

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate  
14 October 1992

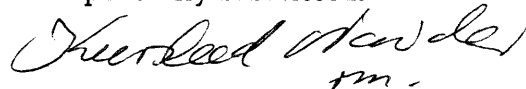
	The 281st meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:30 p.m. in Room W714.	1 2
<b>Presiding:</b>	Kenneth S. Sherrill, Chair	3
<b>Attendance:</b>	The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5
<b>Report by the President:</b>	The following is a summary statement of President LeClerc's report:  He said: "I'll be brief because the matter before the Senate today on the curriculum is of crucial importance to us, and I don't wish to take time away from it. However, I will make a few announcements.  80th Street has tapped Dr. Robert Carter to be the Acting Affirmative Action Officer for the City University of New York for the remainder of this academic year. By the end of this week I hope to have an announcement on Dr. Carter's interim replacement as Affirmative Action Officer at Hunter College.  If you saw yesterday's <u>Newsday</u> you saw an article on the City University of New York that was in some ways distressing. There is one thing that I wish to say about the statement that was made in that article. In doing so I speak less as the president and rather more as a member of the professoriate here. My conclusions about the quality of Hunter students are diametrically opposed to the views expressed in yesterday's <u>Newsday</u> . I think our students are sensational. I have been teaching for 27 years, and some of the best and most brilliant students that I have ever taught are at this college.  Finally, let me say that I look forward to today's debate on the subject of a new proposed addition to the distribution requirement at Hunter in the area of diversity. There is one thing that I think is important to know, and that is that once the Senate concludes with its deliberations and its voting on the diversity requirement, it is then my job to transmit this to the Trustees to secure their approval, and then to secure as well as much external funding in support of the diversity requirement as I can. The fourth plank of the proposal that is before the Senate this afternoon strikes me as being a terribly important one. We are talking about a diversity requirement and we are talking about a college in which everybody has to feel that she or he has a place at the table. By virtue of debate that took place in the recent past, you know that the negotiations on the various kinds of amendments that were put forth were very intensive. They required a lot of time, a lot of good will, a lot of diplomacy, and a lot of give and take. The package that has been put forth and that has been presented to the Senate over the course of the last two meetings has a series of characteristics that I think are important for us to keep in mind. They are that this proposal seeks to bring to our students, and to us as a campus, the series of expectations that have built into them diversity, the diversity of opinion, the diversity of points of view, the diversity of experiences that include all parts of the world. I think the fourth plank of the proposal is very important. I think that the balance that this plank represents is important for us as a community, and also as a college that is going to be selling this requirement outside the confines of this particular hall and even outside the confines of this college."	6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48
<b>Report by the Administrative Committee:</b>	Professor Sherrill presented the report as follows:  a. <u>Special Election to fill vacant seats on the Senate</u> Professor Sherrill informed the Senate that according to Article IV, Section 2. H. i & ii of the Hunter College Governance Charter, only students may vote in the election of student members, and only faculty in the election of faculty members.	49 50 51 52 53 54

He then presented the following list of student nominees:	55
David Asencio (Guidance & Counseling) Graduate	56
Rita Sabini (Italian)	57
Ari Adam Spett (Music) Day	58
John D. Pastor (Human Communications) Day	59
Antonio Lopez (Geology & Geography) Day	60
Stacey Bell (Political Science) Day	61
Zoisa Simmons (undeclared) Day	62
Josiah Klebaner (Geology) Day	63
Heather St. Bernard (Nutrition) Day	64
Frances Goulart (Political Science) Day	65
Lynnette Renee Carpenter (Sociology) Evening	66
Armin Patel (Political Science/History) Day	67
Melissa Uber (Black & Puerto Rican Studies) Day	68
Caroline Paddock (Art History/Honors) Evening	69
Henry Sirotin (Social Sciences) Graduate	70
Kathleen Geier (English/Honors/Women's Studies) Day	71
Cathy Rybak (School of Social Work) Graduate	72
Amy Fatutta (Communications) Evening	73
George W. Tong (Political Science) Day	74
Hema Sareen (Political Science) Day	75
Moriah Eskow (Honors) Day	76
Robert Elia (Economics) Graduate	77
It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the entire slate. The motion carried by voice vote.	78 79
He next presented the following list of faculty nominees:	80
Giuseppe Di Scipio (Romance Languages)	81
Carol Ann Silverman (School of Health Sciences)	82
Joan Tronto (Political Science)	83
Bernice Baxter (Academic Skills)	84
Nambi Krishnamachari (Academic Skills)	85
Caroline Adkins (Educational Foundations)	86
Francesca Sautman (Romance Languages)	87
It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the entire slate. The motion carried by voice vote.	88 89
b. <u>Election of Chair for Master Plan Committee</u>	90
The floor was open for nominations, and Professor Victor Goldsmith (Geology & Geography) was nominated.	91 92
It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee. The motion carried by voice vote, and Professor Goldsmith was elected Chair of the Master Plan Committee.	93 94 95
c. <u>Election of Chair for Budget Committee</u>	96
The floor was open for nominations, and Professor Terence Agbeyegbe (Economics) was nominated.	97 98
It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees, and Professor Agbeyegbe was elected Chair of the Budget Committee.	99 100 101
d. <u>Election of Members to Nominating Committee</u>	102
The floor was open for nominations for faculty alternate, and Professor Francesca Sautman was nominated.	103 104
It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee. The motion carried by voice vote.	105 106
The floor was open for nominations for student members, and Ms. Tara Moloney was nominated.	107 108

	It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees. The motion carried by voice vote.	109 110
<b>Items Carried Over From Last Meeting:</b>	<b><u>Continued Consideration of Pluralism &amp; Diversity Requirement Proposal</u></b>	111
	Professor Sherrill reminded the Senate that the following rules would be in effect: (1) each speaker will be limited to two minutes of speech; and (2) no one will be recognized for a second time until all who wish to speak to a motion have had an opportunity to do so. He explained that in going through the proposal paragraph by paragraph, we will first consider amendments to the paragraphs, then consider substitutes to the paragraphs, and then consider substitutes to the full proposal.	112 113 114 115 116 117 118
	The motion on the floor was Professor Wallach's motion that the proposal be amended by adding the following new category # 4, and if approved, by changing the introductory paragraph to read " <u>twelve credits</u> " instead of "nine credits," and " <u>four areas</u> " instead of "three areas":	119 120 121 122
	4. a course that focuses on major issues — artistic, literary, practical, or theoretical — reflected in the intellectual traditions of, or principally derived from, Europe.	123 124 125
	Professor Gilpatrick moved that the motion be amended to read as follows:	126
	"a course that focuses on major intellectual traditions principally derived from Europe: cultural, political, or economic."	127 128
	After discussion the question on the amendment was called and carried.	129
	The amendment was defeated by hand vote.	130
	Mr. Sirotin moved that the motion be amended by substituting the words "Western Civilization" for the word "Europe."	131 132
	After discussion the question on the amendment was called and carried.	133
	The amendment was defeated by hand vote.	134
	Professor Kirwan moved the following substitute amendment:	135
	"While the preceding resolutions seek to redress any cultural imbalance in the present curriculum, the Senate reaffirms the college's continued commitment to the diverse traditions of European culture in both the Humanities and the Sciences."	136 137 138 139
	After discussion the question on the motion to substitute was called and carried.	140
	The motion to substitute was defeated by hand vote.	141
	The motion on the floor was paragraph 4.	142
	After discussion the question was called and carried.	143
	Paragraph # 4 was approved by hand vote with 52 in favor, 28 opposed, and 2 abstentions.	144 145
	The motion on the floor was the motion to amend the introductory paragraph by changing the words "nine credits" to " <u>twelve credits</u> ," and "three areas" to " <u>four areas</u> ."	146 147 148
	After discussion the question was called. The motion to call the question was defeated by hand vote.	149 150
	At this point the meeting time was extended to 6 PM.	151
	After further discussion the question was called and carried.	152
	The motion to amend the introductory paragraph was approved by hand vote.	153

The motion on the floor was approval of the following paragraph:	154
"Courses that satisfy this Pluralism and Diversity requirement may simultaneously meet a student's distribution requirement or the courses necessary for a major or minor area of study. The subject matter of the courses to be taken can lie within any of the academic disciplines and programs at the College."	155 156 157 158 159
The motion was approved by hand vote.	160
The motion on the floor was approval of the following paragraph:	161
"The Undergraduate Course of Study Committee recommends that the Hunter College Senate approve the above proposal in principle. The proposal will then be sent to Departments and Divisions, so that they can designate courses which may be used to satisfy the requirement. After they have been approved by the Divisional Curriculum Committee in the normal way, the list of courses will be forwarded for approval to the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee. The final wording of the Requirement, with the list of courses that may be used to satisfy it in each category, will then return to the Senate for its approval. Any additional courses which may be proposed subsequently, will be approved according to normal procedures."	162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171
The question was called and carried. The motion was approved by hand vote.	172
The motion on the floor was approval of the entire proposal as amended.	173
The Chair reminded the Senate that at this time it would be in order to debate the entire package, and that further amendments or substitute proposals could be introduced.	174 175 176
The question was called and carried.	177
The motion was approved by hand vote.	178
(The Pluralism and Diversity Requirement, as approved, is attached as Appendix II. Professor Wallach's and Kirkland's introduction to, and justification for, their amendments — all of which were adopted by the Senate — is also included in Appendix II. This statement was originally distributed to the Senate at the September 16, 1992 meeting.)	179 180 181 182 183
The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.	184

Respectfully submitted.



Khursheed Navder,  
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

**FACULTY:**

Anthropology: Thomas McGovern  
Art: Ulka Bates  
Biology: Ed Balboni  
Black & P.R. Studies: Pedro Lopez-Adorno  
Harry Rodriguez "E"  
Chemistry: Pamela Mills  
Classics: Tamara Green  
William Mayer "E"  
Communications: Jay Roman  
Serafina Bathrick "E"  
Fulton Ross "E"  
Computer Science: Virginia Teller "E"  
Curriculum & Teaching: Tony Picciano  
Alene Smith  
Economics: Howard Chernick  
Educational Foundations: Caroline Adkins "E"  
Geology & Geography: Richard Liebling  
Sara McLafferty  
German: Suzanne Osborne  
Health & Phys. Education: Nana Koch "E"  
Health Sciences: Ida Susser  
History: Barbara Welter  
Marta Petruszewicz  
Bernadette McCauley  
Library: Julio Hernandez-Delgado "E"  
Pamela Wonsek  
Music: Jana Feinman "E"  
Susan Kagan "E"  
Nursing: Donna Nickitas  
Physics & Astronomy: Al Bennick  
Political Science: Joan Tronto  
Psychology: Peter Moller  
Social Work: Charles Guzzetta  
Joann Ivry  
Jayne Silberman "E"  
Malka Sternberg  
Sociology: Charles Green "E"  
Martin Warmbrand "E"  
Special Education: Marsha Lupi  
Marsha Smith-Lewis

Student Services: Reva Cohen "E"  
Theatre & Film: Patricia Sternberg  
Ellen Sumter  
Urban Affairs: Stanley Moses  
Dean Carlos Hortas

**STUDENTS:**

David Asencio  
Michael Luciano  
Efua Morgan  
Scott Lessard  
Chris Goeken  
Michael Joseph  
Rafael Hernandez  
Sigrid Cotto  
Victoria Kern "E"  
Gina Jones  
Dionne De Florimante  
Susan Keogan  
Debra Robertson  
Richard Baldwin  
Paul Mittelman  
Simon Kamara "E"  
Lewanda Hernandez  
Jose Ramos  
Damaris Nunez  
Rebecca Perez  
Dierdre Foudy "E"  
Kyle Williams  
Amy Fatutta  
Moriah Eskow  
Judy Smith  
James L. Painter  
Erica Petersen  
Arlene King  
Alicen Willis  
Amy Kossoy "E"  
Sean Sukal

APPENDIX II

HUNTER COLLEGE PLURALISM AND DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT

RESOLVED: Before graduating from Hunter, every student is required to complete twelve credits in courses that address issues of pluralism and diversity. Students will choose one three-credit course from each of the four areas below.

1. a course that focuses on historical and intellectual issues comprising the study of non-European cultures or their political/economic systems, especially those of Africa, Asia, or those indigenous to the Americas;
2. a course that focuses on the perspectives and contributions of one or more of the following groups in the United States of America: African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans;
3. a course that focuses on the perspectives and concerns of women and/or issues of gender/sexual orientation;
4. a course that focuses on major issues — artistic, literary, practical, or theoretical — reflected in the intellectual traditions of, or principally derived from, Europe.

Courses that satisfy this Pluralism and Diversity requirement may simultaneously meet a student's distribution requirement or the courses necessary for a major or minor area of study. The subject matter of the courses to be taken can lie within any of the academic disciplines and programs at the College.

Introduction to, and justification for, the Pluralism and Diversity Requirement

The growing interdependence of the world's political, economic, and cultural relations, along with the increasingly diverse character of the American citizenry in general and the students of Hunter College in particular, make it imperative that Hunter undergraduates be exposed to a wide range of intellectual traditions, perspectives, and concerns arising from all corners of the globe. The emergence of sizable bodies of scholarship over the last two decades reflecting that intellectual array makes it important for Hunter to present them as an integral part of the education of Hunter undergraduates. As a result, we propose a new curricular requirement that reflects the cultural pluralism and diversity of intellectual traditions and perspectives and shows Hunter students the importance of being knowledgeable of the world's cultural geography and human community as they prepare for the 21st century.

Initially, let it be said that no one set of curricular requirements can signify the wide array of culturally diverse intellectual traditions, perspectives, and concerns. Furthermore, we do not believe that Hunter College should officially determine how its students are to interpret their educational encounter with those traditions. Consequently, the requirement proposed below does **not** represent Hunter's judgment on either the definitive meaning of a curricular diversity requirement or the relative value of the component parts of this requirement with respect to one another or the student's overall educational program. This proposal does not mention a host of themes marking intellectual areas and concerns, e.g., those of class, religion, disability, the aged, or other particular communities. These deserve attention, and the specification of the four themes below does not disavow their significance.

The proposal set here simply affirms that Hunter College can no longer authorize a basic curriculum for a bachelor's degree that enables students to be ignorant of the perspectives and issues identified below.

We also believe that Hunter College must continue the work of opening its basic curricular requirements to the challenges posed by the manifold of culturally diverse intellectual traditions and contributions as well as the approaches and techniques developed to deal with them.

The four themes used here mark the kinds of courses that will address issues of pluralism and diversity in terms of the following intellectual traditions and concerns:

- 1) non-European cultures/political-economic systems;
- 2) racialized minorities of the United States;
- 3) women and sexual orientation;
- 4) European cultures/political-economic systems.

**Appendix II** (continued):

The resolution will be sent to Departments and Divisions, so that they can designate courses which may be used to satisfy the requirement. After they have been approved by the Divisional Curriculum Committee in the normal way, the lists of courses will be forwarded for approval to the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee. The final wording of the Requirement, with the list of courses that may be used to satisfy it in each category, will then return to the Senate for its approval. Any additional courses which may be proposed subsequently, will be approved according to normal procedures.