

MINUTES

**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
19 February 1992**

	The 272nd meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:25 P.M. in Room W714.	1 2
Presiding:	Elizabeth K. Beaujour, Chair	3
Attendance:	The elected members of the Senate, with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5
	The Agenda was adopted as submitted.	6
Report by the President:	The following is a summary statement of President LeClerc's report to the Senate:	7 8
	He said: "My remarks will consist of the following announcements. We had two really wonderful ribbon-cutting ceremonies last week. These are not easy times for us, and it is always good to celebrate the positive things that are happening at the College. The first ribbon-cutting ceremony was at our expanded Day Care Center for children of students. We were able to expand the capacity of that center from 35 to 50 children. Before opening, the new Center passed all the necessary inspections by City agencies. I hope that all members of the Senate at some point early this spring get to go over to the second floor of the North Building and look at what is happening there for the children of our students. It is a wonderful story and serves as an important adjunct to the education program of the College, because some of our students in the education program, especially those having to do with early childhood education, do a portion of their study in that facility. So that was very, very nice.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
	On Friday afternoon the Provost and I co-cut a ribbon at our expanded and brand new computer-based Writing Center on the Fourth Floor of Thomas Hunter Hall. This is one of the best things that has happened to the College in a long, long time. The Provost deserves enormous credit and gratitude for having conceived of this, for having found the money, and for having pulled it off. For the first time in Hunter history it makes partners of faculty from the Department of Academic Skills and the Department of English. We have 45 computer stations, and two wonderful new air-conditioned rooms with sufficient light and ventilation, new furniture, and all those nice amenities that can be used to teach students. It is part of the Writing Program of the College to enhance the writing skills of students. In addition to that, there is adjacent to it a new Reading Center, and so we have moved into one complex two of our computer based programs for basic skills instruction at the College. The third, of course, is the computer-based Mathematics Learning Center--the Dolciani Center--located in the North Building on the third floor. The Provost has ambitions, which I certainly endorse, that at some point in the near future when we raise sufficient money, we put in on that floor a state of the art computer-based language learning environment with audio visual support. So, the fourth floor of Thomas Hunter Hall is shaping up, finally, to be a state of the art educational resource center for our students and for our faculty. That is really very, very positive. I am grateful to the Provost for having done that, and to all those from all the departments, and Buildings and Grounds, and all of the units of the College who helped in that important effort.	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
	The budget situation continues to be more or less what it was last week. We have been given a foretaste of what the Governor's Executive Budget looks like for us, were it to be passed by the Legislature as proposed.	49 50 51

Of course it is not good. What we are going to be doing is analyzing these numbers with very great care over the space of the next week or so. We will be responding to a request from 80th Street that we tell them what the effect of this budget, if passed, would be on the College. It will undoubtedly not be good. It is going to be very, very important for our legislators to hear from us. There is a new approach to lobbying legislators that will take place this spring, whereby the Presidents of all the CUNY campuses in each Borough will meet with the legislative leadership of the Assembly and the Senate, and lobby those individuals in a very concentrated and intense kind of way on the needs of their campuses, and tell them in a compelling way about how much we need their help, and how impossible the Governor's budget as proposed will be for us.

I am planning to set aside a maximum amount of money--I can't give you a dollar figure this afternoon--for use next year to offset as much as we can the impact of a possible tuition increase for students. These monies would be set aside into two kinds of reserve funds. One as a loan fund, and the other as a financial aid and scholarship fund. As we continue the analysis of our fund-raising possibilities over the remainder of this spring and next year, and see how much we can set aside for these purposes, I will have a clearer sense as to what the numbers look like, and will be happy to share those numbers with the Senate as soon as I have them. That will be good news. Our strategy is to position the College as best we can to weather these rough times with a minimum impact if it is at all possible. It may not be. But we will try to tell you as much as we can about the impact on the academic programs of the College.

Again, I will be looking to every person in this room, and indeed every person at this College, be it an employee or a student, to think in the most collegial and in the most mutually supportive kinds of terms, so that the burden is fairly and equitably shared by all of us, and that we all have common commitments to the College and its future over the space of this period of time, which we all hope and pray is not going to last very much longer. These are my comments. If you have any questions I am always happy to try to answer them for you. Thank you very much. I wish you a good meeting."

**Report by the
Administrative
Committee:**

There was no report.

Open Discussion re: Plus/Minus Grading System

Professor Beaujour informed the Senate that, although this is a regular meeting of the Senate, it has a particular purpose. At the Senate meeting of 6 November 1991, the question of considering once again whether or not Hunter should change to a Plus/Minus grading system was raised. At that time Professor Korn, Chair of the Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee, agreed to provide a summary of the lengthy discussions and investigations that had occurred on this issue not so long ago. Professor Korn subsequently did present that material to the Senate.

At the December 11th meeting, the Senate went into a Committee-of-the-Whole for 50 minutes of discussion on this question. There was a feeling by some senators and representatives of student governments that this is an important issue, and that there should be more time between the initial discussion and any action that may be taken, and that, furthermore, there should be sufficient publicity so that any student or faculty member who wished to speak on this matter could do so. Therefore, the Senate passed a resolution stating that we should reserve today, February 19th, for an open discussion of the Plus/Minus grading system, with formal consideration to follow at a subsequent meeting.

In the interim a great deal was done to make the College community aware that this discussion would take place today. We have sent out various Senate

Bulletins. We have sent to faculty members a request that they announce this	110
in their classes, and we have communicated, both by telephone and by letter,	111
with the two major campus publications.	112
We will now proceed as if we are in a Committee-of-the-Whole for the remainder	113
of this meeting. Some rules do apply, i.e. the two-minute limit per speaker, and	114
the rule that a speaker may not be recognized twice until all who wish to speak	115
have done so.	116
The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the plus/minus grading	117
system.	118
Following a motion to adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.	119

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Sherrill,
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

FACULTY:

Academic Skills: Janice Montague
Namby Krishnamachari

Anthropology: Josh DeWind
Thomas McGovern

Art: Joel Carrera
Andrea Blum

Biological Sciences: Shirley Raps "E"

Black & P.R. Studies: Pedro Lopez-Adorno
Tony Job

Chemistry: William Sweeney
William Grossman
Klaus Grohmann

Classics: William Mayer

Communications: Alonzo Speight

Computer Science: Virginia Teller "E"
Tamer Avcilar

Curriculum & Teaching: Tony Picciano
Alene Smith

Economics: Eric Seeley
Howard Chernick
David Elkin

Educational Foundations: Louise Fox "E"

Geology & Geography: Richard Liebling
Sara McLafferty

German: Mary Sullivan "E"
Eckhard Kuhn-Osius

Health Sciences: Carol Silverman "E"
Ida Susser
Jack Caravanos

History: Naomi Miller "E"
Leonard Wallock "E"

Library: Vera Conant

Music: Paul Mueller
Susan Kagan "E"

Nursing: Jo Kirsch "E"
Nancy Jones

Philosophy: Frank Kirkland

Physics & Astronomy: Al Bennick

Political Science: Keith Lawrence

Psychology: Peter Moller
Michele Paludi

Social Work: Marsha Martin
Irwin Epstein

Special Education: Marsha Lupi
Anna Rossell

Student Services: Madlyn Stokely

Theatre & Film: Daniel Koetting

Urban Affairs: Hilda Blanco

Dean Carlos Hortas "E"
Dean Erwin Fleissner
Dean Judith Friedlander "E"

STUDENTS:

Stacey Smith
Helen Pouliasis
Sigrid Cotto
Scott Lessard
Sandra Goodridge
Efua Morgan
Arthur Peebles
Ian Yeager
Rafael Hernandez
Robert Nisonoff
Michael Luciano
Patricia Smith
Michel Joseph
Alice O'Malley Abell
Celeste Avena
Jongding Wang
Francesca Burgess
Alph Edwards
Annette Walters
Esther Susswein
Sabrina Segal
Richard Baldwin
Debra Robertson "E"
Julie Pitkin "E"
Daniel Deihle
Alexandra Markovic
Marc Haynes
Tim Rutgers
Dorothy Waters
Jason Chang
Dyannah Barthold
Michael Muyot
Kristin McCarthy
M. Pauline Hermann
Victoria Kern "E"
Kathy Kieffer
Erika Petersen
Marc Greenfield