

# MINUTES

## Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

### 22 April 2020

- 1 The 637<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:47 PM via Zoom.  
2
- 3 **Presiding:** Laura S. Keating, Chair  
4
- 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 **Minutes** The minutes of 4 December and 11 December were distributed by email and will be voted on at the next  
11 meeting.  
12
- 13 **Report by**  
14 **the President** President Raab's report is in Appendix II.  
15  
16
- 17 **Report by the**  
18 **Administrative**  
19 **Committee:**
- 20 a) **Special Senate Election for Vacant At-large Seats**  
21 In accordance with Article IV, 2H i & ii of the Charter for a Governance of Hunter  
22 College, the Administrative Committee is presenting the names of all nominees  
23 received to date:  
24  
25 Faculty: Kevin Sachs (Economics)  
26 James Mandiberg (School of Social Work)  
27  
28 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees.  
29 The motion carried by unanimous consent.  
30
- 31 b) **Approved Curriculum Change**  
32 The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached Report dated 18 March 2020\* have  
33 been approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for the Senate's information: Items:  
34 US-2350/GS-1334 Nutrition (Change in degree program), US-2344 Romance  
35 Languages/Portuguese (New courses), US-2346 Chemistry (Change in courses), US-2347 Film  
36 & Media (Change in courses), US-2348 Classical & Oriental Studies/Russia (Change in course),  
37 US-2349 Dance (Change in courses), US-2352 Mathematics & Statistics (Change in course),  
38 GS-1334/US-2350, Nutrition (Change in degree program), and GS-1335 Psychology (Change in  
39 courses).  
40 \*Report circulated in anticipation of 18 March Senate Meeting.
- 41 c) **Report by Chair on Special Actions**  
42 Professor Keating gave an update on the curriculum approval process for assigning Common  
43 Core requirement designations to courses for the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters.  
44  
45 "The Senate Office reached out to CUNY, and they are allowing us to assign Common Core  
46 requirement designations to courses that meet the Common Core learning outcomes for this  
47 Summer and Fall without approval by the CUNY level committee or without submission to the  
48 Board of Trustees. They just have to be passed at Hunter through our Senate Undergraduate  
49 Course of Studies committee. The requirement is that they meet the learning outcomes, and they  
50 can then be offered in the Summer and Fall as meeting the Hunter Common Core. We would  
51 need to receive these submissions so that we can have them cleared at Hunter by the end of April  
52 or early May. We will send an email out about the process for that. So, if you have been thinking

57 about putting your regular course forward for Common Core, you can do that for the Summer or  
58 Fall and the approval procedure is only at Hunter.

59  
60 **d) Report by Chair Laura Keating on behalf of Nominating Committee**  
61

62 “We were originally planning to have the Master Plan Committee and the Facilities Committee  
63 meet together to look at renovation projects as they had in previous years. If you look at the  
64 Senate minutes, since 1999 the Master Plan Committee has been devoted to increasing space on  
65 68th Street and recently working on these renovation projects jointly. After the first joint meeting  
66 in December and consulting President Raab, we thought that it made sense to have those  
67 committees meet separately again at this time. We are going to have the Master Plan Committee  
68 bring its focus back to long-term program planning, and we will have the Food Services and  
69 Facilities Committee work on looking at short-term renovations and major capital projects. So,  
70 partly the reason for the indicated change in committee membership is to move people who  
71 wanted to work on the renovation projects from the Master Plan to the Food Services and  
72 Facilities Committee”.

73  
74 Chair Keating presented the report on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating  
75 Committee is submitting the following nominations for seats currently vacant on Senate  
76 Committees:  
77

- 78 **1. COMMITTEE ON THE EVALUATION OF TEACHING**  
79 Student: Brian Sullivan (Economics/Film)  
80
- 81 **2. COMMITTEE ON GENERAL EDUCATION**  
82 Student At-large: Leon Sarpong (Biology)  
83 Student: Margaret Brennan  
84
- 85 **3. COMMITTEE ON FOOD SERVICES AND FACILITIES**  
86 Faculty: Sigmund Shipp (Urban Policy)  
87 Faculty: Raffi Katchadourian (Computer Science)  
88 HEO: Ingrid Bonadie-Joseph (Library)  
89 Student: Rawlica Sumner (Human Biology)  
90

91 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees.  
92 The motion carried by unanimous consent.  
93

94 **e) Election of Master Plan Committee Chair**  
95

96 The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Master Plan Committee.  
97

98 Prof. Philip Swan (Library) was nominated.  
99

100 It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee.  
101 The motion carried by unanimous consent and Professor Swan was elected.  
102

107 f) **Results for Nominees for the Search Committee for Dean of the School of Nursing**

108 Below is the list of the Search Committee members selected by the President.  
109

110 **Nominees for Chair Panel:**

111 Manoj Pardasani, Associate Provost  
112

113 Nominees for Member Panel:  
114

115 **FACULTY (8)**

116 Prof. Lorie Goshin  
117 Prof. Steve Baumann  
118 Prof. Elsie Jolade  
119 Prof. Elizabeth Cohn  
120

121 **STUDNETS (6)**

122 Kris-Angelo Natividad  
123 Niamh Crowley  
124

125 **Committee**  
126 **Report**

127 **Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee**

128 Chair Keating called on Professor Kevin Sachs, Chair of the Undergraduate Academic Requirements  
129 Committee to present Credit/No Credit Policy for Spring 2020. The report is in Appendix III. Questions  
130 and discussion followed.  
131

132 **Committee on the Budget**

133 Chair Keating called on Professor Randall Filer, Chair of the Budget Committee to present a report.  
134 Professor Filer said the following:  
135

136 “I do not have a lot to add to what President Raab has already said. We had an extensive meeting on  
137 Monday going over details and questions from the faculty that I was asked to present. What we know is  
138 this - we know very little. In the Spring, as President Raab already said, we will have some increased  
139 expenses. We will have reduced income from dormitories and rentals. We will probably have a little bit  
140 of reduced income from tuition because of special exemptions for students who were ill. We may have a  
141 delay in tuition payments because the policy of when students have to pay and when they become  
142 delinquent has also become much more forgiving, understandably. So, there may be defaults on tuitions  
143 if students decide that they do not want to get their grades. We have no idea how many are going to do  
144 this. We have no idea what CUNY is going to do. There has been a discussion about the University as a  
145 whole reimbursing the dorm losses but we do not know anything yet. Particularly, as President Raab said,  
146 we do not know how the \$9.5 millions of Cares Act funding will be spread out across the community. We  
147 do not know what we can or cannot do with it or how long we will have to spend it.  
148

149 “The bottom line is Spring is okay. That means Summer is okay as well because Summer is in this  
150 academic year’s budget. President Raab did not talk about it but there has been some successful  
151 fundraising to augment the summer programs because as she said it is an important opportunity for our  
152 students who will not be doing what they usually do in the summer. The alumni and other donors have

157 stepped up for these IT expenses. The Hunter College Foundation and Livia who I will give credit to,  
158 managed to get into the Payroll Protection Program and have their loan for salaries for two and a half  
159 months, and the loan will be waived. That is the one you have been hearing on the news that has run out  
160 of money and needs to be augmented. So, Hunter managed to get its act together, and that will do  
161 something on the income side as well.  
162

163 “As I said, Spring and Summer look fine. Fall is a massive amount of uncertainty. As President Raab said  
164 if everything went as planned we would be tight but not awful. The executive budget looks pretty good  
165 for CUNY, not as much as CUNY asked for but a 2% increase overall or so. But I think nobody expects  
166 the budget that was passed to stand. As President Raab has said the Governor has the ability basically  
167 without legislative approval to change the budget in any way desired, I believe, on April 30th, September  
168 30th and December 31st. So, given the State’s dropping revenue which we know is very large, given the  
169 increase expenditures on medicine, Medicare and other things which we know are very large, given that  
170 Congress has not yet agreed on the face for the stimulus package which may or may not include relief for  
171 states and cities, we have no idea. I think, as President Raab has said, there will be one offsetting impact  
172 that we have no idea of the magnitude. It is the case that in every recession since 1960 college enrollments  
173 have gone up because people think it is an attractive alternative. With the levels of unemployment in New  
174 York City, with the closing of many small colleges which are just not going to be able to reopen in the  
175 Fall, we will probably see increased enrollment. That is important because if the enrollment target is set,  
176 and I think it is already set, we get to keep a large fraction of the tuition generated above the tuition target.  
177 That may somewhat offset but the only thing I can say is, and it is exactly what President Raab said,  
178 expect the Fall to be tight. I think it is interesting that Hunter has recently authorized hiring where some  
179 other CUNY colleges have put a freeze on hiring. We can determine by looking at the numbers that there  
180 may be some budget savings regarding tenure decisions because some people may choose to defer  
181 applying for tenure and not get step increases. They have a deferral option. If you remember, anybody  
182 coming up for tenure can ask for an extra year. I do not know how many people. There will be a lot of  
183 things we know nothing about. I think we can expect pressure on travel funds and MTA funds for adjuncts  
184 but as far as we can determine, and we have been reassured, the basic contract requirements will be met.  
185 That is all I can say.  
186

187  
188 Due to the late hour, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.  
189

190 Respectfully submitted,  
191

192  
193 Sarah Jeninsky  
194 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	Bill Williams	A
	Milagros Denis-Rosario	(A) A			0
	Lázaro Lima	(A) A		Patrick Burke	(A) X
Anthropology	Jackie Brown	A		Barry Cherkas	(A) X
	David Hodges	(A) A	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Abigail Morales	A
	Milena Shattuck	(A) X		Chad Euler	(A) X
Art & Art History	Harper Montgomery	A		Muktar Mahajan	(A) X
	Thomas Weaver	A	Music	Jewel Thompson	A
	Emily Braun	(A) X		Michele Cabrini	(A) X
	A. K. Burns	(A) A			(A)
Biological Sciences	Ben Ortiz	A	School of Nursing	Carolyn Sun	X
	Shirley Raps	A			0
	Paul Feinstein	(A) X		Ellen McCabe	A
	Carmen Melendez	(A) X		Ah-Yun (Emily) Yeh	(A) A
Chemistry	Gabriela Smeureanu	A	Philosophy	Laura Keating	A
	Nancy Greenbaum	(A) A		Frank Kirkland	(A) X
	Manashi Chatterjee	(A) A		Omar Dahbour	(A) A
Classical & Oriental Studies	Graham Claytor	X	Physics & Astronomy	Kelle Cruz	A
	Joanne Spurza	(A) A		Yuhang Ren	(A) X
	Lawrence Kowerski	(A) A			(A)
	Doron Friedman	A			
Computer Science	Anita Raja	A	Political Science	John Wallach	A
	Felisa Vazquez-Abad	(A) X		Erin Mayo-Adam	(A) X
		(A)		Michael Lee	(A) A
Curriculum & Teaching	Lacey Peters	A	Psychology	Roseann Flores	A
	Karen Koellner	X		Jonathon Rendina	A
	Debbie Sonu	(A) X		Darlene Defour	(A) A
	Christine Rosalia	X		Michael Lewis	(A) X
Dance	Kathleen Isaac	X	Physical Therapy	Thomas Holland	A
	Lori Brungard	(A) X		Nicki Silberman	(A) X
		(A) 0		Milo Lipovac	(A) X
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) A
	Avi Liveson	(A) X	School of Social Work	Samuel Aymer	X
Educational Foundations & Cou	Goeum Na	X		Anna Ortega-Willam	X
	John Ranellucci	(A) A		Jonathan Prince	(A) A
	Amanda Crowell	(A) X		Rong Zhao	(A) X
English	Sarah Chinn	A	Sociology	Mark Halling	A
	Amy Robbins	A		Mike Benediktsson	(A) X
	Nijah Cunningham	A		Michaela Soyer	(A) A
	Janet Neary	(A) A	Special Education	Virginia Gryta	A
Film & Media Studies	Tami Gold	A		Kristen Hodnett	(A) A
				Sari Gupta	(A) X
	Martin Lucas	(A) X	SLPA	Donald Vogel	A
	Larry Shore	(A) A		Nancy Eng	(A) X
Geography	Ines Miyares	A		JungMoon Hyun	(A) A
	Shipeng Sun	(A) X	Theatre	Claudia Orenstein	A
	Allan Frei	(A) X			0
German	Elke Nicolai	A		Louisa Thompson	(A) A
	Eckhard Kuhn-Osius	(A) A	Urban Policy and Planning	Lily Baum Pollans	A
	Lisa Marie Anderson	(A) A		Victoria Johnson	(A) X
History	Eduardo Contreras	A		Matthew Lasner	(A) X
	Manu Bhagavan	(A) X	School of Urban Public Health	Phil Alcabes	A
	Jill Rosenthal	A		Susan Cardenas	(A) A
Library	Sarah Ward	A		Victoria Fischer	(A) A
	Jennifer Newman	A	Women & Gender Studies	Jennifer Gaboury	A
	Mee' Len Hom	(A) A		Catherine Raissiguier	(A) X
		(A)		Rupal Oza	(A) X

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**Students**

Aysheh Barqawi	A
Pooja Chopra	X
Richard Lu	X
Alexa Michel	A
Nibras Ahmed	A
Mía Becerra	X
Leon Sarpong	A
Phuong Vo	X
Aamna Arshad	A
Noam Sohn	X
Nafeeza Ali	A
YanHong Li	X
Dorothy Slater	A
Raymer Contreras	X
0	
Zaiba Iqbal	X
Hardik Bhaskar	X
Leonid Prog	X
Linda Yohannes	X
0	
Bryan Terry	X
0	
0	
0	
0	
Ariela Radonic	X
Luisais Taveras	X
Jeanine Hampton	X
0	
Ariel Ortega	X
Milana Khaitova	X
Chaya Dickel	X
Naho Hirohata	X
0	
Igal Sultanov	X
0	
Gillian Blanco	X
Chelsea Yu	X
Tahseen Chowdhury	X
Harrison Cade	X
Priyal Thakkar	X
Christine Kuang	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	A
Economics	Kevin Sachs	A
Medical Lab Science	Hongxing Li	A
Religion	Barbara Sproul	X
THHP	Jerry Press	X
Mathematics & Statistics	Sandra Clarkson	A
Special Education	Gina Riley	X
Sociol Work	James Mandiberg	A
THHP	Sarah Jeninsky	A
Art and Art History	Peter Dudek	A

**Ex-Officio**

President, USG	Kamalpreet Kaur	X
Vice President, GSA	Kamalpreet Kaur	X
President Alumni Association	Kim Hafner	X
President, HEO Forum	Denise Lucena-Jerez	X
President, CLT Council	Amy Jeu	A

**ADMINISTRATION**

Senators:		
HEO/CLA Representative	Brian Buckwald	A
Vice President for Student Affairs	Eija Ayravainen	A
0	0	
Provost	Lon Kaufman	A
Dean, School of Arts & Sciences	Andrew Polsky	A
Alternate Senators (3):		
Dean of Education	Michael Middleton	A
General Counsel & Dean of Faculty	Carol Robles-Román	X
School of Nursing	Gail McCain	A

## APPENDIX II

“Thank you so much, Laura for convening this meeting and for connecting us all technologically. Thank you and the Senate Administrative Committee for everything you have been doing for us during this really difficult time. I am very pleased to report to the community that Lon, Eija, Lori and Livia, our management team, have been meeting regularly with the Senate Administrative Committee exchanging ideas and working together to move the community forward. I am grateful to the whole committee, and especially to you Laura for all the attention, time and devotion that you have given us. We are going to hear from Randy Filer today. We also had a tough, but I think very productive, Budget Committee meeting. I am grateful for the participation. Lon and I have been meeting with the extraordinary Chairs and Deans on the P&B every week to continue the business of the College, promotions and other work so that we continue to move forward. We are also bringing in the other Vice Presidents so that we can work very closely with the faculty representatives as we transition Hunter into this remote world that we are living in.

“Reflecting on the last few weeks, I really want to take a moment to acknowledge to the whole community how extraordinary all of you have been, and how grateful and really proud we are of the Hunter community. So many of you have lost family and friends. People have been unwell. We are all adjusting to this new and very difficult reality. You have your own children, your own families to tend to while you are also helping to move the Hunter agenda forward. You have gone above and beyond to think of Hunter, to help support our students while you are also being pulled into your own needs and other people who need your attention. So, on behalf of Lon and Eija, all of us in the administration, we are so so deeply proud and so deeply grateful for what you have accomplished. A special shout out to the students who are with us today. Your lives have also been very complicated. You are in a learning mode that is not the choice you signed up for. Your lives are also very challenged at the moment, and we know how much you are doing to keep your education moving ahead. We are proud and really grateful to have you in our community.

“And then of course, we really have to give a shout out to, and I know everyone that is on this call agrees, the incredible support staff of Hunter College, particularly our facilities, custodial, and public safety group that have worked with us and have done so much. If you remember, a few weeks ago we were asked to light our buildings up blue to say thank you. So, we thank New York, but we also have this incredible debt of gratitude to our own public safety and custodial staff. While many of us were slowly leaving the campus in early and mid-March, the custodians were here doing the cleaning, being on the frontline, as well as all of our public safety officers. A huge thanks to Lori Mazor, Joe Foelsch, to our people who are really putting themselves out there to keep Hunter moving ahead, to keep it a safe, safe place. We are continuing to keep our main campus open, as many of you know. Over the last few weeks we slowly began to close the East Harlem campus, our downtown art facilities and Roosevelt House. We were asked by the State to clear the dorms at Brookdale and 79th Street. Again, custodial and public safety did an incredible job helping to support that and then close the Brookdale campus. So, the main campus on 68th Street remains open. We have been providing access to faculty and any staff who need to access the campus, encouraging people to stay at home. However, when you needed to come to the office to retrieve belongings, we have been there, and we’ll continue to do so. We are keeping the building open in order to make sure that there is maintenance of the labs. The research has ceased according to the requirements of the State, but we are maintaining all of our laboratories and our animal facilities. People who are in charge of the animal facilities are coming in to take care of what needs to be done - incredible bravery and commitment. So, we will continue to keep 68th Street open, but ask those of you who need to access the campus to let us know, so we can make sure we have a sense of who needs to be in the building.

“We also owe a real special thank you to the wider Hunter community. We have been trying to highlight some of the heroism of our alums and faculty on social media. Just a few examples, the wonderful Arabia Mollette, our Class of 2004 graduate, and many of you may have taught her, is an emergency room doctor in Brooklyn. You may have seen her on CNN and on the front page of the Daily News. She has been very outspoken about the very challenging conditions in the hospital. An alum and professor at the Nursing School, Blima Marcus has been a leader in raising money for protective gear. Recently there was a very special story in New York Magazine about Samantha Elkaim who graduated from our School of Education in 2014. She has been one of the great DOE teachers working to keep her students engaged. And then our own Charles Platkin who has been a leader and spokesman on the community about food safety and guides for communities struggling with food insecurity.

“I know for all of us, it seems like a lifetime ago when on March 11th the Chancellor announced that we would be going online and gave us that very short week to get ready. Your efforts have been nothing short of amazing. Laura used the word historic for this meeting but the efforts of what the faculty and staff have done to move 3,000 classes online during this time is also historic. It has been really awesome to see the work, effort and commitment. We acknowledge that some classes are more suited than others to

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move online, and some faculty and staff have found the transition easier than others, but everyone has been committed to moving our students forward and maintaining their education. We are incredibly grateful for that. Our faculty have been supportive throughout. I want to thank Associate Provost Jenny Tuten and Shiao-Chuan Kung from our educational technology unit. I know that so many of you on this call, joined to thank both of them for the support they have provided including educational technology and transitioning courses to remote learning. It has been very, very moving to see how the faculty have come together to support one another. Those who are more familiar and comfortable with online and remote learning have supported so many others. Paul McPherron from our ACERT Center in particular has done so much for us, as have Laura, Gina, Julie, Sarah and Scott. Their names are up on the slide. Those are just some of the resources that we provided for faculty and will continue to provide for faculty. And what Lon and I have tried to do is to continuously have a feedback loop with the faculty leaders to find out what we can do to support your move to online learning. One small example, early on CUNY told us that Blackboard would be the platform that we use as a system. We heard very clearly from faculty that they wanted to use Zoom, that it was a better platform. We spent over \$100,000 on making sure we got the right licenses and got that technology to you. We will have a printer delivered to Shirley Raps. We will mail laptops to faculty if you are being challenged with technology or if you have to share it with other family members. We need to support you because you are doing the frontline work. We want to hear back from you, and we want to know how to continue to help you going forward.

“I think by now people know that CUNY has purchased, in terms of technology, a testing platform called Respondus. There is more information about it on the website. If there are any questions, please ask your Chairs, Deans or program heads. It is not the only way to provide assessment. There are ways on Blackboard, and obviously faculty has a choice in terms of how you will be providing assessment for your classes. However, that is the platform that CUNY has purchased, and we will be supporting it. Experiment with the platform to make sure it works for you for end of the year exams. If we can help you in any way, please, please let us know. And even though not that many classes remain, we are nearing the end of the semester, we do continually want your feedback. That is why we will be meeting regularly with Chairs and Deans, and we hope you will continue to tell us how we can support your teaching.

“For all of us, supporting students remains the top priority. While so many students have really risen to the challenge, we know that it is very difficult. We know students live in small quarters where it is hard to watch their classes and study. We know that they have their own responsibilities at home, and we have been doing the best we can to provide individual support and outreach to our students. I want to thank Eija Ayravainen, Shannon Salinas and everyone else in Student Services for very focused attention they have provided for our students. Our advising is all online. We have moved mental health counseling online as well, and there has been a great demand. Our mental health counselors have created new groups, and we are continuing to reach out to students. We are very grateful for much of this work, but in particular for Mike Steiper’s work on EAB to see where students have dropped off, where they are not participating, and feeding that information back to Chairs and Students Services so that we can provide outreach. Again, we would love your feedback. We are very focused on trying to support our students and use the data analytics tools we have. If there is more we should be doing, we really want to hear from you.

“We know that it is very hard for students to focus on studying when they are concerned about their financial situations. The minute this started, we focused on a fundraising campaign. We have already raised and awarded \$360,000 to 704 students to support their needs for rent, food and whatever it is that will help them stay in school and focus. I have to say it is very moving to see faculty and staff contributions to this fund and, we thank all of you. We are continuing to raise money. We just got a \$50,000 contribution from Bloomberg Philanthropy, and we are trying to get the money out into the students’ hands. We are doing that remotely. All of these little things had to be figured out - how to get money to the students and mail checks. People have all pulled together, and it was really, really important. We immediately began a laptop loan program. We lent laptops we had. We have a board member who was able to get Lenovo to donate 500 new computers to us. We spent another \$35,000 on other new computers. We have given out over 650 laptops to students already, and we will continue to do so. Many of you know that at Hunter we have two food pantries - one at Brookdale and one at the main campus. The main campus food pantry is still open and students are using it. But obviously we do not want anyone traveling to campus. So, we reached out to one of Hunter’s top specialties - our GIS and Geography faculty and asked them to help us find hot spots where we would be able to reach students who are really in need of food and laptops. This week, we are starting a mobile distribution system. We will be in East Harlem and in a few neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens distributing food from the food pantry and having laptops available for loans to our students. It is an experiment, but we felt that these are dire times and we wanted to make sure we are doing everything we could to reach our students.

“One of the biggest challenges in our graduate professional as well as undergraduate programs are clinical placements and internships. Some of these placements and internships have found ways to continue and allow students to get their credits. In other places it has been a very big challenge. One of the first places to hold placements, and somewhat ironically, was the hospitals for our nurses. They were concerned about having people come into the hospital. We have been working with State Ed, and with the Deans and faculty. There have been changes from State Ed about lowering practicum requirements. In other places students will



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have to defer these experiences, and it will impact their time of graduation. We are doing all that we can to address the issues of so many of our students who require these practical experiences and internships in order to get their degrees.

“I think you are all aware but I want to highlight two important policies that the CUNY Board of Trustees has implemented very recently to support students in this difficult time. The first is the change to the withdrawal period. Students may withdraw from a class right up to the beginning of finals. This allows students to assess whether they are ready to take the final and move on with the class. The Board of Trustees also passed, and I believe Kevin Sachs will be speaking a little bit about it today, a change that allows students to select Credit or No Credit for a class. We think it is a very important option for our students, but we also want you to be aware and think about the implications as you are advising students. There are graduate programs and other programs within Hunter where having a Credit versus a letter grade could have an impact. Within CUNY, there is going to be changes in policy and an expectation that faculty and admission committees will understand that this was an extenuating circumstance and respect the choice of credit versus a letter grade. There are some professional programs where the grades are required, and again we are trying to work with crediting bodies and State Ed to work this through. It is something we are very focused on, and we think in general these policies are ways in which we can help our students continue their education and accumulate credits towards graduation.

“Speaking of Board’s action towards students, I think many of you know that the Board took two actions. The first was to vote on returning or giving a credit for dorm fees. We are now working through that. Hunter operates two dorms - on 79th St. and Brookdale. As I said, we were asked by the State to clear those dorms around the end of March so they could be used as emergency facilities if necessary. There will be a refund or credit of dorm fees, and we are trying to work through the actual implications and implementing of that policy. We have two rental properties where we lease blocks of rooms on 97th and 92<sup>nd</sup> Streets. We still have students in those dorms. The Board also voted to have 25% of the student activity fees of this semester returned to students, and we are working with CUNY to begin to issue that refund.

“You probably have heard and many of you have seen the numbers in the news about the Federal Cares Act. Hunter College will be receiving \$19 million from the federal government as a result of the corona emergency. Half of that \$19 million, as Randy will report, will go directly to students. That \$9.5 million will go to CUNY. CUNY is developing a formula for how much each student at each college will receive. Each college at CUNY will receive a different amount of money. The formula is based on the number of students and the financial need of the students. As I said, CUNY will take the first 50% of that money. They are going to take 3% off the top and return it to Hunter College. We will be asked to allocate that money for students’ needs, and we are waiting on more guidance on that. But the rest, the remaining 97% of the \$9.5 million, will go directly to students. We have not been advised yet on how we will be allowed to use, and whether there will be any restrictions on using, the remaining \$9.5 million.

“Commencement. I think one of the saddest things about this whole emergency situation is to tell our wonderful students that we will not be able to celebrate their achievements with our faculty during our big commencement that we put so much love into every year. CUNY did cancel all in-person commencements, but we are working with the student government on how to adjust. Some campuses have thought about one big virtual celebration, but I sense that the students will probably recommend that they have a May graduation with the graduating May class and the January class. We could get a larger venue and have a large commencement. In the meantime, we have encouraged departments and programs to mark the occasion this Spring virtually. We will be working and making our event staff available to help provide whatever virtual tools we can, backgrounds, alumni speakers and other support we can. We are going to try to create a college wide calendar so students who are double majoring will not have to miss one of their celebrations. We will be sending every Hunter graduate their diploma, their program and a tassel. So, again it is one of the sad things about this new reality, but we are still really going to try to mark and celebrate our students, and we ask all of you to help us with that. I think it is important to say that while there may not be a big in-person commencement, they have graduated. They are graduates, and they should be really proud of what they have achieved, particularly getting through this last, very tough semester.

“I think all of you know by now that we have been asked by CUNY to move all classes online this summer. For classes that are really not suited to be taught online, if the governor raises the pause and the city opens up, it is possible, and it will most likely be in the second semester, that we could move certain classes to campus. We are waiting to see how things develop, and we are really focusing on a very, very, very strong call to action that I want to underscore here and ask all of you for your support. We believe that the most important thing we can do for our continuing students is to get every single one of them to think about enrolling in summer school. I am not really sure it has sunk into most of our students that given this economy and given where we are right now, it is going to be very difficult to find any type of employment this summer whether related to their profession or a job they previously held. It is very unlikely that internships towards their education are going to be available, and I think any travel is really going to be impossible. So, we need to approach a group of students who were pretty shaken up by this very quick transition and get them to think about making a commitment to take at least one class this summer. That is the best thing they can do for themselves and their

education.

“We have developed a three prong approach to this. The first is to support faculty who are interested in teaching this summer. We are looking for people who are interested in being part of the online summer. We primarily target adjuncts, but interested full-time

faculty can participate. There is no change in the workload, but there is a payment for summer classes. We are really committed to supporting your work. We put up a slide a few minutes ago with some of the available resources. Jenny Tuten is really doubling down with Shiao-Chuan Kung and others to make sure there is a special training for the summer through Hunter. In addition, CUNY through the School of Professional Studies is opening up slots in a very strong class they have on the best methods of online teaching. We are going to take advantage of the CUNY resources. We are going to put our own resources into training. We really want to do everything we can to get those of you who want to participate, our adjuncts who want to participate, to join us this summer and offer a high quality online experience for our students. So that is the first prong of the approach to summer school. Let’s really do high quality work. Let’s find the people who want to participate and let us support you.

“The second is making sure we are offering the courses that the students need to get their diplomas. Michael Steiper has been doing incredible work with the EAB tool. He has been able to drill down and see what classes are in high demand, whether the students know they need them through DegreeWorks and EAB and what we should be offering in terms of undergraduate general education, majors, minors and electives that will engage students this summer. So, we are really looking at Pathways, Hunter Focus, and major/minor requirements, and reaching out to Deans, Chairs and programs heads to address how we get more sections of these classes and how we use the resources of our educational technology unit to make them attractive and engaging. So, we hope that faculty advisors and mentors can get our students engaged in thinking about how they can use the summer productively. We believe one class or two classes is the answer, and we want your support in helping to make that happen.

“On the student side, we have asked our Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Brian Maasjo with Eija Ayravainen to be really the tsar of summer school. He has been charged with getting the word out to all students through his advisors. We are putting our money where our mouth is. One of the challenges for summer school is that there is very little financial aid. Some of you may know that last year the PELL program opened up aid for summer school, but it does not pay, even if you are eligible, for full PELL. It will not cover the full \$900 of a summer school class. So, we have been raising significant funds and putting other scholarships funds we have already raised into the pot to be able to support students who want to take a class. We are very focused on and very serious about raising money for our students to get them incentives. We know that at this point many of our students are not planning to spend \$900, but we believe that we can give them a significant amount in scholarships, and they can see why this is so important.

“We are also working closely with the graduate programs to make the same type of intensive summer school offerings and to adjust their programs. The Deans and Chairs have been really amazing during this time because Nursing, Social Work, Education, Physical Therapy and Speech Pathology rely so much on clinical experience. The work that these Chairs have had to do to pivot and find ways to support their students has been remarkable, so we are so, so grateful.

“A final effort and focus, and we need everyone’s help on this as well, is a callout to our graduating undergraduates. We are thrilled that we will be graduating with the Senate’s stamp at the next meeting over 3,500 undergraduates. That is a really wonderful thing. But we are also concerned about the futures of these students. We have an incredible group of seniors; many of them have been accepted into medical schools, law schools, professional schools, fellowships. Some of them know they will be studying for graduate school exams. But for many, this would be a time to go out to get their first jobs or think about what they are going to do. They are going to be in that same challenging position of a very weak employment market. So, we are also offering a very strong incentive and campaign to get our students to think about enrolling in our Hunter’s Masters programs. We are waiving all admission fees. We are asking faculty to create fundamental classes over the summer that students can take on a non-matriculation basis so that they can have a sample of a discipline that they might think about doing more work in and going on to get a masters. Do you ever think about being a social worker? Have you ever thought about teaching? Have you thought about our ABA program? Have you thought about GIS? We are also going to move forward and be aggressive about giving out scholarship money so that our graduating seniors can use this time productively towards their future.

“Randy Filer who has been a great leader of our Budget Committee and such a remarkable partner for us will make a full presentation about the budget, but this is the time when we would have been talking about the April 1st budget that was passed by the State. We had a long conversation with the Budget Committee. We had to start with the impacts of the COVID crisis on the campus budget. While we have had some direct expenses, one of the largest will be the dorm fees we have to return or give credits for. It has been a big concern for us along with lost opportunities and revenues, such as rentals, fundraising, grants and other things. So, we are working our way through the hit we have taken this semester, the challenge in Albany which Randy will talk a little bit more about, and

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uncertainty because built into the budget is the ability for the Governor to change the budget three times over the year without having the legislature vote. So, there is an enormous amount of uncertainty. As I said, we were expecting a \$9.5 million grant from the federal government, but we do not yet have any guidance on how we are able to use it. There will be serious financial challenges ahead for Hunter. We are going to be asking people to tighten belts, but we are working on trying to do this in the least painful way. We are very focused on the incredible school that Hunter is, the extraordinary faculty that you all are, our students, our staff and our leaders. We are thinking about the future. We continue to make faculty offers and hopefully, with CUNY's approval, we will be able to move those hiring decisions forward. We remain hopeful. This is a difficult time. We will have difficult budget ramifications but we will get through it.

"A few silver linings. One is that in the Governor's budget, they added something that has not ever been in our budget before, and that is a state capital match for philanthropic gifts for capital projects. Both CUNY and SUNY have a \$300 million allotment to each institution for a 2-to-1 match for capital construction. I have been trying to get information from CUNY about how they are going to let us use it because we have a significant amount of money raised for capital projects and most excitingly a very major gift for our new Nursing building. We would like to see if we could use this program to match our philanthropy and get our Nursing and Science building moving. That would truly be the silver lining of this crisis. I think if we ever needed to think about how important the Nursing and Science professions are, this crisis has certainly underscored that. I'm sure you will all agree.

"Another piece of good news for us is that admissions continue to be strong. A big shout out to Lori Janowski and Joe Fantozzi who are indefatigable. They have not missed a beat during this admissions cycle. Transfers are up significantly, freshman enrollment is on target, a little bit up. I think not surprisingly people are thinking about a price they can afford and staying close to home. So, we are very encouraged by that and how that will help our budget. We are continuing to be very aggressive about our recruiting and getting the word out about how wonderful Hunter is and why students should study here.

"I know that for many of you the big question on your minds is what is the situation for Fall 2020. I wish I had more information. In a way I am actually glad we do not in the sense that I think the easy decision to make is to cancel onsite classes. I am sure you are hearing about it from colleagues outside the CUNY system. What I have heard is that a lot of people are being driven by the dorm situation, afraid to bring students back to residential colleges only to have them leave again. I would like to see hope in the fact that CUNY has not made a decision yet. They are trying to make a reasoned decision about how to proceed with the Fall. So, we do not have any guidance. In the only conversation that we have had with CUNY, they floated pretty severe restrictions on student and faculty travel for the Fall. We pushed back hard to say we wanted more flexibility, particularly for faculty travel. We did not think it made sense to cancel trips in November and December when we did not know where we will be. As long as nobody was making financial non-reimbursable commitments, we should allow as much flexibility as possible. We think that we have been successful in that argument, but we will work on that together. So, as soon as we have news on the Fall, we will get it out to the community.

"I thank everyone for pulling together. I have heard so many beautiful stories of students gathering with their clubs virtually and faculty enticing students to attend their virtual office hours by showing them their dog. I even got to bring my puppy to a student government meeting last week, so that was fun. One of the wonderful things we have been able to do is to ask all of you to think about how you could help us send your academic talents and intellectual stimulation out into the community. Last week we started something called Hunter at Home. It is a series that we are doing with Hunter faculty and we are sending out invitations widely to alums and our community. Our first program was with our own Phil Alcabes who was the moderator. We had over 250 people tuning in for his discussion with our public health professors, David Himmelstein and Steffie Woolhandler. Soon after that we had about 180 for Ruth Finkelstein's talk about aging and the pandemic. Last night we had about 100 people for our MFA in Creative Writing program. We planned one to take place tomorrow on art history. On this slide Mark Spicer is talking about the Beatles. Diana Reiss is talking about dolphins. We got a lot of excitement. So, we are working on reaching out to our students, faculty, alum and our supporters to connect Hunter through the intellectual capital that we have. We are staying connected and giving intellectual stimulation to our alumni body and friends. When we come back, we will be stronger as a community. Once again, my deep deep gratitude to all of you for everything you are doing and the sacrifices you are making for Hunter College. I am so deeply grateful on behalf of Lon Kaufman and Eija Ayravainen. We thank you for everything you are doing to help our students to move education forward. We also thank you, Laura for your leadership. We will get through this. We will come out stronger. We are Hunter College. I remain ever grateful for the ability to talk to you today and for the opportunity to be the President of one of the most extraordinary institutions in the world. Thank you.

### APPENDIX III

**Proposed language to temporarily amend Hunter College catalog language on CR/NC for Spring 2020. Revisions below are in bold and in a larger font size.**

#### Credit/No Credit Policy for Undergraduate Courses

In many courses, it is possible to obtain credit for the course without receiving a letter grade. If students decide to receive a grade based on this system, they will receive "Credit (CR)" instead of A, B, or C, and will receive "No Credit (NC)" instead of D or F. Students can receive a grade of D instead of NC if they indicate this on their form requesting the CR/NC option. Students requesting grading according to this system must satisfy all requirements regarding attendance, assignments, and examinations set by the instructor. Course requirements and standards are the same as in the letter grading system, but CR/NC grades are not counted when a student's GPA is calculated by Hunter College. Students can choose whether they want to take a course for a letter grade or CR/NC, but certain restrictions apply. **For the Spring 2020 semester only, if students decide to receive a grade based on this system, they will receive "Credit (CR)" instead of A, B, C, or D and will receive "No Credit (NC)" instead of F.**

#### Restrictions for Credit/No Credit Grades:

1. Some departments or programs restrict a student's choice in opting for Credit/No Credit. Several programs of study prohibit the use of Credit/No Credit grades in major courses. This applies especially to programs of study leading to outside certification or post-graduate study. Students should check with their departmental advisers for specific policies. On the other hand, there are some courses in which letter grades are not assigned. Departments who restrict student choice of the CR/NC option must have this policy approved by the Senate. When departmental policies allow the CR/NC option, individual instructors cannot refuse students who want to exercise this option. **For the Spring 2020 semester only, all departmental and/or program restrictions on the use of the CR/NC grade option for major courses, will be temporarily suspended. Use by students in the Spring 2020 semester of the CR/NC grade option will not count against departmental and/or program limits on the number of uses of the CR/NC grade option for major courses or against specific prohibitions against use of the CR/NC grade option in specific courses.**
2. Credit/No Credit grades are not allowed for students on probation. **For the spring 2020 semester only, use of the CR/NC grade option will be allowed for students on academic probation.**
3. A maximum of four courses (including repeated courses) taken at Hunter College may be assigned a Credit/No Credit grade on the Hunter College transcript, excluding any courses with mandatory CR/NC grading. (Students who obtain a D as the final grade and have asked to have this appear on their transcript instead of NC, will have a grade for this course, which will then not count towards the permitted maximum of four Credit/No Credit grades on the Hunter transcript.) **Courses taken in the Spring 2020 semester for which a student chooses the CR/NC grading option will not count against the permitted maximum of four courses.**
4. The grade of No Credit shall be used to replace the academic grades of D and F. It shall not be used to replace the grade of WU. **For the Spring 2020 semester only, the grade of No Credit (NC) shall be used to replace the academic grade of F (Credit (CR) will replace all passing academic grades of D or higher). It shall not be used to replace the grade of WU.**
5. If (as a result of a student's request) a Credit/No Credit grade is given where it is not an allowed grade according to existing regulations, it will be converted to a letter grade by the Registrar's Office, Room 217 Hunter North. CR will be changed to C; NC will be changed to F. **For the Spring 2020 semester only, since all regulations are temporarily suspended, CR and NC grades will not be converted as stated above.**

#### Alert

Other colleges, graduate and professional schools, services, and employers may not favor credit/no credit grades. They may convert "Credit" to "C" and "No Credit" to "F" for their purposes. Such decision is done by the other institution. The choice of credit/no credit grades may affect the eligibility for some financial aid grants. Students should check the policies of grant-making agencies

before opting for credit/no credit grades. **Students wishing to opt for CR/NC grades in the Spring 2020 semester should consult with their general academic advisors, major academic advisors and financial aid advisors before opting for CR/NC grades.**

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### **How To Opt For Credit/No Credit**

Credit/No Credit is an agreement between a student and the student's instructor. Students opt for Credit/No Credit by presenting a signed and dated CR/NC form to the instructor, who will sign and date the form (in accordance with departmental policy) and return the appropriate portion of the form to the student. The form is to be used to resolve disputes when either student or instructor think that a letter grade or grade of CR/NC has been given in error. Forms, including full instructions, are available on the Office of the Registrar's web page: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/onestop>. Timeline: The Credit/No Credit form must be submitted by the student to the instructor by 5:00 p.m. on the scheduled last day of classes for that semester (or session) as published in the academic calendar for that semester (or session), or by the last class meeting of the course in the semester. No requests can be made after the final exam/paper/project has been submitted. **For the Spring 2020 semester only, students will be able to choose the CR/NC grade option up to 20 business days after the University's final grade submission deadline or the date of actual grade posting, whichever is later. The Credit/No Credit form will be submitted directly through CUNY First, rather than to the instructor.**

**For more and up-to-date information on CUNY's temporary emergency policies concerning CR/NC grades in Spring semester, 2020, please:**

1. go to <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/>
2. Scroll down and click on the "+ Academic Continuity" link listed under "University Guidance"
3. Click on links for "Credit/No Credit Policy" and "Credit/No Credit Policy FAQ"