

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

6 March 2024

The 686th meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:59 PM in HW 714.

Presiding: Sarah Chinn, Chair

Attendance: The elected members of the Senate with the exception of those marked absent in Appendix I.

Alternate Senators were formally seated in accordance with the procedures approved by the Senate for in-person meetings, and they were enabled to vote using iClicker.

Minutes: The minutes of 4 October 2023, 18 October 2023, 1 November 2023, 15 November 2023, and 6 December 2023 will be voted on at the next meeting.

Report by the President: Interim President Ann Kirschner's report is in Appendix II.

**Report by the
Administrative
Committee:**

a) Special Senate Election for Vacant At-large Seats

In accordance with Article IV, 2H i & ii of the Charter for a Governance of Hunter College, the Administrative Committee is presenting the names of all nominees received to date:

Faculty:	Frederick Rogals (Classical & Oriental Studies)
At-Large:	Susan Barile (English)
Student:	Ariana McNab (Media Studies)

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominees.
The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

b) Approved Curriculum Changes

The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached reports Part I and II dated 6 March 2024 have been approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for the Senate's information. Items: US-2596 Arts & Sciences (Routine Deregistration of a Program), US-2605 Romance Languages/Italian (New course), US-2600 Film & Media (Change in courses, Add to HCR), US-2602 Film & Media (New courses, Add to P&D/C), US-2603 Film & Media (Change in degree program), US-2604 Film & Media (Change in degree program), US-2597 History (Change in Degree Program), US-2463B Curriculum & Teaching (New courses), US-2597 History (Change in Degree Program), GS-1594 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in degree program), US-2608 Political Science (Change in degree program), US-2614 Political Science (Adding MOI), US-2615 Political Science (New course, Add W), US-2609 Women & Gender Studies (New course, Add Ins, P&D/A, Crosslisting), US-2610 Women & Gender Studies (New course, Add Ins, P&D/A, Crosslisting), US-2611 Art & Art History (Change in degree program), US-2612 Art & Art History (New courses), US-2613 History (Adding MOI), GS-1589 Curriculum & Teaching (New degree program), GS-1592 Curriculum & Teaching (Change in degree program), GS-1591 Special Education (New degree program), GS-1593 Urban Policy and Planning (Change in degree program), GS-1600 Urban Policy and Planning (Change in degree program), GS-1594 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in degree program), GS-1595/US-2598 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in degree program), GS-1596/US-2599 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in degree program), GS-1597 Mathematics and Statistics (Change in course), GS-1598 Mathematics and Statistics (New courses), and GS-1599 School of Social Work (Change in courses).

c) **FGL Statement in Response to EVC Hensel's Cost Savings Memo**

Chair Chinn said the following:

"I am just going to mention in brief right now because we will talk more about it at our meeting on the 20th. So, some people may be aware that there was a memo that came down from CUNY Central officially from the Executive Vice President, Wendy Hensel (thus, named the Hensel memo), about budget cuts around CUNY. The memo identified nine "Colleges of concern." I would like to reassure everyone that Hunter is not one. We are doing comparatively well. By the metrics that EVC Hensel wants us to measure ourselves, we are doing very well. But I know that this has been an issue that came up at the University Faculty Senate. It came up at the Faculty Delegate Assembly here. The Faculty Governance Leaders meet separately: all the leadership of the various faculty organizations and college Senates meet once a month, and we talked a lot there. Several people of the FGL leadership drafted a letter which everyone looked at, which we now approved and sent to CUNY Central, governance and all over the place. So, you should have received a copy of the memo and a copy of the FGL response. But it was only a few days ago, so we want to give people plenty of time to look them over and then have a discussion next time. If you accidentally deleted it, that is fine. Just let the Senate Office know, and we can resend because we want to have a robust discussion next time around. Again, I will reassure everyone that as of now the measures that were suggested in the memo do not apply to Hunter, but they apply to nine other Colleges. Some people may know that some moves were made at the beginning of this semester to let people go at a very short notice at a couple of different colleges, which is also part of the response to that."

**Committee
Reports:**

Committee on the Budget

Chair Chinn invited Professor Gina Riley, Chair of the Committee on the Budget to present. Professor Riley yielded the floor to Professor Michelle MacRoy-Higgins, Chair of the Department of Speech – Language Pathology and Audiology to present the Academic Excellence Fee for graduate students in Speech Language Pathology proposal. Discussion followed.

**Hunter College, Department of Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology - Academic Excellence
Fees for graduate students in Speech Language Pathology:**

RESOLVED, that The City University of New York adopt a schedule of academic excellence fees for students in graduate programs in Speech Language Pathology, effective with the Fall 2024 semester and as detailed below:

Graduate students in Speech Language Pathology

Resident full-time students:	\$500 per semester
Non-Resident full-time students:	\$500 per semester

Chair Chinn asked if there was an objection to passing the proposal by unanimous consent. There was an objection.

Because some voting members had technical difficulties with iClicker, Chair Chinn decided to conduct voting by roll call. Voting by roll call produced the following results: 60 in favor, zero against, and zero abstentions. The Resolution was approved.

Graduate Course of Study & Academic Requirements Committee

Chair Chinn called on Professor Peggy Chen, co-Chair of the Graduate Course of Study and Academic Requirements Committee, to present the Resolution Requesting the Inclusion in the Subject Table of the Weighted Instructional Unit (WIU). Questions and discussion followed.

Resolution Requesting the Inclusion in the Subject Table of the Weighted Instructional Unit (WIU) Message Course at Hunter College for Graduate and Doctoral students.

WHEREAS, the Weighted Instructional Unit (WIU) message course has demonstrated its utility in facilitating full-time academic engagement for students at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY);

WHEREAS, Hunter College recognizes the importance of providing flexibility for students completing full-time academic requirements, including those who are not matriculated or carrying an insufficient credit load, to access financial aid and other crucial resources such as loan deferment;

WHEREAS, the WIU has proven to be an effective mechanism for enabling students to qualify for financial aid and access essential resources, ensuring equitable opportunities for academic success and promoting retention and graduation;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Hunter College to be able to offer the WIU message course to its graduate and doctoral level students;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City University of New York (CUNY) is hereby requested to add the Weighted Instructional Unit (WIU) message course to Hunter College's subject table, allowing graduate and doctoral level students to enroll.
2. The minimum and maximum units for the WIU shall be set at zero (0), providing the College with the flexibility to utilize the course as needed to provide full-time status for students.
3. The Academic Progress Units associated with the WIU shall be equal to one (1), to allow the Registrar to set the appropriate range of credits in each student circumstance.
4. No tuition fee or Academic excellence fee shall be associated with the WIU message course, ensuring that no financial burden is imposed on students accessing this essential resource.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Registrar's Office shall update its procedures to operationalize WIUs at Hunter College determining how students will register for this managed course; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the enrollment in WIU unit(s) is not an automatic process. The Graduate and the Doctoral students in need of WIU unit(s) will make a request through their program director, advisor, or the dean which shall then be passed to the Registrar Office to enroll the students in the appropriate WIU unit(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect at the beginning of the first full registration period after approval of this resolution by CUNY, allowing for sufficient time for the implementation of the necessary changes and communication to all stakeholders.

Committee on the Calendar

Chair Chinn called on Professor Zachary Shirkey, Chair of the Committee on the Calendar, to give an update on the assessment of the Bell Schedule.

Professor Shirley said the following:

"As I said when I presented to this body in December, the Committee on the Calendar is working on potential revisions to the Bell Schedule as required to be revisited when the updates were passed several

years ago. As part of that, this semester we are collecting data. So, the update is that we are going to have two surveys go out later this month. One survey will be sent to students which the administration is going to help deliver. This should be a short survey to keep response rates up asking students questions along the lines of how they use community hours, what their challenges with putting together their schedule are, and things like that. Other survey will go to program heads and department chairs asking somewhat similar questions: if departments use community hours, issues departments have putting together schedules, and things like that. To complement that data, we are going to get data from the administration on room use, day use, and inefficiencies we currently have in the Bell Schedule. Then, the idea is we will put together a report which, of course, will be presented to this body, along with survey results, so that we could design, if any, but probably some improvements to the current Bell Schedule to reduce inefficiency in a manner that works for students and departments. One of the reasons we want to keep the student survey short is I have a strong sense that what works with some students probably does not work for other students. So, a small response rate may skew our responses. You can imagine more engaged students may have different needs than less engaged students who might have other sorts of needs. So, we are quite cognizant that it is important to get a robust response rate.”

Undergraduate Course of Study Committee

Chair Chinn invited Professor Christopher Mitchell to speak about the process of approving courses for the new Pluralism & Diversity requirement.

Professor Mitchell said the following:

“Basically, we have a process where each of the P&D submission for each course is going to a smaller subcommittee of the UCSC. We have two members of the UCSC voting on each of these proposals in consultation with a member of the GER P&D subcommittee. We are in the middle of that process right now. We have approved, I want to say, over 50 so far. The process is happening in an expedited way. So, please submit those sooner rather than later.”

Due to the late hour, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

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	A	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Barry Cherkas	(A) X	
	Stephanie Levy	(A) X		Chad Euler	X	
	Milena Shattuck	(A) A		Steven Einheber	(A) X	
Art & Art History	Itam Uchenna	A	Music	Muktar Mahajan	(A) X	
	Dave McKenzie	X		Michele Cabrini	X	
	Chitra Ganesh	(A) X		L. Poundie Burstein	(A) X	
Biological Sciences	Emily Braun	(A) X			(A)	
	Ben Ortiz	A	School of Nursing	Carolyn Sun	X	
	Jesus Angulo	A		William Samuels	A	
Chemistry	Paul Feinstein	(A) X		Stephen Yermal	A	
	Carmen Melendez	(A) X	Philosophy	Deidre O'Flaherty	(A) X	
	Gabriela Smeureanu	A		Laura Keating	A	
Classical & Oriental Studies	Nancy Greenbaum	(A) X		Daniel Harris	(A) X	
	Brian Zeglis	(A) X	Physics & Astronomy	Omar Dahbour	(A) A	
	Nadya Kobko-Litskevitch	X		Kelle Cruz	A	
Computer Science	Yasha Klots	A		Yuhang Ren	(A) X	
	Frederick Rogals	(A) A	Political Science	Ying-Chih Chen	(A) X	
	Doron Friedman	(A) X		Lina Newton	X	
Curriculum & Teaching	Justin Tojeira	A		Charles Tien	(A) X	
	Raj Korpan	(A) A	Psychology	Michael Lee	(A) A	
	Saptarshi Debroy	X		Roseanne Flores	A	
Dance	William Sakas	(A) X		Darlene DeFour	X	
	Edgar Troudt	X	Physical Therapy	Glenn E Schafe	(A) A	
	Stephen Demeo	A		Peter Serrano	(A) X	
Economics	Maverick Zhang	(A) A		Jaya Rachwani	A	
	Tim Farnsworth	X	Romance Languages	Milo Lipovac	(A) X	
	Maura Donohue	X		Chad Woodard	(A) X	
Educational Foundations & Counseling Programs	Ana Nery Fragoso	(A) X		Magdalena Perkowska	A	
	David Capps	(A) X	School of Social Work	Monica Calabritto	(A) X	
	Tim Goodspeed	X		Julie Van Peteghem	(A) X	
English	Michelle Liu	A		Jonathan Prince	A	
	Kenneth McLaughlin	(A) A	Sociology	George Patterson	X	
	Avi Liveson	(A) X		Marina Lalayants	(A) X	
Film & Media Studies	Sarah Bonner	(A) X		Keith Chan	(A) X	
	John Keegan	(A) A	Special Education	Mark Halling	A	
	Sarah Chinn	A		Mike Benediktsson	(A) X	
Geography & Environmental Scien	Angie Reyes	X		Michaela Soyer	(A) X	
	Mark Miller	A	SLPA	Salvador Ruiz	A	
	Janet Neary	(A) A		Melissa Jackson	(A) X	
German	Larry Shore	A		Kathryn Furlong	(A) A	
			Theatre	Donald Vogel	A	
	Tami Gold	(A) X		Nancy Eng	(A) A	
History	Gustavo Mercado	(A) X		JungMoon Hyun	(A) A	
	Allan Frei	A	Urban Policy and Planning	Louisa Thompson	X	
	William Solecki	(A) X			0	
Library	Sun Shipeng	(A) X		Claudia Orenstein	(A) A	
	Christina Mekonen	A	Nutrition and Public Health*	Lily Baum Pollans	A	
	Elke Nicolai	(A) X		Victoria Johnson	(A) X	
Mathematics & Statistics	Aine Zimmerman	(A) A		vacant	(A)	
	D'Weston Haywood	X	Women & Gender Studies	Susan Cardenas	A	
	Manu Bhagavan	(A) X		Khursheed Navder	(A) A	
Medical Laboratory Sciences	Aaron Welt	A		Steven Trasino	(A) X	
	Iris Finkel	A	Music	Jennifer Gaboury	A	
	Ajatshatru Pathak	A		Catherine Raissiguier	(A) X	
Music	Mee' Len Hom	(A) A		Rupal Oza	(A) X	
		(A)				

Students			
Nicole Palmetto	A		
Ariadna Pavlidis-Sanchez	A		
Aysha Khan	A		
Ronette Johnson	X		
Olivia Massey	X		
Lorraine Santana	A		
Ermina Chowdhury	A		
Viet Thanh Phan	X		
Veronica Witkowski	A		
Ariana McNab	A		
At-Large, Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty			
Student Services		Burhan Siddiqui	A
		Luis Roldan	(A) X
Library		Jocelyn Berger-Barera	A
English		Donna Paparella	X
Psychology		Stefan Schlussman	A
Social Work		James Mandiberg	X
Medical Lab Science		Hongxing Li	X
Religion		Wendy Raver	A
Political Science		Rosa Squillacote	X
English		Susan Barile	X
Special Education		Gina Riley	A
		0 vacant	
THHP		Sarah Jeninsky	A
Art & Art History		Peter Dudek	X
Ex-Officio			
President, USG		Bushir Juwara	A
Vice President, GSA			0
President Alumni Association		Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey	X
President, HEO Forum		Denise Lucena-Jerez	X
President, CLT Council		Amy Jeu	X
ADMINISTRATION			
Senators:			
HEO/CLA Representative		Irina Ostrozhnyuk	X
Vice President for Student Affairs		Eija Ayravainen	A
Provost		Manoj Pardasani	X
Dean, School of Arts & Sciences		Andrew Polsky	A
Dean of Education		Jennifer Tuten	A
Alternate Senators (3):			
Dean of Social Work		Mary Cavanaugh	X
General Counsel & Dean of Faculty			0
Dean of Nursing		Ann Marie Mauro	A

APPENDIX II

“What a rainy, dismal day! But a rainy, dismal day in New York is better than a rainy, dismal day in Albany which is where I was yesterday. Yesterday, the CUNY college presidents and deans went to meet the legislators from the State Assembly who are also from Manhattan. There was a conversation about CUNY’s pressing needs, particularly focusing on covering the labor costs. I was actually pleased by the attention of the lawmakers and their sense of the importance of public higher education in general and CUNY in particular in supporting the 225,000 students at CUNY. I really liked what Assemblymember Alex Bores said. He is a 2009 Hunter High School graduate and his district includes Hunter. He said nobody does what CUNY does. I thought that was a pretty good slogan. I had my two minutes with the legislators and focused on education and healthcare because we contribute to the city in those two areas. I also focused on the quality of our faculty and our students, and how many of our students stay in New York and are part of the economic health of New York. I met with quite a few of the elected leaders afterward one on one. I met with State Senator Toby Stavisky. She is the chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. She is a huge supporter of CUNY and Hunter, as is Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and State Senator Liz Krueger. Then, I had a conversation with Assembly Member Clyde Vanel who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Internet and New Technology. We talked about the importance of the Governor’s initiative with AI, which brings CUNY and a number of other colleges into our special focus on AI for New York State. I am really happy that I have seen more and more of our faculty already engaged in this area, both around pedagogy, but also around how we can start to think about using AI for things like student advising, not to replace human beings but to supplement what they do to help scale our advising efforts. I also spent some time with Assembly Member Harvey Epstein whose district encompasses the Brookdale campus. He is very focused on students at Brookdale and on dorm space. We talked about the fact that the students would stay in the Brookdale dorms until June 2025 and that we are very focused on looking at alternatives for students. Our task force on student housing has already met. CUNY as a whole has commissioned a consultant report that is going to get to the Chancellor in a week or so and eventually will make its way to us, so we can think about what they are doing for Hunter students in the context of what they are doing for CUNY students overall. I went to tour our dorms. We took a field trip to 79th and 51st Streets. Let me tell you those dorms at 51st Street are really something. I think they are pretty spectacular, and what we are going to be focused on is affordable options for our college students.

“I am not going to say too much about the budget. I also won’t address issues of class caps. Manoj will go into that in greater depth. Our budget is stable unlike some of the CUNY campuses that have had enrollment drops and other issues with their budget. It does not mean that we can be profligate. We will be very careful in hiring and managing our expenses.

“I have had the pleasure of meeting with incoming President Nancy Cantor a couple of times now. She is going to be ready to hit the ground running on August 12th when she arrives so that she will be fully immersed in Hunter College. We are providing lots of background on the student body, our faculty, and our facilities. I am telling her about my sense of what Hunter College’s priorities are, which is not to say that she is not going to have plenty of her own. As you have seen from her background, she has deep experience in higher education in lots of different kinds of institutions. She is going to be a fantastic President for Hunter College.

“You are going to hear more in the weeks to come about the efforts of Robert Domanski and Cynthia King Vance. Rob, is our new Dean of Academic Innovation and Outcomes. He is going to be talking to you about a career preparedness initiative that we are calling Hunter Works. The idea is how to get much more accelerated efforts to help our students with their life after college; that pipeline to full-time, really good jobs for our talented, educated, and diverse graduates.

“I mentioned last time the creation of the Presidential Task Force on Civility and Controversy chaired by Dean Andy Polsky. Thank you, Andy. The Task Force will have their first meeting soon. We need this because I do not necessarily feel that we are moving in the right direction on our campus. There are lots of instances I can point to that demonstrate a lack of civility, compassion, and mutual respect all of which I consider to be the essential hallmarks of the college community. I asked this question at our last meeting: “What kind of a future are we building for the Hunter community?” It is really for all of us to answer. We are committed, as I said several times, to free and open discussion about even the most intractable issues of our time. But we are also committed to safety and well-being for everyone at the Hunter College campus. Just as we have discussed the issue of doxxing, I find it unacceptable for us to target community members based on perceived or actual political persuasions, and religious or group affiliations. And so, from my point of view, it is unacceptable for us to have intimidation, threats, or harassment towards any individuals or any group no matter your background. I hope that, with the help of Dean Polsky’s group, but also with the commitment of everybody at Hunter College, we can have some forward movement. I guess I would say nobody has a lock on how to do this. There is bad behavior all over the place, on all sides. I just do not think this is how we want to be at Hunter College because I know how hard this is for many of us. But, I really hope that we can find ways to talk across differences if we truly believe that a university, a college, is a place to have those conversations in our classrooms, hallways, on the bridge, and in auditoriums. I think that is the thing we really have to model, and it starts with all of us, particularly you, the campus leaders at Hunter College.”