

**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, February 16, 2023

3:30 – 5:00 PM

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

* **Allied Health**: Professors Rayola Chelladurai, Diana Macri, and Ronette Shaw
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professors Ernest Ialongo (Chair), Nancy Genova, and Felipe Pimentel
* **Business**: Professors Claude Fernandez and Carol Huie
* **Education**: Professor Michael Gosset
* **English**: Professors Sean Gerrity, Krystyna Michael,and Alexandra Milsom
* **Humanities**: Professors Thomas Beachdel, Catherine Lewis, Ana Ozuna, and Emmanuel Velayos Larrabure
* **Language and Cognition**: Professor Karin Lundberg
* **Library**: Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics**: Professors Edme Soho and Moise Koffi
* **Natural Sciences**: Professors John Gillen and Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Alba Lynch, Ms. Jewel Jones, Mr. Michael Martinez, Ms. Daliz Perez-Cabezas, Dr. Silvia Reyes, Mr. Carlos Rivera, Ms. Yvonne Rosario-Quirozand Ms. Elizabeth Wilson
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professors Gail August, Eugena Griffin, and Julie Trachman
* **Professional Staff Congress**: Professor Craig Bernardini
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Hector Soto**,** Andy Connolly, Stacey Cooper, Juno Morrow, Tram Nguyen, Clara Nieto-Wire, Elys Vasquez-Iscan, and Natasha Yannacañedo
* **Adjunct Representatives**: Professors Ruben Worrell and Juan Soto-Franco
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Leaghton Ozoria, Jose Gonzalez, Brian Carter, Abigail Boateng, Nasrin Akter, Maria Benny, and Adama Mbengue

**Absent:**

* **CLT Representative**: Mr. Marino Corniel
* **Gittleson Representative**: Mr. Clifton Pierce
* **Education**: Professor Iris Mercado
* **Humanities**: Professor Humberto Ballesteros
* **Mathematics**: Professor Alexander Vaninsky
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethal, Mr. Theudys Mejia, Mr. Iber Poma
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Teyanna Buckle, Yassir Djossou, Yassine Gaye, Elizabeth Soto, and Kacey Witter

**Excused Absence:**

* **Education**: Professor Jacqueline DiSanto
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Carl Grindley, Matt Moses,
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Mr. Piotr Kocik, Ms. Sara Rodberg
* **Public Safety / Maintenance**: Officer Clara Albino

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Members:**

* President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang, VP Evelyn Fernandez-Ketcham, Dean Babette Audant, Ms. Emily Tenzer Santoro (HEO Organization Chair), and Parliamentarian Mr. Shmuel Gerber

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Absent**

* SVP Esther Rodríguez-Chardavoyne, VP La Toro Yates, VP Colette Atkins, and Mr. Eugene Sohn

**Vacant:**

* **Education:** 1 vacancy
* **Language and Cognition:** 1 vacancy

**Guests**:

* AVP/CIO Dilawar Grewal, Prof. Christine Choi, Prof. Christine Hutchins, Prof. Teresa Gray, Prof. Inmaculada Lara Bonilla, Prof. Manuel Livingston, Diana Kreymer, Rafael Torres, Josephine Silva.

1. **Call to Order**

Quorum established at 3:36 p.m.  
Senate called to order at 3:38 p.m.  
  
51 Senators

1. **Acceptance of Agenda**

Chair: There will be three new additions to the business section of the agenda.  
  
Under reports of the Senate Standing Committee:  
Prof. Thomas Beachdel will present for the Senate Grants Committee.   
  
Under New Business:  
 1. Dilawar Grewal, Ph.D  
 AVP of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer  
 2. Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang - OAA Update  
 3. Professor Craig Bernardini – Union Update

Chair: Are there any objections to adding these items to the agenda?

None  
  
The agenda, as amended, was accepted unanimously.

1. **Approval of December 15, 2022, Senate Meeting Minutes**

Chair: Are there any additions or corrections to the December 15 Minutes as pre-circulated?  
  
 None

The December 15 Minutes were accepted unanimously as pre-circulated.

**4. Chair’s Report**

Welcome to the spring semester.  We have a few Mondays off, and then much work until the spring break, ending with commencement.  We continue to develop our agenda, meet our quorum, and move the college’s business forward. Our transition to in-person continues to be successful and a far less stressful experience than at other CUNY campuses. Thank you for your efforts.

Since our last meeting, there have been a few updates.  Strategic Planning Committee meetings continued through the fall. There are several town halls taking place in the spring that our President will discuss. OAA developed an Academic Implementation Plan (AIP) as part of the Strategic Plan. As Senate Chair, I was asked to name Senate representatives. I asked Prof. Elys Vasquez-Iscan from the Education Department, Professor Natasha Yannacañedo from the Humanities Department and member of the SEC, and Mr. Carlos Rivera, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, HEO Representative and member of the SEC to serve on the AIP committees.  
  
I’d like to recognize the people who stepped up as new Chairs for their committees:

New Chairs:   
   
Co-Chairs of Senate Library Committee: Prof. Botwick and Jennifer Chang:

Interim Chair of the Senate Instructional Evaluation Committee: Prof. Allison Franzese  
Thank you to Carlos Guevarra for his work on that committee.

Chair Senate Scholarship Awards Committee: Prof. Ronette Shaw  
Thank you to Prof. Lois Lang for her work on that committee.   
  
Chair of Senate Elections Committee: Prof. Andrew Connelly returns from a sabbatical.    
Thank you to Prof. Edme Soho for serving as interim chair and running a number of elections.   
  
Co-Chair of Senate Ad-Hoc Justice Committee: Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethal will present updates at our next senate meeting.

Thank you to Prof. Trachman and Gossett for keeping our committees going.

At the end of this semester (after the May meeting), the terms of the Senate Chair, SEC, and all Senate committees, including Chairs and all Senate members, expire.  The HEOs and the SGA will be conducting their elections to have a full slate in the fall.  The Elections Committee will run the at-large and adjunct faculty elections early in the fall. At the first fall Senate meeting, the first item on the agenda will be the election of a new Senate Chair, SEC, and Committee on Committees.  Thereafter, the Committee on Committee will repopulate the Senate Committees (those which are not determined by departmental vote), and then all committees will elect their Chairs.  Prof. Trachman and Gossett will work to ensure continuity among the various groups from this term to the next.

1. **President’s Comments**

I’ll begin by saying “thank you,” The good news is that our enrollment will be projected as up in headcount and FTEs. We had Eric Dinowitz at the college reading to the children at our Childcare Center. After we discussed equitable funding for our services as compared to other institutions. As NYC residents, we pay a higher percentage of taxes than the rest of the state, but we are not supported accordingly. Also, if anyone is interested in reading to the children, you can schedule that with the Children’s Center. They have a beautiful space that now accommodates children.  
  
Last fall, I connected with Richie Torres at the Botanical Garden in the Bronx.  City College engineering students transfer through the 2+2 program.  This is a nationally recognized program for diversifying the field of engineering.  Soon we will see our arts programs working with Queens College, where they complete their two years with us and then transition to Queens College.     
  
The Strategic Plan has been a fabulous experience with six sub-committees and the steering committee.  The last time we had a Strategic Plan, 20 people participated; now, we have over 80. The dedication of the college in this process has been outstanding.  Also, we have an in-person meeting on March 28 for the students and on March 30 at 11 a.m. for the college community (virtual).  This weekend, we will be at Albany lobbying for CUNY support.  Also, I want to thank the Senate for its work in presenting an honorary degree to Bill Aguado, a big supporter of the college.     
   
Thank you. Prof. Ialongo, thank you, everyone.

**6. SGA President’s Comments**Thank you for being present today.  President Ozoria read an excerpt from El Semanario.     
   
“Our school is proof positive. As we wait for the Aspen Institute’s decision, I believe that we all deserve a micro-award that stems from it because, along with our teachers, we have made this school proficient. Our educators teach with consciousness, with open doors. We have the responsibility to show them how much we appreciate their efforts. We, as students, can manage time, study, and write better not only to fulfill our class requirements but for self-satisfaction and to show appreciation for our teacher’s time. Keep joining us in the Student Leadership Academy, at Phi Theta Kappa, or become part of the SGA. This is where we all intersect to become the best by supporting each other.”

Thank you.

**7. Curriculum Items**

None.

**8. Resolution to Award Honorary Degree to Mr. Bill Aguado**Chair: Thank you to Diana Kreymer for providing the resolution for review by the SEC. Before I read the resolution, Madam President, would you like to speak?  
  
President: “I’ll read a letter I sent to the Chancellor.” First, Eugene Sohn worked with Diana Kreymer on this process. The President read her letter in support of Bill Aguado.  
  
Chair: I’ll read the “Resolution To Award An Honorary Degree at Commencement” (*See Appendix*)  
  
Chair: Are there any questions or comments on this Resolution To Award An Honorary Degree to Bill Aguado?  
  
 None  
  
Vote  
  
Yes: 52  
No: 0  
Abstain: 0

Item Passed

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

Prof. Thomas BeachdelThank you. I’m pleased to announce that we will have our Research Day on April 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This event is a collaboration between the Senate Grants Committee, the Grants Office, and OAA. We are extremely excited about this event and encourage you to submit a presentation. Celebrate your achievements with us.  
  
Thank you.

**10. UFS Update**

Prof. Julie Trachman

UFS Report to Hostos Senate on Feb. 16, 2023, N.B. The UFS Plenary is next Tues. (Feb. 21). I am reporting here on a detailed email sent by UFS Chair, Prof. John Verzani, during the winter session that updated us on transfer, budget, and remediation issues.

1) With respect to (wrt) Transfer:

The Board of Trustees issued a resolution that was presented at the Education Policy Committee that met on January 23rd. To quote John Verzani’s email: “The basic outline is to make a promise to students who complete an AA or AS degree at a CUNY Community College (not an AAS) in a given major that they should be able to transfer with \*junior-level standing\* en route to a BA or BS \*in the same major\* at a receiving college.” He acknowledges that on the surface, this change in policy seems to be a good thing; however, with the flexibility built into the resolution, there could be problems in implementation or, as he put it, “areas of disagreement.” For example, he continues, “CUNY does not have a working definition of what the ‘same major’ is.” He speculates that this could lead to the homogenization of the naming of majors; however, it could inhibit the specializations offered at some community colleges providing the example of “forensic XXX”. Students in areas such as this major might not be guaranteed a full transfer of credits. He also points out there is a vagueness in the meaning of the terminology "junior level standing.” He also points out that some details not dealt with in this resolution are, for example, statements on: a GPA requirement, the transferability of "D" grades, residency requirements, etc. He does say that those details could be addressed at a late date via appropriate policy. He also mentioned how articulation agreements might fit in here but pointed out some limitations to those.

2)WRT Budget (and an enrollment update):

CUNY’s mid-year report showed that the University as a whole has 234M more in anticipated expenses than anticipated revenues this fiscal year. For this year, all campuses, with the exception of 3, federal funds from Covid-19 relief will cover the campus deficits. However, next year, because these funds will no longer be available, there will be large financial gaps that will have to be filled either by increasing revenue (primarily via enrollment), decreasing spending, or procuring additional state and city resources.

Starting with the last revenue stream first, he mentioned that Governor Hochul should have mentioned CUNY in her State of the State speech earlier in January. However, in the accompanying set of proposals, she proposed a small increase of 3% tuition for the CUNY campuses and many of the SUNY campuses for in-state residents (and 6% increases for some of the SUNY flagship campuses. (Many note that asking our students to pay higher tuition is problematic.) The Mayor has announced his budget plans, and his plan includes reductions for CUNY (my note: proposed reductions across all city agencies). To quote John, “Of course, these are starting positions; we need to wait until later in the process to know where the chips will fall.”

He next talked about enrollment trends across the university and started off by saying that enrollment appeared to be stabilizing and provided us with some data. According to the mid-year financial report, senior college (FTE) enrollment declined by 8% from F21 to F22; there was a 10% decline at the community colleges during that time period, and graduate and professional Schools were off slightly. The spring numbers are not as dramatic. The senior colleges are currently showing a -2% change; however, there is notably a 2% FTE change for the CCs (he added that “CC enrollment is on track to show an increase from a prior semester in FTE, though maybe not headcount”).

He continues on with: “While this isn't the necessary enrollment surge to fill budget gaps, it is at least an apparent stabilization, though at the many senior colleges continuing undergraduate enrollment is still off from prior years. Hopefully, a robust rebound will be felt in the F23 enrollments, as this year tuition revenue is off from expectations by over 100M -- a big driver in the deficits.”

His next point was made in his Jan. email, and we now have a further update regarding decreasing campus spending. He reported in the Jan. email that CUNY had asked campuses to either show resource growth or trim 2% of their spending this year and likely double that next year. We now know from the CUNY memorandum sent out on Feb. 3, 2023, re. Fiscal Year 2024 Savings Target, Hiring Freeze, and Vacancy Review Board Reintroduction that all colleges are expected to “develop a Savings Plan that outlines expense reductions and revenue enhancements and describes how these targets will be achieved.”

3)WRT Remediation: As we know, CUNY had asked all campuses, as of 2016, to end remediation. John provided us with a link to a Chronicle of Higher Education article referring to a 2013 study conducted by CUNY and a faculty member from Trinity College purporting the improved graduation outcomes for students taking college-level course work with the appropriate student support as opposed to remedial courses. John did also ponder, from his take as a math department chair (at the College of Staten Island), how “math department faculty must wrap their heads around how to explain that even though over 50% of students in some classes end up in the DFWI camp, that is a good thing overall.” He goes on to say that he remains “skeptical and wish we landed on a better way to onboard students into CUNY that didn't feel like such a push to succeed or fail faster.” I will leave you to reflect on that statement.

Chair: You can contact Prof. Trachman, Prof. Gail August, or Prof. Eugena Griffin with any questions you may have.   
  
As per New York State laws, we require a majority of members to pass items and reach a quorum of 39 for us. The UFS has similar structures. Thanks to our UFS Senators for their attendance there and supporting the UFS’s work.

**11. New Business***Assistant Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer   
Dilawar Grewal, Ph.D.*  
  
Thank you, I’m the new AVP of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. I have a long background in IT, an Ohio State graduate (a Buckeye). My most recent higher education experience was at the University of the South Pacific, where he oversaw the administration of 14 campuses across 12 countries in the Pacific. I look forward to working with faculty to provide data for analytics to help improve student retention.   
  
If you need support, I can come to you for a discussion. I’ve been in this environment for a long time and understand what works and what does not. Again, I’m available to assist; please do not hesitate to contact me.  
  
*Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang - OAA Update:*  
Thank you, Chair Ialongo. I’d like to share two initiatives that OAA is currently working on. We have six working groups guiding our college’s direction for the next five years. We are in the process of designing the academic implementation plan. We have three working groups “Curriculum,” “Teaching,” and “Student Success.” These groups will be led by Dean Audant, Dean Fabrizio, and Prof. Stachelek. The timeline is to finalize a draft to present to the Senate in the fall.  
  
The next item is a fully online program. Our EdTech office is developing a process to certify faculty who plan to teach in a fully-online modality. We want to promote those fully online programs systematically. The programs that NYSED has approved include education and liberal arts programs. We are currently working with an Online Council to promote the agenda for our students. Feel free to ask Dean Fabrizio any questions you may have on this.  
  
*Prof. Bernardini – PSC Chair Union Update:*  
Good to see you all today. The most important thing to note is that we approved a bargaining agenda at a special meeting on February 2.  It’s an ambitious document that asks for a lot.  The next step for us as a union, faculty, and staff is to make that a reality.  We will begin to speak about our next steps as a group.  We will have a chapter meeting later in March.  The University Budget cuts memo is enraging and should push us to fight back.  As this budget cut memo comes forward, it's up to us to make our bargaining agenda a reality.  There is a lot going on for you to get involved in.  First, there’s a protest on the day before the contract expires.  In March, we will be lobbying for CUNY funding in Albany.  Lastly, there’s a petition asking managers to get involved in the bargaining process.  Finally, there is something called the CUNY Rising Alliance that has a wonderful piece of legislation trying to get passed with a core tenant of free tuition.  We strongly urge our SGA and the USS to support our efforts.  There is an election coming up at some point in April. 

Chair – At some point, a notice will go out to the union members.   
  
President: We are lobbying at Albany this weekend; you are not alone in your efforts.  
  
Chair: Recognized the Union’s efforts and noted the differences at colleges without a strong union are readily apparent.   
  
Thank you all for the support of our college.

Chair: Is there any other new business or announcements?  
  
*Prof. Inmaculada Lara Bonilla*

On Thursday, next week’s lunch Hostos Review #17, was published in 2021.  Unfortunately, we couldn’t celebrate and discuss it at that time. The co-editors will be traveling to us to discuss their contributions.  This is an important issue because it talks about Blackness in the history of the publication.  I hope you can join us; please bring your students to the conversation. 

*Prof. Ozuna* 

We have our next event today at 5:30 p.m. Black Studies Alumni will present how Black Studies courses at Hostos informed their present academic trajectories and careers. This activity will also feature a mixer component to facilitate one-on-one conversations between current Hostos, Black Studies students, and alums. On Thursday, February 23, at 5:30 p.m. Hostos Community College will join a nationwide community of readers to celebrate the richness and depth of Black literary tradition. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to share their favorite Black poetic works.  Finally, on Monday, February 27, at 12:30 p.m., we will have Maguette Camara, a recognized West African choreographer, musician, and instructor, host a dance workshop.   
  
*Prof. Yannacañedo* 

Music connects us; Hostos faculty are being interviewed to share essays and poems about songs important to their family and heritage. Please review my flyer for details. Thank you. 

#### Chair: Any other updates? I’ll put on my Senator from the Social Sciences area for a moment to share that The Social Sciences Unit of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences invites you to join them for the Spring 2023 Social Sciences Speaker Series. Please attend and recommend it to your students.

**12. Adjournment**

Prof. Ialongo motioned to adjourn.

No objections  
  
 The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

**Submitted by:***Mr. Carlos Rivera, Recording Secretary & Dr. Ernest Ialongo, Chair*

**EUGENIO MARIA DE HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - RESOLUTION TO AWARD AN HONORARY DEGREE AT COMMENCEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, New York City and Eugenio María de Hostos Community College (“Hostos Community College”) and the people of the Bronx are only as strong as the people who dedicate their lives to them; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Aguado has been an arts visionary, pioneer, and fixture in the Bronx since 1972, working at the Bronx Council on the Arts beginning in 1978, quickly becoming the head of the organization in 1981, and remaining in that position until he retired in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Aguado dedicated his work at the Bronx Council on the Arts to promoting diverse artwork, cultural traditions and voices that were underrepresented at mainstream art venues; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Aguado helped to found the Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) artist fellowship program, the Urban Artist Initiative, the Longwood Art Gallery, the Bronx Writers’ Corp, and the Bronx Tourism Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Aguado and the Bronx Council on the Arts fostered, encouraged, and facilitated the development of community arts organizations through grant programs, including the Pregones Theatre, the Judaica Museum, the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), the Bronx River Arts Center, and Mind Builders; and

**WHEREAS**, as a cultural activist, Mr. Aguado worked closely with The Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco) to create the Bronx Music Heritage Center, which continues to help advance and celebrate the musical heritage of the Bronx. In 2012, he also created the “Conversing Bricks” permanent sculptural installation, which represents artwork that supports immigrants and underrepresented groups; and

**WHEREAS**, these and other arts organizations in the Bronx saw their funding dramatically increase as a result of Mr. Aguado’s tireless work from 1978 to 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Aguado has been an active contributor over the years to Hostos scholarships, totaling over $40,000, including a scholarship he founded in honor of his mother, the Josephine Aguado Scholarship Fund for Single Parents. Mr. Aguado was also a board member of the Hostos Community College Foundation from 2004 – 2013; and

**WHEREAS**,in granting this degree, Hostos Community College will recognize and honor Mr. Aguado for his lifetime of dedicated service to the people and the arts community of the Bronx, and especially to Hostos Community College; and

**RESOLVED**, that Hostos Community College award Bill Aguado the degree of Associate of Humane Letters at the College’s annual commencement ceremony on June 2, 2023.

**EXPLANATION:** In awarding Bill Aguado this honorary degree, Hostos Community College recognizes his lifelong commitment to serving and fighting for the people of the South Bronx, especially the Hostos Community, in accordance with the highest ideals and principles that we deserve from our community leaders, and the values that Hostos Community College and CUNY wish to impart to their students.