

# MINUTES

## Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

### 30 April 2003

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2 The 427<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:10 PM in Room W714.  
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4 **Presiding:** Alan Hausman, Chair

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6 **Attendance:** The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.  
7

8 **Agenda:** The agenda was adopted with the provision that agenda item 4 be discussed before item 3.  
9

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

12 Re: Searches: "We are close to selecting a candidate for the Brookdale Center on Aging, and I  
13 want to thank Laurie Sherwen and the members of that search committee. All the candidates are  
14 very eager to work with many of the departments to move us into an even more preeminent place  
15 in the city. It has been a very exciting and productive search. The search for Dean of the School  
16 of Social Work is also nearing a conclusion, and I urge all of you to watch for the  
17 announcements. There will be three or four candidates who will have open sessions at the School  
18 of Social Work. We will be asking the Senate to begin the process of finding candidates for a  
19 Search Committee for Dean of the School of Education in September. David Hodges has served  
20 us well and ably, and despite my hopes that he would be convinced to spend his life as a dean he  
21 has actually decided that scholarship and teaching are his true passion and love. He will be  
22 returning to the faculty. We have been extremely lucky to convince Shirley Cohen to work with  
23 us as the acting dean for a year, and Deborah Eldridge will be her acting assistant dean. We have  
24 a strong team and we are looking forward to a very productive search.  
25

26 Re: Budget: There was a budget voted on last night and now the issue is what will happen next.  
27 The good news is that the budget for TAP and SEEK was fully restored, and that is extremely  
28 good news. The unfortunate news is that there is no restoration yet to the cuts in higher  
29 education, which would mean that this goes into the equation to what will happen to tuition. As  
30 soon as we know anything we will be communicating that to you. This brings me to a final  
31 point, which is about communications.  
32

33 Re: Communications: We have been using e-mail to get out to you information about events and  
34 issues that everyone needs to know about at school. Communications are going out to faculty, to  
35 staff, to students, and also to all three groups. It will be interesting to get a feedback about  
36 whether people feel the information is useful, whether they are getting things in a timely manner,  
37 and how they are feeling about this effort. To us it is a way to let people know about  
38 opportunities. The Office of Student Services is issuing a weekly e-bulletin that consolidates all  
39 the information that students need to know about the availability of scholarships, internships, and  
40 other opportunities they can benefit from. We are working with various offices within the college  
41 to include information that we feel is of interest to a broad audience. If people want to give us  
42 feedback just send an e-mail to Deb Sack, or Eija, or to me. It would be helpful for us to know if  
43 this is working and also what kind of improvements people would want to see.  
44

45 I am going to ask Deborah Sack, our Executive Director of Communications, to come up and  
46 inform you about the work of the college-wide committee on the web. It is in an early stage but I  
47 asked her to take a few minutes today to inform you about our plans for a user friendly web  
48 system that will work for all groups at – faculty, administrators, existing students, perspective  
49 students, alums, and people who are potential donators and supporters of this school. We would  
50 love to get some feedback at an early stage so that we can incorporate recommendations."  
51

54 **30 April 2003**

55 The President yielded the floor to Deborah Sack who gave a Power-Point presentation on the  
56 efforts to upgrade the Hunter web site (see Appendix II). Ms. Sack concluded the report by  
57 answering questions from the floor.  
58

59 **Report by the**  
60 **Administrative**  
61 **Committee:**

There was no report.

62  
63 **Committee**  
64 **Reports:**

**UARC Report Re: Grade for Academic Dishonesty**

Professor Jason Young, Chair of the Committee presented the following report:

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66 The UARC was asked to consider whether or not it would be wise and feasible to institute a new  
67 grade, tentatively called "XF," which would be assigned to designate that a student had received a  
68 failing grade in a course because of academic dishonesty. This proposal was made in the midst of  
69 increasing concern at this college, and elsewhere, that incidents of academic dishonesty have been  
70 increasing and that concrete measures are necessary to stem their proliferation.  
71

72 After discussing this proposal with several individuals at the College who deal with such issues,  
73 the committee has opted not to institute such a grade. The reasons are primarily two-fold:  
74

- 75 1. Such a grade would be exceptionally punitive, because, once on the student's transcript, it  
76 could not be removed and it would serve as a permanent indication to all prospective  
77 employers and graduate schools of the student's action, thereby effectively "crippling" any  
78 future attempts to advance the student's career.  
79
- 80 2. The committee unanimously felt that, if such a grade were to be instituted, it should only be  
81 appropriately assigned after the student has received due process. Currently, this due process  
82 procedure involves a conciliation effort between the student and the faculty member  
83 conducted in the Office of the Dean of Students to arrive at a satisfactory solution and, failing  
84 that, forwarding the case to the faculty-student disciplinary committee for a full hearing. As  
85 was pointed out by the Associate Dean of Students, however, this process only has the power  
86 to *recommend* to the faculty member what grade to assign; it cannot require that any  
87 particular grade be assigned as that power resides solely with the faculty member. Thus,  
88 should the XF grade be available, it would be possible for a faculty member to assign it even  
89 without the due process procedure, (or despite the recommendations resulting from this  
90 procedure). Hence, once the grade was available, there could be no assurances that the grade  
91 would only be assigned following due process.  
92

93 **Departmental Governance Committee**

94 Professor Jane Matthews, Chair of the Committee, informed the Senate that the revised by-laws of the  
95 Departments of Film & Media Studies and SEEK were withdrawn for further revisions and would be  
96 resubmitted in the fall.  
97

98 **New Business:**

99 Professor Sherrill moved: "that the Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee and the Senate  
100 revisit the issue of penalties for academic dishonesty and further investigate methods the college might  
101 employ."  
102

103 After discussion the question was called and carried. The motion was approved by voice vote.  
104

105 It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:15  
106 PM.  
107

108 Respectfully submitted,  
109

110 Anthony Picciano,  
111 Secretary