

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

16 February 2022

- 1 The 661th meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:35 PM via Zoom.
2
- 3 **Presiding:** Laura S. Keating, Chair
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- 5 **Attendance:** The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those marked absent in Appendix I.
6
7 Alternate Senators were formally seated consistent with the procedures approved by the Senate for in-
8 person meetings, and they were enabled to vote using iClicker.
9
- 10
11 **Agenda:** Chair Keating informed the body that voting on the minutes of 5 May, 12 May, 19 May and 29 September,
12 2021 would be postponed to the 2 March meeting. The agenda was adopted as revised.
13
14
- 15 **Minutes:** The minutes of 5 May, 12 May, 19 May and 29 September, 2021 were posted on the Senate website and
16 will be voted on at the next Senate meeting.
17
18 The DRAFT minutes of 10 November, 1 December and 8 December 2021 were posted on the Senate
19 website for informational purposes.
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- 22 **Report by the**
23 **President:** President Raab's report is in the Appendix II.
24
25
- 26 **Report by the**
27 **Administrative**
28 **Committee:**
- 29 **a) Special Senate Election for Vacant At-large Seats**
30 In accordance with Article IV, 2H i & ii of the Charter for a Governance of Hunter College, the
31 Administrative Committee is presenting the names of all nominees received to date:
32
- 33 Students: Viet Thanh Phan (Biology)
34 Umor Uddin (Computer Science)
35 Sabina Marra (Music [Piano] and ENGL [Creative
36 Writing] / Pre-Law Program)
37
- 38 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees.
39 The motion carried by unanimous consent.
40
- 41 **b) Approved Curriculum Changes**
42 The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached report Part I, Part II, Part III, and Part
43 IV dated 16 February 2022 have been approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for
44 the Senate's information. Items: US-2443 History (Change in course, Cross-listing, add Writing
45 Intensive designation), GR-1406 Curriculum & Teaching (Change in courses), GS-1391 Special
46 Education (Change in degree program), GS-1393 Curriculum & Teaching (New course), GS-
47 1394 Computer Science (Change in degree program), GS-1395 Computer Science (New course),
48 GS-1397 Urban Policy & Planning (Change in degree program), GS-1398 Urban Policy &
49 Planning (Change in degree program), GS-1399 Urban Policy & Planning (New course), US-
50 2445 Urban Policy & Planning (Change in degree program), US-2446 Urban Policy & Planning
51 (Change in courses), GS-1400 Special Education (Change in courses), GS-1408A Special

56 Education (New courses), GS-1401 Curriculum & Teaching (New course), GS-1402 Curriculum
57 & Teaching (New degree program), GS-1403 Curriculum & Teaching (New degree program),
58 GS-1404 Curriculum & Teaching (New degree program), and GS-1405 Curriculum & Teaching
59 (New degree program).
60

61 **c) Update on Search Committee for Dean of School of Nursing – Call for Nominations for**
62 **Panel for Chairperson**

63 Chair Keating informed the body that the position of Chair for the Search Committee for Dean
64 of School of Nursing filled in November 2019 became vacant and that the Senate Office will be
65 accepting nominations for the Chair until Thursday, 24 February. The election for the slate for
66 the Chair position will take place at the Senate meeting on 2 March.
67

68 **d) CUNY Grading Definition Update - Letter of Concern, sent 6 January 2022, to the**
69 **University Registrar and Vice Chancellor Lemons**

70 Chair Keating informed the body that on 22 May 2021 the University Registrar issued a Policy
71 and Procedure Memorandum on CUNY Uniform Grade Glossary, Policies, and Guidelines,
72 effective Fall 2021, in which several policy changes conflict with Hunter College internal
73 policies. As a response to the Grade Memorandum, the Senate Chair sent via e-mail a Letter of
74 Concern to the University Registrar and Vice Chancellor Lemons signed by Chairs of several
75 Hunter Senate committees to express concerns about the policy changes (see Appendix III).
76 Below are listed four changes that go against Hunter policy:
77

78 Four changes forwarded in May 22, 2021, as effective Fall 2021 in Grade Memorandum from
79 the University Registrar
80

81 1. After an INC has turned to a FIN, the faculty member may change the FIN to a letter grade
82 only if the student completed the coursework prior INC deadline.

83 This goes against our incomplete extension policy.
84

85 2. For grade appeals:

86 i) “Appeals must be filed within 30 calendar days of grade assignment in CUNYFirst”
87 For us, the process should start within the first three weeks of the Fall/Spring semester
88 following receipt of the grade.
89

90 ii) Makes the ruling of the department or college grade appeals committees only a
91 recommendation to the faculty member, who 15 days upon the receipt of the
92 recommendation is to inform the Registrar of their “decision to either sustain the grade
93 or submit a grade change.”

94 This goes against our policy in the HC Governance Charter that the decision of the
95 Grade Appeals Committee that is final.
96

97 3) Removes the effect WUs have on a student’s GPA.

98 Can we still use the GPA as an indicator of a student’s academic standing?
99

100
101 Questions and a brief discussion followed.
102

103 **Committee**
104 **Report:**

105 **Committee on the Budget**

106 Chair Keating called on Professor Randall Filer, Chair of the Committee on the Budget, to present a
107 report.

108 Professor Filer said the following:

109 “I will try to keep this very brief because I know we have a full agenda. There is lots of good news
110 about the 2022 budget which ends in July. Our budget is balanced as President Raab has said. Our
111 adjunct budget is up by 25% from 2021. Hunter is the only major unit in the CUNY system, if you

116 exclude something like the Journalism School, that is more than meeting its enrollment targets.
117 Actually, somewhere between 1%-2% of our budget is tuition over the target. That is an incredible
118 endorsement of everything that the campus and all of you are doing. The budget this year does include
119 about 8% or 9% of the budget - about \$18 million is stimulus funds. Those will go away at some
120 point. Fortunately, almost all of the stimulus money is being spent on OTPS to catch up for different
121 things. It is not in our core operating, so I do not think we are threatened there. The enrollment is very
122 good meaning that the adjunct situation is good. I know there has been a lot of chatter floating around
123 from various campuses about under-enrolled sections. Hunter is not facing that problem. We act very
124 carefully about it. We are canceling no more sections for under enrollment than we usually do. There
125 is always a process of some sections not making, but our cancellations are not running any higher
126 than they would in a normal semester. That is very good because of the enrollment news.
127

128 “As President Raab said, there is good news about the Governor's proposed budget. It is clear that
129 CUNY is in a more favorable position with this Governor than with the last Governor. The best piece
130 of news for Hunter’s budget is the closing of the TAP gap. I do not know that the faculty realizes this
131 when we see the numbers because the TAP gap shows up not on our budget but as a waiver of tuition,
132 so it does not go into any of the budget numbers. The best estimate is that if the TAP gap is closed,
133 our tuition revenue will go up by about \$8 million. That is about 4% of our budget. That is actually
134 huge. Also, as President Raab said, the capital budget looks good for us. At one point, the Hunter
135 Science building was actually specified. Now, they have not specified this. But I think we all
136 understand that it is a high priority. I will reiterate everyone's appeal to do all of the lobbying things
137 you can. I am thankful for being reminded that we cannot use Hunter resources which may mean, I
138 do not know whether NSF grants are tax levy money or not, so send the message on your phone, but
139 send the message to everyone.
140

141 “A couple of things that are not so good because I would not be an economist if I did not have
142 something dismal to report. The new faculty lines are very good but as President Raab said they will
143 be doctoral lecturers. The allocation for each of those lines, including fringe benefits is less than
144 \$100,000. So, these will not be research faculty. They will be adjunct replacement lecturer type
145 positions. You cannot hire an assistant professor in most of our fields for \$70,000 before fringes.
146

147 “There are still uncertainties. Last time I was criticized by someone, I will not mention the name, for
148 saying I was worried about inflation. I am still worried about inflation. It will not affect the Hunter
149 budget very much, but it will affect the CUNY Central budget for things like heating and other utility
150 bills, so we may see some real effect at the university level pass through. I would worry about that. I
151 would also worry a little bit about enrollment issues. We do not know why our enrollment is holding
152 up so well. Maybe people want to be at Hunter rather than at an expensive private college if they are
153 just going to be in their parents’ basements anyway. But I think, we do need to worry about the effect
154 of the two pandemic years on our New York City pool - how many graduating high school seniors
155 will need remediation and not be eligible for a senior college? That is an uncertainty. That is the end
156 of my report.”
157

158
159 **Nominating Committee**

160 Chair Keating called on Professor Lisa Marie Anderson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to
161 present a report.
162

163 The Nominating Committee is submitting the following nominations for seats currently vacant on
164 Senate Committees:
165

166 **1. GRADUATE COURSE OF STUDY & ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE**
167 Faculty from Social Sciences: Jessie Daniels (Sociology)

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170 **2. SELECT COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS**
171 Faculty: Yavoc (Jack) Kenigsberg (English)

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It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees.
The motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Jeninsky
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following attendance was noted from the meeting

(A) =Alternate, A=Attended, X=Absent, E=Excused

Faculty					
AFPRL	Anthony Browne	A	Mathematics & Statistics	Sandra Clarkson	A
	Milagros Denis-Rosario	(A) A			0
	Lázaro Lima	(A) X		Robert Thompson	(A) A
Anthropology	Jackie Brown	X		Barry Cherkas	(A) X
	Leo Coleman	(A) X	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Abigail Morales	A
	Milena Shattuck	(A) A		Chad Euler	(A) X
Art & Art History	Harper Montgomery	X		Muktar Mahajan	(A) X
	Reiner Leist	X	Music	Jewel Thompson	A
	Emily Braun	(A) X		Michele Cabrini	(A) X
	A. K. Burns	(A) A			(A)
Biological Sciences	Ben Ortíz	A	School of Nursing	Carolyn Sun	X
	Shirley Raps	A		William Samuels	X
	Paul Feinstein	(A) X		Ellen McCabe	A
	Carmen Melendez	(A) X		Ah-Yun (Emily) Yeh	(A) X
Chemistry	Gabriela Smeureanu	A	Philosophy	Laura Keating	A
	Nancy Greenbaum	(A) X		Frank Kirkland	(A) X
	Brian Zeglis	(A) X		Omar Dahbour	(A) X
Classical & Oriental Studies	Yasha Klots	A	Physics & Astronomy	Kelle Cruz	A
	Joanne Spurza	(A) X		Yuhang Ren	(A) X
	Doron Friedman	(A) A			(A)
Computer Science	Sven Dietrich	X	Political Science	Robert Jenkins	X
	Felisa Vazquez-Abad	(A) A		Erin Mayo-Adam	(A) X
		(A)		Michael Lee	(A) X
Curriculum & Teaching	Lacey Peters	A	Psychology	Roseanne Flores	A
	Jason Wirtz	X		Darlene Defour	A
		0 (A)		Glenn E Schafe	(A) X
	Tim Farnsworth	X		Michael Lewis	(A) X
Dance	David Capps	A	Physical Therapy	Leon Cohen	X
	Maura Donohue	(A) X		Thomas Holland	(A) A
		(A)			(A)
Economics	Randall Filer	A	Romance Languages	Paolo Fasoli	A
	John Quiang Li	X		Magdalena Perkowska	(A) X
	Tim Goodspeed	(A) A		Julie Van Peteghem	(A) X
	Avi Liveson	(A) X	School of Social Work	Samuel Aymer	X
Educational Foundations & Coun	Goeum Na	A		George Patterson	A
	Jeanne Weiler	(A) A		Marina Lalayants	(A) X
	Markus Bidell	(A) A		Keith Chan	(A) X
English	Sarah Chinn	A	Sociology	Mark Halling	X
	Amy Robbins	X		Mike Benediktsson	(A) X
	Nijah Cunningham	X		Michaela Soyer	(A) X
	Janet Neary	(A) A	Special Education	Elaine Gale	A
Film & Media Studies	Tami Gold	X		Imani Irving Perez	(A) X
				William Longworth	(A) A
	Andrew Demirjian	(A) A	SLPA	Donald Vogel	A
	Larry Shore	(A) A		Nancy Eng	(A) X
Geography	Allen Frei	X		JungMoon Hyun	(A) A
	William Solecki	(A) X	Theatre	Louisa Thompson	A
		(A)		Jonathan Kalb	X
German	Elke Nicolai	A		Claudia Orenstein	(A) X
	Eckhard Kuhn-Osius	(A) A	Urban Policy and Planning	Lily Baum Pollans	A
	Aine Zimmerman	(A) A		Victoria Johnson	(A) X
History	Daniel Hurewitz	A		Matthew Lasner	(A) X
	Manu Bhagavan	(A) X	School of Urban Public Health	Phil Alcabas	A
	Jill Rosenthal	A		Susan Cardenas	(A) X
Library	Sarah Ward	A			0 (A)
	Jennifer Newman	A	Women & Gender Studies	Jennifer Gaboury	A
	Mee' Len Hom	(A) A		Catherine Raissiguier	(A) X
		(A)		Rupal Oza	(A) X

Students

Hunter Moran	A
Nafeeza Ali	X
Ariana Ahmed	X
Ariel Glazman	X
Fariha Uddin	A
Nicole Palmetto	A
Rida Akhlaq	X
Afrin Ansary	A
Jackson Rasenberger	A
Alia Codelia-Anjum	X
Amber Javenero	X
Tabia Ahmed	X
Auroa Hom	X
Christopher Orzech	X
Nicole Kuznetsov	A
Junia Sharmin	X
Noa Hacker	X
Sabina Marra	A
Umor Uddin	X
Viet Thanh Phan	A
Luisais Taveras	A

At-Large, Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty

Student Services	Kevin Nesbitt	A
	Luis Roldan	(A) X
Library	Jocelyn Berger-Barera	A
Library	Tony Doyle	A
Psychology	Stefan Schlussman	X
Economics	Kevin Sachs	A
Medical Lab Science	Hongxing Li	X
Religion	Ron Long	A
THHP	Jerry Press	X
	0	0
Special Education	Gina Riley	A
Social Work	James Mandiberg	A
THHP	Sarah Jeninsky	A
Art and Art History	Peter Dudek	X
Ex-Officio		
President, USG		0 X
Vice President, GSA	Kamalpreet Kaur	X
President Alumni Association	Barbara Poseluzny	A
President, HEO Forum	Denise Lucena-Jerez	A
President, CLT Council	Amy Jeu	A

ADMINISTRATION

Senators:		
HEO/CLA Representative	Lori Janowski	X
Vice President for Student Affairs	Eija Ayravainen	A
Provost	Valeda Dent	A
Dean, School of Arts & Sciences	Andrew Polsky	A
Dean of Education	Michael Middleton	A
Alternate Senators (3):		
Dean of Social Work	Mary Cavanaugh	A
General Counsel & Dean of Faculty	Suzanne Piper	A
School of Nursing		0

APPENDIX II

“Thank you so much, Laura to you and to the Administrative Committee. We have had some great meetings over the break. Thank you for all you are doing, and thank you everyone here. A little belated welcome back.

“Because of the efforts of everyone here, especially extraordinary faculty, we have met the 70% goal that the Chancellor asked us to meet for fully in-person classes. That is extraordinary to begin with, but particularly extraordinary because in the middle of all this planning we experienced the Omicron surge. I am so happy to report that campus is really bustling, and there is a level of feeling back to normal a little bit. What we are hearing from our students is a lot of great appreciation, wanting their community and feeling really good to be back. We are crowded, but we are keeping our masking. We are cleaning our spaces. There is a sense of joy among students. We have opened spaces we are calling Auditor Lounges. Right before the pandemic, an auditor who thought students hung out too much on the floors around Hunter provided a major gift to help us create these lovely little spaces. I recently sent her a picture to show how well used all of them are. Student Union and Student Government spaces are now open safely. Athletics is back with a big win in our swim team. We are really excited and urge everyone to show their school spirit and come see some games. Spectators are back and allowed.

“Our students are over 99% vaccinated. We still have religious and medical exemptions but it is 150 or so students. This is a very rewarding number. We are going to need all of your help to continue to get the word out to students as we think about Summer and Fall enrollment. Students will have to be fully boosted. That was the new Governor's rule. That will be a requirement for registration. CUNY is beginning to roll that out because obviously when students were first vaccinated impacts when they can get boosted. We are also going to be welcoming more classes back, so we are going to need the students who are now fully online, and there are some who managed to create a schedule that is just online, to be fully vaccinated. So, we are asking all of our faculty and staff to help us work with our students. We are doing incredibly well, and we do not want anybody to be cut out from attending classes in the Fall because they are not vaccinated. We really want to get that message out. As many of you read, there is now a requirement that the faculty and staff also be vaccinated. It is not a booster requirement yet, just vaccination. April 1st is the last day when HEOs, CLTs and TAs will be able to enter campus if they are not vaccinated. Again, just a reminder to all of you, administrators and leaders in these categories, please let's make sure they remember this rule because they will not be allowed on campus. The faculty deadline is being negotiated with the union and the Central Office. We do not have word yet on how or whether religious and medical exemptions will be implemented for faculty and staff. I am sure the Chancellor will be letting people know as that happens. Again, we have been very blessed with very high levels of vaccination of our faculty and staff who have been coming to campus. But we are still at 85% of faculty and staff who have uploaded their status. I have a sense that many of the people who have not uploaded their status are not coming to campus, but again please remind faculty or colleagues in your department, that come the Fall semester, this will be a requirement. Also, some people who have been vaccinated have not uploaded their status. They need to focus on uploading it. In the Fall, they will not be able to enter the building without uploading their status. The random testing is continuing. I just want to put out a reminder to everyone to take those emails seriously. You will be getting them every couple of weeks. They are continuing to test all of us. When you receive a notice, you have a week to go to any CUNY center or any CUNY school to get tested. There is a website where you can see the locations and the hours. If you do not do it, you will find yourself not being able to access campus. We are trying, although it is a complex process, to work with those of you who are absolutely not coming to campus to get you off of those testing pool lists because we understand that if you would have to travel for a test only, it becomes a great burden. It is not the most nimble thing for us to do, but if you are in that category, please let Galia know. We will see if we can take your name off that list for a period and work with CUNY because if we do not, then you will be blocked, and we will have to get you unblocked when you start to come back in the summer or fall.

“We are welcoming back our students and thanking our faculty for showing up in the classroom. In about a week or so, we will be having most of our full-time staff back to a 70% or more rate on campus. We will be asking all of our student-facing advisors and administrators to be on campus four days a week. These agreements are being worked out with individual managers. Some other units will be on campus less and keep to that 70% or so occupancy in school. Our students are back, and they need the support of their advisors, administrators and all the academic offices. We are so grateful for all the advisors and administrators do, and we are looking forward to seeing you back more on campuses.

“Unvaccinated students can come on campus only if they have a religious or medical exemption. As I said, it is a small number, but those students are required to maintain a six-foot social distance. We have let faculty know where there is someone in their class with an exemption so that they can make sure there is the ability in that room to distance. Eija has been working with chairs, deans and individual faculty to make sure rooms feel comfortable and that that space is available. If there is any issue with a room, please let her know.

Summer. We are looking forward to a robust Summer schedule. I think we all remember Summer 2020. It was the most active Summer school session we had. That made sense. There were very few options for our students in terms of internships, jobs, travel. We really unleashed scholarship money to support our students to continue. I think it is another reason why our graduation rates were strong in the last few years, and our enrollment remains so strong. Within CUNY, Hunter and Baruch are the only schools where there is steady enrollment. That is, of course, credit to all of you for making our students feel welcome. We do not expect the same robust demand for summer school as we had in 2020. We saw a dropoff in 2021 but we do want to keep this option open as part of a student success strategy so that students can take a class they need over the summer if it fits into their schedule. So, we are asking you to work with your chairs and deans, not to give specific targets but to consider what makes sense in your particular area, what are the classes students need, where is the demand and how should the classes be delivered. So, please, think about that in the sense of how we strategically continue to use summer school.

“The Fall is clearly going to be an exciting time because we will be back to normal. There is not going to be a target. We are going to be going back to the school we were - being an on campus educational institution. However, we do not want the lessons that this terrible pandemic has given us and the things we have learned about technology not to be used to support faculty teaching, student learning, and student success. So, we are asking all of you to think about what you would like to have online, in person, and hybrid. There is a wonderful initiative that Jenny Tuten has been working on, HyFlex, which is a CUNY pilot: rooms in which faculty is teaching to students who are both on Zoom and in the classroom in front of them. I see Gina Riley with us today. She has been a great leader in all of our tech efforts, but also in helping us with the question—how do you become a good HyFlex teacher? It is not an easy proposition but I want everyone to think about what the Fall will look like, what we learned, what you would like to try and create on the margins of coming back as an online institution. So, we are back. That is the plan, but please let's think about what has been fun, exciting and effective and how we assess what we have done that has worked. Let's not let what we have learned not be utilized to make Hunter an even stronger institution.

“Today, we talked with the Administrative Committee and Laura about the need to think about the approval process for changes in mode of instruction that we have asked the Senate to create. I know you are working hard on that, but we want to make sure if we do have an increase in classes that are taught online, hybrid or HyFlex, that the Senate has given us an approval process. As all of you know, we are subject to Middle States rules. We have to watch the percentage of each program that is taught online. There are NYSED rules. There are Board of Trustees rules. All of those things that were suspended because of the emergency are now back in play. We have to be conscious there. Then, I want to be conscious of what you as a faculty come forward with for an evaluation process for when a class is offered online or hybrid. I am very much looking forward to learning how you approach this and where we go with this. But I do want to remind you that we are going to be back in person in September, hopefully with this new type of approach, where appropriate. We would love to see that approval process really work.

“The other thing we are grateful to the Senate for, the FP&B, and some amazing faculty leaders Partha Deb and Derrick Brazill is allowing us to achieve the new Bell Schedule. We had to suspend all that incredibly hard work because of the pandemic, but I am really proud to report that Eija is now working on implementation. We will be introducing to all of you a new Registrar. Sarah Farsad was recruited away from us during the pandemic, but we found an extraordinary candidate we are very excited to bring, and hopefully in the next few meetings be able to introduce. Jennifer Dennington who I see is here with us today is doing an awesome job at the Registrar's Office to begin to implement our new Bell Schedule. Again, we are doing this to make sure that we are offering our students as many options at the right times, so we can continue to get our graduation rate up in six years. COVID has pulled us in so many different directions, but I think it is time for all of us as we emerge out of this pandemic to remember every morning when we walk into school that our major goal is to support our students to get them to the finish line, and the Bell Schedule implementation, we believe the data shows, will help us do that.

“I want to talk a little bit about the school you are finding as you are coming back, and I want to start with a bit of an apology. There has been a lot of pressures on our Facilities in this incredibly cold weather during the last few weeks. I know that many of you have been in the buildings where the heat has not worked. We have had problems because of the cold—expanding pipes and pipe bursts. We have spaces that have oddly become too hot in the West building because of coils heating up. It is not an excuse, but I do want to tell you that our Facilities team is working overtime to address these issues. Please keep reporting the issues. We are balancing between making repairs and keeping classes going, but we are on top of it. We are really trying to work to make Hunter as comfortable as possible. We have also had a terribly unfortunate setback with our North Building elevators. We had done full replacements of them, but apparently not all the parts. There have been some real serious issues as so many of you know. Again, we are beginning to address it. Work will start in the next two weeks. I ask for your patience. As I said, it is not an excuse but a way of explanation, I wanted to tell you that we really are working on these repairs. If there is anything going wrong in a room you are in or if there is an issue in your office or public space, please call 4422 to report it, so we can try to address it and try to make everyone as comfortable as possible.

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“We did take advantage of the lack of density on the campus over the last couple of months to really move full steam forward with projects that I think will make the whole campus a more comfortable and beautiful place to be. The West Plaza renovation will be done in the spring. We are also happy to report that Starbucks will be open at a similar time. The food service issue is one that we know is a challenge. I have seen the long lines at the empanada stand on campus. I heard students asking each other what an empanada is and another students say that is what is available, you are going to eat it - a very New York moment. We are trying to think things through. I think Starbucks will help. Our cafeteria contract ended and CUNY has been doing an RFP for a central food service. The RFP has not been successful as of yet. We are trying to find ways to license small food offerings while CUNY is doing their bigger RFP. It is a challenge but again, we recognize it. I am excited to report that the 5th floor Library renovation which has been mostly funded through our Hunter College Foundation and fundraising will be finished this semester. It is going to be filled with some beautiful new teaching spaces that could be more flexible with different kinds of teaching styles. There are a lot of great student spaces for study. Then, our wonderful Professor Emeritus, Ada Peluso, funded a Faculty Resource Center, a space where visiting faculty, adjunct faculty, faculty who for whatever reason want to step away from their own offices can work, have meetings or have some lounge space to catch up. We are hoping our faculty visiting from Brookdale, Social Work and Roosevelt House will be able to have a space on campus. So, if anyone is interested in helping us imagine this faculty space, let us know. Then, we are working closely with many stakeholders on thinking through next steps regarding the renovation of the 4th floor, the 2nd floor, the 1st floor and B1. We are excited about that. We are working closely with the librarians as many offices still need to be renovated, collections need to be reviewed and other Library functions need to be reimaged into the new Library along with creative space for our students to study and learn. I am very grateful Valeda and Lori's work on moving us forward. So, either at the end of this semester or at the beginning of September, we will be having a formal ribbon cutting and opening of the 5th floor.

“We are also going to be celebrating the completion of the Baker Bridge. We call it a bridge, but it is basically a nine-foot platform that will connect the East Building to our Baker Theater building on 67th Street. It will be a way to welcome everybody into our wonderful Theater Department. All of our other buildings will now be connected with our Baker Building through another sky bridge, much of Hunter's hallmark. We are also very excited that after decades of having discussions with the MTA about the crowdedness and the danger of our subway station, the MTA will finally address this issue. This is the third most used subway station in New York City because people live in this neighborhood and go to work, and they come to this neighborhood to work. I do not have to tell anybody here how frightening it could be sometimes on those stairways and even on the platforms. The MTA is finally starting a project. The platform will be significantly enlarged which is a very positive thing. There will be two new entrances: one in front of where the drugstore is and one next to Thomas Hunter Hall and 69th Street. There will be major repairs to the other two entrances. We are very happy to report there will finally be an elevator for handicapped accessibility. We are still trying to advocate with the MTA. They originally wanted to put it on the West Plaza which was untenable. We had worked with them to put it under the overhang on the East building which would be a good place from an urban planning perspective and something that we could accommodate at Hunter. However, they are looking now across the street on the Northeast corner of 68th Street and Lexington. So, you will see the MTA doing test pits. You will see and hear work going on, so some of this, again apologies, will be disruptive. At the end, we will finally get something that we have all really been looking for which is an accessible, safer and a much more modern and improved subway station with amenities. So, we are going to put up with the work in order to get that result.

“I know Randy Filer is here, and he is going to do a more comprehensive presentation on the budget today, but I did want to say a few words about both the expense and the capital. This has been a very good Governor's budget for us compared to many previous years. It does not solve or address all of the issues that we have, but the fact that the Governor is funding the TAP gap, which is the difference between what TAP leveled off at \$5,000 and our current tuition which is hitting \$7,000 is a significant amount of money for Hunter. We are also getting funding to the system for fringe benefits which we did not have last year. There is \$53 million for 540 new faculty hires. We know that many of those hires will be doctoral lectures. That is the Chancellor's priority. Each one of our hires has to be approved by Central. They are asking for departments with very high, undergraduate teaching needs where we have heavy reliance on adjuncts to be able to add new full-time faculty in the form of doctoral lecturers. Valeda has already submitted 13 requests which have been approved. We are urging the departments to move ahead on those searches, so those faculty could hopefully join us as soon as September. Then, we are waiting to hear more from CUNY about what other type of hiring they will support. We are also going to need to address our own needs. I know there are a lot of new needs, particularly as we come back after the pandemic. At the moment, we still are spending stimulus money to support many of our operations so we need to see where we are as a system on April 2nd, assuming the legislature passes, as they project, the budget on April 1st. So, we have asked again the deans and program heads to think about faculty and staff hiring needs, and we are beginning to address those as we have more certainty from CUNY after the legislature passes the budget on April 1st. We are very pleased that we were able to start to onboard five new advisors. We are trying to really replenish losses that we have suffered during COVID. We are very conscious of the need to also replace faculty who retired during that time. We are committed to doing our best. Perhaps the most exciting news for us in this budget is that the Governor allocated 425 million new capital dollars for new capital construction. That is the first time in six or seven years we have

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seen a number like this. It is clearly intended for major projects. While no project has been outlined for approval by the Governor, CUNY has included on their lobbying sheet the Hunter Science and Nursing building. So, CUNY has asked us to lobby for \$230 million for this building. We have done so. If anyone watched the Chancellor's testimony last week on the Higher Ed Committee, no accident, almost all the questions he received were about the Hunter Science and Nursing building because we are doing a lot of lobbying. For those of us who do not recall – we have been working on a project for many a year that will allow us to replace the highly antiquated science research labs in the North Building with new modern labs for our faculty. Our faculty brings in more NIH money than any school without a medical school in New York State. These incredible scientists, and except for the ones that we have been able to move to the Belfer Research Building with Weill Cornell, are doing this incredible work in antiquated conditions. It is not acceptable anymore. We have got to get them new conditions. At the same time, our heroic nurses, who themselves do God's work and train the next generation of incredible healthcare professionals and our physical therapists are still working in a condition that is significantly deteriorating at Brookdale. They will get a new building, as well. The building will include six floors of nursing and physical therapy and several floors of science. It is designed and the foundation is built. The building is part of a project with Memorial Sloan Kettering. Our building is the twin to that building. Memorial built our foundation in order to build their foundation because you could not split a building. It is our goal to get the allocation of the funds from the State budget to begin to support moving this project forward. We want to start seeing that on April 2nd, the day after the budget. So, we need your help. My friends, my colleagues, we have got to make some noise. We need to get the word out. We need everyone at CUNY, everybody on the Board of Trustees, all of our legislators, and the executive branch to understand how critical this project is to our scientists, to our nurses, our PT folks and to all of you because this will finally allow us to renovate the 1939 North building. Even if you are not going to move to this building, you will be impacted in the long run by our ability to finish the Hunter master plan. I am going to ask Terri Rosen Deutsch, our Associate Vice President for External Affairs to talk a little bit about how you can help us in the next few weeks. Now is the time. Any word you get out is a word that could help us move this agenda forward.

Assistant Vice President Terri Rosen Deutsch

“Thank you, President Raab. Hi Everyone. I am going to talk a little bit about lobbying rules. Many of you probably know what some of them are. As President Raab said, we need to make a lot of noise and reach out to the Governor, reach out to assembly members, reach out to the New York State Senate in terms of making sure that that capital allocation stays in the budget, and that Hunter gets a big piece of it as the CUNY Board of Trustees voted to do for our new science building. So, faculty and staff, when you do reach out to those three groups that I just mentioned: the Governor, assembly members and your state senators, it has got to be done on your own time. It has got to be done on your own devices. It has got to be done using your personal email addresses. Those are the lobbying rules because we are government State paid employees. My office can help. We are going to share with the Senate office some of the information about how you can get these email addresses and who to reach out to. There are websites where you can find your own representative and write to that person as well even if that person does not have this building site in his or her district. So, you cannot use any equipment that has been purchased through tax levy dollars. That is the rule for faculty and staff. Don't be discouraged when you do write to these folks and you send these emails to get an automated response. I am assured that they are gathered and distributed to the appropriate people who need to see them to see that the lobbying efforts are happening.

“In terms of lobbying the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees, because that is the other piece that is super important, those rules do not apply. So, you can use your Hunter email address and your Hunter equipment. There is a pretty fabulous letter that I would be happy to share that 43 members of your science colleagues have signed on to and have sent to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees about the importance of funding the new building. It serves as a great example. I know Nursing with Physical Therapy are working on a letter. So, the more the merrier. We have a couple weeks to contact all these folks. Students have also taken on. The USG is excited about this building. You will probably see them on the 3rd floor next week gathering signatures of students who are also excited about the possibility and certainly know the need as you faculty members do for the new space. That is basically it. If you are writing to the Governor or elected officials, it has got to be on your own time. If you are writing to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees, it matters not what you use. My office stands ready to help put you in the right direction as to who you might want to reach out to. We can also share as I said some of the letters that have been written and sent within the last day or so, which are pretty fabulous. So, that is it. I am here to help.”

Jennifer Raab

“Thank you so much, Terri, and advanced thanks to everybody for advocating.

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“A few final things. I know that Laura set aside some time to have a briefing by Valeda and some of the other members of the Presidential Task Force on Racial Equity. I am grateful to the Senate that it will be focusing on that. I want to thank Anthony Brown for another wonderful Black History Month convocation. I also invite all of you to a fabulous new exhibit in our downstairs gallery on 68th Street called the Black Index curated by our Art Department curator, Sarah Watson. Calvin Smiley has been very much involved with the catalog. We are going to be doing some programming this month. It is just another reminder to everyone: we are back, we are having events, and we are going to do some student work around this exhibit for Black History Month. We really want to start having gatherings again safely. I am also very pleased to announce as an element of Black History Month that we have been working hard on an initiative to get the City Council to approve, which they have done, the naming of the intersection at 68 Street and Lexington Avenue as Audre Lorde Way. It is a really wonderful and exciting event for us. Roosevelt House is sponsoring an extracurricular project with our Public Policy students to create an event which you will all be invited to in the Spring where we unveil the street sign and the naming. We are very excited about that.

“I also want to thank the Senate as we will be having a Town Hall meeting in March on the Strategic Plan - another incredibly important initiative. Thank you so much, Professor Mandiberg, for your incredible leadership of this initiative. We have committees really hard at work. We are getting really wonderfully exciting and creative ideas. We are looking forward to that Town Hall so you can all weigh in and then we can move towards bringing that to the Senate for a vote this semester and then get moving on implementing these ideas, many of which you all worked on as part of our Middle States report. So, that is just another really important initiative of this semester.

“Again, I thank you all. You have been extraordinary. Monday was not only Valentine's Day, but it was Founders Day. This is the day Hunter College was founded 152 years ago. It was a little sad that 150th anniversary planned events were curtailed by the pandemic. But we are going to start rethinking and bringing many of them back, as I said, as we welcome all of you back in a safe way to our thriving campus, and we remember our founders' vision to care for the future. That is what all of you are doing. So, thank you so much for this time. I would be happy to take any questions.”

APPENDIX III

Letter of Concern sent on Thursday, January 6, 2022

E-mail with subject: on Hunter Senate concerns about several policy changes in May 22, 2021 Memo

Dear University Registrar Upadhyay and Vice Chancellor Lemons,

This concerns the attached May 22, 2021 Policy & Procedure Memorandum on CUNY Uniform Grade Glossary, Policies, and Guidelines, which we saw for the first time in mid-December. We have several questions and concerns. In this initial communication we will try to be brief. We believe that several of the changes indicated will be damaging in a number of ways, the reasons for them are not clear, and they actually concern matters that fall under the purview of college faculty by Article VIII of the CUNY bylaws (“policy relating to the admission and retention of students including health and scholarship standards therefor, student attendance including leaves of absence, curriculum, awarding of college credit, granting of degrees”). There are two main areas of concern.

The first involves three changes related to student completion of incompletes and grade appeals. They occur on pp.8-9 of the attached – I highlighted them in yellow and numbered them in red. In each case, we think the change will be harmful to students and we ask you to explain the reason for the new policy, specifically, what advantage it has over our own policies that we have successfully implemented for years:

1. Elimination of possible extensions for completing INCs. At Hunter, we allow faculty-requested extensions for the student to complete work once the original deadline for the INC has passed and the grade has turned to an FIN. The new May 22, 2021 policy eliminates this since its provision for faculty appeal requires students to have completed work by that original deadline. This would hurt a lot of students who have legitimate reasons for needing more time and who do successfully complete the coursework after the FIN deadline. What is the benefit of eliminating this as an option for faculty and students?
2. Shortening of our deadlines for grade appeals to 30 days after grade is given. At Hunter, we time deadlines from the start of the subsequent semester: an student has to appeal a grade within the first three weeks of the subsequent semester (for in Fall for Spring grades and Spring for Fall grades). The timelines in the May 22, 2021 policy are not consistent with the faculty availability in summer or January and so are unworkable. Do you disagree? What is the advantage of the new shorter deadlines?
3. Taking the decision by dept and Senate grade appeal committees to be only recommendations to the faculty member. At Hunter, we take the dept level to override the faculty member decision but it may be appealed to the Senate (by either the student or faculty member), and then the Senate grade appeal committee decision is final. The policy in the May 22, 2021 memo that makes the rulings by appeal bodies only recommendations would completely change the nature of the appeal process and seemingly make it a pointless exercise for students and committee members. Also, note that the finality of the committee decision occurs in the Hunter College Governance Charter in the description of the Grade Appeals committee:

Article VIII, Section 10: “The Senate shall establish a **Committee on Grade Appeals**, consisting of 4 faculty members, and 3 students and 3 student alternates. The Committee on Grade Appeals will consider grade appeals in which the student or faculty member involved takes exception to the decision of the Departmental Grade Appeals Committee. The Committee on Grade Appeals shall establish guidelines for procedures to be followed in its review of grade appeals and will report its decisions in each case to the parties concerned, the Department Chair, and to the Registrar. The decision of the Grade Appeals Committee is final.”

What is the reason for making the decision of any grade appeals committee only be a recommendation? Also, could you please specify the grounds on which the May 22, 2021 memo overrides our BOT-approved Governance Charter?

The second area of concern – perhaps the more fundamentally problematic one - is the removal of the effect a WU has on a student’s GPA. The situation in which a student receives a WU is one in which a student enrolls in a course, engages in it initially but then stops turning in assignments. One issue is how doing that may affect a student’s financial aid, but that is not the key question here, since of course not all students in such cases may be receiving financial aid. Rather, the main issue is the academic standing of a student and how that is affected by such a situation. The academic question is how to judge the student’s performance in meeting academic standards when they just stop participating in a course. We take it that under the May 22, 2021 memo that performance is still being judged as a failure to meet standards for passing and that a consequence of this is that the student does not receive credit for the course. But, generally, the extent that a student meets academic standards is also indicated via the course grade that is incorporated into GPA. The GPA-affecting WU was a way for the faculty to indicate that a student “disappearing” during a course

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is a failure of the student to meet scholarship standards. To remove the effect of the WU on a student's GPA is to exempt the student's performance in that case from academic assessment, that is, to remove the student from any judgement the instructor may have on the extent the student met scholarship standards.

What is the advantage you see in doing this? To us, it seems that there will be many negative unintended consequences. For example, it seems inevitable that more students will be "disappearing" from class as semesters progress. Inaction will have the same effect as deliberate withdrawal; borderline students will have less incentive to make the effort necessary try pass a course and may choose to not show up for the final, thus protecting themselves from F grades. The WU may come to be seen by students as an alternative in courses where the P/NC option is not allowed by their major.

But beyond those considerations, there are two other issues. First, this directive memo concerning the WU appears to violate faculty governance of academic standards. It is unclear how given the CUNY Bylaws (Article VIII), this decision to exempt a student from academic assessment in such a case can be legitimately made by any body other than the college faculty itself or the BOT. Was this policy approved by the BOT?

Second, it undermines the reliance on the GPA as a standard by which to judge a student being in good academic standing. If the new grading definition of the WU does not allow for that kind of failure of a course (one due to inactivity) to be reflected in a student's GPA, then some other way for that to be registered needs to be found. Otherwise how to prevent a self-funded student from remaining enrolled with a majority of WUs? If WUs do not affect the GPA of a student, then there seems nothing put in place to prevent this. The admission and retention of students could be achieved merely by their ability to pay, not by the adequacy in level of academic achievement. If there are good reasons for exempting the WU from affecting the GPA, then some additional measure of good standing needs to be found and it is in the purview of faculty to determine this.

For all these reasons, we respectfully request that you immediately suspend the implementation of the May 22, 2021 memo and that consultation be done with the governance bodies of all the CUNY colleges. This would allow us to continue to use this year our current Senate-approved policies that we believe most beneficial to student academic success.

Sincerely,

Laura Keating, Chair, Hunter College Senate

Sandra Clarkson, Chair, Senate Student Standing Committee, and Co-Chair, Senate Graduate Course of Study and Academic Requirements Committee

Peggy Chen, Co-Chair, Senate Graduate Course of Study and Academic Requirements Committee

Kevin Sachs, Chair, Senate Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee

Jason Young, Member, Senate Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee

Jason Wirtz, Chair, Senate Grade Appeals Committee

Larry Shore, Member, Senate Grade Appeals Committee

Stefan Schlussman, Co-Chair, Senate Undergraduate Course of Study Committee

Jeanne Weiler, Co-Chair, Senate Undergraduate Course of Study Committee