

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

19 Febraury 2025

The 700th meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 4:03 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 23 October 2024, 6 November 2024, 4 December 2024 and 11 December 2024 were approved as distributed.

Report by the Provost: Chair Chinn invited Interim Provost Pardasani to report. The report is in Appendix II.

Report by the Administrative Committee:

a) Approved Curriculum Changes

The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached report dated 19 February 2025 have been approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for the Senate's information: UR-2773 Political Science (Routine change in course), US-2769 Special Education (Change in course), US-2771 Human Biology (Change in degree program), US-2772 Political Science (Change in courses), GS-1617 Theatre (Change in courses), GS-1618 Theatre (New Course), GS-1619 Theatre (Change in Degree Program), GS-1624 Special Education (Change in Degree Program), GS-1625 Special Education (Change in courses), GS-1626 Special Education (New courses), GS-1627 Special Education (Change in Degree Program), GS-1628 Special Education (Change in Degree Program), and GS-1629 Biology (Change in Course).

b) Reminder: Search Committees for Vice President for Administration and Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Hunter College Foundation Board

Chair Chinn reminded the body that the Senate Office is accepting nominations for the Search Committee for Vice President for Administration and the Search Committee for Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Hunter College Foundation Board until 27 February, 5 PM. College-wide search procedures are in Appendix III.

Committee Report:

Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee

Chair Chinn invited Professor Kirsten Grant, Chair of the Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee, to provide an update on the committee's current work and present the **Resolution to Amend the Undergraduate Charge Deletion Policy at Hunter College to Provide a Deadline for Appeals**.

Professor Grant said the following:

"I want to share a couple of things that we are working on before I go into the Resolution to let you know that we have been actively working to do some great things in our committee this past year. I am so happy that we are moving forward with a lot of things. So, we are working on a resolution to amend the

undergraduate retroactive withdrawal policy to update the date for which students can request these appeals. Also, we are working on a course repeat policy. We have a lot of students that take courses over and over who take up seats for students who actually need these courses. If anyone has any ideas that they would like to share from their departments as to what you think would be a great course repeat limit, please send that to Lara. She will forward it over to me so that we could implement your ideas. We already have some wording that we put together, but we can always update that. Hopefully, we are able to bring these resolutions to the floor before the end of the semester. We feel great that we have got a lot of stuff going on this year.”

Professor Grant read the Resolution into the record. Discussion and debate followed.

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE UNDERGRADUATE CHARGE DELETION POLICY AT
HUNTER COLLEGE TO PROVIDE A DEADLINE FOR APPEALS**

WHEREAS, the Hunter College Undergraduate Charge Deletion policy provides for an appeal process whereby a student may request to be released from monetary responsibility from charges associated with registering for course(s); and

WHEREAS, the existing policy provides no deadline for such appeals; and

WHEREAS, Hunter College has seen an increase in students filing charge deletion requests after many years of absence from Hunter College;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that as of the Fall 2025 semester the Hunter College Undergraduate Charge Deletion policy be revised as follows:

“A Charge Deletion is an appeal process whereby a student is requesting to be released from monetary responsibility from charges associated with registering for course(s). Students who register for courses agree to be responsible for the charges associated with the decision to take courses at Hunter College. However, for several reasons, students may need to drop the course(s). Students can do this prior to the start of the semester to avoid incurring charges. If they do not, there is an appeals process.

The Charge Deletion request must be filed by 11:59 p.m. on the thirty-fifth (35th) calendar day (including holidays) of the semester as follows: if the course is dropped in the Winter or Spring terms, the request must be filed in the following Spring term; if the course is dropped in the Summer or Fall terms, the request must be filed in the following Fall term.

An approved Charge Deletion appeal will result in the removal of both course and charges.”

EXPLANATION:

Hunter College has seen an increase in students filing Charge Deletion requests after many years of absence from Hunter College. Hunter College is revising its Charge Deletion policy in order to provide clarity and to facilitate timely documentation and resolution.

FROM:

“A Charge Deletion is an appeal process where a student is requesting to be released from monetary responsibility from charges associated with registering for course(s). As we know, students who register for courses agree to be responsible for the charges associated with the decision to take courses at the college. However, for several reasons, they have the need to drop the course(s). It is the college’s hope that the student can do this prior to the start of the semester to avoid incurring charges, unfortunately, this does not happen for many. The appeal process is meant for this situation.

An approved Charge Deletion appeal will result in the removal of both course and charges.”

TO:

“A Charge Deletion is an appeal process whereby a student is requesting to be released from monetary responsibility from charges associated with registering for course(s). Students who register for courses agree to be responsible for the charges associated with the decision to take courses at Hunter College. However, for several reasons, students may need to drop the course(s). Students can do this prior to the start of the semester to avoid incurring charges. If they do not, there is an appeals process.

The Charge Deletion request must be filed by 11:59 p.m. on the thirty-fifth (35th) calendar day (including holidays) of the semester as follows: if the course is dropped in the Winter or Spring terms, the request must be filed no later than the deadline in the following Spring term; if the course is dropped in the Summer or Fall terms, the request must be filed no later than the deadline in the following Fall term.

An approved Charge Deletion appeal will result in the removal of both course and charges.”

There was a motion to amend as follows:

From:

The Charge Deletion request must be filed by 11:59 p.m. on the thirty-fifth (35th) calendar day (including holidays) of the semester as follows: if the course is dropped in the Winter or Spring terms, the request must be filed no later than the deadline in the following Spring term; if the course is dropped in the Summer or Fall terms, the request must be filed no later than the deadline in the following Fall term.

To:

The Charge Deletion request must be filed as follows: if the course is dropped in the Winter or Spring terms, the request must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the thirty-fifth (35th) calendar day (including holidays) of the following Spring term; if the course is dropped in the Summer or Fall terms, the request must be filed no later than 11:59 p.m. on the thirty-fifth (35th) calendar day (including holidays) of the following Fall term.

Due to lack of quorum, Chair Chinn suggested that the Resolution be amended by the Undergraduate Academic Requirements Committee and brought back to the Senate at the next Senate meeting. There were no objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 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	A	Mathematics & Statistics	Sandra Clarkson	A
	Milagros Denis-Rosario	(A) A			0
	Lázaro Lima	(A) X		Robert Thompson	(A) X
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	Howard Singerman	A	Music	Muktar Mahajan	(A) X
	Dave McKenzie	A		Michele Cabrini	A
	Emily Braun	(A) X		L. Poundie Burstein	(A) X
Biological Sciences		(A)	School of Nursing	Steven Spencer	(A) X
	Ben Ortiz	A		William Samuels	X
	Jesus Angulo	A			0
Chemistry	Paul Feinstein	(A) X	Philosophy	Tara Heagele	X
	Carmen Melendez	(A) X		Deidre O'Flaherty	(A) X
	Gabriela Smeureanu	A		Omar Dahbour	X
Classical & Oriental Studies	Nancy Greenbaum	(A) X	Physical Therapy	Daniel Harris	(A) X
	Brian Zeglis	(A) X		Kyle Ferguson	(A) X
	Nadya Kobko-Litskevitch	X		Steve Kofsky	A
Computer Science	Frederick Rogals	X	Physics & Astronomy	Chad Woodard	(A) X
	Doron Friedman	(A) A			(A)
	Alex Elinson	(A) X		Ying-Chih Chen	X
Curriculum & Teaching	Felisa Vazquez-Abad	X	Political Science	Yuhang Ren	(A) X
	Raj Korpan	(A) X			(A)
	Saptarshi Debroy	X		Lina Newton	X
Dance	Justin Tojeira	(A) A	Psychology	Robert Jenkins	(A) X
	Edgar Troudt	A		Michael Lee	(A) X
	Stephen Demeo	X		Darlene DeFour	A
Economics	Maverick Zhang	(A) X	Romance Languages	Nesha Burghardt	X
	Tim Farnsworth	X		Glenn E Schafe	(A) A
	Darvejan Jones	X		Peter Serrano	(A) X
		0 (A)	School of Social Work	Noran Mohamed	A
		0 (A)		Monica Calabritto	(A) X
	Tim Goodspeed	X		Julie Van Peteghem	(A) X
Educational Foundations & Counseling Programs	Michelle Liu	A	Sociology	Samuel Aymer	X
	Kenneth McLaughlin	(A) A		Daniel Gardner	A
	Avi Liveson	(A) X		Seon Mi Kim	(A) X
English			Special Education	Yi Wang	(A) X
	Sarah Bonner	(A) X		Mark Halling	A
	John Keegan	(A) A		Mike Benediktsson	(A) X
Film & Media Studies	Veronica Muller	X	SLPA	Heba Gawayed	(A) X
	Sarah Chinn	A		Salvador Ruiz	X
	Janet Neary	A		Melissa Jackson	(A) X
Geography & Environmental Sci	Mark Miller	X	Theatre	Kristen Hodnett	(A) A
	Katie Winkelstein-Duvenec	(A) X		Nancy Eng	X
	Larry Shore	A		Michelle MacRoy-Higgins	(A) X
German			Urban Policy and Planning	Stanley Chen	(A) X
	Omar Hammad	(A) X		Claudia Orenstein	A
	Kelly Anderson	(A) X		Phillip Brown	X
History	William Solecki	X	Nutrition and Public Health*		0 (A)
		(A)		Victoria Johnson	A
	Sun Shipeng	(A) X		Lily Baum Pollans	(A) X
Library	Christina Mekonen	A	Women & Gender Studies		(A)
	Elke Nicolai	(A) X		Susan Cardenas	X
	Aine Zimmerman	(A) A		Khursheed Navder	(A) A
	D'Weston Haywood	X		Steven Trasino	(A) X
	Aaron Welt	(A) X		Christopher Mitchell	A
	Mary Roldan	X		Priscilla Yamin	(A) X
	Iris Finkel	A		Rupal Oza	(A) X
	Ajatshatru Pathak	A			
	Dorian Onifer	(A) A			
		(A)			

			At-Large, Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty		
Students			Student Services	Burhan Siddiqui	X
				Luis Roldan	(A) X
			Library	Jocelyn Berger-Barera	A
			English		0
			Psychology	Stefan Schlussman	X
			Social Work	James Mandiberg	X
			Medical Lab Science	Hongxing Li	X
			Religion	Wendy Raver	A
			Geography	Ines Miyares	X
			Classical and Oriental Studies	Christopher Stone	X
			Special Education	Gina Riley	A
			Registrar	Jennifer Dennington	A
			THHP	Sarah Jeninsky	A
			Art & Art History	Peter Dudek	X
			Ex-Officio		
			President, USG	Bushir Juwara	X
			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	Francisco Sandoval	X
			Vice President for Student Affairs	Eija Ayravainen	A
			Provost	Manoj Pardasani	A
			Interim Dean, School of Arts & Sciences	Erica Chito Childs	A
			Dean of Education	Julie Gorlewski	X
			Alternate Senators (3):		
			Dean of Social Work	Mary Cavanaugh	X
			Assistant Vice President for Student Aff	Joseph Fantozzi	X
			Dean of Nursing	Ann Marie Mauro	A

APPENDIX II

“Good afternoon, everyone. The last few weeks have been painful and traumatizing for many of us. Several actions taken at the national level have had a direct and profound impact on members of our community. Folks are feeling anxious, fearful, and hurt. I want you to know that Nancy and I along with the entire leadership team are working doggedly to protect and support you. The chairs and deans have also been strong advocates for their faculty, staff, and students. We are working hard to support all of the members of our community. I hope you have been receiving emails from the Office of the President updating all of you. Please open those emails. They have important information, resources, phone numbers, and additional information from national organizations.

“I want to take a few minutes of my time to highlight some of the things we are doing here at Hunter College. Our Immigrant Student Success Center has been working day and night to support our students. It has educated our students on their rights as well as provided concrete resources like legal counsel. If you have students who are concerned about themselves or family members, please direct them immediately to this Center. It is a vital resource for our students and members of our communities. If you have faculty or staff that are concerned about their legal or immigrant status, you can reach out to our Office of Legal Counsel whether it is full time or part-time faculty. Nancy is also the co-chair of the steering committee of the President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration. This is a group of over 500 college and university presidents that are truly enmeshed in this work and are really strong advocates. They are working on educating the academic community about the impact of these recent policy developments and also advocating for our communities. They have developed wonderful resources for academia and also offer frequent webinars on critical topics. We have sent the links out frequently, but we will send it again. You can join up and receive their regular weekly newsletter. Also, I have attended a couple of their training sessions. They have been eye-openers in terms of what we can do in our college community. This is free resource for everyone.

“Again, our college is providing direct and immediate support to immigrant students who have been impacted by recent policy developments. Our Office of Legal Counsel is providing support and services to our faculty and staff. Again, it is really simple to get to them. It is legal@hunter.cuny.edu. There is also a phone number that is coming with it. Many people have asked Nancy and me in various meetings what we are doing about ICE visits to campus. We have not had any ICE visits to campus. Knock on wood, and let's hope it stays that way. We have developed a very strict protocol for what to do if ICE comes to one of our campuses. These detailed protocols have now been posted online, and you can look at it. If ICE comes to any of our Hunter campuses, and you are stopped or asked questions, you should contact Public Safety and the Office of Legal Counsel immediately. They will make themselves available to whatever office or whatever part of campus you are in, and they will advise you on what to do. Public Safety has been trained on these protocols. Every single safety officer has been trained on all our campuses, but it is really important to connect. So, if anybody encounters somebody from ICE or any law enforcement, please contact Public Safety and the Office of Legal Counsel. The numbers will be published in the email that is coming out. I also want to thank our partner PSC CUNY that is also working on behalf of our students and our community. They have created the immigrant solidarity working group to support our students, faculty, and staff. They have a website. If you go to PSC CUNY and click on the Solidarity group, you will see their open house sessions and town halls that they are organizing. It is open to everybody. So, please attend some of those, as well.

“In addition to our immigrant students, we have also heard from members of the LGBTQ community about their concerns and needs. We have resources for them. We have an LGBTQ affinity space with a full-time coordinator who organizes meetings, know your rights symposiums and listening sessions for people who want to be heard. We also have a queer student union that is working with Student Services to provide workshops, events, and sometimes just a safe listening space for our community members. In addition to that, we also have the LGBTQ Policy Center that is doing tremendous work to try to understand what these new policy developments mean for our transgender community. We are organizing a town hall in the next two weeks for students, faculty, and staff to learn about these policy developments and what we can do to protect our community. So, please attend. We also have an event within our pluralism series about transgender men and women in sports and how some of these recent developments impact their lives. So, we are trying to educate the community as well as empower the community. We are here to fight on behalf of all members of our community.

“We have also heard from faculty about how some recent developments will affect their teaching and interaction with students. People are concerned: “What can I talk about in the classroom? What can I teach? What can I say? Can we have open communication?” The answer is simple: “yes, yes, and yes”, but we also want to make sure that everybody is knowledgeable and trained. So, my office, in coordination with the Office of the President, ACERT, the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and legal experts are going to plan a town hall. It is coming soon. The date has to be decided because there are multiple people who need to be there. This town hall will be related to issues of free speech and academic freedom, with some training on how we can build our skills in the classroom to have these difficult, open-ended conversations in a respectful manner. This is in addition to a panel discussion on academic freedom and free speech that was already planned before all these executive orders which is on March 25th at Roosevelt House at 2 PM. It is a panel with

some wonderful speakers. It is on the website. It is part of the pluralism series. I hope people will come. It will also be live-streamed if people are not able to come to Roosevelt House.

“People are also concerned about research grants and the kinds of research that folks are engaged in. So far, it has been mostly guidance. Only a few stop orders. Thanks to Nancy, for those few people whose research was stopped, we are providing private funds and others resources to continue their studies so that they are not disrupted. We are also advocating for our faculty and informing our community about this. On Friday, February 7th our Associate Provost for Research, Chris Braun, held the first town hall for researchers and scholars at Hunter College. We are going to do these meetings regularly because things seem to change by the day and by the week. So, as we know more, we will inform all of you. Also, if you have questions about classroom policies or assistance with academic issues with all this going on, our Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Nikki Bennett is also available as counsel and advice. So, we are all here including our deans and our chairs that are working really hard.

“The last thing that I want to say is there was a letter, some of you may have read it, called a Dear Colleague Letter from the Department of Education reinterpreting affirmative action. We had an emergency meeting at college yesterday among senior staff, and, like Nancy has said, we are not stopping. We are Hunter College. What we do is what makes us Hunter College, and so we will continue unless we are legally mandated to do anything which we hope we won't. We will continue to support our community, and we support you in what you are doing. So, please carry on. Do not stop. I was really heartened this morning because the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which is our accrediting body and we are up in two years, issued a letter that said that this guidance does not have the force and effect of law and does not bind the public or create new legal standard. I am proud of this. It further goes on to say that guidance documents that represent the Department of Education's current thinking on a topic do not see or confer any right or on any person and do not impose any requirements beyond those required under applicable law and regulations. So, this is heartening. I will end with it.

“I want to affirm, and I speak not just on behalf of myself, but everyone on the senior team, everybody on the Senate Admin Committee, the FDA, I want to affirm that we are all in this together. The motto of Hunter College is “the care of the future is mine”, and we take this mission very seriously. You all, all of you are an integral part of the Hunter College community and have helped to bring this mission to reality every single day. As a trained social worker, the values of upholding human dignity and striving for human rights are deeply ingrained in me. So, along with the President and everybody else on the senior team, we see you, we hear you, and we are fighting for you. If you need help or assistance, just reach out. Don't send us emails at provost@ or president@. They go to some box that somebody gets. Please directly send me an email to my personal email. I will respond directly. So, thank you for everything that you are doing. Thank you.”

APPENDIX III

SENATE NEWS BULLETIN

Office of the Hunter College Senate

Room 1018 East Building

Telephone: 772-4200

NO. 2

15 January 2025

Establishment of Search Committee for Vice President for Administration

President Cantor has asked the Hunter College Senate to begin the process of electing a Search Committee for Vice President for Administration. In accordance with the "[College-wide Search Procedures](#)" (below), nominations for membership on the Search Committees will be conducted as follows:

Membership Panel:

In the case of a search for Vice President for Administration, the Hunter College Senate shall elect a panel of 4 students and 6 faculty members in such a manner as to achieve the widest possible distribution among the divisions, and 6 members of the staff. Nominations of members of the staff shall be made by petition to the Senate Office of at least 25 signatures by members of the staff. The panel shall include at least two faculty/staff members primarily based at the 68th Street Campus, and at least two faculty/staff members not primarily based at the 68th Street Campus. From this panel the President shall choose 2 students, 3 faculty members, and 3 members of the staff -- at least one of the 6 members of the faculty and staff shall be from a campus other than the 68th Street campus.

Nominations for Chair:

Any member of the Hunter community may submit nominations for Chairperson. The Senate shall elect a panel of 3 from among the Hunter community at-large from which the President shall choose a non-voting chairperson. The Chairperson shall function as the executive officer of the committee, sending out all correspondence, distributing information on candidates, arranging interviews, etc.

=====

All nominations must be received by the Senate Office, Room E1018, NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 27 February 2025. This is an absolute deadline. (Election of the Search Committee will take place at the March 5th Senate meeting.)

Please call the Senate Office at 772-4200 if you have any questions, or e-mail senate@hunter.cuny.edu.

SENATE NEWS BULLETIN

Office of the Hunter College Senate

Room 1018 East Building

Telephone: 772-4200

NO. 1

15 January 2025

Establishment of Search Committee for Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Hunter College Foundation Board

President Cantor has asked the Hunter College Senate to begin the process of electing a Search Committee for Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Hunter College Foundation Board. In accordance with the "[College-wide Search Procedures](#)" (below), nominations for membership on the Search Committees will be conducted as follows:

Membership Panel:

In the case of a search for Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Hunter College Foundation Board the Hunter College Senate shall elect a panel of 6 students and 8 faculty members from the pool of nominees in such a manner as to achieve the widest possible distribution among the divisions, 6 members of the staff from areas affected by the Vice President for Development, and 4 representatives from the donor organizations (e.g., Alumni Association, H.C. Foundation, Scholarship & Welfare Fund). Nominations of members of the staff and representatives from donor organizations shall be made by petition to the Senate of at least 25 signatures. From this panel the President shall choose a search committee consisting of 4 faculty members, 3 students, 3 members of the staff, and 2 representatives from the donor organizations.

Nomination and Election of Candidates for Chairperson:

Any member of the Hunter community may submit nominations for Chairperson. The Senate shall elect a panel of 3 from among the Hunter community at-large from which the President shall choose a non-voting chairperson. The Chairperson shall function as the executive officer of the committee, sending out all correspondence, distributing information on candidates, arranging interviews, etc.

=====

All nominations must be received by the Senate Office, Room E1018, NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 27 February 2025. This is an absolute deadline. (Election of the Search Committee will take place at the March 5th Senate meeting.)

Please call the Senate Office at 772-4200 if you have any questions, or e-mail senate@hunter.cuny.edu.