

MINUTES
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
28 September 2005

1 The 458th 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 **Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as distributed.
8

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

11 “There are three items that I want to discuss today, and ask Joan and others how you want to shape
12 some of the continuing discussions about them. Two of them are good news because they are about
13 getting additional resources for Hunter.
14

15 The first item is very immediate and that is the positive result of the unfortunate increase in graduate
16 tuition last year. As I mentioned last time, part of that money was allocated for tuition support and I
17 want to remind everyone again to have your graduate students file for financial aid. There is still
18 additional scholarship money available. Let’s not lose that opportunity.
19

20 There is also going to be an investment by 80th Street in the graduate programs of the colleges. We
21 have an idea of how much money we are going to get, but we don’t know whether any of it is going
22 to be re-occurring. So, if we were not going to see this on an annualized basis this is not something
23 obviously that we can add for faculty or staff positions. At this point we have to assume that it is a
24 one shot investment in graduate programs. The Deans are putting together lists and they are going
25 to be talking to the faculty. The Provost is going to be looking at the list of all the needs of the graduate
26 programs that exists in her office, which she inherited. We have the annual reports of chairs about the
27 needs of graduate programs in their departments. And finally we have very important road maps in
28 the external reviews of graduate programs, particularly in the professional schools where there are a
29 lot of accreditation issues having to do with needs that need to be immediately funded. This does not
30 mean that everything that could possibly be funded under this program has been identified or thought
31 about. So, I would ask those of you who are involved with graduate programs to think about how we
32 can get feedback about priorities, so that we can match the various lists from the Deans, Provost,
33 external reviews, and things that have been in the pipeline.
34

35 We have also been told that the Chancellor is going to ask Albany within the Master Plan agenda to
36 talk about different ways to go forward if there are various types of regularized tuition increases,
37 which the Chancellor has spoken about to the university-wide student senate [USS]. If there were
38 such a proposal it would be made in the context of raising tuition in order to invest in programs. So,
39 we have been asked as a community to think about how we would invest in our various programs,
40 contingent upon there being additional revenues from tuition, State funding, or savings. We are
41 going to announce the exact figure after we see in full print how much of that would come back to
42 Hunter. It will probably be at least \$4M and we have been asked to say what we would do with it.
43 General categories have been given, and one of those is the flagship initiative with cluster hiring areas
44 which may be changing this year. Another is full-time faculty, and then there is general support for
45 academic programs, and also support for student services. So, again, it is like a laundry list of things
46 that could be funded. I want to be clear about this. We are really being asked for ideas to spend
47 money that we

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48 don't have. It is a bit of a speculative planning and it is hard to make this request because it is hard to
49 raise expectations by asking you to tell us how many full-time faculty we need, and then have to
50 come back to you in May and tell you that none of this was passed, we don't have new lines, this
51 didn't happen. But we have been asked, nonetheless, to ask this question, and so I am asking again
52 for some type of community discussion on priorities. We will be working with the Chairs, the Deans,
53 the Provost's Office, and Student Services. I think we are pretty clear about where many of the major
54 needs are in all of these areas. But we are going to have this discussion. I would like there to be a
55 wider community discussion of other ideas that have not surfaced in all the other places. So, there are
56 a lot of lists of needs and we just want to make sure that we are covering all of them. At the end of
57 October we will be asked for a general idea of where we would spend money if we did get it and how
58 we would invest it.

59 These are two areas and we are on a tight time table. Nonetheless, I wanted to put out this request and
60 ask those of you involved with graduate programs to begin discussing and brainstorming within your
61 departments, within the Senate, and within other larger forums so that the ideas are all surfacing. We
62 have to say this is what Hunter wants. I don't actually expect there to be a lot of micro-managing of
63 what our priorities are but there may be categories for expenditures. So, within that there is a the very
64 good news that there are going to be investments in the graduate program, and that the second request
65 for general increased spending of \$4 to \$5M for Hunter College is money we don't know we are
66 going to get but we should start thinking about how we would use it.

67 Finally, I want to ask for a community discussion on the question of a pilot bell schedule change by
68 adding courses in the Spring on Saturdays. We had a long talk in the Spring about our work on
69 increasing retention for graduation at Hunter College. It is very clear that one piece of that puzzle is
70 increasing the number of classes that are offered at times when students can take them. We are
71 underutilized in this school on Saturdays. We are better than some CUNY schools and worse than
72 others. We must do better, because of the Chancellor's directives of what colleges are going to be
73 evaluated on, and one of the standards is increasing Saturday classes. So, we have been directed to do
74 it. I feel very strongly that it is the right thing to do and one way obviously to do it is to just add the
75 Saturday classes. I applaud Dean Kurzman and the faculty of the School of Social Work for
76 responding so quickly. Some departments have been very active in offering Saturday classes and
77 some departments don't offer any. We really need everyone to think about that. Another way to add
78 Saturday classes is to not just make it a Saturday but make it a Saturday and another day of the week,
79 which means imposing a new item on the bell schedule.

80 I have asked Marilyn Daley-Weston to make a brief presentation on what the suggestion is.
81 Remember this is a pilot. There are a few departments that are interested in being a part of this pilot
82 for the Spring, schedule, and it is not too early to ask that this discussion be started.

83 President Raab yielded the floor to Marilyn-Daley Weston for a PowerPoint presentation concerning
84 a planned pilot for a bell schedule change for Wednesday-Saturday classes.

Statement by Senate Chair

85 Professor Tronto reminded the Senate that a bell schedule change is Senate business and not part of the
86 President's Report.

87 She asked for unanimous consent to hear Ms. Daley-Weston's presentation at this time.

88 There having been no objection, it was so ordered.

Statement by the Registrar

89 Ms. Daley-Weston presented a PowerPoint presentation that explained that the aim of the pilot for a
90 Wednesday-Saturday Bell Schedule is to maximize course availability for students, thereby improving the
91 time-to-graduation rate. Saturday enrollment for Spring 2005 consisted of 77 sections and 2070 students,
92

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112 and 84 sections and 1970 students for Fall 2005. Sunday enrollment for Spring 2005 consisted of 7 sections
113 and 180 students and 5 sections and 103 students for Fall 2005.

114
115 Ms. Daley-Weston yielded the floor to President Raab who said:

116
117 “Thank you, Marilyn. I think that the schedules must be completed by mid-November. [This was
118 confirmed by Ms. Daley Weston.] We are trying to plan backwards, and would welcome thoughts,
119 responses, and advice in a timely fashion to be able to launch a small pilot in the Spring to get answers
120 to just these questions. We need to jump-start the Saturday process, and we need to do it soon.

121
122 The final comment I want to make is about the story in today’s *Newsday*, which had a large number of
123 inaccuracies. There was a very unfortunate breach of security from 80th Street computers that affected a
124 certain number of students in the CUNY Law School and a certain number of faculty at our Campus
125 Schools, both current and retired, which caused certain personal information to be available through
126 internet searches for a certain amount of time. As soon as it was discovered by 80th Street it was quickly
127 repaired and they are meeting with faculty over at the Campus Schools to talk about exactly what
128 happened, how it is addressed, and why it is not going to happen again. It was a very unfortunate
129 situation, but the *Newsday* article suggested that it affected a wider number of Hunter faculty and staff,
130 and it did not. I want to make sure that anyone who had read this story had the correct information. “

131
132 President Raab concluded her report by responding to a question raised by Professor Manfred Kuechler as
133 follows:

134
135 *Q: “Your characterization of the initiative for new monies is quite different from what I was told. The way*
136 *I understand it is that in the past 80th Street submitted a lump sum request to Albany, and that the*
137 *colleges did not really have any say as to what they need, and that the new initiative is an effort to get*
138 *financing for the Master Plan, which has already been discussed and put into place. I just want you to*
139 *comment if I misunderstood and you have the right information. As I understand it, it is not just coming*
140 *up with new ideas, but it is about setting priorities within the existing Master Plan. The colleges are*
141 *given rough numbers, and within these numbers they can pick from what is already in the Master Plan.*

142
143 *Secondly, an important consideration is the effort to finance the Master Plan. It involves both*
144 *undergraduate tuition increases, as well as a renewed effort to get money from outside sources, e.g.*
145 *fundraising/philanthropy, but also to have Albany commit to funding specific expenses. I agree with you*
146 *that it is unclear what this initiative will come to, but what we are talking about here is really the*
147 *budget for the fiscal year that starts next July.*

148
149 *The second item is the use of the roughly \$30M acquired in additional funds by raising graduate tuition*
150 *this semester. 80th Street has earmarked some \$5M of this to give back to colleges for immediate*
151 *improvements of graduate programs. They have basically started a competition between the colleges*
152 *where each college has to say what it would do with the money and allocations would then be made*
153 *based on these proposals.*

154
155 **A:** The last part is incorrect. They have given us a draft number of about \$700,000, because of the graduate
156 tuition. So, you are correct in the sense that they would have liked to make this an open competition so
157 that everybody could apply and put in their thoughts, but they were not going to end that meeting with
158 me in the room until there was an acknowledgement that if 17% of the tuition increase was from Hunter
159 College we would get back that amount of money. There are different numbers. If Brooklyn comes up
160 with something great, they can have a larger share. I was very clear about that. There is a difficulty
161 because of the issue of expectations. I don’t ask a committee to spend years in planning something that
162 we can’t even promise. So, they have the final say about this money and they are going to give us a
163 round this figure. We believe we can come back and say these are the categories we would like to spend
164 it in, and they could say that

169 this year we really think you should put it in the new flagship initiative, because we put in the Master
170 Plan that we are going to have new clusters. I am not saying that is going to happen, but we don't have a
171 guarantee right now. We are asked to make a suggestion on spending a certain amount of money, and
172 we have to do it quickly. I would like to have more options and flexibility in that. There is not a lot of
173 mystery to a lot of the needs in a lot of the graduate programs. I mean someone from Art could stand up
174 and tell you what the Art building needs in a minute. I think we know what a lot of the major needs are.
175 That is the answer on the graduate issue. We still don't know if some will be recurring.
176

177 On the other budget, I don't know that we are that far apart. I first want to say it actually is not just a
178 lump sum. It is a lot of CUNY funding. There is a fair number of categories even within their lump sum,
179 but I think the main point is that they have made statements, but they have not given us a piece of paper
180 that told us exactly what we are getting for something they call "flagship environment." One of the
181 things I have learned is that there is a lot of flexibility in what we can argue for within a category.
182 There have been clusters called "urban environment" for which we have gotten faculty members.
183 Something you might not immediately assume was what they meant by that category. All the other
184 schools were getting them for environmental science and we got somebody in urban affairs. When they
185 put out a category we try to say what our needs are and we try to stretch that need to fit their category. I
186 think that is the better way to plan. I mean, full time faculty is full time faculty, but then there is the
187 Master Plan. The Honors College is there, and improving undergraduate education. But the concept of
188 improving undergraduate education is pretty broad, and so I think we should see what we need here and
189 then try to put it into one of the categories. They have been clear about one category and that is Student
190 Services. There is not a time that I don't see Eija in the hallway that she doesn't talk about the need for
191 more advisors. I am sure there are some other things people could come up with. So, yes there will be
192 some categories, but I think thinking about our needs and seeing how they can be fitted into this Master
193 Plan category is just as important. What they have asked in consultation is that we are going to be
194 given a certain amount of extra money that comes out of these new ways of creating money, and we
195 have been asked to ask the community for priorities in the community's perspective for this marginal
196 addition of money. And that is what I am doing here. We will get more clarity on these categories, and
197 I will certainly share them with you as soon as we do. But I would ask you not to be limited by them,
198 because I would rather figure out what we need and try to stretch it into the categories that they are
199 giving us."
200

201 President Raab called on Vice President Zinnanti who added:
202

203 "Manfred, you are right. There is a multi-faceted revenue stream that would be based on indexed
204 annual tuition which would become part of the new revenue stream besides philanthropic giving and
205 enrollment growth. So, it is very difficult to say one size fits all, because this school may have a
206 difficult time in enrollment growth for these facilities. There is a lot to be discussed."
207

208 President Raab then added:
209

210 "They are even talking about how a place that does not have any space can think about enrollment
211 growth. They are pushing every envelope and this concept of adding philanthropic revenue into an
212 operating budget is extremely difficult to absorb. I think the basic point is that we do not know that we
213 are going to get \$4M-5M extra. At the end of the day it may turn out that two million is new money that
214 comes into our budget, and the other three million is money that I was supposed to raise two months
215 ago to fit into the categories that were given. So yes, you are right. This is part of the Master Plan, but I
216 also hold that there is a level of uncertainty of whether this money is going to materialize. If it does, I
217 think we should have some general ideas about priorities in these basic categories of student support
218 and on the academic side. We can try to parcel them out when we are putting in a final submission. I
219 think we are going to have to do all this work way before
220

226 anyone knows whether this whole new way of budgeting and the whole new master plan is accepted.”
227

228 President Raab responded to a question raised by Professor Pamela Mills as follows:
229

230 *Q: Would you please comment on how we recruit minority students into the Honors College, and*
231 *particular if there is faculty involvement in that process. The reason that I ask is that I have a small*
232 *group of students that I am trying to plug into the Honors College. I have encountered a bureaucratic*
233 *cold shoulder and...*
234

235 A: I am absolutely shocked if that is true. You know, the good news was that Laura Schachter had a baby
236 last year, and the bad news is that the vigilance with which we have recruited minority students to our
237 Honors program was not as strong as it was when she was sitting in every meeting saying that this is a
238 college priority. I think the number of students applying and attending at Hunter is better than at any
239 other college number. We have a new recruiting director, Tracy Fredericks, who is passionately
240 committed to minority recruitment for Honors and every other program in this school. It is one of the
241 reasons why she was hired last year. She and I have actually met a fair number of times with Eija. She
242 is very much on top of this, and I am very disappointed to hear that you got the cold shoulder. You
243 certainly did not get it from Tracy.
244

245 *Q: I am actually asking about the mechanisms, and so...*
246

247 A: You should call Tracy Fredericks and tell her that you have highly qualified minority students and you
248 want to get them in Honors College. That is what I do, and every time any of us are in any high school
249 situation where we meet these students I bring her names. You should give her names, and she will
250 follow up. We recruit very heavily in various targeted high schools with target populations. We are
251 highly committed and so is Tracy Fredericks who would be delighted to respond to your question.
252

253 *Q: Can I ask a follow up...*
254

255 A: Sure.
256

257 *Q: In looking at the Honors Colleges I was surprised to discover that at Hunter it is not headed by a*
258 *faculty member and all the other colleges that I talked to were. Are we going to be looking for a faculty*
259 *member?*
260

261 A: We had a full search this summer headed by Richard Pizer. Among the members were Liz Beaujour,
262 Joyce Toney, Dean Friedlander, Dean Sherwen, and Laura Schachter. Jonathan Schoenwald, the new
263 Director of the Honors College, has very strong academic credentials and I have read peer reviews from
264 some of the best universities in the country. He was not hired in a faculty position, but he was
265 recommended by the committee. There were two finalists. He is in a transition period with the current
266 Director, Dr. Basquin, and he will become the full-time director in January. I think he will do an
267 extraordinary job.
268

269 President Raab called on Vice President Ayravainen, who added:
270

271 “I don’t have a question, but I want to say that Tracy Fredericks will be heading the Honors College
272 Admissions Committee along with Jonathan Schoenwald. Tracy has a really wonderful strategic plan
273 for recruiting Hunter College students as well as others. She has specifically targeted schools with
274 minority students for the Honors College. You are certainly welcome to email me or Tracy, or both of
275 us. She will go after them, because this is a high priority for us. “
276

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282 **Report by the** The Chair presented the report as follows:
 283 **Administrative**

284 **Committee:** She informed the Senate of a change in staff in the Senate Office. Runako Taylor is leaving for a teaching
 285 position in England, and Olivia Vavroch is taking over his position.
 286

287 **Election of Panels for Search Committee for Dean of the School of Social Work**

288 She presented the "Voting Procedures" and the following list of nominees as distributed:
 289

290 **Nominees for Chair-Panel:**

291 Professor Alan Hausman (Philosophy)
 292 Professor Rosalind Petchesky (Political Science)
 293 Dean Laurie Sherwen (Schools of Health Professions)
 294 Professor Ruth Sidel (Sociology)
 295

296 **Nominees for Member-Panel from the School of Social Work:**

297 FACULTY:	STUDENTS:
298 Prof. Irene Chung	Kimberly Krno
299 Prof. Irwin Epstein	Nancy Sparacio
300 Prof. Michael Fabricant	Jackie Davis
301 Prof. Bernadette Hadden	Jack Harari
302 Prof. Annette Mahoney	
303 Prof. Robert Salmon	
304 Prof. Andrea Savage	
305 Prof. Darrell Wheeler	

306
 307 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the slate for the Member-
 308 Panel. The motion carried by voice vote. (From these nominees the President will choose a Member-Panel
 309 of four faculty and three students.)
 310

311 After discussion written ballots were distributed for the election of the Chair-Panel.
 312

313 The Chair appointed two tellers, Professor Miyares and Mr. Blumenthal.
 314

315 She announced that, because of the late hour, counting of votes would take place in the Senate Office and
 316 anyone interested in the election results would be welcome to observe.
 317

318 The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.
 319

320 Respectfully submitted,
 321

322
 323
 324 Stuart Ewen
 325 Secretary
 326
 327

328 **Note: Election Result**

329 Voting by written ballot for Chair-Panel for Search Committee for Dean of the School of Social Work produced the following
 330 results:

331 Alan Hausman:	46 votes
332 Rosalind Petchesky:	44 votes
333 Laurie Sherwen:	31 votes
334 Ruth Sidel:	47 votes

335 Professors Sidel, Hausman, and Petchesky were elected.