

MINUTES

**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
11 September 1991**

	The 264th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:30 p.m. in Room W714.	1 2
Presiding:	Elizabeth Beaujour, Chair	
Attendance:	The elected members of the Senate, with the exception of those listed in Appendix I.	3 4
	The Chair welcomed the Senate to its first meeting of the new academic year, and moved for adoption of the Agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.	5 6
Minutes:	The Minutes of May 8th and May 15th were approved as distributed.	7
Report by the President:	President LeClerc presented the following report.	8
	He said: "Good afternoon to the senators of the 1991-92 Hunter College Senate and to its distinguished new leadership. I look forward to working with you and with the Senate over the course of this new academic year and hope that, together, we can make significant progress on a number of important issues at Hunter. I would also like to thank the leadership of the outgoing Senate, Professor Kirsch and her colleagues, and thank them for their collegueship, and I thank the staff of the Senate, Renate Murray and Judith King, for the great work they do in keeping the college's governance body running as smoothly as it does.	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
	Before beginning my remarks this afternoon, I would like to ask the Senate to pause for a moment of silence to recognize those members of our community whom we lost this summer: Professor Henry Jackson of the Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies, who died in Los Angeles in August; and Deborah Bowling, a doctoral student in our Psychology program, who was murdered here in New York in the same month. We should also keep in our thoughts Professor Naomi Cohen, whose husband Gerson, a truly distinguished educator, died this summer, as well as all other members of our community who lost persons close to them. May we now observe a moment of silence.	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
	Thank you.	28
	I am delighted to be able to introduce to the Senate an individual who is going to play a very important role in our college and in one of its great professional schools, that is the new Dean of the School of Social Work, Dr. Bogart Leashore. Dr. Leashore received his undergraduate degree from Xavier University in New Orleans, his masters degree in social work from Howard University in Washington, and he received his doctorate at the University of Michigan. He comes to Hunter from Howard, where he served as Associate Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Social Work. His appointment culminates a two-year search for us to fill that very important deanship. I think he is absolutely terrific, and I hope that you will join us at an open house reception for Dean Leashore on September 16th, from 4 to 6 p.m. in my conference room.	29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
	Two other important searches were concluded, and they bring to us Dr. Evelyn Castro, who is the new Principal of our Elementary School, and Mr. Alonzo Newton who is the new Head of Housekeeping at Hunter. In addition to that there were ten new faculty who were recruited to Hunter this year. We had a chance to meet them at faculty orientation earlier this fall and they are vital to our community. A warm welcome to them.	41 42 43 44 45 46
	As I begin my fourth year at Hunter—I won't call it my senior year lest the metaphor be misconstrued— I have looked back over the past three years to see, among other things, how far we have come in fulfilling an agenda for Hunter that I presented to the Senate in my maiden speech in the Fall of 1988, and what remains for us to accomplish. I hope to give you a written report later this semester on that agenda, but would like to use this occasion	47 48 49 50 51 52

to tell the new Senate and, via your minutes, other members of our community, that I and this administration continue to have a small, highly targeted and important number of priorities that we have pursued and will continue to pursue at the College. There are twelve of them, and they are familiar:	53 54 55 56
1. That Hunter be seen, first and foremost, as a premier teaching and research institution, not only in regional terms but in national terms as well.	57 58 59
2. That we emerge as one of the country's major providers of minority students who will pursue doctoral degrees and enter the professoriate.	60 61
3. That we make significant progress in bettering the College's rate of retention of undergraduate students.	62 63
4. That we be the most successful college in the CUNY system in terms of affirmative action.	64 65
5. That we become a nationally-recognized site for research on issues concerning women.	66 67
6. That those graduating with a Hunter baccalaureate be exposed during their undergraduate years to the texts and images that embody the principal cultural achievements of women and men of both western and non-western traditions.	68 69 70 71
7. That all who work and study here do so in a safe and secure environment.	72 73
8. That our relationship with the campus schools be academic in nature rather than simply managerial and that we foster collaborative relations between our faculty and theirs.	74 75 76
9. That we seek to bring the talents and expertise of our faculty and students to bear on the problems affecting public schooling in Manhattan and that we pursue partnerships with one or more neighboring public schools.	77 78 79 80
10. That we build a substantial endowment for the College over the course of the next ten years.	81 82
11. That we develop a major presence for Hunter College in the performing arts arena of Manhattan.	83 84
12. That we bring the full range of Hunter's resources—research, education, training, social outreach—to bear on the AIDS epidemic in New York City and that Hunter make a maximum contribution to helping New York deal with the consequences of the epidemic.	85 86 87 88
These struck me as being appropriate goals for Hunter when I first came here, and, with broad support from all members of this community, we have made remarkable progress in advancing this agenda. I still view them as my primary, although not sole, objectives for us and present them to you today simply to let you know that I intend to devote as much time, talent, and energy as I can to advancing them.	89 90 91 92 93 94
Let me turn briefly to one other issue before taking your questions this afternoon, and that is the issue of campus climate.	95 96
We should begin this new academic year at Hunter with strong commitments to the abiding purpose of this great college and to the students, faculty, and staff who teach, study and work here. None of us, however, is unmindful of the fact that as New Yorkers, and as Americans, we are living through a time of considerable change and great stresses in our society. Managing change and stress internally at Hunter in <u>successful</u> ways is one of the great challenges we face as a community. In order to help us define how to do so I am announcing the creation of a special Presidential Commission on Campus Climate. The Commission will be chaired by Professor David Hodges and will include the following persons: Shirley Hune; Annette Ramirez;	97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106

Ken Sherrill; Madlyn Stokely; Benjamin Ringer; Tamara Green; Desmond Eaton; and Sherrill-Ann Lovell. Professor Hodges is here this afternoon and will, I am sure, be pleased to brief the Senate at a future time on the work of the Commission. Let me say, however, that my hopes for the Commission are that it will achieve three objectives simultaneously: (1) that it will help us to define our shared values as a collegiate community; (2) that it will clarify the ways in which issues on campus can be resolved effectively and harmoniously and constructively; (3) that it will encourage dialogue among the various groups and persons of the College that make up our extended and extensive and intensely heterogeneous campus community. Professor Hodges and I hope that the Commission can conclude its work by the beginning of the spring semester of this year. And even before he and the members of the Commission begin their work, I would like to thank him and them for having accepted this assignment. It is, I think, the single most important assignment I have given anyone since I have come to Hunter. Professor Hodges and the other members of the Commission are important and, indeed, leading citizens of this College, and I am confident that the issue of campus climate is in excellent hands."

President LeClerc concluded his report by answering questions from the floor. 125

**Report by the
Administrative
Committee:**

Prof. Beaujour introduced the members of the new Administrative Committee of the Senate: Mr. Richard Baldwin, Vice-Chair; Professor Ken Sherrill, Secretary; Professor Michael Turner, Chair of the Evening Session Council. She informed the Senate that she has appointed Professor Andrew Polsky to serve as Parliamentarian. 126-130

a. Election of Ombudsman: Reading of list of candidates 131
Prof. Beaujour informed the Senate that there is one declared candidate for Ombudsman, Professor Jo Kirsch (School of Nursing). 132-133

The floor was open for further nominations. 134

Professor Giuseppe Di Scipio (Romance Languages) was nominated. 135

Prof. Baujour reminded the Senate that the absolute deadline for completion of documentation by the candidates would be 5 p.m. on September 19th, and that the actual election would take place at the September 25th Senate meeting. 136-139

b. Election of Committee Chairs 140
The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Nominating Committee. 141

Dr. Marilyn Rothschild (Physics & Astronomy) was nominated. 142

A motion to instruct the Secretary to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee carried, and Dr. Rothschild was elected. 143-144

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Master Plan Committee. 145

Professor Victor Goldsmith (Geology & Geography) was nominated. 146

A motion to instruct the Secretary to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee carried by voice vote, and Prof. Goldsmith was elected. 147-148

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Budget Committee. 149

Professor Randall Filer (Economics) was nominated. 150

A motion to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee carried by voice vote, and Prof. Filer was elected. 151-152

Report by the Chair of the President's Task Force on Pluralism & Diversity 153
Dean Carlos Hortas, Chair of the President's Task Force on Pluralism and Diversity, presented his report concerning the Task Force's recommendations for a diversity requirement that were submitted to the Senate's Undergraduate Course of Study Committee. A summary statement of his report is attached as Appendix II. 154-158