

SENATE NEWS BULLETIN

Office of the Hunter College Senate – Telephone: 772-4200 -- Visit us at: www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate

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SENATE OFFICERS

At its meeting of 18 May 2011, the Hunter College Senate elected its officers who constitute the Administrative Committee of the Senate:

Chair:	Professor Sandra Clarkson
Vice Chair:	Andy Lall
Secretary:	Professor Lisa Marie Anderson
Chair of the Evening Council:	Professor Christa Davis Acampora

SENATE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE FALL 2011

Fall 2011 Senate meetings are scheduled of the following Wednesdays:

September 21 (September 7th is cancelled)
October 12 and 26
November 16 and 30
December 7 and 14

For further information, please check our website: www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate or see the Hunter College Online Calendar.

H.C. SENATE ELECTS OMBUDSMAN THIS FALL

The procedures for nominating and electing a candidate are as follows:

Eligibility

“Any member of the College community, eligible to serve on the Senate, may be nominated by any member of the Hunter College community in good standing, or may nominate herself or himself for the position of Hunter College Ombudsman” (excerpt from the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College*, Article XII, Section 2).

Nominating Procedure

Nominations shall be made: (a) by filing nominations with the Senate Office in Room E1018 before September 25th, or (b) by announcement on the Senate floor at the Senate meeting on September 27th, 2006. Thus, the Senate meeting on September 27th is the last time to nominate candidates.

Documentation

All candidates who accept nomination must submit to the Senate Office in Room E1018: (a) a *resume*, (b) a *statement of platform or intent* not to exceed 500 words; and (c) sign the form accepting the *Agreement with the President* and the definition of the Office of Ombudsman as stated in the Hunter College Governance Charter (see back page). Candidates must submit all three documents for their candidacy to be validated. Only valid candidates will appear on the ballot on October 11th.

Timetable for Nominations and Election

September 27th Senate Meeting

Senate Secretary reads a list of validated candidates, and a list of those candidates who have partially completed the necessary documentation. The floor will then be open for further nominations (the agreement may be signed later). There will be no nominating speeches on the floor of the Senate at this meeting.

September 29 at 5:00 PM -- Mailing Deadline

Nominations and statements received in the Senate Office in final form by 5:00 PM on September 29th for all validated candidates will be mailed to the Senate membership for the October 11th Senate meeting.

October 5 at 5:00 PM -- Absolute deadline for receiving documentation

No documentation will be accepted after 5:00 PM on October 5th, and no candidacy may be entered for which the required documentation is not filed by this time.

October 11th Senate Meeting -- Election of Ombudsman

The first item of business on the Administrative Committee Report shall be the election of Ombudsman. A list of all candidates will be distributed to the Senate members. The Senate Secretary or the Chair of the Administrative Committee will read off the list of candidates for the last time. At that point, when her or his name is called, the candidate will rise if (s)he so chooses to be physically identified, and may give a short presentation. In no case will nominations be accepted from the floor of the Senate at this meeting. Voting will proceed according to the rules as set out in Article XII, Section 2, of the Hunter College Governance Charter; the winner will be determined in the same manner.

Duties of the Ombudsman

Article XII, Sec.4 of the Hunter College Governance Charter states:

“The Hunter College Ombudsman shall consider complaints and grievances that are brought by any member of the Hunter College community, concerning a condition or problem in the College, may investigate the conditions giving rise to such complaints and may refer cases to others when the usual appeals procedures seem adequate. The Ombudsman will undertake independent investigations, in general, only if the usual procedures have proved inadequate or have been exhausted, and shall be empowered to recommend action to any officer or to any committee or organization of the College. The Ombudsman shall from time to time report on his or her work to the Hunter College Senate; and may otherwise publicize the results of investigations.”

Agreement with the President

The Senate Administrative Committee and President Raab have reached the following agreement regarding the Office of Ombudsman, and the President will ensure the following so long as the Charter language in Article XII remains unchanged:

1. Adjunct replacement money for 1/2 program for a full-time faculty member elected to office.
2. Payment according to the schedule established by the Board of Trustees if a student is elected to office.

REVISION OF HUNTER COLLEGE GOVERNANCE CHARTER

The CUNY Board of Trustees has approved the Amendments to the *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College* at their meeting on June 26th. As you may know, the amendments were initiated to allow the Senate to conduct its business effectively, in light of the New York State Court of Appeals ruling in *Perez v. CUNY* indicating that governance bodies such as the Hunter College Senate are subject to the Open Meetings Law and therefore must meet legally-mandated quorum and majority requirements. Specifically, Senate membership has been reduced from 202 to 100 (57 faculty, 38 students, 5 administrators). However, there is now a new category of alternate membership to ensure that a sufficient number of delegates will be present at meetings to conduct business. Based on the current number of 32 faculty departments, and preserving the faculty-student-administration ratio, there will be a total of 56 alternate senators (32 faculty alternates, 21 student alternates, 3 administration alternates). These alternate members will have full floor rights and are expected to attend, and participate in, all meetings of the Hunter College Senate. In the same vein, amendments change the number of student representatives on Senate committees and provide for alternate student members on those committees. This reduction will conform to actual practice, and the changes will permit students to continue to participate in discussions and to vote as members of committees, while allowing the committees to comply with quorum requirements and therefore function effectively.

The complete *Charter for a Governance of Hunter College* is posted on the Senate's web site: www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate