

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Proposal to Revise and Formalize Faculty Governance at Hunter College DRAFT April 22, 2025

This is a proposal to streamline faculty governance at Hunter College to make it more conducive to sustaining a sense of community among the college faculty and unite faculty efforts in policy-making and in consultative deliberations with the administration and other parts of the college.

Brief background: The college faculty currently carries out these policy-making and faculty-voice responsibilities through the Hunter College Senate and the Faculty Delegate Assembly (FDA), the former established in 1971 through the Hunter College Governance Charter and the latter in 1973 through the Bylaws of the General Faculty (GF). In accordance with those documents, over the past 50 years, departments have elected faculty representatives for each of the Senate (3-4) and the FDA (2). Up to 2001, both General Faculty meetings (open to all faculty) and FDA meetings (open only to the elected FDA delegates) were held separately on an alternating bi-monthly schedule; both bodies were led by the same seven-member Executive Committee. In 2001, the EC of the FDA/GF decided to drop this dual-meeting schedule and just have meetings of the FDA delegates that were open to all members of the GF. This FDA Plenary meeting format has continued up to the present day. Over this time, the general awareness by Hunter faculty of there being a regular meeting and a by-law governed General Faculty has faded. This current effort is to re-establish recognition that the FDA functions as the one deliberative body that serves to represent the voice of the college faculty.

The Proposal:

- The General Faculty (GF) will continue to be a non-meeting body as it has been for the last 25 years; that is, attendance by the GF at FDA meetings is encouraged but is optional. The FDA and the Senate will continue to exist as two distinct entities. The FDA will serve as the representative deliberative body that formally represents the views and concerns of the General Faculty and will continue to select Hunter's representatives to the University Faculty Senate. The Senate remains the primary policy-making governance body at Hunter.
- There will remain two Faculty Governance Leaders: FDA President and the Senate Chair.
- However, **instead of the current system, under the proposed revamping of governance, departments will elect only one set of faculty for both bodies.** All faculty elected to the Hunter Senate, as either a Senator or an Alternate, will simultaneously be FDA delegates.
- FDA meetings will be open to all faculty, but with only delegates participating on any votes held, and will serve the following functions
 - Allow all faculty to discuss issues that are being raised at the Senate.
 - Allow faculty to raise and discuss other issues or matters that are of general concern to the faculty.
 - Facilitate dialogue between the administration and faculty on a regular basis and provide a principal venue for the administration to present matters particularly relevant to faculty.

- When desired, approve statements of views of the General Faculty for consideration by units of the college or university or other bodies.

Notes:

a) While the membership of the FDA will be constrained by the membership criteria of the Senate, the FDA meetings will always be open to all members of the GF and the FDA will have the ability to set up its own committees that do not overlap the purview of Senate committees, with membership to those committees being open to all members of the GF. For example, it could set up a committee on adjunct matters.

b) The General Faculty consists of all full- and part-time members of the teaching staff with a department appointment in the title Distinguished Professor, Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor, Senior Lecturer or Senior Doctoral Lecturer, Lecturer or Doctoral Lecturer, Distinguished Lecturer, Clinical Professor, Adjunct Professor, Adjunct Associate Professor, Adjunct Assistant Professor, or Adjunct Lecturer.

The FDA Executive Committee:

- There will be seven voting members of the FDA EC: the President, Vice President, Secretary, an additional full-time faculty representative, and 3 additional faculty expressing interest who may be in either a full-time or a part-time position.
- For two of the “additional seats” above, adjunct faculty members will be given priority. If these seats cannot be filled with adjunct faculty, a non-adjunct faculty member can take their place.
- The President will be a full-time faculty member with tenure or CCE and the Secretary a full-time faculty member.
- The voting members of the Executive Committee will be elected by the FDA membership after the first meeting of the new Senate in May.
- Any member of the GF, full- or part-time, who would like to serve on the FDA EC must at time of election be a member of the FDA, that is, a faculty member elected to the Hunter Senate, as either a Senator or an Alternate. (Part-time faculty and Distinguished Lecturers or Clinical Professors must have been elected to a Senate at-large seat.)

Relating membership and leadership of FDA EC and Senate Administrative Committee (SAC):

- To keep both leadership groups aware of each other’s activities and to facilitate communication between the groups, the President of the FDA will be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Senate Administrative Committee (SAC) and the Senate Chair will be an ex-officio non-voting member of the FDA EC.
- To avoid officers in one group also having a role in the other:
 - No faculty member may serve as an officer of both the FDA (President, VP, or Secretary) and Senate (Chair or Secretary) in the same academic year.
 - No officer of the Senate may serve as a voting member of the FDA EC, and no officer of the FDA may be a voting member of the SAC. (So, faculty elected to the SAC, either as officers or at-large members, are ineligible for FDA President, VP or Secretary positions).

- To allow flexibility in the election of the FDA EC non-officer seats after the annual election of the SAC, faculty elected to at-large seats of the Senate Administrative Committee (SAC) are eligible to run for a non-officer position on the FDA EC.