

MINUTES

**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate  
4 March 1992**

	The 273rd meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:25 P.M. in Room W714.	1 2
<b>Presiding:</b>	Elizabeth Beaujour, Chair	3
<b>Attendance:</b>	The elected members of the Senate, with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	4 5
	The Agenda was adopted as presented.	6
<b>Minutes:</b>	The Minutes of February 5th were approved as distributed.	7
<b>Report by the President:</b>	A summary statement of President LeClerc's report to the Senate is attached as Appendix II.	8 9
<b>Report by the Administrative Committee:</b>	Professor Beaujour presented the report as follows:	10
	a. <u>Approved Curriculum Changes</u>	11
	The following curriculum changes, as listed in the report dated 4 March 1992, were approved as per Senate resolution, and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items UR-808 (English), US-796 and US-797 (Biological Sciences), US-799 (Economics), US-801 (History), US-802A (Political Science).	12 13 14 15 16
	b. On behalf of the Evening Session Council, Professor Beaujour informed the Senate that the survey about the desirability of instituting Evening Dean's Hours had been completed. The survey questionnaire was sent to about 2300 matriculated students, whose courses were scheduled after 5 p.m. Of those 30% responded.	17 18 19 20 21
	In considering the results of the survey at yesterday's meeting, the Evening Session Council decided to report the results to the Senate, and voted that no further action be taken at this time. The survey results are as follows:	22 23 24
	<u>Evening Dean's Hour Survey Results</u>	25
	52.6% favor the current schedule	26
	17.5% favor Option 4: (5:30-7:00 Dean's Hours on Fridays, with Friday classes ending at 10:05 PM)	27 28
	13.6% favor Option 2: (5:30-7:00 Dean's Hours on Wednesdays, with Monday and Wednesday classes ending at 8:20 and 9:15)	29 30
	9.5% favor Option 3: (5:30-6:30 Dean's Hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with Wednesday and Thursday classes ending at 7:55 and 9:20)	31 32 33
	6.5% favor Option 1: (5:30-7:00 Dean's Hours on Wednesdays, with Wednesday classes ending at 8:20 and 9:45)	34 35
	0.3% did not indicate which of the 4 options they favor	36
	c. Professor Beaujour yielded the floor to Mark DePalma, President of the Evening Student Government, for a brief announcement.	37 38
	Mr. DePalma announced that a very important rally is scheduled for 12 noon on March 31st at Lehman College. He asked for the support of the Senate and of faculty in getting the word out to students. Mr. DePalma then remarked on the general situation at CUNY, student concerns, and student initiatives for a better press. He stated that no student at Hunter College or at any other CUNY college will take over buildings this year.	39 40 41 42 43 44

**Re: Plus/Minus Grading System** 45  
 Professor Beaujour reminded the Senate that, in accordance with Senate resolution, the proposal on the floor is formal consideration of implementing a Plus/Minus Grading System. 46-48

Professor Weinberg moved the following resolution: 49

BE IT RESOLVED, that Hunter College adopt a system of plus/minus letter grades, running from A+ through D, and retaining F for failing work, with whole number quality points corresponding to each letter group (e.g. B+=3.0, B=3.0, B-=3.0); and 50-53

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this system shall become effective for the Fall 1994 semester. However, in recognition of the severe fiscal pressures faced by the College, the administration may request during the prior academic year that the Senate grant up to a two-year extension of the implementation date. If the Senate declines to grant the extension, the system will be introduced as originally scheduled. 54-59

After extensive discussion, the question was called and carried. 60

The resolution carried by hand vote with 41 in favor, 28 opposed, and 6 abstentions. 61-62

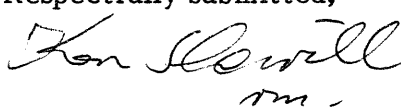
After discussion, Professor Bennick moved that the following "Test Scale" be used as numerical equivalents to the approved grades and GPA value. 63-64

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>GPA VALUE</u>	<u>"TEST SCALE"</u>	
A+	4.0	97.5 - 100%	65-66
A	4.0	92.5 - 97.4	67
A-	4.0	90.0 - 92.4	68
B+	3.0	87.5 - 89.9	69
B	3.0	82.5 - 87.4	70
B-	3.0	80.0 - 82.4	71
C+	2.0	77.5 - 79.9	72
C	2.0	72.5 - 77.4	73
C-	2.0	70.0 - 72.4	74
D+	1.0	67.5 - 69.9	75
D	1.0	60.0 - 67.4	76
F	0.	0 - 59.9	77

After discussion the question was called and carried. 78

The required number of 33 votes not having been achieved, the motion to approve the "Test Scale" carried over to the next meeting. 79-80

A motion to adjourn carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M. 91

Respectfully submitted,  
  
 Ken Sherrill,  
 Secretary

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## APPENDIX I

The following members were noted as absent from the meeting:

## FACULTY:

Academic Skills: Namby Krishnamachari  
Jo-Ann Morgan

Anthropology: Josh DeWind  
Thomas McGovern

Art: Ulka Bates  
Andrea Blum

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

Chemistry: William Sweeney  
William Grossman  
Klaus Grohmann

Communications: Thomas Mader  
Alonzo Speight

Computer Science: Tamer Avcilar

Curriculum & Teaching: Alene Smith

Economics: Avi Liveson  
Eric Seeley  
Howard Chernick  
David Elkin

Educational Foundations: Caroline Adkins

Geology & Geography: Richard Liebling  
Sara McLafferty

German: Mary Sullivan

Health & Phys Education: Nana Koch "E"

Health Sciences: Ida Susser  
Nora Baker  
Khursheed Navder "E"

Library: Julio Hernandez-Delgado  
Jean Jacques Strayer  
Vera Conant

Mathematics: Jane Matthews  
Barbara Barone

Music: Jana Feinman  
Paul Mueller  
Susan Kagan

Nursing: Jo Kirsch "E"  
Nancy Jones "E"

Political Science: Keith Lawrence

Psychology: Peter Moller "E"  
Michele Paludi "E"

Social Work: Marsha Martin  
Irwin Epstein

Sociology: Naomi Kroeger

Special Education: Marsha Lupi  
Anna Rossell

Student Services: Madlyn Stokely

Theatre & Film: Daniel Koetting

Urban Affairs: Stanley Moses  
Hilda Blanco

Dean Evelyn Gioiella "E"  
Dean Carlos Hortas "E"  
Dean Everlena Holmes "E"

## STUDENTS:

Stacey Smith  
Helen Pouliasis  
Sigrid Cotto  
Sandra Goodridge  
Rafael Hernandez  
Michael Luciano  
Patricia Smith  
Celeste Avena  
Francesca Burgess  
Jean Innocent  
Annette Walters  
Esther Susswein  
Simon Kamara  
Winston Brewster  
Amy Kossoy "E"  
Debra Robertson  
Daniel Deihle  
Alexandra Markovic  
Tim Rutgers  
Dorothy Waters  
Jason Chang  
Dyannah Barthold  
Michael Muyot  
Kristin McCarthy  
M. Pauline Hermann  
Victoria Kern "E"  
Kathy Kieffer  
Alicen Willis  
Marc Greenfield

APPENDIX II

The following is a summary statement of President LeClerc's report to the Senate. He said:

"I have just been handed by Dean Hugh Scott a copy of the latest U.S. News and World Report evaluation of the nations colleges and universities. Hunter receives a high ranking, and is the second one listed among colleges in the northeast.

I am happy to tell you that a week ago yesterday I had breakfast with Deana Kaye, who is the new President of the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Foundation. At the end of that breakfast she very generously committed an extra half million dollars of funding for the endowment of the Playhouse. We are now in phase two and hope to build a multi-million dollar endowment for the Playhouse. We also have in the mail a \$100,000 check for endowment purposes for scholarship support for students. And, we are the beneficiary of a bequest by an alumna of close to half a million dollars of financial support for students. The will is a fairly restrictive one. It stipulates that the money be used exclusively as a loan program for women students at the College who have children. We do have many women with children who are in financially difficult circumstances, and \$ 450,000 to \$500,000 to help them is going to be wonderful for us.

I was in Albany yesterday, lobbying on behalf of the College, with several members of our community. We spoke to Assemblypersons, Senators, and staff persons. We were there from 10:30 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon. We touched base with a total of about ten different legislative offices, presenting the College's case relative to what the Governor has proposed for the future. I think we made the case in a compelling kind of way. Those who listened to us, Republicans and Democrats, Senator and Assemblypersons, were sympathetic to the Hunter story. We were reminded, as we knew we would be, of the general fiscal circumstances that surround this State. It looks as though the budget will be done quickly this year. There is a great amount of concern on the part of the Legislature that if they go far beyond April 1st, they run the very serious risk of a further downgrading in the State's bond rating. If they go any further the State's bonds will be in the category of junk bonds, which will be really disastrous for us. There will be some restorations to our budget, although at this point it is difficult, if not impossible, to say exactly how much those restorations will be and in which areas of the budget they will come. There is concern about the level of tuition that was proposed by the Governor. There is concern about the operating budget. There is concern about the capital budget. All of those things are priority items for us in terms of arguing for restorations.

Earlier today I received a fax from the Chancellor's Office, and I wish to bring it to your attention. It directs the Presidents, appropriately so, to begin consultation with all of the relevant constituency groups at their campuses within the space of the next week and a half. The Chancellor is requesting, by about a week from Monday, that we report back to her on contingency plans for implementing the budget cuts that the Governor has proposed. Let me read from this text:

It is clear from the initial impact statements that the University is faced with draconian options, substantial staff cutbacks, tuition increases, and enrollment losses, if budgets are adopted in the present form. Following our discussion, the Presidents should continue the college planning process by developing a draft budget and concomitant staff reduction plan that reflects the separation costs of staff and the notice periods required by relevant contractual and board policies. I appreciate your willingness, as you develop your reduction plans, to consult widely with all of the constituent groups on campus. Such informal consultation is important to the planning process. The development of these draft plans at this stage is essential if we are to implement the required budget on July 1st.

I have already talked about what we are doing at Hunter. We have had a series of meetings, almost nonstop, for the last two weeks on this matter. You know from our past discussions that this is a bad budget, and what we are being asked in an informal way now is to begin very quickly the drafting of a series of impact statements having to do with how this college, and indeed all the colleges, will deal with the budget if it is passed in the form that has been proposed by the Governor.

I have asked Professor Beaujour to invite representatives of the relevant committees of the Senate to meet with me and with other administrators as soon as possible, so that we can share with them our thinking, particularly from the point of view of the impact of this bud-

Appendix II (continued):

get on staff. We will have that meeting early next week, and we will be talking as well to other groups around the campus. We will make our consultation as broad as we can. This is a painful period for us, but we wish it to be open, and we wish as many good ideas to come to us as is possible. If we start saving money in a very serious way, we can save jobs at this college. For example, Hunter has the second highest telephone budget in the CUNY system. We are spending a million dollars a year on telephone costs. If we cut telephone usage by 10% we would save four jobs at \$25,000 each. We are getting to the point where we have to match up cost containment of that kind, and other kinds, against the value of keeping people employed. We will seek continuously, and with a lot of pressure on everyone at this college, ideas and ways of cutting spending in order to maintain employment levels. All of us have a responsibility in that process, and in being creative and forthcoming with ideas. We have over 1000 full-time employees at Hunter. If we had one good idea out of each person, we would have 1000 ideas that we could start evaluating in terms of ways of saving money. My full intention is to attenuate as much as possible the impact of this budget on the full-time staff of the College. I don't think I will be able to do so 100%. So, we really are looking for ideas from everybody at the College. I ask your cooperation in this matter, and I know I'll be getting it from you, and I thank you for that.

Let me mention one other thing. Hunter is a big operation, and we don't always realize just how big Hunter really is. We have not had a whole lot of success in telling people about everything that is happening, because there are so many people and we are spread out so much geographically, that the news often does not come out in a timely fashion. So, we have begun, in a very low budget kind of way, a new monthly publication coming out of the Office of Institutional Advancement, called Inside Hunter. It will not be mailed. People will pick it up when they get their paycheck, and it will be available at various locations. It will tell about all the things that are happening at the College, things that we can feel good about. We will use it as a way of communicating with all our people at the College once a month during the Fall and Spring semesters. I hope you enjoy reading it. The first issue is out and should be available when you pick up your paychecks tomorrow."

President LeClerc concluded the report by answering questions from the floor.