

MINUTES

Meeting of the Hunter College Senate

20 September 2023

The 679th meeting of the Hunter College Senate convened at 3:57 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 3 May 2023 and 10 May 2023 were approved as distributed.

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

Report by the Administrative Committee:

a) Approved Curriculum Changes

The following curriculum changes as listed in the attached reports Part I and II dated 20 September 2023 have been approved as per Senate resolution and are submitted for the Senate's information. Items: GR-1564 Physical Therapy (Routine change in courses) and US-2519 Nutrition (Substantive change in courses).

b) Election of Committee Chairs

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Budget Committee.

Professor Gina Riley (Special Education) was nominated.

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

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of Master Plan Committee.

Professor Nancy Eng (Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology) was nominated.

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent and Professor Eng was re-elected.

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of General Education Requirements Committee.

Professor Lawrence Kowerski (Classical & Oriental Studies) was nominated.

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent and Professor Kowerski was re-elected.

The floor was open for nominations for Chair of the Charter Review Committee.

Professor Julie Van Peteghem (Romance Languages) was nominated.

It was moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast a single ballot in favor of the nominee. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent and Professor Van Peteghem was re-elected.

Election for Chair of Nominating Committee will take place at the 4 October Senate meeting.

c) Announcement: Election of Ombudsman

Chair Chinn announced that the process of electing the College Ombuds Officer has begun. Nominations must be received in the Senate Office by 12 October. The process and announcement will be available in the News Bulletin distributed by email later this week.

Ombuds

Report:

Report by the Ombuds Office

Chair Chinn called on Professor Roseanne Flores, College Ombuds Officer, to present the yearly report. The report is in Appendix III.

New Business: Statement by Secretary Sarah Jeninsky about Faculty and Staff Helpdesk

Ms. Jeninsky said the following:

“I would like to formally acknowledge and personally thank the entire staff at the HELP desk in room 303HN during the migration of Office 365. Although they always had a constant stream of faculty, staff, and students walking in asking for help, in addition to the never-ending phone calls, their professionalism, determination, and might I add stubbornness to resolve everyone’s issues, was, and is, so very appreciated. I am certain that I am not alone in saying ‘Thank you’.”

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 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	E
	Milagros Denis-Rosario	(A) A			0
	Lázaro Lima	(A) X		Robert Thompson	(A) X
Anthropology	Jackie Brown	A		Barry Cherkas	(A) A
	Stephanie Levy	(A) A	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Chad Euler	A
	Milena Shattuck	(A) A		Steven Einheber	(A) X
Art & Art History	Itam Uchenna	A		Muktar Mahajan	(A) X
	Chitra Ganesh	X	Music	Michele Cabrini	A
	Emily Braun	(A) X		L. Poundie Burstein	(A) X
Biological Sciences	A. K. Burns	(A) X			(A)
	Ben Ortiz	A	School of Nursing	Carolyn Sun	X
	Jesus Angulo	X		William Samuels	A
Chemistry	Paul Feinstein	(A) X		Stephen Yermal	A
	Carmen Melendez	(A) X		Deidre O'Flaherty	(A) X
	Gabriela Smeureanu	A	Philosophy	Laura Keating	A
Classical & Oriental Studies	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
Computer Science	Yasha Klots	A		Yuhang Ren	(A) X
	Lawrence Kowerski	(A) A		Ying-Chih Chen	(A) X
	Doron Friedman	(A) A	Political Science	Lina Newton	X
Curriculum & Teaching	Sarah Ita Levitan	X		Charles Tien	(A) X
	Saptarshi Debroy	(A) X		Michael Lee	(A) X
		(A)	Psychology	Roseanne Flores	A
Dance	Edgar Troudt	A		Darlene DeFour	A
	Stephen Demeo	A		Glenn E Schafe	(A) X
		0 (A)		Peter Serrano	(A) X
Economics	Tim Farnsworth	X	Physical Therapy	Jaya Rachwani	A
	Maura Donohue	X		Milo Lipovac	(A) X
	Ana Nery Fragoso	(A) X		Chad Woodard	(A) X
Educational Foundations & Couns	David Capps	(A) X	Romance Languages	Magdalena Perkowska	A
	Tim Goodspeed	A		Monica Calabritto	(A) X
	Michelle Liu	A		Julie Van Peteghem	(A) X
English	Kenneth McLaughlin	(A) A	School of Social Work	Jonathan Prince	A
	Avi Liveson	(A) X		George Patterson	X
	Sarah Bonner	X		Marina Lalayants	(A) X
Film & Media Studies	Jeanne Weiler	(A) A		Keith Chan	(A) X
	John Keegan	(A) X	Sociology	Mark Halling	E
	Sarah Chinn	A		Mike Benediktsson	(A) X
Geography & Environmental Sci	Angie Reyes	X		Michaela Soyer	(A) X
	Mark Miller	A	Special Education	Salvador Ruiz	A
	Janet Neary	(A) A		Melissa Jackson	(A) A
German	Larry Shore	A		Kathryn Furlong	(A) A
			SLPA	Donald Vogel	A
	Tami Gold	(A) X		Nancy Eng	(A) X
History	Gustavo Mercado	(A) X		JungMoon Hyun	(A) A
	Allen Frei	X	Theatre	Louisa Thompson	X
	William Solecki	(A) X			0
Library		(A)		Claudia Orenstein	(A) A
	Christina Mekonen	A	Urban Policy and Planning	Lily Baum Pollans	A
	Elke Nicolai	(A) A		Victoria Johnson	(A) X
Nutrition and Public Health*	Aine Zimmerman	(A) A		vacant	(A)
	D'Weston Haywood	A		Susan Cardenas	A
	Manu Bhagavan	(A) X		Khursheed Navder	(A) A
Women & Gender Studies	Aaron Welt	A		Steven Trasino	(A) X
	Iris Finkel	A		Jennifer Gaboury	A
	Ajatshatru Pathak	A		Catherine Raissiguier	(A) X
	Mee' Len Hom	(A) A		Rupal Oza	(A) X
		(A)			

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Students

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

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	X
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
	0 vacant	

Ex-Officio

President, USG	Bushir Juwara	X
Vice President, GSA		0
President Alumni Association	Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey	X
President, HEO Forum	Abdul Hashim	X
President, CLT Council	Amy Jeu	X

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	X
Alternate Senators (3):		
Dean of Social Work	Mary Cavanaugh	X
General Counsel & Dean of Faculty	Suzanne Piper	X
Dean of Nursing	Ann Marie Mauro	A

APPENDIX II

“I am familiar with Faculty Senates. I am familiar with student organizations. I am familiar with staff groups. I am not familiar with this particular and incredibly unique Senate structure as Sarah was describing it. It is truly an inclusive and democratic organization, and I think it is a tribute to what really makes a college a college, and that is the students, the faculty and the staff. So, I think it is actually an astonishing and particularly inclusive organization.

“You are going to hear me say that a lot today. I am looking forward to working with you. I do mean that. We are partners in this enterprise called Hunter College, and during this important year of transition, my intention is not only to make sure that we do not miss a beat, not only to have this year of continued success, but really to move us forward in ways that will advance Hunter College in more lasting ways, and a little more on that later.

“I would like to start with congratulations to your newly elected Chair, Dr. Sarah Chinn. It is particularly exciting to me that her field is 19th century literature because back in the days that I was in academia, 19th century was my field, as well. So, I look forward to working with you, Sarah, and the entire Senate leadership. I would also like to express our gratitude to Dr. Laura Keating who served as Senate Chair for the past four years. The procedures were reorganized and enhanced along with greater accessibility, greater transparency, greater work on the Senate website and the overseeing of the commemoration of the Senate's 50th year anniversary and a new logo. I would be remiss if I did not say that under your time as Chair, you also lived through the pandemic and all the extraordinary changes that that required. So, Laura, I thank you very much.

“To our student leaders. I very much look forward to working with you and with the Undergraduate Student Government. Again, it is a unique structure here, and we so much appreciate your hard work while you are juggling classes, work and family. I know we all share the same goals of making the student experience as rewarding as possible. This is the biggest undergraduate class Hunter College has ever had including almost 3,200 freshmen, 17,400 undergraduates, almost 5,500 graduate students, so about 26,000 individuals who are embarking on their educational journey here at Hunter College. Sometimes, I feel like you are all on the bridge on Monday at the same time. I had a lot of fun during the welcome week. Although I did not get any popcorn at the fair, the fair was absolutely wonderful. I have been hearing more about what you do for Thanksgiving. I look forward to joining you for that. It is a terrific tradition. So, thank you to the student leaders and to our faculty.

“What I have learned is the special focus that Hunter faculty have on undergraduate education and your dedication to our students’ learning and their life after Hunter College as well is really fantastic. We have more than 60 new faculty members who are joining us. I do not know if any of them are in the room today. We had a reception a couple of weeks ago for the new faculty. We look forward to working with you and making you feel welcome as part of the Hunter community. Every day, I get an email with some wonderful faculty accomplishment: a new grant, a book that you have published, a media appearance that you have made. I read every one of those emails, and I am awed by the way you combine your scholarship and your commitment to teaching.

“Staff, there are a couple of you here today. Yesterday, I met with the HR team led by Galia Galansky. We were on the 15th floor of the East Building, and the collective years of service in that group: 37 years for you, 15 years for you, 20 years for you, unbelievable levels of institutional knowledge. But what struck me even more was their dedication to Hunter. One member of the team stated “What I am going to say when I welcome new employees to Hunter, I start with ‘Welcome to our beloved Hunter.’” So to faculty, to staff, to students, to all of you, you are an incredible group.

“I recently read through, I think for the third time, your Strategic Plan. Congratulations on that. I think it is a really important piece of work, a great scaffolding for us to move forward. I am sure that many of you in this room spent a lot of time developing it and getting it approved by the Senate. I mention that in particular because I am involved in that annual CUNY rite known as the Performance Management Process, which I was part of during the 10 years that I was Dean of Macaulay Honors College. But it has changed a little bit. One of the ways it changed this year is that it is happening at the same time that CUNY has released its own long-term strategic plan. I am glad to say that Hunter's Strategic Plan is well aligned with CUNY's priorities. There are four of them for CUNY. It is a shorter list than Hunter's. The first is to be a national leader in providing education and access to education for diverse populations of students. The second is to improve our ability to exceed predicted student outcomes and eliminate academic equity gaps with innovative curriculum and support for our world-class faculty and staff. The third is to advance our community through comprehensive research, engagement and services. The fourth is to modernize the CUNY system.

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“Now, I have one goal as President that is not in your Strategic Plan. It is not in the P&B, and it is not in CUNY’s strategic plan, and that is to get us ready for the arrival of Hunter’s permanent President. I hope that when we look back on this transition year, we think of it as an exciting time for Hunter College, a pivotal opportunity to shape the trajectory of this institution. I have been here for three months. In future Senate meetings, I am going to share with you what I am hearing, what I am learning, what I am thinking about. The long-term vision, our North Star if you will, none of that is going to be a surprise. My thinking is going to be around enhancing student success, fortifying the college community, fostering collaboration and upholding the principles of shared governance. But beyond those relatively predictable and somewhat anodyne predictable levels: What can we learn this year? How can we co-design for the college’s long-term success? So, I think about you and all our constituents: faculty, students, staff. Then, I think about others: future students, alumni, donors, elected officials, our neighborhood here on the Upper East Side. And then, I think about the unknown next president of Hunter: What will their background be? What do they need to know? So, what I am striving for is to make this the big year of transition for us to develop together as deep an understanding as possible of Hunter’s needs, its priorities, its dreams, so that the next President’s onboarding will be relatively seamless.

“Before I finish, I want to introduce us to some new members of our leadership team. Cynthia King Vance is back at Hunter. She was here seven years ago. Her focus is going to be around issues of student success. She has assumed the position of Vice President for Strategic Initiatives. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise, having most recently been interim president and CEO for New York Public Radio. We also welcome Ann Marie Mauro, the Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of the School of Nursing. Her leadership has been marked by a focus on expanding innovation, diversity and collaborative partnerships across academic and professional nursing organizations nationwide. We know she is going to do remarkable work here at Hunter. Please also welcome our new Chief of Staff, Maria Camaj. Maria joins us from Lehman College where she successfully led special projects. Her expertise and contributions are already incredible. So, the Hunter College leadership team is actively engaged in lots of initiatives. I look forward to coming back to this group with regular updates, assuming that I am allowed back.

“So, let me extend again my gratitude to Sarah for accepting this vital role as Senate Chair. I also want to thank all of you, the senators, for your valuable contributions. Lara Miranda, I know that we are all deeply grateful for how you keep the work of the Senate on track. I met some of you at the reception a couple of weeks ago. Thank you very, very much for your warm welcome, your wise counsel, and looking ahead, I thank you in advance for your partnership.”

APPENDIX III

**Hunter College of the City University
Office of the Ombuds
Roseanne L. Flores - Ombuds Officer
September 20, 2023**

The Ombuds Office is an independent, informal resource designed to be neutral, holding all communications with those seeking assistance in strict confidence and not disclosing confidential information unless the visitor permits. The Ombuds office is often an excellent place to begin the conversation when you have experienced something and need an informal place to explore options before involving others. Visiting the Ombuds Office is always voluntary.

Reporting Cycle

Academic Year (2022/2023) - August 2022 - May 2023

This report is based on the activities of the Hunter College Ombuds Office, which includes data from August 2022 through May 2023. The office will continue to update the format of the report to identify opportunities for constructive changes and ongoing conversations across the Hunter College community. Previous reports are posted on the Ombuds webpage.

Contact the Office

For information on how to schedule an appointment, please use the following link Ombuds@hunter.cuny.edu. All meetings will be in person or via zoom as needed during the 2023/2024 academic year at a time that works best for the visitor.

Information and Highlights

Total Number of Visits from August 2022 - May 2023 Visitors	2019/2020	2021/2022	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	2022/2023	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Students	33	25	13	13	12	19	10	9
Faculty	2	6	0	3	3	6	4	2
Parent/Relative	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Administrator	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Staff	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	35	31	16	16	15	27	15	12