

**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, May 18, 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) and Nancy Genova
* **Business**: Professor Claude Fernandez
* **Education**: Professors Asrat Amnie, Jacqueline DiSanto and Michael Gosset
* **English**: Professors Krystyna Michaeland Alexandra Milsom
* **Gittleson Representative**: Mr. Clifton Pierce
* **Humanities**: Professors Humberto Ballesteros, 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):** Mr. Travaras Geter, Ms. Alba Lynch Mr. Michael Martinez, Mr. Theudys Mejia, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethal, Ms. Daliz Perez-Cabezas, Mr. Peter Kocik, Dr. Silvia Reyes, Mr. Carlos Rivera, and 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 Andy Connolly, Carl Grindley, Tram Nguyen, Clara Nieto-Wire, Hector Soto, Elys Vasquez-Iscan, and Natasha Yannacañedo
* **Adjunct Representatives**: Professors Juan Soto-Franco and Ruben Worrell
* **CLT Representative**: Mr. Marino Corniel
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Jose Gonzalez, Yassine Gaye, Nasrin Akter, Kathy Disla, Brian Carter, Teyanna Buckle, Adama Mbengue, and Orlando Soto

**Absent:**

* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professor Felipe Pimentel
* **Mathematics**: Professor Alexander Vaninsky
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives:** Professor Juno Morrow
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Mr. Iber Poma
* **Public Safety / Maintenance**: Officer Clara Albino
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Yassir Djossou, Kobe Jacobs, Elizabeth Soto, and Kacey Witter

**Excused Absence:**

* **Business**: Professor Carol Huie
* **English**: Professor Sean Gerrity
* **Humanities**: Professors Thoma Beachdel
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Stacey Cooper and Matt Moses
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Sara Rodberg**,** Ms. Jewel Jones, and Ms. Yvonne Rosario-Quiroz

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Members:**

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

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Absent**

* VP Colette Atkins, Mr. Eugene Sohn,

**Vacant:**

* **Education:** 1 vacancy
* **Language and Cognition:** 1 vacancy
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: 3 vacancies

**Guests**:

* Dean Andrea Fabrizio, Prof. Christine Hutchins, Prof. Teresa Gray, Ms. Diana Kreymer, Prof. Anders Stachelek, Prof. Eliana Vasquez, Chief Arnaldo Bernabe, Ms. Jacinta Patrice-George, Mr. Philip Oliveri, Mr. Eric Rodriguez, and Mr. Fabian Wander

1. **Call to Order**

Quorum established at 3:36 p.m.  
Senate called to order at 3:39 p.m.  
  
54 Senators

1. **Acceptance of Agenda**

Chair: Are there any additional items to the agenda?

Under new business, we are adding Dean Babette Audant to discuss the Strategic Plan and

Prof. Craig Bernardini to speak on CUNY Online.

Are there any objections?

None  
  
The agenda, as amended, was accepted unanimously.

1. **Approval of April 20, 2022, Senate Meeting Minutes**

Chair: Are there any additions or corrections to the April 20 Minutes as pre-circulated?  
  
 None

The April 20 Minutes were accepted as pre-circulated.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Prof. Ernest Ialongo

Welcome to the end of the semester and the end of another successful term in the Senate. Reflecting on our accomplishments in these last three years as a Senate is important. When this term began in September 2020, we were already deep in the lockdown, yet we had managed to transition our Senate and Senate committees to Zoom. The committees continued to meet; they sent items to the Executive committee to put on the Senate agenda, and the Senate met throughout the lockdown, and there was no breakdown in the shared governance processes.   
  
Our history of clearing our agendas remained unchanged throughout the lockdown. On October 22, we made our way back to in-person meetings this year, and thanks to the Senators' commitment, we established quorum at each of our meetings this past year. We continued our work and addressed the varied items on our agendas. In this past term, these last three years, we have adopted a host of curriculum items. This is a testament to the curriculum committee, the department curriculum committees, the faculty, and the Senate. We adopted 89 course revisions and 48 new courses, 17 program revisions, 11 pathways submissions, and three new programs or liberal arts options, all in the past three years and all during the COVID lockdown.  
  
Additionally, the Senate provided a forum to discuss the balance of in-person and online schedules and the need to preserve faculty prerogatives. We granted honorary degrees and passed resolutions while maintaining shared governance during a crisis. The Senate also attended to its other responsibilities as well in this period. The Senate has representation on all college-wide committees and high-level search committees. We had Senate representatives on every Middle States and Strategic Planning working group, in addition to representation on the steering committees of each entity. Also, Senate reps served on search committees for the President, all the VPs, the Assistant VP of Information Technology, and Dean positions.   
  
As a mark of the success of our efforts, when the college received its accreditation last year from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the commission lauded the college for its shared governance. On behalf of the Senate Executive Committee, thank you for always showing up. I appreciate your support as we all continue in the work of shared governance at our college.

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

As the year ends, I want to extend a “thank you.” The year was productive in multiple ways. We did well together and supported our students. We were a top ten finalist for ASPEN. SGA has been excellent in supporting various campus initiatives. We had over 80 individuals working among the six working groups. These groups responded to the six pillars of our mission statement and a steering committee. In the final issue of El Semanario this semester, you will find my remarks about our Strategic Plan. The McKenzie Scott gift has supported many of our students inside and outside the classroom, as well as the work of our faculty.   
  
Thank you, and I wish you a very restful and productive time this summer.

**6. SGA President’s Comments**  
  
SGA President Jose Gonzalez

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm happy to be here with you all today. Speaking for the SGA, economically, say that this past year, we have been embraced by the college, the administration, the faculty, and the staff in the community. All this support has made us feel like we could accomplish anything, which is true of every Hostos student. I'm proud to have been able to serve the SGA President and in other capacities, and I want to express our gratitude to you all for considering us and always having the student interest at heart.   
  
Also, I would like to take this time to recognize some of the members of this group and the work they have done on behalf of the students. Starting with Yassine Gaye, the valedictorian for the graduating class; Adama Mbengue, who serves on the executive board; Nasrin Akter, Senate Secretary. Also, I want to acknowledge the SGA members and our advisors, Jerry Rosa and Jason Libfeld.  
  
Thank you for your work at Hostos!

**7.**  **Curriculum Items – Voting Items**  
  
 Chair introduced Prof. Christine Hutchins.  
  
 Prof. Hutchins introduced a Liberal Arts Option Revision

* 1. Behavioral & Social Sciences Department
     1. Psychology-Research Liberal Arts Option Revision

Option Requirements

The Psychology - Research Option requires 3 courses – 9 credits, in addition to the completion of the Required Common Core class, ENG 110.

PSY 101, MAT 120, and ENG 110 can be taken in any order (or concurrently), but PSY 101 must be taken before PSY 250.  
  
 Rationale: PSY 150 does not exist. There was an error on the original form.

Action #1

Yes - 52  
 No - 0  
 Abstain - 0  
 Invalid - 1  
 Abstention - 0

Item Passed  
  
  
 Prof. Hutchins introduced Prof. Ana Ozuna

* 1. Humanities Department

i. BLS 161 Pathways Submission - This course explores the nine modes of Hip Hop culture: Graffiti Art, Break Dance, Emceeing, DJing, Beatboxing, Fashion, Language, Street Knowledge and Entrepreneurship. Students will learn to appreciate authentic Hip Hop and distinguish it from imitations and exploitation of the culture.

Action #2

Yes - 53  
 No - 1  
 Abstain - 0  
 Invalid - 0  
 Abstention - 0

Item Passed

Chair: This course will be submitted to the Board of Trustees in the fall along with SPA 101.

Prof. Hutchins introduced Prof. Ballesteros.  
  
ii. SPA 111 New Course - The language laboratory is a key component of a language course. It is not secondary. On the contrary, it is designed to enhance a student’s communicative ability in Spanish by providing additional class time to practice speaking and listening skills. The laboratory provides students with a solid session of conversation and pronunciation practice. Emphasis will be placed in producing the sounds of the Spanish language, acquiring basic communicative abilities (speaking and listening) via dialog exercises, and perfecting basic conversation patterns with the help of the instructor and classmates.

Action #3

Yes - 53  
 No - 0  
 Abstain - 0  
 Invalid - 1  
 Abstention - 0

Item Passed

**8. Elections**

Chair: Are there any objections to conducting the elections by popular vote? The most number of votes are the winners.  
  
No objections.

1. Hostos Association – no election necessary as previous terms had not expired.
2. Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation

Action #4

1. Charles Drago – 31

2. Linda Ridley – 25

3. Lauren Wolf – 24

4. Inmaculada Lara Bonilla - 16

Professors Drago and Ridley will go to the President for her selection.

1. FSDC Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee (2-year terms)

Action #5

1. Charles Drago – 42

2. Teresa Gray – 35

3. Diana Macri – 47

4. Michael Gosset – 36

5. Carl Grindley - 22

6. Christine Hutchins – 37

7. Andy Connolly – 39

The top six vote-getters (Prof. Drago, Gray, Marci, Gosset, Hutchins, Connolly) are elected to the FSDC and will serve as needed.

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

1. Senate Ad Hoc JUSTICE Committee

Marsha Milan-Bethal

I will briefly summarize what happened with the Hostos Justice Committee this semester. We partnered with the Bronx DA's Office successfully and held a fantastic resource fair with over 50 organizations that support the reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals. We had approximately 125 people at our gym, and 61% of the survey respondents indicated they were interested in pursuing higher education. Our serving as host for this event was great because we now have these organizations who have come within Hostos and recognize us as a welcoming entity.   
  
The FAFSA Simplification Act (the Act), signed into law in December 2020, restored Pell Grant eligibility to confined or incarcerated individuals for the first time since 1994. The new law requires a “confined or incarcerated individual” to enroll in an eligible prison education program (PEP) to access a Federal Pell Grant. The Federal Pell Grant will be reinstated this July.   
   
Hostos is now exploring becoming a second chance site again, so we will keep you updated. The application deadline is June 30th, so we're looking at some things that happened in the past and some of what we would want to do in the future. If we don't make it this time for the June 30th deadline, we may have to wait up to five years before applying again.  
  
It's great to support people on their way home, but how about we stop that pipeline to prison? We will continue to keep you informed. Have a wonderful summer, and thank you. Lastly, two students will receive the Sandy Figueroa Resiliency scholarship, awarding them $250 this semester.

Chair: I’d like to extend a “thank you” to Diana Kreymer and Nelson Ortiz from the President’s Office and Conference Center; they support us with these sessions, making them seamless—Tiffany Wilson, an honor student who assists with taking the attendance. Also, I want to thank Wendy Small-Taylor, Dean Babette Audant, and Johanna Arroyo Peralta, who ensure that logistics are always in order.

**10.** **UFS Update**

Prof. Julie Trachman  
  
 UFS Plenary May 9, 2023

Besides elections, there were several reports to the plenary as follows:

1) Report from Prof. M. Matarese (BMCC) on behalf of the CUNY BA program (interdisciplinary degree program across CUNY): The program is looking for community members to participate. It is a 3-year commitment. They are also looking for faculty mentors.

2) Report from Prof. N. Benton (John Jay) regarding the Voluntary Compliance agreement: Prof. Benton provided us with some background, which I am also doing. There was a lawsuit involving a JJ math student in an upper-level math course who did not feel that he received the proper accommodations for his learning issues (there were issues with diagrams). As of mid-April 2023, CUNY will be monitored for several months by the Southern District of NY Attorney’s Office to improve with respect to ADA compliance across all CUNY campuses. This will require all of us to learn to use Blackboard (BB) Ally, which measures the accessibility of course materials and guides us in improving our materials with appropriate training. This is for all courses, regardless of whether they are online or in person. As a related point, this relates to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. The idea is to improve pedagogy for all, not just for a few. As another side note, the new Learning Management System (LMS), Brightspace (D2L), will already have a BB Ally-type feature. Ed Tech will help with training to use BB Ally, as they already did this past spring with workshops, etc. Regarding the new LMS, CUNY plans to work with Brightspace to develop training materials for us.  
  
3) Report from Prof. Christy Woods (President, SUNY’s Faculty Council of Community Colleges): a) Update on their diversity, equity, inclusiveness (DEI) initiative: They are identifying fellows to help other faculty integrate DEI into their curricula and expecting it to be not just 1 module but across the entire course. The intention is to give students diverse perspectives. She also mentioned there was some backlash from some faculty about the DEI initiative. b) Prof. Woods mentioned that two resolutions were recently passed. One had to do with the support for academic freedom. She also mentioned that their bookstores (Barnes & Noble affiliated) were charging fees for all textbooks, including Open Education Resources (OER). Many faculty find this practice troublesome. c)Prof. Donna Lindeman, previously at CUNY, is now at SUNY. She proposes some of the same initiatives, such as Cascading Enrollment: automatic HS acceptance at the community colleges. d)Their equivalent to our Pathways initiative for seamless transfer from community colleges to senior colleges still has issues. That is, those issues still have not been fixed.

4) Academic Integrity Policy changes: Artificial intelligence (AI) concerns are being integrated into the CUNY policy. These concerns are being addressed somewhat broadly for now.

5) Prof. J. Verzani (UFS Chair): UFS hopes to organize two conferences next year, and hopefully, one of those will be focused on artificial intelligence (AI).

**11. New Business**  
  
 Dean Babette Audant

Strategic Planning

Good afternoon. I'll briefly overview where we've been and where we are going. The college-wide strategic planning process, which engaged about 200 people, kicked off last spring on the heels of our successful self-study process. The strategic planning process came out of that self-study purposely to build on the recommendations that we made to ourselves and verified by the self-study team visit. A steering committee and six working groups guided the strategic planning process. Most of the work took place in the fall; those plans were compiled and made into presentations by the working groups and then shared with the campus community in “in-person” and “virtual” formats. Thank you to those who attended the forums and participated in the strategic planning process.

Now that the final draft has been reviewed, the next step is to send it out for formatting and design. The goal is to present the finalized plan in the fall. Thank you again for your participation in this process.

Prof. Craig Bernardini

CUNY Online  
  
We had a virtual town hall with the PSC on Monday night. Some of this connects with Prof. Trachman’s UFS update. There were eight participants from Hostos; we were well-represented. The tone of the town hall was in no way hostile toward online education. The concerns have to do with the speed of the rollout of this initiative. You're going to unaccountable and opaque third parties. One of the town hall speakers said, “We have an obligation to resist this program as envisioned and, in doing so, force it into a shape that truly reflects CUNY’s mission and serves the communities of New Yorkers to whom we are responsible.”   
  
The next question is, “What can we do in the meantime?” The union is looking to get people involved. If you are interested, please reach out to me. This is an ideal venue to discuss this issue, and it would be wonderful to have a special meeting about CUNY Online in the fall. Thank you for your time.  
  
Provost Wang's response to CUNY Online   
When I was invited to meet with the administrators of CUNY Online, I advocated for our faculty and discussed the points. We must wait until the central office gives us some directives because I also understand that they are working with the union to discuss CUNY Online language in the next version of the contract. We started with two NYSED-approved programs, Early Childhood Education and Liberal Arts AA.   
  
The definition of fully online courses means that 100% of the courses must be offered asynchronously. For now, we will focus on the two programs we have. We will follow CUNY’s recommendations to use already developed courses. Our purpose is to serve students who have a specific need at this moment.

**12. Adjournment**

Prof. Ialongo motioned to adjourn.

No objections  
  
 The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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