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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, December 21, 2023

3:30 – 5:00 PM

**SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:**

* + **Allied Health**: **Allied Health:** ProfessorsAnnie Chitlall**,** Rodney Blair, and Jarek Stelmark
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professors Ernest Ialongo (Chair) and Nancy Genova
* **Business**: Professors Eddy Garcia and Anders Stachelek
* **CLT**: Mr. Marino Corniel
* **English**: Professors Christine Choi and Alexandra Milsom
* **Education**: Professors Denise Cummings-Clay, Jacqueline DiSanto, and Michael Gosset
* **Gittleson**: Ms. Melanie Garcia
* **Humanities**: Professors Thelma Ithier-Sterling, Ana Ozuna, and Victor Torres Velez
* **Language and Cognition**: Professor Isabel Feliz
* **Library**: Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics**: Professor Junghang Lee
* **Natural Sciences**: Professors John Gillen and Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Karina Guardiola-Lopez, Ms. Jewel Jones, Mr. Michael Martinez, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethal, Ms. Daliz Perez-Cabezas, Dr. Silvia Reyes, Ms. Ursula Sanders
* **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, 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, Laura Cuevas, Jahneilia Curtin, Kyle Lewis, Kobe Jacobs, Ansumana Jammeh, Dorian Johnson, Jasmin Sanchez, John Santana, and Orlando Soto

**Absent:**

* + **Higher Education Officers:** Ms. Cruz Esquilin, Mr. Travaras Geter, Mr. Theudys Mejia, Mr. Iber Poma, and Ms. Sheryce Woolery-Balgobin
* **Mathematics:** Professors Edme Soho
* **At Large:** Teresa Gray
  + **Public Safety / Maintenance**: Officer Clara Albino
  + **Student Government Association:** Kathy Disla, Yassir Djossou, Melanie Ortiz Garcia, andYaxeny Hernandez-Ravelo

**Excused Absence:**

* + **BSS:** Professor Felipe Pimentel
  + **Education:** Professor Elys Vasquez-Iscan
  + **English:** Professor Krystyna Michael
  + **Humanities:** Professors Catherine Lewis, Nicole Wallenbrock, and Natasha Yannacañedo
  + **Language and Cognition:** Professor Carl Grindley
  + **Mathematics:** Professor Lauren Wolf
  + **At Large:** ProfessorStacey Cooper
  + **Higher Education Officers:** Ms.Elizabeth Wilson, Mr. Piotr Kocik
  + **University Faculty Senate (UFS):** Professor Eugena Griffin

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Members:**

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

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Absent**

* SVP Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne, 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, Professor Nieves Angulo, Professor Francisco Fernandez, Professor Anna Ivanova, Professor Yoel Rodríguez, Professor Olga Steinberg, Professor Zaira Ramos, Mr. Carlos Guevara, Ms. Diana Kreymer, Dr. Sofia Oviedo, Mr. Eric Radezky, Mr. Wilfredo Rodriguez, Mr. Darian Rivera, Ms. Kelsey Schmitz, Mr. Rafael A. Torres, Mr. Gustavo Caraballo

**1.Call to Order**

Quorum established at 3:37 p.m.   
Senate called to order at 3:37 p.m.

**2.Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda was accepted as circulated.

**3.Approval of November 16, 2023, Senate Meeting Minutes**

Chair: Are there any additions or corrections to the November 16 Minutes as pre-circulated?   
   
None.

The November 16, 2023 Minutes were accepted as pre-circulated.

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

The Chair thanked the Senate for their continued efforts and wished all a happy holidays.

**5.President’s Comments**   
  
  President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D. (Submitted remarks)

Good afternoon, buenas tardes. Good to be with you at the end of what has been a very productive and engaged semester. We accomplished many good things together. Please see Semanario for last Friday, for a brief summary.

As discussed with various groups, one of the challenges is finances. Although we are maintaining a balance in the black, thanks to the good work of SVP Chardavoyne and everyone’s collaboration, uncertainty looms over potential budget cuts as we come close to the close of this academic semester. Discussions on the potential adaptation of the PEG (Program to Eliminate Gap) by Mayor’s Office continue. We have been writing and meeting with NY City Council members to explain the impact this reduction would have on Hostos and other community colleges, as we also engage in a process of recovery and growth. We anticipate news in mid-January or so, but it is uncertain yet. As always, we stay focused, we stay the course on our students’ and our own success and remain vigilant about next budgetary steps. We will inform as soon as we know.

As we gather as one Hostos family, let me affirm, once again, our commitment to respect, diversity, inclusivity and caring for one another. Those from all backgrounds, faiths, and religions are welcomed and embraces and included in loving and respectful ways—that is Hostos. We are 100% anti-bigotry. I am proud of our diverse and inclusive community, knowing that we are all enriched and strengthened by the different backgrounds represented at Hostos.

I wish us all a rewarding end of semester and a holiday season of peace, love and hope. May the new year bring joyful opportunities to support and encourage our students’ journeys and our own. Mil gracias y bendiciones.

**6.SGA President’s Comments**

SGA President Dainma Martínez

Good afternoon everyone, firstly I would like to say happy holidays to all and thank you for being here today. I know some of us are on break but being active in Hostos never takes a break.

I wanted to speak about some events that have happened and how wonderful it was to have them. The SGA Final Munchies went amazing. More than 80 students came for a cup of coffee or hot chocolate plus a snack to feel a bit more energized for the finals they had that day.

Another great event that I know many attended was the Manos a la orba - All Hands On Deck talent show, where we were graced with such a variety of talents from Faculty and Students, talents ranged from piano performance to poetry and a bit of The Weekend feeling. Overall many faculty members and students were awarded and able to know how much delight they are.

SGA for the spring semester will be holding a small gathering for the new and approved SGA banner, there was a sneak peak of how the banners look at the All Hands on Deck, and many seemed to have great reactions towards our new bright look.

I would also like to add the Student Leadership Academy may have finished the fall semester workshops, but wonderfully we will be having winter workshops, the dates for the workshops will be January 8th through the 11th there will be workshops from 10-12 and then 2-4

Thank you all, and thank you for everything you all contribute towards Hostos.

**7.Curriculum Items**

* 1. LIN 105 – Prof. August
     1. Pathways submission.

No questions.

Y = 50

N = 0

A = 0

I = 1

Item passed.

* 1. Natural Sciences Department – Prof. Anna Ivanova
     1. BIO 299 Course Revision

No questions.

Y = 52

N = 0

A = 0

I = 0

Item passed.

* + 1. CHE 299 Course Revision

No questions.

Y = 50

N = 0

A = 0

I = 2

Item passed.

* + 1. Liberal Arts A.S. Program Revision

No questions.

Y = 52

N = 0

A = 0

I = 0

Item passed.

* 1. Behavioral and Social Sciences Department [Informational] – Prof. Ernest Ialongo
     1. Psychology Liberal Arts Option Articulation with SPS
     2. Psychology-Research Liberal Arts Option Articulation with SPS

**8.Non-Curricular Voting Items**

None.

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

None.

**10.UFS Update**

Report submitted by Prof. Trachman

UFS Plenary Dec. 5, 2023  
I)Remarks by Senior Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Sherif Soliman:  With his recently joining CUNY (Oct. 2023), he gave us a brief overview of his background which included a stint with the MTA.  He described what he has done since joining. This included meeting with the UFS Budget and Advisory Committee (BAC) and he plans on having future meetings with them. He talked about the situation at CUNY with respect to structural deficits (defined as when financial obligations [expenses] exceed revenues) as a result of decreased enrollment in the last few semesters along with increases in expenses due to contractual obligations, increases in energy costs, etc.  Some progress had been made recently. There has been an increase in expressed interest in registering at CUNY, which he hopes will translate into enrollment increases.  We need to continue in that direction.  Some campuses still have stimulus money or other money in reserve to cover their structural deficits; however, there are several colleges that will be in deficit at end of FY2024. He talked about future concerns including the budget cuts recently proposed by the mayor on top of the budget cuts implemented last year. The campuses will need to develop additional PEGs (program to eliminate gaps) if these budget cuts go through. In the Q and A, he was asked if he would run budget workshops and he said he would be happy to. Other questions related to the approximately 500 faculty lines CUNY had been granted recently in consideration of faculty losses over the last few years and what happens if CUNY operates with a deficit. Some suggestions were made as to how to improve on efficiencies at the campus level and at the University level.  
II)Discussion of proposed letter to Chancellor Matos Rodriguez regarding Freedom of Expression Policy: UFS members have tried meeting with the Chancellor since 2021 and not successful yet. The UFS’ proposed draft has been on the website since 2016 but has not yet been approved by the Board of Trustees.  
III)Discussion of BAC resolution: Essentially to encourage our Chancellor “to work with Governor Hochul to work with Governor Hochul to craft an SFY25 Executive Budget that makes New York State and City national leaders in college affordability and in sustainably and equitably supporting and advancing SUNY and CUNY’s missions….” The resolution goes on to provide some considerations in regard to Direct State Aid, Indirect State Aid and Capital Funding and encourages all CUNY and SUNY governance bodies (as well as all “friends and all other good-faith partners”) to pass similar resolutions.  
IV)Update on CUNY Transfer Initiative (Prof. Alatriste): She provided us with an overview of phase 1 involving 6 disciplines.   There were 4 charges: i)development of competencies ii)identification of total number of credits that comprise the first half of a major iii)with Associates degree program, identify courses that will cover those competences iv)at senior colleges, identify those courses that cover those same 15 to 20 competencies.   This process will start again with several new disciplines.  
V)Chair’s Remarks (Prof. J. Verzani): Remarks were kept very brief. His remarks were mainly thank yous to various individuals and committees for their hard work this past semester.

**11. New Business** 

*Ms. Jessica Sutherland – CUNY Unlimited, ARC*

Non-degree university program for students giving intellectual disabilities access to higher education. Phase out Melissia Riggio by 2025. Students will audit classes and will receive a Satisfactory or Non-Satisfactory. Qualifying students can apply for financial aid and they will be officially enrolled. Professors will be invited to slightly modify or adapt assignments according to CUNY Unlimited rubric.

*Mr. Ricardo Garcia – Veteran Affairs*

Military service members desire to secure their degree after they separate from service, and some remain on the reserve list. Veteran Affairs is meant to serve as a guide and support for faculty, administrators, and the institution. The Office can help settle situations where students have to take a leave when called up from reserve. CUNY has standing policies that are in accordance with Federal policies for these situations.

*Provost Wang, Dean Fabrizio, and Director Stachelek*

OAA’s supports and aligns with the College’s Strategic Plan, guiding the next five years of teaching excellence, curriculum innovation, and student support. As a living document, the AIP will be updated and evolve to reflect the collective vision and hard work of the college community. The three working groups are: Teaching Excellence and Research, chaired by Dean Fabrizio; Curriculum Innovation, chaired by Dean Audant; and Student Support, chaired by Director Stachelek.

*Dean Fabrizio and Prof. Di Santo*

OAA has created three templates on the use of generative artificial intelligence (Chat GPG) in the classroom, with encouragement for faculty to incorporate one template in their syllabi as a guideline on AI. The three templates are: Responsible Use, Prohibited Use, and Restricted Use.

*Director Guevara – Educational Technology*

Transition to BrightSpace is going to begin in Summer 2024. Blackboard will not be an option. At the moment, the platform can be accessed using CUNY credentials to experiment with a provided shell. ED Tech has composed an archive of resources for BrightSpace that will educate and answer questions for faculty, and the team is ready to work with faculty, especially those teaching this summer.

*Submitted by VP Atkins, Institutional Development*

* Thank you to Hostos faculty and staff for helping to raise more than $64,000 in support of the Hostos Food Pantry and the Circle of 100 Scholarships for students in need of emergency assistance in the weeks and months before their graduation from Hostos.

* Please SAVE-THE-DATE: Thursday, May 9 - for Hostos' 2024 Gala

* The "Born in the Bronx" exhibit in the Art Museum in the Longwood Art Gallery closed on 12/20. The Gallery will feature an exhibit "Against the Grain" in the New Year and all are invited to the Jan. 17 opening reception.

* On Saturday, February 3 at 7:30, the Center for Arts and Culture calendar will feature an extraordinary dance performance by *A Palo Seco Flamenco Company.*

*Dr. Oviedo, Hostos Research Center*

ADELANTE grant application is open. One track is open to all disciplines and the second emphasizes research that is focused on issues in the South Bronx. There will be 15 grants available, with an emphasis on student research assistantships. The deadline is February 2, 2024.

*Prof. Bernardini – PSC CUNY Chapter Co-Chair*

Nine colleges were targeted for enhanced savings plan, potentially a 2-4% budget retraction. CUNY is practicing an absolute hiring freeze with cut in NTA hours. The union is mobilizing and union members are invited to get involved and show strong support, especially as the contract negotiations continue.

President: The mayor has been good the last two rounds. The problem is going to be with the contracts.

**12. Adjournment**

Prof. Ialongo motioned to adjourn.

Seconded.

No objections   
   
 The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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