

Office of the Hunter College Senate
MINUTES
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
24 September 2003

1 The 431st 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 revised agenda was adopted as distributed.
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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 "The ribbon cutting ceremony at our new collaborative High School was extremely well attended. Both
 12 Chancellors were there, as were people from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the Carnegie
 13 Corporation who gave us the \$400,000 Gates Foundation Grant. I want to thank the faculty that joined
 14 us. We were able to show that this is a real collaboration between the high school and the College. It was
 15 a great day for recognizing what Hunter has been doing with high schools and what we are committed to
 16 do in the city. NY1 and some of the papers have covered the event.
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18 We have just received confirmation that we have received one and a half million dollars from the City
 19 Council through the work of Eva Moskowitz and the Manhattan delegation. One million dollars is for the
 20 Roosevelt House and half a million dollars for improvements in the Sportsplex.
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22 I wanted to answer a number of questions people have been raising in the community that are really in
 23 Len Zinnanti's purview, and I will ask Len to take a few minutes to respond to some of them.
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25 President Raab yielded the floor to Vice President Zinnanti, who said:
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27 "I just want to take a few minutes to discuss three topics. The first one is the report at the last Senate
 28 meeting from the Ombudsman regarding the Human Resources office. I don't think it is necessary
 29 for me to stand here and refute or deal with every charge that was made, but I do want to make the
 30 following statement. I expect a high level of professionalism from the leaders in that office and from
 31 the staff in that office. We saw Charles Hayes retire in June, and we were able to promote from
 32 within an Acting Director of Human Resources, Robert McGarry, who has been with the College for
 33 a number of years, and who has been in the Human Resources field longer than he has been at this
 34 College. My charge to him, and my expectation of him, is that he will run that office in a way that is
 35 very consumer-oriented so that people can get a good understanding of what their benefits are and
 36 what their rights are as employees of this College. If there are any specific problems I encourage you
 37 to email me.
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39 There has been a flurry of activity on the web about the closing of the doors at Thomas Hunter Hall
 40 for the necessary sidewalk construction that was done in front of the Hall on Lexington Avenue. We
 41 have reopened the doors, and we are going to have them open for access in and out of Thomas Hunter
 42 Hall from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm daily. They will be shut down at 10:00 pm as all the other exits and
 43 entrances are shut down, except for the West Lobby. I will issue a summary of our plan on security
 44 issues and where we intend to go with it shortly.
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46 Thirdly, I want to address the Brookdale constituency about the debate we had at the last meeting on
 47 whether there was or was not wireless access. Upon investigation, it turns out that although we had
 48 wired the building for wireless service, there was some tampering with the cables and there has been
 49 some evidence of other tampering with computers at Brookdale. Some of the newly installed flat-
 50 screen PACs had the cables snipped, and some of the cables for the wireless connection were also

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snipped. So, I would encourage you to email me if you know why this happened or how it happened. I believe everything is in good working order now."

Vice President Zinnanti yielded the floor to President Raab, who said:

"We have a partnership with the *New York Times* for various programs in the Kaye Playhouse. Tonight we have the Manhattan Workshop on College Admissions for prospective students. If you have siblings or relatives or friends, it should be a very interesting program. We are also co-partnering and co-sponsoring with Times Talks many of the events they are putting together. There is one coming up on October 29th on Martin Luther King's legacy, one in late October on J.F.K.'s legacy, and a music program is coming up after that. There will be free tickets for our students, and if any of you have classes that you would like to bring, or classes where you think a group of students would be interested in coming, please contact my office by email and I will get the email to the right person.

Lastly, Richard wanted to speak to an issue that was raised in the Envoy about class availability, and to the extent that there were some questions raised in this article we thought it was important for Richard to begin to address them."

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

"One of the issues we have been particularly concerned with over the past year is the issue of retention of students and the graduation rate of students. It is obvious that those questions are fundamentally related to course availability among other factors. In order to address the course availability issue last year we conducted a survey with the help of Institutional Research and the Registrar's Office, which we called the Closed Course Survey, that basically surveyed the registration patterns of students to see how many students were shut out of classes on their first attempt at registration of various courses at the College. That gave us sort of a snapshot as to where students were initially encountering registration problems. In response to that we modified to some extent offerings in the spring, but more significantly we put into place two summer sessions this past summer to allow students to take the courses they needed over the summer period. We will follow that up this year with another Closed Course Study, and we will further refine course availability in order to meet student demand in a more analytic way than we have in the past. It is a primary responsibility and initiative of this administration to try and address the course availability issue in as thorough a way as we can.

There was also a statement about one particular department in the article. I would simply like to assure you that we do everything we can to offer alternative courses when there are last minute cancellations, and in that particular instance we were able to cover some but not all of the cancelled courses. It is a priority of this administration to address this issue."

Provost Pizer yielded the floor to the President who concluded the report by opening the floor to questions.

Professor Tronto presented the report as follows:

Election of Ombudsman

The Voting Procedures for the Election of Ombudsman were presented as distributed.

Professor Tronto informed the Senate that only one candidate had submitted a platform statement and resume, and had signed the "Agreement Re: the Office of Ombudsman" that was reached with the President.

The candidate, Professor Kathryn Rolland (School of Health Sciences), presented a brief statement.

Tellers were appointed and written ballots were distributed.

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116 While awaiting the result of voting by written ballot the Senate moved on the next item of business.
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120 **Election of Search Committee for Dean of the School of Education**

121 Professor Tronto presented the following list of nominees as distributed:
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123 Nominees for Chair-Panel:

124 Professor William Sweeney (Chemistry)

125 Professor Vita Rabinowitz (Psychology)
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127 Nominees for Member-Panel:

	<u>FACULTY:</u>	<u>STUDENTS:</u>
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129 Curriculum & Teaching:	Deborah Eldridge	Stacy Waldman (Graduate)
130	Anthony Picciano	Nicole Leyton (Graduate)
131		Noelle Joseph (Undergrad.)
132		Leslie Levy (Graduate)
133		Dolores Rama (Graduate)
134		Linda Tronsoco (Graduate)
135		Natalia Lopez (Graduate)
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138 Educational Foundations:	Sherryl Browne Graves	Nicola Leach (Graduate)
139	Mario A. Kelly	
140	John O'Neill	
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142 Special Education:	Katherine Garnett	Mary Berger (Graduate)
143	Marsha Lupi	
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145 SEEK:	Patricia Martin	
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147 The Chair proposed that the entire slate as presented be submitted to the President. There having been no
148 objection it was so ordered. From this slate the President will appoint a search committee consisting of
149 four faculty, 3 students, and a chair.
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151 **Report by the**
152 **Ombudsman:**

153 **Continued Discussion of the 9/10/03 Report by the Ombudsman**

154 The floor was open for further discussion of the report presented at the last meeting.
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156 Provost Pizer presented the following statement. He said:

157 "One of the items listed by the Ombudsman in his report at the last Senate meeting begins with the
158 sentence: "The new General Education Requirement at Hunter is considered a disaster and an
159 embarrassment by most." As the chief academic officer of the institution, I felt that I could not allow
160 that to be the last word with respect to the General Education Requirement on the floor of this body.
161 I simply want to say this. The General Education Requirement has received serious attention by this
162 body over the one year that I have served as Provost here. I have attended meetings, and the issues
163 that were addressed were to improve the General Education Requirement in terms of some of the
164 operational difficulties that students encountered. The closed course section analysis that I mentioned
165 earlier with respect to availability of courses has also been applied in some sense to the kinds of
166 obstacles that students encounter in meeting general education requirements, particularly with respect
167 to writing intensive courses. We have made the requirements more manageable by decoupling the
168 "W" from focused exposure courses and asking departments to provide a more extensive list of
169 courses that will meet the focused exposure requirement of the general education requirement. I think
170 that this body has acted responsibly in the construction of the General Education Requirement in the
171 first place and certainly has been very responsive in dealing with the issues presented to us in its
172 operation over the couple of years that it has been in effect. So, rather than describing it in terms that
173 the Ombudsman did, I would like to say that I think it is a significant

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contribution to the general education requirement of students at Hunter College, and it will be clearly subject to continuing revisions throughout time as any worthwhile curriculum document must be."

Announcement Election Results for Ombudsman

Total number of valid votes cast: 65
Number of votes needed for election: 44
Number of votes received by candidate: 63

Professor Kathryn Rolland was elected Hunter College Ombudsman.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Picciano
Secretary