> Calendar Committee met to consider feasible	120
<u>alternatives for 1980-81.</u>	121
An emergency meeting of 20 Senators recommended the following actions to	122
be initiated by the Administrative Committee:	123
(1) Telephone call to the State Commissioner of Education for the	124
interpretation of Regulations, Chapt.II, Sect. 50.1 (o).	125
(2) Delegation to meet with Dr. Brenner to request his approval of our	126
proposed calendar and, in light of his continuing refusal, to	127
receive and discuss his reasons for refusal.	128
(3) Administrative Committee to get matter placed on the B.H.E. agenda,	129
so that the Hunter Senate's position regarding the calendar and	130
associated issues can be stated at a B.H.E. public hearing.	131
(4) Prof. Goldzweig to present the matter to the University Faculty	132
Senate.	133
(5) Mr. Ehrenkranz to present the matter to the University Student	134
Senate.	135
(6) President-elect Shalala to be formally advised of the situation.	136
(7) Progress on these actions to be reported to the Senate at the	137
March 19th meeting, at which time the Senate may consider further	138
actions--e.g., an appeal to the State Commissioner of Education.	139
<u>Monday, March 17:</u> The Ombudsman phoned the office of the Deputy	140
<u>Commissioner of Higher Education of the State of New York, and was</u>	141
<u>told by Dr. Nolan that the meaning of the Commissioner's regulation</u>	142
<u>[50.1 (o)], is that institutions have the prerogative to vary from a</u>	143
<u>fifteen-week schedule. Only the total time (hours and minutes) is of</u>	144
<u>concern, not the number of weeks.</u>	145
Administrative Committee joined by Mr. Olefsen and Professors Goldzweig	146
and Stapleford met with Dr. Brenner formally to request that he re-	147
consider the denial he had communicated through President Shenker. Dr.	148
Brenner reiterated his denial, citing as his basis the State Com-	149
missioner's Regulations, Chapt.II, Sect. 50.1 (o), requiring "at least	150
15 hours of 50 minutes each of instruction" per course credit. Dr.	151
Brenner said that it was his interpretation that since 50-minute	152
periods were mandatory then so was a 15-week (14 weeks of classroom	153
instruction and one week of exams) calendar mandatory. The delegation	154
informed him that the Deputy Commissioner's office had just told us	155
that the Regulation [II. Sect. 50.1 (o)] meant total amount of time	156
in class rather than numbers of periods or weeks. Nonetheless, Dr.	157
Brenner waved aside the Senate delegation's contention that each class	158
sequence of the proposed calendar and bell schedule actually exceeded	159
the 2100 minutes per credit required by the State Regulations, and he	160
would not accept the delegation's contention that his insistence on	161
50-minute class periods was inapplicable since Hunter had normally	162
received variances for schedules involving substantial deviation from	163
the 50-minute period.	164
Prof. Brick stated that in view of Deputy Chancellor Brenner's refusal	165
to recommend to the B.H.E. Hunter's calendar and associated bell	166

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schedule, and in view of the fact that an appeals procedure would take 167
some 4 months time and would leave Hunter without a schedule, the 168
Calendar Committee had met on Friday, March 14, and would propose an 169
alternate calendar based on a 14-week schedule. It is essential that 170
the Senate approve a calendar, and he suggested that possible Senate 171
action regarding an appeal be dealt with after consideration of the 172
calendar proposal. 173

After discussion and a question-and-answer period, Prof. Brick yielded 174
the floor to Prof. Barickman. 175

Prof. Barickman, Chairperson of the Committee on the Calendar, informed 176
the Senate that the Committee, in developing a new proposal, took into 177
consideration some of the principles of the 13-week schedule, e.g., 178
ending classes before Christmas, providing a study week and a reasonable 179
length of time for intersession. In order to achieve this goal, it 180
would be necessary to schedule classes on three holidays. [The 181
Committee had been repeatedly informed that the starting date of classes 182
could not be moved back.] He pointed out that the proposed calendar 183
is considered an emergency measure and would be proposed only for the 184
coming year. 185

He then informed the Senate of the following corrections to be noted 186
on the proposal that was distributed: 187

January 1981: The dates for Spring Registration should read 188
" 8TH - 28W." 189

May 1981: The dates for Final Examinations should read "23S - 6/1M." 190

The word "tentative" should be added to Fall registration, Spring 191
registration, and Summer registration. 192

During discussion, Prof. Brick announced that new information had just 193
been received from Dr. Temares. 194

Prof. Barickman informed the Senate that, although previously the Hunter 195
administration had held that registration considerations made it 196
impossible for classes to begin before the third week in September, 197
he had just now been told by Dr. Temares that it would be possible to 198
process registration information in time to begin classes on September 199
8th. This would provide an additional three class days and would 200
eliminate the need to schedule classes on holidays (though it would 201
still mean a fragmented semester). 202

Prof. Barickman then moved to amend the proposal by substituting 203
September 8th as starting date for classes and by restoring Columbus 204
Day, Veterans' Day and Elections Day as holidays. 205

After discussion the question was called and carried. 206

After further discussion the motion to amend by substitution carried 207
by hand vote. 208

The motion on the floor was the substitute motion (see lines 203 to 205 209
above).

After discussion Prof. Flashner thanked the Calendar Committee for its 210
unprecedented hard work and composure through a most taxing period at 211
Hunter, and asked that the Senate show its appreciation by adopting 212
the substitute proposal and by asking the Committee on the Calendar 213
to work out the details of the calendar. There was no objection. 214

The question was called and carried. 215

The motion carried by hand vote with 5 opposed and 2 abstentions. 216

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Mr. Ehrenkranz asked that the record include his question as to why, after the Hunter administration had so firmly held that it was impossible to begin classes sooner, it was now suddenly possible to give us the beginning date of classes we need.

The next item on the floor was the proposed resolution by the the Administrative Committee for a letter to be sent to the Commissioner of Education of the State of New York (with minor editorial changes that would not alter the intent):

Dear Commissioner:

By resolution of the Hunter College Senate (March 19, 1980), I am writing to appeal the recent decision by Deputy Chancellor of the City University of New York Egon Brenner against recommending the Hunter College Senate's proposed calendar for 1980-81 to the Board of Higher Education. We have been informed by your Deputy Commissioner's Office that Dr. Brenner's interpretation of the Commissioner's Regulations, Chapt.II, Sect. 50.1 (o), to the effect that our proposed calendar and bell schedule violates the "15 hours of 50 minutes each" per credit regulation is incorrect. In fact, the class contact time proposed (on each of the class schedules involved in the proposal) is actually in excess of the 2100 minutes mandated by Sect. 50.1 (o). Also, in the past Hunter has received variances for schedules involving substantial deviation from the 50-minute period, e.g., our present day session (which substantially includes a two-period, 110 min./50 min. format), our evening session and summer session bell schedules. Moreover, we believe that the Deputy Chancellor's added ground for refusal, his opposition to Hunter College's proposed change from a 14-week class contact schedule to a 13-week schedule (with increased time in class sessions), exceeds his proper authority. We believe in the validity of the academic and administrative reasons for our request, which include the following: (1) a calendar allowing classes to begin on a date that avoids interruption for holidays (as mandated by union contracts) and to finish before Christmas in order to avoid a fragmented semester; (2) the need for a study week before Finals; (3) an intersession period that permits final examinations to be completed before beginning of registration; (4) sufficient time for faculty to prepare for the coming semester.

The Board of Higher Education of CUNY in 1970 established the Hunter College Senate as the legislative body with "authority to determine College policy on all matters not reserved now or hereafter by Education Law or Board of Higher Education By-laws to the President of Hunter College, to other officers or duly constituted bodies of the College of The City University, or the Board of Higher Education." (Charter for a Governance of Hunter College, Article I, Section 1.) In addition, it was made clear that the Hunter College Senate would assume the powers of the previous "Faculty Council," which had included the power to set the College calendar (Charter for a Governance of Hunter College, Sect.2).

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Allan Brick, Chairperson
Hunter College Senate

It was so moved and seconded.

The question was called and carried. The motion carried by hand vote.

Mr. Ehrenkranz' motion, that a copy of this letter be sent to each member of the Board of Trustees, carried by hand vote.

A motion to adjourn carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara M. Green

Tamara Green,
Secretary

A P P E N D I X I

The following members are noted as absent from the meeting:

FACULTY:

Seek: Gail Gordon "E"
Athlyn Sawyer "E"
Henry Evans "E"

Anthropology: Lester Firschein
Daniel Gross

Art: Roy DeCarava

Biology: Richard Mawe

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

Chemistry: Louis Massa "E"

Communications: Linda Eagle
Fulton Ross

Curriculum & Teaching: John Niman

Economics: Arthur Gruen
Kenneth Smith

English: Jane Benardete "E"

Geology & Geography: Roy Grossman

German: Mary Sullivan "E"

Health & Physical Education: Edward Gibbons

Nursing: Cynthia Sculco "E"
Rita Wieczorek "E"

Physics & Astronomy: Leon Cohen "E"

Political Science: Gil Alroy
Ken Sherrill "E"

Psychology: Robert Fried

Romance Languages: Juan Agudiez "E"

Social Work: Joel Walker
Barbara Morrison

Sociology: Paulette Pierce
Ruth Sidel

Theatre & Cinema: Richard Tomkins

Urban Affairs: Donald Sullivan

Dean Gerald Freund "E"
Dean Evelyn Handler
Dean Hugh Scott

STUDENTS:

Graduate Students:

Robert Tilley
Barbara Sharon

Seek Students:

Sharon Bailey

Day Session Students:

Diane Cimino
Sandy Del Pin
Laura Bianchini
Gail Zinberg
Lynn Li Donnici
Gypsy Menor
Heike Jungblut
Myra Bachman
Christine Young
Thomas DePrisco
Andrew Sushkiw

Evening Session Students:

Josephine D'Addario
Louise Bryant "E"
Flora Price "E"
Jeff Olefsen "E"
Janet Joyce Belshi
Antonia Perez
Marie Diaz
Stephen Smith

"E" = Excused