

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

1 November 2023

The 682nd meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:58 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.

**Report on
SPARC
and**

Brookdale: Chair Chinn invited Interim President Kirschner to give an update on the Science Park and Research Campus (SPARC) at the Hunter Brookdale campus. Interim President's report is in Appendix II.

**Report by the
Administrative
Committee:**

- a) **Election of Student Slate for Search Committee for Dean for the School of Education**
Election of six nominees for up to three student seats that will be forwarded to the President.

STUDENTS (6)

~~Matthew Schaffer, Mental Health Counseling Program~~

~~Katie D'ambrosio, Undeclared~~

~~Viet Thanh Phan, Biology~~

~~Christopher Orzech, Biology~~

~~Alexandra Rice, Undeclared~~

NEW STUDENTS:

Tom Reingold, Adolescent Special Education MSED

Durga Rathi, Mental Health Counseling MSED

Amy Stern, Instructional Leadership EDD

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) **Reminder: Establishment of Search Committee for the Chief Librarian**

Chair Chinn reminded that the process of electing a Search Committee for the Chief Librarian has begun. Nominations must be received in the Senate Office by 9 November. The election will be held on 15 November at the Senate meeting.

Committee of the Whole on Bell Schedule

By voice vote without dissent, the Senate dissolved itself into a quasi-committee of the whole to discuss the Bell Schedule. Professor Sarah Chinn, Chair of the Senate, chaired the committee.

At 5:20 PM the Senate reconvened into formal session.

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Due to the late hour, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Jeninsky
Secretary

APPENDIX I

The following attendance was noted from the meeting

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

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

Students

Nicole Palmetto	A
Umar Faruque	X
Ariadna Pavlidis-Sanchez	A
Nicole Palmetto	X
Ronette Johnson	X
Olivia Massey	X
Lorraine Santana	X
Jacob Appet	A
Christopher Orzech	X
Ermina Chowdhury	A
Ayanna Wiltshire	X
Viet Thanh Phan	A
Nourhan Ibrahim	X
Veronica Witkowski	A

At-Large, Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty

Student Services	Burhan Siddiqui	X
	Luis Roldan	(A) X
Library	Jocelyn Berger-Barera	A
English	Donna Paparella	X
Psychology	Stefan Schlussman	A
Social Work	James Mandiberg	A
Medical Lab Science	Hongxing Li	X
Religion	Wendy Raver	A
Political Science	Rosa Squillacote	X
	0 vacant	
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	A
President, CLT Council	Amy Jeu	A

ADMINISTRATION

Senators:		
HEO/CLA Representative	Irina Ostrozhnyuk	A
Vice President for Student Affairs	Eija Ayravainen	A
Provost	Manoj Pardasani	A
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

Interim President Ann Kirschner

“I come before you feeling that you all know much more about this narrative than I do. I feel like I am coming in at the end of a long story. You are going to be hearing a lot about SPARC, the Science Park and Research Campus, which is the center of the new name for what we know as Brookdale. Please consider this a sneak preview. There are a lot of moving parts. While we do not have the answers to everything, rather than wait until every single thing is nailed down, we want you to be as informed as possible about this project. We want this to be a collaborative process. So, as you ask questions today, we will take those questions back and try and get as many answers as possible.

“The impetus for this was last October, just about a year ago, when Governor Hochul, Mayor Adams, and Chancellor Matos Rodriguez announced an ambitious redevelopment project of Hunter’s Brookdale campus with the vision that this would be the first of its kind: a job and education hub for growing the life sciences, health care, and public health sectors. From what I have seen, this project has the potential to be the greatest transformation of the Hunter College campus in probably the last 40 years. I will use the word *potentially* a lot because we have all heard about big projects that never turn out the way you think they are going to be. What I am going to describe to you is the design for the project, knowing that it may unfold in different ways. The development will not only involve Brookdale, and I guess this is kind of the headline. I came to work at Hunter College in 1969 as a college student. I worked in the North building, and I have made this joke to many of you: that the North building kind of looks the way it did in 1969. In some ways, it looks a lot worse than it did in 1969. This project will also transform and renovate the North building into a home that we can all be proud of. So, there is going to be pain, but at the end of it, a lot of gain and a lot more square footage than we have now. We will have new science facilities and classrooms at the North building, and they will be worthy of our faculty and our students. So again, I am not going to be able to answer all of your questions. Gustavo is going to talk to you about some of the moving pieces, but please consider this a briefing, and we will take back your questions.

“Let’s start by taking a look at Brookdale as it is today. Everything you see here is going to be moved or replaced in one way or another. Let me just summarize the plan the way that a non-engineer would. Step one, we renovate swing space, especially the North building, and we also secure rental space. Step two, we move the current occupants of the Brookdale campus into that renovated swing space and rental space. Step three, SPARC is built. Then, step four, those units that were at Brookdale and were moved to the swing space and the rental space, go back to SPARC, leaving Hunter with a renovated North building. That is the musical chairs that we are talking about. The one piece of this diagram that will not be replaced is, unfortunately, the dorm space. As the Dean of Macaulay Honors College for over 10 years, nobody knows more than me how important those dorms have been, not only for the Macaulay students but for the Hunter student body as a whole. I wish that we had dorm space at Brookdale. Of course, it was sort of a schlep from Brookdale to the Hunter campus. (That is a technical term.) So, what we are going to do to make our students whole is: we are going to expand the footprint of dorms that we already have on 51st Street and make those as affordable as we can. I spoke to a group of students about an hour ago who said to me, “Where’s our role in planning all of this?” I commit to you that we will reach out to students. Students will have a voice and a sense of how this is all going to unfold.

“What I am going to take you through now is the master plan which has not been released to the public yet, but I want you to get a sense of the moving pieces. So, the total area is about two million square feet. The vision is to create a pipeline that starts with public school, includes CUNY, and stretches into life sciences from a career point of view. The team for the project, which is the city, the state, CUNY, and the Economic Development Corps, all are coalescing around this mission of benefits to Hunter College and to each of these partners. So, who are the partners? Let me first break down the CUNY elements. The easternmost building is where CUNY’s programs for the Hunter School of Nursing, BMCC, and the Graduate School of Public Health are going to be. It is the first phase of this project, which is really important when you think about how long it is going to take for this to unfold. Eventually, we are going to have about 5,000 CUNY students there. There will be 60 health-related degree and certificate programs, and they will include patient care, epidemiology, and biostatistics. So again, think about education, continuing education training in these sectors of health care and health sciences, and the focus will be on career pathways for our students. The whole project is designed for this interdependence; one continuum from school to jobs. Looking at the other pieces that are going to be there, these are the non-CUNY pieces. The first is a new DOE high school, but it too, is going to be focused on health care, public health, and the life sciences. It will have about 1,550 students from all five boroughs. The second piece of it is New York City Health + Hospitals. This is an expansion of Bellevue Hospital with a focus on primary and wellness care, ambulatory care, and simulation training facilities. This opens up opportunities for real-world training for nursing students and some of the professional health programs. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and Forensic Pathology Center, the largest medical examiner’s office in the country serving the public health and criminal justice systems through forensic science, will also be located at SPARC. On the adjacent footprint, the New York

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City Economic Development Corps is proposing about a million square feet for commercial life science development. To make it all, hopefully, a beautiful neighborhood, there is going to be public space. They are calling it SPARC Square which will be a three-and-a-quarter-acre public space. Those are the units that are going to be there. This is the overall vision for what we should be seeing completed sometime before the end of this decade. We are talking about 2028. That is the vision. It is enormously exciting. I have to say the part of it that I am most enamored of is the idea that space in the North building, which is currently not worthy of our students, faculty, and staff, will become a useful, beautiful space for classrooms and labs.

“I am now going to turn it over to Gustavo who is going to talk a bit about the timeline for this and how it is all going to unfold. I just want to stress again that it is a work in progress. I think everything I have presented to you is pretty secure, but I would not lean too heavily on the “pretty” because this has not been released to the public. We have to consider it a preliminary briefing. Please let me know if you have any questions.”

Gustavo Ordóñez, Acting Vice President for Administration

“We have been talking to a number of the Chairs of departments - both the ones that are going to be affected in the North building, as well as the Chairs of the departments that are being moved from Brookdale into what we are calling Swing Space. It is because in order to demolish Brookdale and build a brand-new facility, we have to move programs out of there. As the President correctly points out, the idea is to take some of the programs from Brookdale and locate them temporarily in a brand-new renovated space in the North building, have them stay there during the construction period of the SPARC facilities at the current Brookdale campus, move back into Brookdale and leave behind renovated space to be used by, let's call it, the main campus departments, both teaching and research labs and classrooms. So, it is going to be a little bit of a puzzle to move people, but at the end of the day, we are going to get renovated space. That is the whole idea about this swing space move. This is sort of what we understand right now as to the timeline. We are told that programming and master plan have been completed. The master plan will be announced shortly, publicly by EDC, New York State, and CUNY. What we have is the phase one. This is actually very important what the President alluded to that the phase one of the SPARC development will be our building, when I say ours, I mean the CUNY building which includes Hunter, will be constructed. That is very important. Phase one does not require ULURP approval while the phase two, which is everything else, does require ULURP Approval (ULURP stands for Uniform Land Use Review Procedure – an NYC process required for certain land developments). There is a lot of cynicism, rightly so, that CUNY projects take forever. There is a lot of riding behind the phase one being constructed by everyone else. So, everyone is pushing for phase one which also benefits us because they need to build that first before they will build the rest of the SPARC development. So, it is not just CUNY pushing. It will be the city and the state and everyone pushing for phase one to be completed on time. It is a very aggressive schedule, but again, sometimes capital projects take much longer than anticipated. So, that is sort of the plan. We are working with a number of you on the swing component of it. We hope to have soon a more definite plan on the swing spaces, both here in the North building, and in another facility because not everyone will fit from Brookdale in the North building.”