

# MINUTES

## Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

### 28 April 2004

1 The 439th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:10 PM in Room W714.

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3 **Presiding:** Joan Tronto, 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** A summary statement of President Raab's report to the Senate is as follows. She said:  
10 **President:**

11 "I am going to share my time with the Provost today. He wants to talk about the periodic review  
12 report, the interim response to Middle States. I hope that you will have a chance to look at it and  
13 give us some feedback to ensure that it will accurately reflect where people feel the college has  
14 been going and should be going. I am particularly concerned about two issues. The first is an  
15 adequate response to Middle States' concerns about services for our students in the area of student  
16 services and the question of availability of classes. We have talked a lot about these issues and  
17 the initiatives we have taken. The Report of the Advisory Committee on Student Services,  
18 chaired by Joan Tronto, addressed many of the issues and made recommendations for  
19 improvement. We are systematically moving through that list and have made changes in the  
20 student service area and in orientation and advising of students, among others. We hope that all  
21 of these initiatives have been reflected in the periodic review report.

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23 The other issue is about the physical master plan. What we would like to make clear in our  
24 response is that we are building on many of the things that were in the master plan that came out  
25 under Dr. Caputo. Particularly, acknowledging our need for a new science building. I have been  
26 working with a committee of scientists, and we are actively seeking sites in this neighborhood.  
27 We are hoping to hire a consultant through the CUNY process, and money has been allocated in  
28 the CUNY capital budget for this. Not nearly enough money, but it is a beginning. A major  
29 change in the planning process is the acknowledgement that there is an opportunity to deal with  
30 the space issues by looking at other major space users in our community. Visual and performing  
31 arts and film need a lot of space, and they have not had adequate facilities. One of the things  
32 discussed in the Middle States report is the condition of the MFA building, which is not adequate  
33 for the level of the program and the quality of the program. We have been discussing with the  
34 Film and Art departments the possibility of relocating them into a facility that would be part of the  
35 emerging art community downtown. This will be reflected in this periodic review report. If you  
36 have any comments we would be very interested in hearing them."

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38 President Raab yielded the floor to Provost Pizer, who said:

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40 "The Periodic Review Report is off my desk at the moment, which pleases me immensely. It is  
41 being duplicated for distribution to every member of this body, and it will be distributed to the  
42 FDA, department offices, libraries, and student governance bodies. At next week's Senate  
43 meeting we will have an open hearing on the Periodic Review Report and any thoughts you have  
44 on the report would be much appreciated. I want to say a couple of things about it. Please be  
45 reminded that this is not a self-study. If there are things that are not mentioned in the report, it is  
46 simply because Middle States found them all right back in 1997 and had no recommendations  
47 concerning them and therefore required no response from us.

55 From the perspective of somebody who has been here only two years it was very interesting to  
56 assemble information and write about the changes at Hunter College since 1997. There have been  
57 dramatic changes, and I just want to mention a few that struck me. The dollar amount of external  
58 grants and contracts at Hunter in 1997 was about \$27M. We are 64% higher than that in 2004.  
59 That is a tremendous change. If you look at student performance, every single indicator is up. The  
60 graduation rates are better, and the retention rates are better across the board. It really was quite  
61 striking to look at those data that are in the Hunter College Fact Book.  
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63 I would like you to do a couple of things when you look at the report. First, read it carefully in  
64 terms of its accuracy, but then I would like those of you who have been here for a while to reflect  
65 on the changes that have taken place over these years. Even faculty size has risen from 525 in  
66 1997 to 592 now. Every indicator for faculty performance is up -- grants and contracts,  
67 publications, awards. The report was interesting for me and I think it will be for you. We would  
68 appreciate your comments. The cover letter that accompanies the report suggests that such  
69 comments go to Michael Griffel. So, please feel free to do that.”  
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71 Provost Pizer yielded the floor to President Raab, who said:  
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73 “We had a really terrific Alumni weekend reunion and I thank all of you who participated. Friday  
74 night’s Hall of Fame was a very successful and lovely event. The alumni enjoyed coming back  
75 for the unveiling of the wall. We had 700 alums at the Sheraton from the class of 1929 on to the  
76 class of 1999. Four were from the class of 1929 and that was truly wonderful. For those who  
77 were interested in what is happening at Hunter we arranged for four panels. I want to thank all  
78 the chairs and all the faculty that were involved in helping us with this. Barbara Bosch did this  
79 wonderful thing in theatre where she had four students practice their monologues. She was  
80 critiquing them and then the audience got into critiquing them. Louise DeSalvo did a class on how  
81 to write your memoirs for your grandchildren, which was really moving. Jonathan Rosenberg  
82 gave a wonderful lecture on the civil rights movement, and Roger Persell brought a number of the  
83 honors students to talk about the honors program.  
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85 Please share your ideas with us. By exposing alumni and other potential donors to the wonderful  
86 things that are happening here and by making it real for them, we will be able to raise more  
87 resources for Hunter. So, please share your ideas with us.  
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89 I would like to thank Ken Sherrill and all others in Political Science who participated with  
90 Ambassador Andrew Young’s visit on Monday. I think it was extremely successful. It was  
91 interesting because here was someone who had executive experience as a mayor, legislative  
92 experience as a congressman, experience in foreign affairs in congress and as an ambassador, and  
93 domestic experience as a mayor and a leader in civil rights. Michael Turner he was on a panel  
94 with the ambassador, moderated by Bill Van der Hoover with Jillian Sorensen and Stephen  
95 Schlesinger. He really held his own for Hunter and made us very proud. It was a really terrific  
96 program and I want to thank you for that.”  
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98 President Raab concluded the report by yielding the floor to Vice President Zinnanti, who announced  
99 that the web attendance statistics were not good and that this would have very serious financial  
100 consequences for the college. He stressed the seriousness of the matter and the importance of  
101 improving web attendance in the future.  
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103 The floor was open for questions.  
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105 **Report by the**  
106 **Administrative**  
107 **Committee:**

The Chair presented the report as follows:

**Approved Curriculum Changes**

The following curriculum changes as listed in the Report dated 14 April 2004 were approved as per  
Senate resolution, and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items UR-1393 (German), UR-1395

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(English), UR-1398 (Mathematics & Statistics), UR-1399 (Computer Science), US-1375 (Women's Studies), US-1381 and US-1372A (Film & Media Studies), US-1384 (Philosophy), UE-1367 (Romance Languages), UE-1388 (Psychology), UE-1389 (Film & Media Studies), UE-1390 (Women's Studies), UE-1405 (African & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies).

**Committee  
Reports:**

**Special Advisory Committee on the Structure of the School of Arts & Sciences**

Professor Elizabeth Beaujour, Chair of the Committee, presented the Interim Report dated 28 April 2004 as distributed.

It was moved that the Senate dissolve itself into a committee of the whole until 5:15 PM. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Senate reconvened in formal session at 5:15 PM.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Picciano,  
Secretary