

Office of The Hunter College Senate

M I N U T E S

Regular Meeting of The Hunter College Senate
7 May 1974

	The forty ^{6th} -first meeting of The Hunter College Senate was convened at 4:50 p.m. at the Playhouse.	1 2
Presiding:	Charles M. Sherover, Chairman	3
Attendance:	The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those noted by the Secretary as listed in Appendix I.	4 5
Minutes:	The Minutes of April 16th were approved as distributed.	6
Report by the President:	President Wexler congratulated the Senate for having persevered through a year of hard work of many trials and tribulations.	7 8
Report by the Ombudsman:	Ombudsman Louis Massa gave a bried report on the progress of the Senate Sub-Committee on Elections which is summarized below:	9 10
	In an effort to increase school-wide participation in the Senate elections, the Election Sub-Committee has further extended the election deadlines to May 14, 1974. The election process is still being monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Sub-Committee. They have submitted an Interim Report on the status of the elections to the Senate Administrative Committee. The ultimate objective of the Sub-Committee is to use the documentation generated in the monitoring of the present election to form proposals to be forwarded to the Charter Review Committee. It is hoped that these proposals will be the basis for streamlining the entire elections procedure in the new Charter. The report concluded with the hope that, in spite of the existing difficulties, we may complete the election on May 14, 1974 with a fair measure of success.	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
Administrative Committee Report:	The Chair announced that the Administrative Committee Report will be delayed as we are expecting to receive data later. He reminded the body that the last meeting of the Senate will be on May 21st, and expressed his hope that everybody will be there.	25 26 27 28
Standing Committee Reports:	<u>Undergraduate Course of Study Committee</u> Prof. Nancy Dean, Chairman of the Committee, moved for approval of the entire package, consisting of items U-156, U-157, U-158. Prof. Korn proposed that the following correction be made on page 4 of U-158. The last sentence in the description of each of the 3 courses should read "To be determined by the Instructor on the basis of work <u>to be</u> covered." This was accepted by the Committee and the Department. The question was called, and the motion to approve U-156, U-157, and U-158 as amended carried by voice vote. Prof. Dean read an interim report on the Basic Prescription Proposal, which is attached as Appendix II. Prof. Dean then read the Veterans' Proposal on Blanket Credits which was distributed at the last Senate meeting. She reported that her Committee, after considering the proposal and discussing it at length, has decided to reject the proposal. She moved: "that the Committee recommends to the Senate that credits be granted for equivalent study or training approved through the appropriate Department Chairmen, and that each case be considered on its merits in relation to competence and sufficiency."	29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

After involved discussion, Dean Seiger moved, and it was 50
seconded: 51
"to reject the recommendation of the Committee and to send 52
it back to the Committee for reconsideration." 53

After further discussion, the question was called, and the motion 54
to recommit carried by hand vote with 58 in favor and 17 opposed. 55

It was proposed that the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee 56
form a Sub-Committee to look into all aspects of the proposal and 57
to present a series of alternatives for the Senate to consider. 58

Mr. Johnson moved:
"that the Committee, after extensive consultation with repre- 59
sentatives of the Veterans bring back a positive report on 60
alternatives that the college may implement to grant credits 61
to Veterans." 62

The question was called, and the motion carried by hand vote 63
with 44 in favor and 16 opposed. 64

Graduate Course of Study Committee 65

Prof. Joan Buxbaum, Chairman of the Committee, moved for approval 66
of Routine Proposals G-60, G-72, G-69, and G-75, and Substantive 67
Proposals G-66, G-71, G-73, and G-74. 68

The motion carried unanimously by hand vote. 69

Old Business: Committee on Student Standing 70

Prof. Jeanine Plottel, Chairman of the Committee, outlined the 71
procedures followed in granting a degree at Hunter (see Appendix 72
III). 73

She stated that the list of candidates for diplomas and degrees 74
to be awarded in June 1974 is available in the Senate Office for 75
inspection. She then proposed that the list be considered 76
ceremonial, and that the Chairman of the Student Standing Committee 77
present a motion at the next Senate meeting and ask for acceptance 78
of this ceremonial listing of candidates for diplomas and degrees 79
to be awarded in June 1974. 80

There being no objection, it was so ordered. 81

Committee on Sessional Equality 82

Prof. Susan Manning, Chairman of the Committee, presented the 83
continuation of its report from the last Senate meeting, and 84
moved for approval of Resolution "a.": 85

a. "The Senate urges the departmental Chairmen to program those 86
full-time day session faculty of all ranks who are willing to 87
teach after 4:10 p.m. into evening session classes without 88
requesting full-time evening session faculty to teach day 89
session classes in return.* Further, we urge departmental 90
Personnel and Budget Committees to consider the willingness 91
of prospective faculty members to teach in the evening session 92
as well." 93

*This is applicable only if classes are available and not 94
taught by full-time evening session faculty. 95

Dean Eisenberg moved that the second sentence of the motion be 96
amended by adding the words "wherever appropriate" (which reads: 97
"Further we urge Departmental Personnel and Budget Committees to 98
consider wherever appropriate the willingness of prospective 99
faculty members to teach in the evening session as well.") 100

After discussion the question was called on the motion to amend, 101
and the motion carried with 34 in favor and 14 opposed. 102

The original motion as amended carried by voice vote. 103

After discussion each of the following Resolutions was approved in turn by hand vote: 104
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b. "The Senate urges the Departmental Personnel and Budget Committees, Departmental Chairmen, Divisional Deans, and the Provost to consider the needs of the evening session in reallocating lines that are freed by retirements, resignations, etc." 106
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c. "The Senate urges departments to continue in efforts to make it possible for a major to be completed in a reasonable length of time when classes are taken only in the evening." 111
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d. "The Senate urges a continuation of the improved services available in the evening and suggests where possible that more services be extended into the evening hours." 114
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It was then moved and seconded that the balance of the Report be accepted. 117
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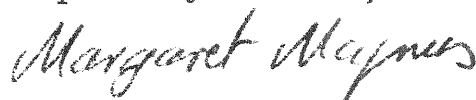
There being no objection, it was so ordered. 119

New Business: Joint Committee on Undergraduate Academic Requirements and Student Standing 120

Prof. Peter Basquin, Chairman of the Committee, presented its report and moved for acceptance of the proposed resolutions, when a call for a quorum count was made. 121
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With only 57 of the required 65 members present, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. 124
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Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Magnus,
Secretary

Minutes
Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
7 May 1974

APPENDIX I

The following people are noted as absent from the meeting:

Adler, Norman	Early, Lawrence
Alicea, Hector	Eisenstat, Mitchell
Arenas, Isabel	Erickson, Kenneth
Arfa, Milton	Gambaro, Eunice
Atkinson, Phillip	Gamble, Mae
Bain, Myrna	Gibbson, Gloria
Barbieri, Steve	Goldzweig, Arthur
Ben-Cnaan, Dan	Gourevitch, George
Bennick, Alfred	Greenstein, Karen
Beveridge, David	Grevious, Carole
Blank, Blanche	Hirschberg, Rona
Brown, Robert	Hirschfield, Barbara
Broyles, Mary	Hyman, Herbert
Butler, David	Jambois, Thomas
Carpenter, Floyd	La Pointe, Rosemary
Cavallero, George	Ludden, Mary
Chasen, Edith	Mackler, Bernard
Chiang, Faye	Martin, Milton
Chiang, Janice	McManus, Anne
Chiang, Jean	Ment, David
Chilvers, Chris	Nahins, Todd
Cooper, Anita	Nuss, Joel
Crispinelli, Steve	Pagana, Nick
Chen, Yu-Shih	Pandy, Amrit
Danna, Robert	Patton, Robert
Davis, Annette	Peterson, Catherine
DeFrancis, Eileen	Pierce, Janet
Diggs, Mary	Rosenfeld, Lawrence
Dobroff, Rose	Rothschild, Marilyn
	Schneider, Bernard
	Scott, Marvin
	Shay, Brian
	Shields, Elizabeth
	Shull, Bernard
	Slater, Peter
	Sorscher, Esther
	Spierman, Michael
	Stafford, Walter
	Strauss, Michael
	Tannenbaum, Robert
	Todisco, Alexander
	Tryon, Edward
	Van Laer, John
	Wangler, Lynda
	Wondolowski, Catherine
	Yarosz, Ed
	Zucker, Sue

APPENDIX II

Preliminary Report on the Basic Prescription
by the
Undergraduate Course of Study Committee

In response to the proposal by Marcia Kannry, Frank Werth, Thom Burns, and Bob Daly, the Senate appointed the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee to conduct hearings involving all segments of the college and to present a preliminary report on May 7th and a final report with recommendations for action on November 12, 1974.

On April 16th the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee met with the SGS students who proposed that the Basic Prescription be abolished; on April 23rd it met with "Concerned Students" and on April 30th with student majors in open hearings. The Committee is receiving written statements from students in all divisions and from concerned alumni. It has prepared a questionnaire to be distributed in the hall and published, if possible, in Pneuma, the Envoy, and the Nightwatch with the aim of achieving the broadest possible representation of thoughtful student opinion. The Committee is now employing a research assistant, Mrs. Else Weinstein, to help the Committee survey actions taken in respect to required courses by colleges of the city system, colleges in large cities, and some smaller liberal arts colleges across the nation.

On May 7th Dean Seiger appeared before the Committee to present the views of the Office of Academic Advising on the issue of the Basic Prescription. On May 14th Professor George Nordmeyer, Chairman of the Working Committee of Chairmen, studying the language requirement is scheduled to appear before the Committee and to share with us some of the thinking and research that his committee was doing on this subject long before the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee became involved in it. On May 21st representatives from all the Divisions have been asked to appear to present their views in one half hour time periods. Because of other proposals pressed upon us, the Committee had to defer appointments with the President and the Provost to the Fall. In the Fall we plan, as well, to invite all interested Department Chairmen and other faculty members to present their views. By then the results of the questionnaire should have been processed and we will have further open hearings for students of all persuasions.

Clearly the Committee interpreted the student proposal to abolish the Basic Prescription as one that opened the topic for general discussion. We agreed as a Committee, first to inquire if the principle of a distribution of basic courses was a good working principle and then, if that were approved, to proceed to inquire into possible modifications of our present Basic Prescription.

We have learned in the hearings up to this point that overwhelmingly all quarters, Abolitionists and Prescriptionists as well, agree that the principle of a distribution of basic courses is a desirable one. But all do not agree on how that principle should be achieved within the individual student's program, or if it should be imposed by a Basic Prescription of courses.

Regular Meeting of The Hunter College Senate
May 7, 1974

Many students find a prescription of any sort offensive. Those who support the abolition of the Basic Prescription urge a greatly expanded advising system to encourage a diversification of courses appropriate to individual needs, but they do not suggest what to do if a student hears out the adviser and then ignores the advice. However, supporters of the Basic Prescription, as a prescription, agree with the Abolitionists that the Basic Prescription could profit from modification, even a regular on-going review process.

The Committee is now inquiring into a number of different possibilities including these two: the increased use of proficiency examinations for fulfillment of the requirements of the present basic prescription, and the possible use of an asterisk system according to which a student might propose to fulfill the basic prescription by substituting a course or courses for a stated requirement. These two procedures carried out through faculty review and approval should provide the increased latitude desired by individual students and still maintain the general level of quality that we all want the diploma from Hunter College to represent.

Another possibility suggested by the students is that a variety of diplomas be offered: B.A.'s and B.S.'s for those who fulfill our present requirements, and other diplomas whose titles would state what the transcript records, for example, General Education diplomas with Specialization or without Specialization, received after 125 credits. This possibility provides students with increased latitude, describes a student's program accurately, and does not dilute the B.A. degree, but it would have other effects that ought to be considered.

The Committee sees its next task as this one: to review the various requirements within the Basic Distribution as now constituted and to recommend to the Senate ways that the distribution of courses might be modified to achieve the purpose of the Basic Prescription more successfully. Toward this end we would like to urge all members of the college community to consider proposals or modifications for the present Distribution of Basic Courses. The Committee will be glad to study all proposals. We shall continue to have our hearings and minutes open to representatives of the college newspapers and any concerned students, faculty or administrators who would like to attend or to read our minutes.

APPENDIX III

Senate Committee on Student Standing

Report re: List of Candidates for Diplomas and Degrees to be Awarded

Article VIII, Section 4 of the Hunter College Governance Charter states that "The Committee on Student Standing shall be responsible...for recommending to the Senate the award of degrees to qualified students."

After having done some background research on this matter, I believe that this function should be interpreted as a ceremonial one. In fact, the Registrar determines whether a student has fulfilled requirements leading to a given degree.

What is the procedure for a student who is about to receive a degree from Hunter College?

1. The student files an application for a degree no later than the first day of classes of the semester in which a degree is expected. (In fact, this deadline is not adhered to, as Deans may make exceptions and do so, especially in the case of Masters Degrees.
2. When the Registrar receives an application for degree forms, he sends the student a copy of his record and certification in support of degree forms. (Different forms are used for different degrees.) The student must return this form to the Registrar immediately. Delays occur here too, because students often don't file on time. Unfortunately, this semester the paper shortage was so acute that for a while forms could not be printed.
3. The Registrar's Office reviews certification of support against records to make sure that all requirements have been fulfilled. Each department's chairman certifies that courses listed under major and minor requirements successfully completed will satisfy requirements for the degree.
4. If the student qualifies for graduation, nothing further is done at this time. If he does not, he receives a letter from the Registrar indicating the reason.
5. After final grades have been submitted and processed by the Computing Center (this is usually a month after examination period and several days after official graduation ceremonies) final grades are posted to the record and the record is checked again. When the record is cleared in August for June graduates, diplomas are issued.

Students who march in the graduating ceremonies do not necessarily graduate. Only the diploma constitutes graduation and all other ceremonies are ceremonial including the recommendation to the Senate of the awarding of degrees to qualified students.

The Registrar's office cannot process records any faster because instructors simply do not hand in grades on time. The present date of processing is unsatisfactory, many uncompleted F's and Incompletes cannot be resolved, and the number of candidates eligible for degrees has increased but the staff has not. The new HEP system will probably be able to do a graduate check quickly and efficiently in the future. Until then we recommend that the Chairman of the Committee on Student Standing present a symbolic list of students eligible to receive degrees.

The list of candidates for diplomas and degrees to be awarded in June 1974 has been received from the Registrar's Office. This list has been drawn up by the Registrar in accordance with the policies of the Senate.