

MINUTES
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
10 May 2006

1 The 469th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:15 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 **Statement by Chair:**

8 Professor Tronto said: "This is the last meeting of the 2005-2006 Senate. Next week's meeting on May 17th
9 will be the first meeting of the 2006-2007 Senate. It is very important that everyone come to that meeting.
10 First, we need a large number of voting members so that a sufficient number of votes will be cast if the
11 Senate wishes to ratify the amendments to the Governance Charter. If the amendments pass, they will then
12 be sent through the President's Office to 80th Street for ratification by the CUNY Board of Trustees. Second,
13 we have other business to conduct as well, as you have seen from the agenda we circulated to you. Third,
14 we are also going to have a party in the West Lobby immediately following the meeting next week to
15 celebrate the past and future of the Senate. Please feel free to invite current and past members of the Senate,
16 and members of your department who you think would be interested in joining us."

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18 **Agenda:** The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

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20 **Report by the** Professor Tronto informed the Senate that the President is delayed and will report later.
21 **President:**

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23 **Report by the** **College Calendar for 2006-2007**

24 **Administrative** The Chair informed the Senate that the University-wide College Calendar for 2006-2007 as issued by the
25 **Committee:** CUNY Central Administration was submitted for the Senate's information. The Calendar is attached as
26 Appendix II.

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28 **Resolution Re: the Establishment of a Standing Committee on Academic Freedom**

29 The Chair informed the Senate that the Administrative Committee had planned to submit a resolution to the
30 Senate for consideration at this meeting in response to the University Faculty Senate's request that all
31 campuses create such a standing committee. She informed the Senate that the Administrative Committee had
32 met with President Raab, Provost Rabinowitz, Dean Schachter and Dean Chin, and that Professors Peluso,
33 Ediger, Freudenberg, and Green were present as mediators. We met once last week and we are going to meet
34 again next week to continue to move the discussion about academic freedom forward. Some people in the
35 room were unclear about what a standing committee would mean and asked us not to bring that resolution to
36 the Senate at this time. We agreed not to do so, but we fully expect that at the beginning of the next
37 academic year we will suggest such a resolution to you."

38
39 **Items Carried** **Renewal of Motion to Approve the Recommendations of the Select Committee on Academic Freedom**

40 **Over:** The motion on the floor is the motion to table, which carried over from the last meeting.

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42 Professor Tronto proposed that the Senate carry this item over and not discuss those Recommendations at
43 this point.

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45 There having been no objection, it was so ordered.
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53 **Committee**
54 **Reports:**

The Chair presented the reports as follows: She said:

55 “Much of the work of the Senate is done in committee. This year many committees worked very diligently
56 but have not brought many recommendations forward to the body. Nonetheless, I think it is important,
57 especially

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59 for student members, to hear what it is that the committees have done. I will ask the committee chairs who
60 have indicated that they would be able to do so to make a report.

61
62 The **Undergraduate Course of Study Committee** is chaired by Professor Eckhard Kuhn-Osius. As you
63 know, they have been working very hard because you see all the curriculum proposals that they bring
64 forward after careful debate. The committee is also considering a number of other more substantive motions.
65 They have looked this year at the interdisciplinary programs and their curriculum needs and operations, and
66 they have looked at the resolution the Senate sent to that committee at the last meeting about whether or not
67 there will be more information made available about courses before the registration period.

68
69 The **Graduate Course of Study Committee** does the same thing on the graduate level. Professor Jane
70 Matthews had been chairing that committee throughout most of this year. The committee has recently elected
71 a new chair, Professor Violet Malinski.

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73 I think this is a nice opportunity for us to thank Jane Matthews for her service on this committee.

74
75 The **Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee** is going to report to you next week. It is chaired
76 now by Professor Bernadette McCauley.“

77
78 Professor Tronto yielded the floor to Barbara Barone, Chair of the Student Standing Committee, who said:

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80 “The **Student Standing Committee** recommends the candidates for graduation. Separately, we review
81 the records for students who are on academic probation and who are academically dismissed because
82 their G.P.A. fell below the guidelines set by CUNY. In the summer we also review the appeals because
83 each student is given the opportunity to appeal that dismissal. There is a committee that meets
84 throughout the summer reviewing those appeals and determining who should be continued on probation,
85 who should be denied access to CUNY for one semester, and who should be continued and off probation
86 because their G.P.A. has gone over 2.0 since their dismissal. Last year we made some recommendations
87 to the Office of Student Services and to the Senate for some outreaches that should be done to help
88 students be more successful in the College. We have worked closely with Eija Ayravainen and
89 counselors in that office and can report that data shows that the majority of students who were reinstated
90 last summer on probation did manage to raise their GPA’s above 2 during the Fall semester. We are very
91 pleased that we made the right decisions for each of the students this year.

92
93 Ms. Barone yielded the floor to Professor Tronto who yielded the floor to Professor Manfred Kuechler, Chair
94 of the Budget Committee. The following is a summary of his statement. He said:

95
96 “I thought it was important for senators to hear a little bit about the **Budget Committee** and what the
97 Committee could have been doing, but wasn’t doing. So, my report could simply say the Budget
98 Committee did not meet this academic year, end of report. But that would only be half of the story, and I
99 want to talk a little bit about why we didn’t meet. While it is important to know what has happened in
100 the past, I strongly believe it is much more important to look forward. We have important things ahead
101 of us at Hunter, and I hope we will be able to find a way to work together for the future.

102
103 I don’t know how many of you have seen this booklet here, the so called “Compact,” which is the initia-
104 tive that was started by 80th Street to get some new money into CUNY, so that we could have new initia-
105 tives that go to the Master Plan. You remember that there was an advisory ad hoc committee headed by
106 David Potash that came up with ideas about what we would do if new money would be coming into the

107 College. If you look at the Hunter College Governance Charter it is actually the responsibility of the
108 Senate Budget Committee to find out from the various constituencies in the College what they need

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115 money for and build that into recommendations to the President. This would have been an opportunity to
116 actually involve the Senate Budget Committee, but it was not done.

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118 One important reason is self critical, and I think the Senate needs to be very careful about it. If we want
119 to have an active role in governance then we need to be willing to work year round. No administration,
120 even the administration that is most willing and supportive of faculty governance can work that way. I
121 fully understand that the reason that we were not asked to be involved has something to do with a certain
122 lack of response time that we have. But on the other hand history indicates that the administration is not
123 too keen in having too much faculty governance, even if they could get it.

124
125 It now looks like we may get that new money. The State Assembly and the Senate passed the budget and
126 they overrode the vetoes by the Governor. Nobody knows for sure what the Governor will do in the end.
127 But there are indications that 80th Street plans to go ahead and plans to give the money to the colleges.
128 They realize that the decision process last September was a little bit rushed. They will give the colleges
129 another opportunity to review what they came up with in September and to think about whether they
130 want to make some changes in the larger scheme of things. That would be an opportunity to continue
131 that dialogue.

132
133 I also remember the Acting Provost saying last September that we would continue the dialogue and talk
134 about what we need for the College and how we can get at better results. To my knowledge, that ad hoc
135 committee has never met again and there was no follow-up. So, what I would strongly urge is to engage
136 the Senate Budget Committee in that process, and that we review the decisions that were made in those
137 short three weeks and see if we can we make even more meaningful use of the money should it really
138 come in.

139
140 The next round is upon us. September will come up again very shortly when we come back from the
141 summer vacation, and 80th Street will plan year two of that process. Even if we come to the conclusion
142 that the Senate Budget Committee in its present configuration is not sufficient, maybe too small or
143 maybe not representative enough, then we should have a discussion going on what that advisory budget
144 committee should be.

145
146 The other reason for not calling a meeting of the Senate Budget Committee is that everybody's time is
147 valuable. I will keep this very short because I really don't want to dwell on the not so pleasant past. In
148 March 2005 we said that if we want to do our job right, we cannot just look at one source of income, we
149 need to look at all sources of income. And that is basically the same thinking at 80th Street. The catch
150 word here is an all funds budget, not just looking at what comes in tax levy money or tuition money, but
151 also looking at the money that comes down in overhead from the Research Foundation and money that
152 comes on through philanthropy, to look at the income stream in general and then look at the
153 expenditures stream in general. For that reason we had requested in March 2005 to get basic information
154 to get us started on how much overhead money from the Research Foundation Hunter receives and how
155 that money is allocated. That was one request, and the second request was to have information about the
156 financials of the Hunter Foundation, philanthropy, and how much money is generated and more
157 importantly, where does that money go, where is it allocated. Unfortunately, the administration took the
158 position that that was none of our business. The Senate Administrative Committee then filed a FOIL
159 request with the Central CUNY administration at the beginning of this academic year in about
160 September. November 17 we got some information about the Research Foundation money, but rather
161 than giving information about the last five years annually broken down, we got some lump sum average
162 figures, not what we asked for. We appealed again and finally, on February 23, almost a full year after
163 our initial request we got some more information about happened with the Research Foundation money.
164 But even at that point the information was incomplete and inconsistent.

165
166 The interesting twist here is something that most of you probably have not heard of, and that is the 2005
167 Public Authority's Reform Act. You have heard about the Transit Authority and many other public
168 authorities, and among these many public authorities are the Research Foundation of CUNY and the

169 Hunter Auxiliary Enterprise Board. That means they are subject to the Open Meeting law, and the
170 minutes and all this information should be publicly available. It is not just that Hunter members are
171 entitled to it, every citizen in the State of New York can request that information, and we still don't have
172 it. And that is

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178 a sad state of affairs and I very seriously hope that this will change and that the information will be made
179 available for the purpose of having a better planning process.”

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181 Professor Kuechler yielded the floor to Professor Tronto who then yielded the floor to Professor Jill Gross,
182 Chair of the Departmental Governance Committee who said:

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185 “**The Departmental Governance Committee** meets to explore departmental by-laws, any revisions
186 that are proposed or investigates any infractions to those by-laws. I joined the Committee this semester
187 and we met once. I would like to acknowledge Professor Jane Matthews the former chair of the
188 committee, who did an incredible amount of work going through the by-laws. We met in April to
189 consider the proposed changes to the By-laws for the School of Nursing. Given some of the changes in
190 Perez v. CUNY and the current rules concerning open meetings and so on, by-laws have to go through a
191 great deal of revision processes in consultation with Dean Chin who makes sure that they are all legal
192 and in keeping with the Hunter Governance Charter and the Board By-laws. We have begun the review
193 process for the changes in the By-laws for the School of Nursing. They have gone back to the School
194 of Nursing, and we are currently awaiting the revised By-laws.”

195
196 Professor Gross yielded the floor to Professor Tronto who continued her report as follows. She said:

197 “**The Calendar Committee** is chaired by Professor Shirley Raps who reported to the Senate last December
198 about the creation of a Winter Term.

199
200 Professor Barbara Berney is the chair of the **Library Committee**. The Library Committee has also been
201 expanded into a Task Force by President Raab because at the moment it looks as if we do have a fairly large
202 amount of money coming to us, which is going to be used to make substantial improvements in the Library.
203 That committee has been meeting and will continue it's work.

204
205 Professor Sylvia Roshkow chairs the **Grade Appeals Committee**. That is the committee that hears grade
206 appeals. They are busy and we thank them for their service.

207
208 Professor Barbara Sproul chairs the **Master Plan Committee**. The Committee has been meeting and
209 considering proposals about space that the President has presented to them.

210
211 Charles Blumenthal as the Vice Chair of the Senate has been the chair of the **Teacher Evaluations Commit-**
212 **tee**. The main item on their agenda that they have been working on is to look into the desirability of getting
213 the teacher evaluations in some electronic web readable form. How to go about doing that is complicated, but
214 that is the question that the committee has been considering.

215
216 Professor Richard Stapleford is the Chair of the **Charter Review Committee** and you know what they have
217 been up to.

218
219 The **Committee on Computing and Technology** currently has no chair. If anyone is willing chair it please
220 let me know.

221
222 The **General Education Requirement Appeals Committee** is chaired by Professor Jaafar Kassem-Ali, and
223 that committee works very hard and is constantly reviewing GER appeals, and we thank them for their ongo-
224 ing service.

225
226 Professor Tronto yielded the floor to Professor Sandra Clarkson, Chair of the Select Committee on Perform-
227 ance Measures and Outcomes Assessment who said:
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229 The **Select Committee on Performance Measures and Outcomes Assessment** (OA) has been meeting
230 for about three years. We have not made a report because we really haven't had anything to report. In
231 1997, Hunter submitted a Middle States Report and in that Report we talked about what Outcomes
232 Assessment was going on at Hunter; most OA was going on in the professional schools. In 2002-2003
233 Provost Pizer convened a task force that submitted a report, with a set of recommendations and a time

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239 line. As time lines do, they come and go; this one went without anything on the time line having taken
240 place. The job of our Senate committee, as we see it, is (1) to serve as advisors to the Administration on
241 OA, (2) to obtain the support of the Administration that we, as a College, need for a successful outcomes
242 assessment, (3) to make sure Hunter provides proper education to faculty and students so that all
243 understand the point of Outcomes Assessment and why we want it, (4) to make sure we have a "point
244 person" assigned to help faculty with Outcomes Assessment and (5) to make sure that there are
245 resources made available to departments that decide they will do Outcomes Assessment.

246
247 One of the first things our committee did was to meet with the Deans of the professional schools to find
248 out what they were doing because our Schools of Education, Health Professions, and Social Work do a
249 lot of outcomes assessment. The schools have licensing exams that have to be passed and they keep all
250 kinds of records on courses, grades, the number of students passing certain tests, what kind of jobs they
251 get. There are a lot of different outcomes that they measure. The Deans were very helpful to us, and
252 actually offered to serve as resources to the School of Arts and Sciences. The Arts and Sciences is the
253 only school that does not do organized Outcomes Assessment. Certainly, in the first few years after the
254 Middle States report, there was a Dean, but, at that time, we had acting Presidents and Provosts. Now
255 there is an Acting Dean but no one in her office has been asked to commit to being involved in
256 outcomes assessment. We are optimistic now because we have an Associate Provost, David Potash, who
257 is very energetic and enthusiastic, knows something about outcomes assessment and has met with us
258 several times to talk about future plans.

259
260 As it stands right now, however, I think the committee very much feels like we have been running in
261 place. We still do not have any widespread Outcomes Assessment education for faculty and that is
262 crucial, since faculty must be involved in such assessment from its inception. We do not have an
263 administrative structure with responsibility for outcomes assessment--I am speaking particularly about
264 Arts and Sciences. At one point, we were told that one of the new Associate Deans in A&S will work
265 with Outcomes Assessment; however, we do not have all the Associate Dean positions filled. There has
266 been no real commitment of resources.

267
268 The Select Committee is still functioning as of now, but we are really tired of talking to ourselves. We
269 would like to hear of specific Administration plans for Outcomes Assessment here at Hunter.

270
271 Professor Clarkson yielded the floor to Professor Tronto who continued her report as follows:

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273 She informed the Senate that Professor Angelo Angelis is Chair of the **Select Committee on the First Year**
274 **Experience**, which has been meeting and working very hard. She then called on Dean Madlyn Stokely, a
275 member of the committee, who said:

276
277 "We had our last meeting yesterday and agreed that we needed to block out about three hours of time
278 because we realize this is a very serious matter. We have met and we have gotten a lot of information. So
279 most of the committee members are clear on what currently exists for students. We have scheduled a
280 date in June to meet for about three hours to come up with some recommendations as to how we would
281 move forward as a Committee and what we would recommend for the College as a whole."

282
283 Dean Stokely yielded the floor to Professor Tronto who continued her report as follows. She said:

284 The **Select Committee on Academic Freedom** is chaired by Professor Stuart Ewen and as you know they
285 issued a report to the Senate in December.

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287 The **Select Committee on Academic Integrity** did not meet this year because they finished their business
288 last year.
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Professor Tronto concluded her report by saying: "That is the list of committees, and there are no other reports. Is there any old business?"

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Professor Welter then moved for approval of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate give a vote of thanks to Professor Tronto for the years of excellent service that she has given to the Senate.

The motion was approved by acclamation.

Professor Tronto reminded the Senate that there would be several important pieces of businesses to conduct at next week's meeting, including Charter amendments and the election of Senate officers. She invited anyone who is interested in running for office and serving on the Senate Administrative Committee, to discuss their candidacy with current members of the Administrative Committee.

Professor Tronto concluded her report by thanking the outgoing senators for their service.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Ewen
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

Faculty

AFPRL Studies	Anthony Browne Pedro Lopez-Adorno	Psychology	Tracy Dennis Jeffrey Parsons
Anthropology	Greg Johnson Gerald Creed	Religion	Ron Long Barbara Sproul
Art	Brian Wood Maria Pelizzari Richard Stapleford	Romance Languages	Michael Taormina Monica Calabritto
Biological Sciences	T. Schmidt-Glenwinkel	SEEK	Ruby Tsang "E" Denise Simmons Willie Wimberly "E"
Chemistry	Bill Sweeney Pam Mills Namby Krishnamachari Dixie Goss	School of Social Work	Robert Salmon Michael Fabricant
Classical/Oriental Studies	Robert Koehl	Special Education	Ellen Trief Dona Matthews
Computer Science	William Sakas	Student Services	Reva Cohen
Curriculum & Teaching	Frank Gardella	Theatre	Alan Sikes Louisa Thompson
Economics	John Kim	Administration	Vita Rabinowitz Laura Schachter Bill Zlata Pierce Varous Dan Ross
Educational Foundations	Jeanne Weiler	Ex-Officio	
English	Sarah Chinn Marlene Henessy "E" Sylvia Roshkow Trudy Smoke	Students	Sonia Parrales Adina Davis Sivia Naimer Lindsay Moran Joseph Crea Miguel Casiano Laura Dillon Alicia Canary Catherine Zinnel Keith Yu Mohammad Saleem Brian Gaun Michael Sternfeld Joshua Thomas Cristina Rincon James Wagstaff Andrea Callard Gary Henkle Emmanuel Palatulan
Film & Media Studies	Tim Portlock Joe McElhaney Stuart Ewen Tami Gold		
Geography	Frank Buonaiuto Haydee Salmun Ines Miyares		
German	Eckhard Kuhn-Osius		
History	Angelo Angelis		
Mathematics/Statistics	Jane Matthews		
Music	Mark Spicer		
Nursing	Stephen Holzemer "E" Leighsa Sharoff "E"		
Philosophy	Frank Kirkland		
Physics/Astronomy	Ying-Chih Chen		
Political Science	John Wallach Rosalind Petchesky "E" Jennifer Gaboury		

APPENDIX II

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK 2006-2007 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL 2006

August 2006:

W 30 First Day of Classes - Fall 2006

September 2006:

M 4..... LABOR DAY -- COLLEGE IS CLOSED

W 6 Classes Follow a Monday Schedule

F 22 – Su 24 No classes scheduled

October 2006:

M 2..... No classes scheduled

Tu 3..... Classes Follow a Monday Schedule

M 9..... COLUMBUS DAY - COLLEGE IS CLOSED

November 2006:

W 22 Classes Follow a Friday Schedule

TH 23 – F 24..... THANKSGIVING RECESS -- COLLEGE IS CLOSED

December 2006:

W 13 Last Day of Classes – Fall 2006

TH 14..... Reading Day

F 15 – F 22..... Final Week of Fall Semester 2006 (Final examinations or last instructional period where no finals are given)

Su 24 – M 25 COLLEGE IS CLOSED

Su 31 COLLEGE IS CLOSED

SPRING 2007

January 2007:

M 1..... COLLEGE IS CLOSED

M15..... MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY -- COLLEGE IS CLOSED

M29..... First Day of Classes -- Spring 2007

February 2007:

M 12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY -- COLLEGE IS CLOSED

TH 15..... Classes Follow a Monday Schedule

M 19 PRESIDENTS' DAY -- COLLEGE IS CLOSED

W 21 Classes Follow a Monday Schedule

March 2007

April 2007

M 2 – Tu 10 SPRING RECESS – NO CLASSES

May 2007:

TH 17 Last Day of Classes – Spring 2007

F 18 - F 25 Final Week of Spring Semester 2007 (Final examinations or last instructional period where no finals are given)

M28..... MEMORIAL DAY -- COLLEGE IS CLOSED