

MINUTES

**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
18 September 1996**

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| | The 334th meeting of the Hunter College Senate was convened at 5:20 PM in Room W714. | 1 2 |
| Presiding: | Barbara L. Hampton, Chair | 3 |
| Attendance: | The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those listed in Appendix I. | 4 5 |
| Agenda: | Professor Gilpatrick moved that the following be added under New Business: "Comments on the announcement concerning three faculty seminars and jumbo classes. The motion carried. The agenda was adopted as amended. | 6 7 8 |
| Report by the President: | A summary statement of President Caputo's report to the Senate is as follows: He said: "I am pleased to stand before you as we begin another year. I hope it is a year full of meaningful experiences for each of us. This year promises to be quite challenging and full of considerable opportunities for all of us. The past year has been both fulfilling and rewarding — working with the Senate, seeing steady progress on a number of issues. This year my comments at each meeting will attempt to focus on a few key substantive points as well as provide you with information. I have asked the administrative members of the Senate to be prepared to respond to questions that you might have. They will be able to provide you with the most accurate information if you let them know the question ahead of time if at all possible. I am also pleased to introduce Evangelos Gizis, our new Vice President for Administration. Van joins us after years of distinguished experience at Queens, BMCC, and Hostos. I am pleased that he is here. Also, Dr. Sylvia Fishman deserves our thanks for her stellar role in that position in the past year, and I am pleased that she has agreed to remain as Vice President for Student Affairs. I would like to welcome Dr. Louise Sherby, Chief Librarian, and I would like to thank Tom Jennings for his assistance during the past year. And then, finally, I would like to introduce Acting Dean Robert Seltzer, Division of Social Sciences. I appreciate his willingness to serve, and would also like to thank Susan Lees for her work. There are two important searches underway. Due to the delay in the search for Security Director I will be appointing an Acting Director while the committee completes its deliberations. In addition the Director of Urban Outreach position search is well underway and I hope this individual will be hired by late fall. Both of these searches have full search committees which will be sending names on to me. Now, I would like to begin the year by doing something often done later in the year. That is, I would like to thank each and every faculty and staff member, as well as our students and our countless supporters for their support and assistance during this past most difficult year. As your President I am aware of the tremendous difficulties you experience both individually and collectively. I realize that you are at times discouraged and often dismayed at the negative things affecting us at Hunter and indeed in all of public higher education. Yet despite these concerns you taught brilliantly, handled the increasing workloads well and, most importantly, kept Hunter's spirit alive and flourishing. We were successful largely because of the public support you helped rally in having the proposed budget cuts restored. So, to each and every one of you I say thank you. I also want to encourage you to continue that spirit, and to work with me as we not only keep the spirit but extend it. We are already making significant strides. Enrollment has increased somewhere between 4 and 7½ to 8% depending upon final payment of fees. We had a very successful opening of a major art exhibit last week. A retrospective view of Giorgio de Chirico's work in America. We | 9 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 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 |

Elaine Walsh, also received Foundation funds to assist them in continuing their efforts. I continue to work to raise private funds to meet our needs and will increase those efforts in the months ahead. 119
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I have decided that one of the themes I want to stress during the year is that of discovery -- usually defined as making known, or visible, or obtaining knowledge for the first time. This word certainly characterizes and epitomizes the very essence of public higher education. For not only are our students learning new knowledge and insights, you as faculty and staff are engaged in obtaining knowledge for the first time in a wide variety of areas. This combination of both disseminated and discovered, i.e. knowledge, as well as discovering it, is what characterizes an active and involved academic community. Remember that the discovery takes many forms and means different things to different individuals. So let's each pledge to work together to encourage all to discover the many strengths of Hunter and the joy which discovery brings to all of us. 122
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I had the good fortune to visit and speak with many of Hunter's distinguished alumni during the past year. Each has a unique story to tell and two of the individuals who each stress the discovery Hunter provided are Gertrude Elion and Rosalyn Yalow. You will recognize those names as Hunter graduates who were awarded Nobel Prizes. Both attribute their successes to the education and encouragement they had while at Hunter. As one said to me: "Hunter and its faculty made all the difference in helping an immigrant child realize the potential of the mind." I can think of no greater incentive for any of us than this. Hunter is the beacon of hope and it is our responsibility to ensure that it burns bright for the sake of knowledge and for our students. Join with me this year and in future years as we keep that beacon strong and resolute. Together we shall continue to make a difference." 136
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President Caputo concluded the report by answering questions from the floor. 149
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**Report by the
Administrative
Committee:**

Professor Hampton presented the report as follows: 151

Approved Curriculum Changes 152

The following curriculum changes, as listed in the report dated 18 September 1996, were approved as per Senate resolution and were submitted for the Senate's information: Items GR-417 (Music), US-974 (Psychology), US-975, 976, and 977 (Geology & Geography), US-979 (Chemistry), US-966 (Classics/Russian), US-972 (Communications), US-973 (Theatre & Film), US-959 (School of Nursing). 153
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Election of Committee Chairs 158

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Nominating Committee. 159

Dr. Marilyn Rothschild (Computer Science) was nominated. 160

It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried. Dr. Rothschild was elected Chair of the Nominating Committee. 161
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The floor was open for Chair of the Master Plan Committee. 163

Prof. Victor Goldsmith (Geography) was nominated. 164

It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried by voice vote. Prof. Goldsmith was elected Chair of the Master Plan Committee. 165
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The floor was open for Chair of the Budget Committee. 167

Prof. Juan Battle (Sociology) was nominated. 168

It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion carried by voice vote. Prof. Battle was elected Chair of the Budget Committee. 169
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Election of Members to Nominating Committee 171

The floor was open for nominations of faculty members. 172

Prof. Pedro Lopez-Adorno (Black & Puerto Rican Studies) was nominated. 173

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| | <u>Report on Status of Middle States Accreditation</u> | 225 |
| | A summary statement of the report by the co-chairs of the Steering Committee | 226 |
| | for Middle States Accreditation, Associate Provost Eugenie Birch and Professor | 227 |
| | Peter Basquin, is attached as Appendix II. | 228 |
| New Business: | <u>Re: Announcement of three Faculty Seminars and Jumbo Classes</u> | 229 |
| | At issue was the seminar title "Managing the Hordes." | 230 |
| | After brief discussion there was agreement that the title be changed. | 231 |
| | It was moved that the "Draft Report of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Doctoral | 232 |
| | Program Planning and Doctoral Faculty Replenishment" be placed on the agenda | 233 |
| | for the next Senate meeting. The motion carried. | 234 |
| | It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, and the mee- | 235 |
| | ting adjourned at 5:20 PM. | 236 |

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth S. Sherrill
Secretary

APPENDIX II

The following is a summary statement of the report by Associate Provost Eugenie Birch and Professor Peter Basquin, co-chairs of the Middle States Accreditation Steering Committee:

Associate Provost Eugenie Birch

She said: "Thank you very much for having us come to tell you about the progress on Hunter's Middle States re-accreditation. As you know, we undertake this effort every 10 years. Basically, we started last Spring when the President appointed the Steering Committee which has 17 members. The Steering Committee then designed the year-long self-study that we will be engaged in this year. The Steering Committee created 12 Task Forces to study all aspects of the College. Earlier, the President, Provost, and various advisors had the choice of specifying either a special topics study or a comprehensive study. The last time that we engaged in our re-accreditation we had a focused special topics study in which we studied research, student services, and support services of various types. Therefore, they all decided that it would be useful to look at the College as a whole because we have changed considerably in the past 20 years. With this in mind the Steering Committee created the Task Forces. We just launched their work about an hour ago at a Plenary meeting, where we had over 160 people in this room who will start right away. We hope that all of you will participate in this project.

The schedule is as follows. Through this Fall the Task Forces will be engaged in their research and deliberations. They will submit reports to the Steering Committee in the early winter. The Steering Committee will synthesize and create a draft self-study report which will be about 200 pages long. Then we will have a series of public hearings in May. We hope that we can come back to you at various times during this year to report our progress, and perhaps also in May to make the Senate a venue of one of the public hearings. We will distribute the report and ask you to make suggestions about it. The Steering Committee will then revise and finalize the draft, and send the final report off to the Middle States Association in the anticipation of a site visit next Fall. We have a publicity campaign. We are talking to as many constituencies as we can. If you have other groups who would like to hear from us, Peter and I will willingly come to speak to them. There will be information on the home page in the President's column — if you want to read the minutes of the Steering Committee, if you want to see the membership of the Steering Committee, or if you want to know anything else about what is happening, it will be there. In addition we will have a series of articles in Hunter Today and other publications.

Peter will talk a little about our philosophy."

Professor Peter Basquin

He said: "For Hunter the primary objective of its self-study is to examine the performance of the College against the content of its mission statement. We have already been talking today a good deal about this mission statement. It starts out by saying that "Hunter College is a comprehensive teaching, research, and service institution, long committed to excellence and access..." One of the key phrases of this institution is that we are in fact committed both to excellence in our programs and to access to a large number of people, that we are multi-cultural, that we are very diverse, and that this is an essential part of our nature as an urban institution. As we embark on our self-study, we look at ourselves in relation to these ideals that we hold about what kind of an institution Hunter should be.

Past studies have generally been very positive despite budget cuts and many forms of adversity under which we have labored. The College has succeeded in maintaining morale and in striving to accomplish these goals. The self-study is not supposed to be a white-wash. It is not supposed to tell us that we have done something wonderful when we haven't. In fact, I am reminded of our former Mayor Ed Koch who went around saying "how am I doing". We are not looking for a sound-bite result about how we are doing. We are trying to look for a very detailed report on how we are doing, and what we are doing, and we are really trying to delve into the statistics, the data. We are trying to get involved in interviews with many constituents and parts of the College in an attempt to find out how we are doing as an institution. What the Commission on Higher Education is interested in is not just the final report, the 200 double-spaced pages that we are supposed to come up with, but also the process.

It is hoped that we will all be engaged in thinking about what we are doing, what we are about, and what we are trying to accomplish. With that the whole community will hopefully be engaged in determining institutional strengths and weaknesses, and will focus on the fulfillment of the mission and in addressing whatever problem there may be. There