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**COLLEGE-WIDE SENATE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

[Savoy Multipurpose Room](https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/About-Hostos/Our-Campus/Campus-Map)

120 East 149th Street (at Walton Ave)

Thursday, November 16, 2023

3:30 – 4:52 PM

**SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:**

* **Allied Health**: Professors Rodney Blair and Annie Chitlall
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professors Ernest Ialongo (Chair) and Nancy Genova
* **Business**: Professor Eddy Garcia
* **CLT**: Mr. Marino Corniel
* **English**: Professors Christine Choi, Alexandra Milsom, and Krystyna Michael
* **Education**: Professors Denise Cummings-Clay, Jacqueline DiSanto, and Elys Vasquez-Iscan
* **Gittleson**: Ms. Melanie Garcia
* **Humanities**: Professors Catherine Lewis, Ana Ozuna, Nicole Wallenbrock, and Natasha Yannacañedo
* **Language and Cognition**: Professors Carl Grindley and Isabel Feliz
* **Library**: Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics**: Professors Junghang Lee, Edme Soho, and Lauren Wolf
* **Natural Sciences**: Professors John Gillen and Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Cruz Esquilin, Ms. Karina Guardiola-Lopez, Ms. Jewel Jones, Mr. Piotr Kocik, Mr. Michael Martinez, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethal, Ms. Daliz Perez-Cabezas, Mr. Iber Poma, Dr. Silvia Reyes, Ms. Ursula Sanders, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, and Ms. Sheryce Woolery-Balgobin
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professors Gail August and Julie Trachman
* **Professional Staff Congress**: Professor Craig Bernardini
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Andrew Connolly, Stacey Cooper, Teresa Gray, Christine Hutchins, Diana Macri, Tram Nguyen, Clara Nieto-Wire, Hector Soto, Marcelo Viana Neto, and Simona Prives
* **Adjunct Faculty Representatives**: Professors. Ruben Worrell and Juan Soto Franco
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA):** Dainma Martínez (President), Brian Carter, Jahneilia Curtin, Kyle Lewis, Kobe Jacobs, Dorian Johnson, Jasmin Sanchez, John Santana, and Orlando Soto

**Absent:**

* **BSS:** Professor Felipe Pimentel
  + **Public Safety / Maintenance**: Officer Clara Albino
  + **Student Government Association:** Laura Cuevas,Kathy Disla, Yassir Djossou, andYaxeny Hernandez-Ravelo

**Excused Absence:**

* **Allied Health:** Professor Jarek Stelmark
  + **Business:** Professor Anders Stachelek
  + **Education:** Professor Michael Gosset
  + **Humanities:** Professor Victor Torres Velez
  + **Student Government Association:** Ansumana Jammeh
  + **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professor Eugena Griffin

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Members:**

* President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, SVP Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne, Provost VP La Toro Yates, Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang, VP Colette Atkins, Mr. Carlos Rivera (HEO Organization Chair), and Parliamentarian Mr. Shmuel Gerber

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Absent**

* Dean Babette Audant and Mr. Eugene Sohn

**Vacant:**

* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA**): 1 vacancy

**Guests**:

* Dean Andrea Fabrizio, Dean Ana I. Garcia Reyes, Dean Althea Sterling, Mr. Eric Radezky, Ms. Diana Kreymer, Dr. Sofia Oviedo, Mr. Darian Rivera, Mr. Rafael A. Torres, Professor Zaira Ramos, Mr. Philip Oliveri, Professor Gregory Marks, Ms. Jasmin Jackson

**1.Call to Order**

Quorum established at 3:39 p.m.   
Senate called to order at 3:39 p.m.

**2.Approval of the Agenda**

The Agenda was approved with minor corrections; the SPA courses were presented as a package.

**3.Approval of October 19, 2023, Senate Meeting Minutes**

Chair: Are there any additions or corrections to the October 19 Minutes as pre-circulated?   
   
None.

The October 19, 2023 Minutes were accepted as pre-circulated.

**4**.**Chair’s Report**   
   
Prof. Ernest Ialongo

The Chair welcomed the Senators to the second half of the semester, and welcomed new Senators:

Melanie Garcia, Gittelson

Marino Corniel, CLT

Kyle Lewis, SGA

John Santana, SGA

He thanked the SGA for continuing to fill their ranks. The Chair also announced he had named Prof. Victor Torres-Velez as the Senate rep to the Committee on Sponsored Programs and Grants, after consulting with the SEC, as per the Charter. Finally, he noted that access had been granted to CMS editors, and so updates will now continue to the Senate website with minutes and agendas of the Senate, SEC, and the Senate committees.

**5.President’s Comments**   
  
  President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

President Cocco De Filippis wished everyone a joyful, peaceful, restful a Thanksgiving and Native American Day. Business Summit was an astounding success and the College President thanked the superb work by Prof. Baker, Chair of the Business Department. There was strong representation from the Hostos Foundation as well as the Community Advisory Council, students, faculty, and staff. President Cocco De Filippis praised the Student Government Association for revitalizing the C-Building with two flag replacements. She commented that the Hostos Repertory Theater’s debriefing of their trip to Scotland was wonderful and encouraged everyone to attend the Peace + Poetry Celebration on Dec. 7 as well as the Interfaith Luncheon to come. The President ended her remarks by declaring that Hostos stands for hope, heart, inclusion, and diversity.

**6.SGA President’s Comments**

SGA Dainma Martínez

Hello everyone, I am Dainma Martínez. I stand before you today gratefully accepting the position of student government president. It is a pleasure to have your faith and confidence in my abilities to lead and represent our student body bestowed upon me. First and foremost, I want to convey my deepest gratitude to everyone who has been so supportive of me along this trip. Your unfailing faith in my talents has strengthened my determination to serve Hostos to the best of my ability. As the president of the student government, I want to tell you that my primary purpose is to be the student body's voice, to listen to the problems, and to advocate for our needs and wishes.

We shall work together to build a campus community that promotes academic success, personal growth, and a dynamic social environment. Enhancing communication and transparency is one of the main goals I aim to work on throughout my time in Hostos. I am a firm believer that excellent communication is the bedrock of progress. In addition, I am deeply committed to encouraging diversity and inclusiveness on our campus. Our student body is a combination of different cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives, and it is only by embracing and celebrating this diversity that we will truly thrive. I will work to create an environment in which everyone feels valued and respected, regardless of gender, race, religion, or any other characteristic.

Mental health and well-being will be at the heart of what I seek to accomplish. We will collaborate with our Counseling Center and support services to design programs that will allow students to manage stress, seek help when required, and maintain a good work-life balance. Finally, I'd like to underline the significance of student and faculty participation in involvement. What genuinely enhances Hostos is your active engagement in extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations.

The Student Government Association will work with student leaders and groups to provide adequate opportunities for personal and leadership development, building a dynamic and healthy campus community. Finally, I am deeply thrilled to be elected as your student government president. I am devoted to helping you with dedication, honesty, and a relentless desire to effect good change. Thank you.

**7.Curriculum Items**

* 1. Math Department – Prof. Lee

Course Change - CSC 300

No questions.

Y = 57

N = 0

A = 2

Item passed.

* 1. Humanities Department

Course Changes - Prof. Ballesteros

HUM 100

No questions.

Y = 58

N = 0

A = 0

Item passed.

SPA 101 + SPA 111

Senate Chair proposed that SPA 101 and SPA 111 be voted on as a package because the latter depends on the passage of the former.

No objections.

Q: Are there plans to have in-person lab?

A: Software has been found to duplicate in-person language lab, giving students more flexibility.

Q: Are we offering the software with other language classes?

A: Yes, American Sign Language is the first application.

Q: Motion to move the vote.

Seconded.

Y = 56

N = 2

A = 1

Item passed.

Pathways Submissions – Prof. Wallenbrock

FRE 117

No questions.

Y = 59

N = 0

A = 0

Item passed.

HUM 141

No questions.

Y = 58

N = 0

A = 0

Item passed

* 1. Education Department – Prof. Vasquez-Iscan

Course Change

HLT 106

No questions.

Y = 58

N = 0

A = 0

Item passed.

New Course

HLT 211

No questions.

Y = 60

N = 0

A = 0

Item passed.

Program Revision – Prof. Cummings-Clay

Aging & Health Studies AAS

Q: Course is to be commended. However, students have limited knowledge about electives that are transferable. Language and

Cognition has four linguistics courses that would be fabulous for this program. These courses should be listed as potential electives.

A: Great point. Let’s do that after the course has passed.

Y = 58

N = 0

A = 0

Invalid = 1

Item passed.

* 1. Liberal Arts AA Committee

New Course – Prof. Marks and Dean Fabrizio

FYS 100-Experimental Course **[Informational. No voting]**

Q: Is it available for HERO students.

A: Yes

Q: What makes it more accessible.

A: The course has been shrunk from five units to three, and more content on college readiness skills has been added.

Q: Who will be allowed to teach it.

A: High demand for sections, so anyone interested is welcomed.

Q: Enthusiastic support for the course.

Q: Any extra benefit over AP English?

A: It’s one-credit at the college level.

**8.Non-Curriculum Items**

None

**9.Reports of the Senate Standing Committee**

Prof. Trachman stated that Committee on Committee is still looking for faculty for Senate

Standing Committees.

**10.UFS Update**

Report submitted by Prof. Trachman

I. Remarks by Chancellor Matos-Rodriguez:

A) With respect to new CUNY hires: over 500 faculty lines were recently created and all of those lines have been filled.  He mentioned CUNY is in talks with a major foundation to support the creation of more lines in the STEM areas but the details have not been finalized yet. B) Regarding the university-wide Strategic Roadmap which is now being implemented: He acknowledged that each campus has its own Strategic Plan (SP). To create the roadmap, they looked at all of the campus SPs and looked for common themes and used those common themes to build up.

C) Regarding enrollment: This fall, CUNY saw a 2% increase at the community colleges (4% increase new freshman, 7% transfer students) and hope we will retain these students. He noted that usually in the spring semester of the academic year, enrollment is flat; however, this spring so far we are seeing an increase of 20%. He shared with us some ways this is being accomplished: i.) a letter has been sent to all graduating seniors in New York City (NYC) high schools; ii.) increase in social media presence/ ads in subways, etc.; iii) for NYC and New York State (NYS) students, in Oct., the application fees were waived.  CUNY is also trying to make the application process easier in general; iv) holding campus open houses. He also mentioned the CUNY Reconnect initiative which already resulted in bring us 22,000 students last year.

D) Career exploration: CUNY is working to “map out” careers and link students to appropriate internship opportunities.

E) Heavy investment in facilities: The current focus is to take care of existing infrastructure issues at our campuses including installation of HVAC systems (there is a big backlog). Once this is done, CUNY can get back to new capital projects.

F) Q and A: The topics ranged from: i) free speech and academic freedom concerns (a portion of the CUNY code was read to us and we were told this was going to be revisited; ii) expressed concerns about consolidation of programs and elimination of programs (pandemic funding is coming to an end – felt we used prudently to take care of “structural deficits.” Hopeful that the increases in enrollment we are experiencing will be long-lived and may help to counterbalance that; however, we also have to see what will happen with NYS and NYC funding. He does expect there to be a need to make some system-wide budget adjustments but acknowledged there are also differences at the various campuses; iii) with the increase in number of faculty, there was a concern that new faculty may not have space to meet with students, etc. Also, there was a concern that there was a disproportionate amount of lecture hires being people of color and women and with lecture lines, there is less potential for growth opportunities. He acknowledged there is room for improvement there regarding increasing diversity at many campuses and improving upon inclusivity.

II. Resolution for Expanded Protections of Personally Identifying Information in CUNY Research Foundation (RF) Processes and Forms; endorse Research Foundation Faculty Advisory Council’s efforts to “harden” the RF system against cyber intrusion and theft and urge CUNY to apply same recommendations to update its data security and privacy policies across the university.

III. Brief remarks from UFS Committee chairs:  
A) Library and Information Technology: concerns focused on Learning Management System (LMS) transition, procurement – IT, library, cyber security  
B) Status of Faculty: working on resolution on workforce/workload and will collaborate with IDEA Committee to include concerns regarding ADA, diversity of faculty and staff  
C) Student Affairs: keeping an eye on a number of issues impacting our students including food insecurity, homelessness, mental health, veterans  
D) Academic Freedom: Committee is continuing its “education” campaign. They are willing to come to individual campuses if interested. They would like to see Academic Freedom (AF) Committees to be set up at the various CUNY campuses. They are working on an AF handbook.  
E) Academic Affairs: Among the issues being looked at is: i) uniformity of grades such as Fs vs. WUs ii) elimination of small programs iii)transfer initiative / data with respect to placement in courses, etc.  
F) IDEA: Regarding its resolution that was passed about a year ago, where are we in implementation?  CUNY needs to have a VP of Diversity. There needs to be an update to operational plans and reach out to the various campuses for their status.  
G) Community College: There are 3 important items being considered: i) impact of eliminating remediation on enrollment, etc.; ii) with the transfer initiative, the impact it might have on community college curricula to fit with senior college curricula; iii) reach out to university-wide OAA to discuss action plan to address inequities between senior and community colleges such as support community college faculty get to support scholarly work  (for example, research facilities, workload).  
IV) UFs Chair’s Remarks (Prof. John Verzani): Some of what he had prepared to say overlapped with the Chancellor’s remarks so he kept his remarks brief. He sent an email with his report a day later.  See point VI below for some details from that email.  
V) New Business: Upcoming UFS conference (online) on Artificial Intelligence and Shared Governance on Thurs. Nov. 9, 12 pm – 3 pm.  There was also a “plug” for blog submissions from Ms. S. Pasela (UFS Administrative Assistant).  
VI) Some information/points from the email from the UFS Chair (sent Oct. 25, 2023):   
a.) Report on recent SUNY UFS conference i)SUNY Chancellor talked about need for program review. The SUNY UUP chair then this put in context of “structural deficits” (fiscal issues) as a result of disinvestment in higher education. ii)after listening to the SUNY Provost take questions, Prof. Verzani noted some of the places where he feels that SUNY and CUNY are in moving somewhat in parallel such as: credit for prior learning, Brightspace transition, test optional entry, learning loss task force, global ID for students.   
b.) Blog piece on freedom of expression: (excerpt taken from email) “The UFS has, since 2016 if not earlier, urged the Board to adopt a freedom of expression policy that supplements first amendment rights. The Board considered policy in 2016, but did not adopt it. Given recent events, it seems to me that the board should push on this again.”  
c.) Besides the UFS conference on AI, he mentioned several members of the Executive Committee will be presenting on AI at the upcoming CUNY IT Conference.  
d.) LMS transition: Prof. Lisa Rose will be joining the CORE Strategy Team.  
e.) Computer usage at CUNY: i)CUNY is reviewing its computer use policy and some members of UFS were asked to share their thoughts on this. ii)Cybersecurity concerns: Recent updates help to prevent a future attack such as the one experienced recently at Baruch College; however, the feeling is that more needs to be done and anticipates use of multi-factorial authentication in the future.  
f.) Some recent university-wide appointments: i) a new Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer; ii) a new Vice Chancellor in the Office for Research; iii) a new interim Senior University Dean of Graduate & Undergraduate Programming.

**11. New Business** 

*Associate Dean Fabrizio, OAA*

Online Certification Process for developing online classes was established during COVID-19 transition to remote learning. That process has one piece added and has been shared at Academic Council who will share with departments. If it has been four years since training, can be done at the discretion of the Chair, and faculty can also elect to get re-certified.

*Professor Bernardini, PSC Co-Chair*

Columbia and Harvard has had issues of people being doxed for taking part in Pro-Palestine activism. Yesterday a truck parked in front of Hunter College and names and websites about faculty and students were publicized as anti-Semites.

Prof. Bernardini stressed that freedom of assembly and speech without fear of intimidation and fear for their lives is an integral part of the PSC union. Parent to PSC is the AFT, which is condemning these actions.

Film Screening: Nov. 27 @ 2 pm: “Five Demands” Documentary on Take-over of City College, with filmmaker present to answer questions.

Sing Out, Shout Out Demonstration: Dec. 2 @ 1-3 pm, 633 3rd Ave, New York.

Chapter Meeting/Celebration: Dec. 11 @ 12:30-2:30, B-503

*Professor Wolf, Mathematics*

Contract Rally: queried the legitimacy of being barred from entering the buildings by Public Safety.

*VP Atkins, Institutional Development*

“Born in the Bronx” opened the previous night in Longwood Gallery, a powerful expression of life and struggle for expression. The Vice President encouraged everyone to visit and to bring classes to appreciate the photography, memorability, and stories of how hip hop transformed music, poetry, and fashion.

Saturday Nov. 18: Danza Fiesta – Celebration of Puerto Rican culture

Sunday, Nov. 19: “The Other Side Story” – 1-person comedy show

Monday, Nov. 20 & Monday, Dec. 11: Eric Aviles, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, Artist in Residence

Tuesday, Nov. 28: Chef Grace Ramizez, Dedicated Humanitarian and Empowering Educator, speaking about the World Central Kitchen and delivering more than 100,000 meals to frontline workers during the pandemic.

*SGA Senator Kobe Jacobs*

Beautification of the Concourse: faculty and staff are invited to join the committee. Sends deep thanks to Diana Kreymer for her readiness to lend support in all matters.

**12. Adjournment**

Prof. Ialongo motioned to adjourn.

Seconded.

No objections   
   
 The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

**Submitted by:**   
   
*Tram Nguyen, Recording Secretary, and Chair Ialongo*