

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

3 April 2024

The 688th 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.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted with the provision that the New Business be moved to after President's report.

Chair's

Remarks: Chair Chinn said the following:

"I have a few opening remarks to make. The first is about the Bell Schedule, our ongoing project. The Calendar Committee is working hard at this. They are going to come and report next time. Right now, the student surveys that we talked about a few meetings ago are now ready to go. Undergraduate and graduate students, you will be receiving this survey via your Hunter email imminently. This is about your scheduling preferences; what works and what does not work. So, please go into your Hunter email, which I know you do regularly anyway, and look at the survey and answer it. The more responses we have from students, the more sensitive to student needs our discussion of a new Bell Schedule can be. I know this is a very kind of nuts-and-bolts issue, but I know everyone has scheduling problems all the time. We are trying to figure out a way to make the schedule more responsive to students' needs, and of course the faculty's needs. So, chairs of departments and program directors will be getting a survey for themselves by the middle of next week. Similarly, please fill it out, respond to it and send it back. It is very, very important that you complete the survey.

"Then, the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee is a little light on members right now. Their current task is to go through all of the Pluralism and Diversity applications. So, if you are interested in becoming a member of the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee, please get in touch with the Senate Office. Please sent an email to senate@hunter.cuny.edu. This is a super important committee. It is the committee that designs and decides on our curriculum. The committee is doing a really major task right now. I encourage everyone to think about that. There are students slots available, as well. Students, if you want to have an effect on your curriculum, please go ahead and consider joining this committee."

Report by

the President: Chair Chinn invited Interim President Ann Kirschner to report and Dean Andrew Polsky, School of Arts & Sciences to provide an update on the work of the Task Force on Civility and Controversy. Interim President Kirschner and Dean Polsky's reports are in Appendix II.

New Business: Chair Chinn invited Bashir Juwara, President of the Hunter College Undergraduate Student Government, to introduce the Resolution on Creation of An Ad-Hoc Committee to Address the Israel – Palestine Conflict. Mr. Juwara read the Resolution into the record.

There was a motion to limit discussion to 20 minutes. It was seconded. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Questions and debate followed.

**CREATION OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS
THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT**

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) urges the Senate to adopt a resolution establishing Ad-Hoc Committee to Address the Israel-Palestine Conflict Senate committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff. This committee, once established, will foster constructive and respectful dialogue within our community, providing a platform where diverse perspectives can be shared and respected, even in disagreement.

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at Hunter College recognizes the profound impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict on our campus community and the urgent need for action;

WHEREAS, the ongoing events unfolding in the Middle East region have resulted in heightened tension and emotional distress among many students across Hunter College;

WHEREAS, our campus has witnessed a disturbing increase in Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, exacerbating existing tensions and posing a threat to the safety and well-being of our students;

WHEREAS, the President's office has failed to publicly acknowledge the killings of innocent civilians in Gaza as she did after Oct. 7th;

WHEREAS, the Office of the President has failed to protect students, faculty, and staff from online abuses and threats, such as doxing.

WHEREAS, the Office of President has publicly acknowledged threats and hate towards one particular group while ignoring others;

WHEREAS, the Office of the President has interfered with the academic freedom of students, faculty, and staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hunter College Senate unequivocally condemns all acts of violence and aggression in the Israel-Palestine conflict and advocates for a lasting resolution that allows both peoples to live with dignity, sovereignty, freedom, and security;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hunter Senate reaffirms its commitment to fostering a campus environment that promotes inclusivity, diversity, and mutual respect, and actively opposes all forms of discrimination, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that USG will continue to engage in dialogue, advocacy, and educational initiatives to raise awareness about the complexities of the Israel-Palestine-conflict and encourage constructive discourse and understanding within our community;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hunter Senate urges Hunter College administration to provide support and resources for students affected by the conflict and to actively address instances of discrimination and hate speech on campus.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate shall create an ad-hoc committee consisting of students, faculty, and staff tasked with guiding our community through recommended advocacy actions.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

There was a motion to remove the first "Be It Resolved" clause:

~~“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hunter College Senate unequivocally condemns all acts of violence and aggression in the Israel-Palestine conflict and advocates for a lasting resolution that allows both peoples to live with dignity, sovereignty, freedom, and security”~~

Question was called and carried.

Voting by iClicker produced the following results: 14 in favor, 30 against, and four abstentions. The motion failed.

Because of a technical issue, voting on the above amendment was repeated.

Voting by iClicker produced the following results: 14 in favor, 33 against, and four abstentions. The motion failed.

There was an amendment to remove the phrase “the Israel-Palestine” from the Resolution. It was seconded.

There was a motion to extend time by 10 minutes. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Voting by iClicker to remove “the Israel-Palestine” phrase produced the following results: six in favor, 39 against, and six abstentions. The amendment failed.

There was a motion to commit the Resolution to the Administrative Committee and bring it back to the Senate at the next Senate meeting on 17 April. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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

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

At-Large, Lecturers and Part-Time Faculty					
Students		Student Services	Burhan Siddiqui	X	
			Luis Roldan	(A) X	
	Nicole Palmetto	A	Library	Jocelyn Berger-Barera	E
	Ariadna Pavlidis-Sanchez	A	English	Donna Paparella	X
	Aysha Khan	X	Psychology	Stefan Schlussman	A
	Ronette Johnson	X	Social Work	James Mandiberg	X
	Olivia Massey	X	Medical Lab Science	Hongxing Li	X
	Lorraine Santana	X	Religion	Wendy Raver	A
	Ermina Chowdhury	X	Political Science	Rosa Squillacote	X
	Nishat Raihana	X	English	Susan Barile	X
	Hridika Tasnim	X	Special Education	Gina Riley	A
	Viet Thanh Phan	E		0 vacant	
	Veronica Witkowski	X	THHP	Sarah Jeninsky	A
	Ariana McNab	X	Art & Art History	Peter Dudek	X
	Ahmed Tabbakh	E			
	Gabriela Covaria	X			
	Labiba Iqra	X	Ex-Officio		
	Aliyah Harrison	X	President, USG	Bushir Juwara	A
	Susana Sanchez	A	Vice President, GSA		0
	Rachel Weng	A	President Alumni Association	Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey	X
Rosa Rivera	A	President, HEO Forum	Denise Lucena-Jerez	X	
Shannon Benjamin	A	President, CLT Council	Amy Jeu	X	
Jasmina Rustamova	A				
Iman Meawad	A				
Hafsa Naseer	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	X	

APPENDIX II

Interim President Ann Kirshner

I will start with some sad news. We lost two cherished members of the Hunter community this month. Lori Janowski, our beloved Assistant Dean of Student Affairs worked in Hunter College for two decades. She was a dear friend and colleague to so many. She worked with countless students and helped shape this institution. Her absence is keenly felt, and her impact will be felt by generations of Hunter College students. William Sakas was our esteemed Computer Science Department Chair and a pioneering researcher on language acquisition in children. William, never Bill, led the Computer Science Department through a period of enormous growth. He was a tireless advocate for faculty and students, and a wonderful friend. We offer condolences to their families and colleagues. Lori and William will be deeply missed.

This is the season of renewal and hope. This evening, we will learn more about scholarships and fellowships. Freshman Jady Chen became a Jeannette K. Watson Fellow, and Rania Darwish won a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship. Every single one of our medical school applicants was admitted to at least one medical school; some to several. What a huge accomplishment! At the other end of the college cycle, our Admitted Students Day on March 23rd was also a resounding success. We had great attendance despite the heavy rain. The student ambassadors were fabulous. The a cappella was a great hit. Thanks to Eija Ayravainen, the admissions and recruitment teams, and to Provost Pardasani. I particularly want to thank the large number of faculty who came out to support admitted students. It showed the intellectual heft of this place and our commitment to teaching.

I have been meeting with Hunter alums. We had a terrific reception for Harold Holzer to celebrate the publication of his most recent book about Immigration and Lincoln. Harold Holzer has written more than 50 books. He either authored, co-authored, edited, or co-edited 50 books about Lincoln.

We are at the eleventh hour with the New York State budget. To make the presence of Hunter and CUNY felt, some of us have been spending some time in Albany. In March, I joined several college presidents and deans from Manhattan campuses for a conversation with members of our State Legislature about the University's pressing needs focusing primarily on covering labor costs. It was my impression that our lawmakers, specifically legislators from this area, are really very well acquainted with the importance of higher education and the role of the City University of New York in supporting the dreams of the 225,000 students we educate. I really liked what Assembly Member, Alex Bores said. He is a 2009 Hunter College High School graduate, and his inauguration took place right here in Assembly Hall. He said "Nobody does what CUNY does." I think it is a good slogan. I had my two minutes. I focused on education, healthcare, the quality of our faculty and students. Then, I met with the chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, State Senator Liz Krueger, and Assembly Member Clyde Vanel who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Internet and New Technology. We talked about the importance of AI going forward. I also talked to Assembly Member Harvey Epstein whose district includes the Brookdale campus. He is very interested in how CUNY is working to expand Hunter and other CUNY schools once the construction of the SPARC project begins. I recently went to tour our two dorm spaces on 79th Street and 51st Street to get a sense of what spaces are available to students. We are going to have more on options for students well in advance of the June 2025 deadline which is when we are going to move out of Brookdale. Albany was full of Hunter and CUNY personnel that week. I would like to thank Jen Gaboury and the PSC team. Hunter senior Carla Sanchez portrayed the role of an upstate legislator in a Model New York State Senate. You will be happy to know that the bill that she put forward passed.

Let me touch on SPARC now. It was pointed out to me this morning that there are a lot of moving parts. If you feel like you have already mastered SPARC 101, you may want to tune out for a couple of seconds. I am going to do both SPARC 101 and then take us forward a little bit. So, just as a reminder, the players are New York City, New York State and the New York State Economic Development Council, and CUNY. In CUNY, the players are Hunter, BMCC, the School of Public Health, and increasingly, now Baruch. Baruch is not moving to Brookdale, but we are going to be sharing some space with them, so they are a part of this gigantic puzzle, as well. As you may recall, the overall plan is that we will renovate the North building and create additional space to house Brookdale programs. Then, when that is complete, the programs from Brookdale will move to their temporary quarters, but not so temporary. It is important to keep that in mind because it may be something like five years before they actually move into the constructed space. So, the current state of play is, we are developing the plan for the swing space. We are doing space analysis and working with architects to figure out how to get it all in. The School of Nursing will be moving to 63 Madison, a space that will be shared with Baruch College until SPARC is complete. I would like to say that no one knows this process better than Dean Ann Marie Mauro. She knows very well how much of a tight fit this is. I thank her for her patience and fortitude while this is being worked out.

**Meeting of the Hunter College Senate
3 April 2024**

A little bit on the presidential transition. We are working closely with incoming President Cantor and her team to provide her with background information about everything that happens at Hunter. By the time she arrives on August 12th, she is going to be fully immersed in Hunter's current and future priorities.

So, what is that line from Wizard of Oz? "People come and go so quickly here." In the category of "not so fast," after 11 years serving as the Ruth and Harold Newman Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dean Andy Polsky has announced that he will step down at the end of the semester. We are extremely grateful for his leadership and dedication and sad to see him go. We will have much more about Andy as we get closer to his departure. Associate Dean, Erica Chito Childs, has agreed to step in as an Interim Dean for the next academic year. So, thank you very much Erica. Before he goes, Andy has agreed to chair the Presidential Task Force on Civility and Controversy. When I am done, he is going to give you a brief update on that.

I am sorry that I missed the last Senate meeting because I had laryngitis. Thank you, Sarah, for letting everyone know. While I did not attend I did listen to the recording and to the statement by Bashir, the President of the USG. He and I have had an email exchange. I want to tell you what I told him in my most recent email response, which I told him in advance he was welcome to share. I made similar comments in other emails to Sarah several months back. I am deeply troubled by the fear, displacement, loss of civilian life, and suffering experienced by Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank. This is a profound humanitarian crisis on an unfathomable scale. Now, six months into this conflict, I mourn the reality that Palestinians and Israelis have been taken farther away from the dream of peace as a result of October 7th and its aftermath. In that email, I also reiterated that my focus has to be here, on campus, protecting the welfare and goals of all Hunter College students, faculty, and staff. So, I take this opportunity to thank Bashir and Sarah for their emails. I am looking forward to hearing more about the activities that you are going to be proposing.

Andrew Polsky, Ruth and Harold Newman Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

"Good afternoon. I am standing here before you as the Chair of the Presidential Task Force on Civility and Controversy. I wanted to take a couple of minutes to explain how we are proceeding. It is a small group with a very limited time span. We met to discuss what we can accomplish. As we see it, the function of the Task Force begins with gathering perspectives from people across campus about things that have happened this year, and what Hunter has done correctly and what Hunter has done poorly during this time period. We will be spending the month of April in meetings with various stakeholders on campus. I have asked Sarah to give us some time at Senate meetings going forward, which she has said she would do. We will also be updating the Arts and Sciences Executive Committee. I arranged to meet with the Undergraduate Student Government. We are happy to meet with other student organizations, too. Anyone who gets in touch with us, we will set up a meeting. Our basic approach is that at least two members of the Task Force will attend every meeting, more if possible, so that when we take feedback, we can get it as accurately as we can.

"We are thinking now at this point, given the limited time, what we will try to point out for our incoming President certain things that the campus should focus on next year. We are not going to be making any proposals of a specific nature. We are not going to suggest "do this or do that." We are going to focus on process and how we can go forward in three different areas that we have identified. One is to generally promote the concept of civil discussion on campus, especially in times of controversy, and what we can do to prepare for that, and how we can be better able to deal with creating a climate, where it is possible, to continue even in controversy to have these kinds of useful and productive conversations. We also want to point to the direction of what we do when controversy arises and how the campus should address that. Finally, and this is something that I did not expect at the start, but which I think members of the Task Force have correctly identified, we also need to talk about what we do to heal the damage that is done when controversy has occurred on campus. There are deep wounds that can be inflicted when people turn against each other and are angry with each other. Part of what we need to talk about is what kind of strategy the campus should have when that kind of damage is done.

"We expect in mid-May to produce some very broad process recommendations for the next President to think about. We will give her a little bit of background on things that happened this year. But I want to be as clear as I can: our Task Force is not focused on the specific controversy that have divided us during the current academic year but rather we want to focus on the future; how to be prepared for and how to address controversies when they arise."