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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, October 19, 2023

3:30 – 5:00 PM

**SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:**

* **Allied Health**: Professors Rodney Blair, Jarek Stelmark and Annie Chitlall
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professors Ernest Ialongo (Chair), Nancy Genova
* **Business**: Professors Eddy Garcia and Anders Stachelek
* **English**: Professors Christine Choi, Alexandra Milsom, and Krystyna Michael
* **Education**: Professors Denise Cummings-Clay, Jacqueline DiSanto, and Elys Vasquez-Iscan
* **Humanities**: Professors Catherine Lewis, Ana Ozuna, Nicole Wallenbrock, and Natasha Yannacañedo
* **Language and Cognition**: Professor 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, 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 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 Martinez, Brian Carter, Laura Cuevas, Ansumana Jammeh, Kobe Jacobs, Dorian Johnson, and Jasmin Sanchez

**Absent:**

* **BSS:** Professor Felipe Pimentel
* **Humanities:** Professor Victor Torres Velez
  + **Higher Education Officers**: Mr. Travaras Geter
  + **Public Safety / Maintenance**: Officer Clara Albino
  + **Student Government Association:** Kathy Disla, Jahneilia Curtin, Yassir Djossou, and Surdy Felix**,** Yaxeny Hernandez-Ravelo, and Orlando Soto

**Excused Absence:**

* **Education:** Professor Michael Gosset
* **Language and Cognition:** Professor Carl Grindley
* **Higher Education Officers**: Ms. Elizabeth Wilson
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professor Andy Connolly
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professor Eugena Griffin

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Members:**

* President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Provost VP La Toro Yates, Dean Babette Audant, Mr. Carlos Rivera (HEO Organization Chair), and Parliamentarian Mr. Shmuel Gerber

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Absent**

* Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang, SVP Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne, and Mr. Eugene Sohn

**Vacant:**

* **CLT Representative**: 1 vacancy
* **Gittleson Representative**: 1 vacancy
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA**): 2 vacancies still

**Guests**:

* Dean Andrea Fabrizio, Dean Ana I. Garcia Reyes, Professor Teresa Gray, Mr. Ivano Leoncavallo, Ms. Idelsa Mendez, Mr. Eric Radezky, Mr. Eugene Sohn, Ms. Diana Kreymer, Dr. Sofia Oviedo, Mr. Darian Rivera, Mr. Rafael A. Torres, Professor Nicole Wallenbrock

**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 as pre-circulated

**3.Approval of September 21, 2023, Senate Meeting Minutes**

Chair: Are there any additions or corrections to the May 18 Minutes as pre-circulated?   
   
Dainma Martinez’s name was corrected.

The September 21, 2023 Minutes were accepted as pre-circulated with the noted correction.

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

The Chair welcomed the Senators and announced the election by the SEC of Prof. Hector Soto as Vice-Chair of the Senate, Prof. Tram Nguyen as Recording Secretary of the Senate, Prof. Christine Hutchins as Recording Secretary of the SEC, and Prof. Alexandra Milsom as the new Senate Webmaster. The Chair thanked the Senators for their efforts.

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

President Cocco De Filippis spoke about the collective work of encouraging students to enroll. She lauded the work of the college services supporting students to continue their studies, from SSCU and advisement units, Transfer Services, to Health and Wellness workshops, Hostos One Stop, Scholarship workshops, and a multitude of others. She also praised the cohort of students who performed the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and reminded the college that a report back was scheduled for November 6 in the Black Box Theater (C-151) at 3:30.

**6.SGA President’s Comments**

SGA Interim President Kobe Jacobs (Submitted Report)

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kobe Jacobs, and I will be serving as interim president of the student government. Though we’re working through internal changes, we still stand tall. Right now, there are 50 registered active clubs. On Friday the 13th there was Halloween costume party sponsored by the SGA, hosted by the urban unity club. There was a turnout of over 150 students. Shout-out to Dean Sterling for coming through to aid in serving food. It was a fun and successful event. In our future endeavors, one of our members, Brian Carter, is hosting his consecutive collaboration with the counseling center to provide mental health awareness in the form of a workshop series. The student government is also planning to provide financial support and volunteer services to the single-stop program to provide food for families during the thanksgiving holiday. We have our SGA Assembly coming up as well. It’s where we get to directly connect with students and present all of our past and future plans. Hostos has renewed vitality and we’re excited to keep doing our part in retaining this life.

**7.Curriculum Items**

None

**8.Non-Curriculum Items**

Charter Amendment recognizing Mathematics Department name change to Mathematics and Computer Science Department (See Appendix 1).

This is the second presentation for the amendment, followed by the vote.

No questions.  
   
Vote:

Y = 56

N= 0

A= 0

Action passes.

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

The Senate Executive Committee drafted “The Senate Executive Committee’s Response to the Hamas-Israel Conflict”, and Chair Ialongo read it into the record (See Appendix 2).

**10.UFS Update**

Professor Julie Trachman (Submitted Report)

The next plenary is on October 24 and Chancellor Matos-Rodriguez is on the agenda to meet with us.   
I will keep my remarks brief and mention 3 recently published UFS blogs that may be of interest to many of you here.  
1)Blog entitled “Illuminating Brightspace”: Among other things, the blog mentions the CUNY-wide presentation yesterday (Oct. 18, 2023) providing an overview of the Brightspace features and about the plans for the transition and training.  There were some technical issues getting access to the webinar (and many might have been interested but could not attend; however, the good news is that the recording of the webinar will be posted on the LMS transition website (<https://www.cuny.edu/academics/brightspace-transition/>).  
2)Blog entitled “A Fiscal Hole to Fill”:  UFS chair, Prof. John Verzani discusses to some extent the situation with our budget and mentions in his blog some resources that point to strategies other campuses such as the University of Vermont employed to deal with their own budget crises.  
3)Blog entitled “$4M Grant awarded to NYC Climate Justice Hub”: CUNY working with the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance are creating the NYC Climate Justice Hub.  Its purpose is to “advance and accelerate climate solutions led by communities of color on the frontlines of climate breakdown…. This environmental justice effort will promote engaged research, curriculum, and programming that demonstrably advances social, racial, and climate justice.”  They are inviting the CUNY community to participate.  
As a side point, the C-IDEA committee is planning a spring conference (March 15, 2024) with the tentative title (and theme) “Educating for Health and Social Equity.” Many of you have attended and even presented at past conferences (previously called Faculty Diversity and Inclusion Conference).  These conferences have been held every other year with the last one this past spring; however, there have been many asking for us to do one every year and we are doing so this year.  This conference will be a smaller event than the spring 2023 conference.  A proposal submission request will be sent out in the near future.

**11. New Business** 

*Vice President of Institutional Advancement Colette Atkins*

In great news: the Hostos Golf Outing raised almost $100, 000. VP Atkins thanked Idelsa Mendez for spearheading the event. She mentioned that CUNY Tuesday – officially November 28 – happens throughout November and there is an especially injection of giving needed for the Food Pantry and Circle of 100 Emergency Fund. The Hostos Gala planning is underway and interested volunteers are invited to reach out to join the planning committee. VP Atkins encourage the room to think about the Planned Giving Plan, wherein parties consider naming college in their will as beneficiary to build their legacy.

*Professor Bernardini, Co-Chair of PSC CUNY Chapter, Hostos (submitted report)*

Prof. Bernardini thanked the Senate EC for the statement about Palestine-Israel. He mentioned that the union had a petition going around to gather support for PSC CUNY-wide contractual and local demands and he invited people to find him after the meeting to sign, and noted the union would be doing office visits as well, and that the petition was also online. He also mentioned the upcoming chapter meeting and the event on November 9, when there would be a rally in the A-Atrium followed by a delivery of the petition to the President’s Office.

*Ms. Dainma Martinez*

Invited everyone to attend the production at Hostos Repertory Theater called Homeward, happening on: October 26, at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. and October 27, at 7 p.m. Ms. Martinez is an actor in the play.

*Dr. Sofia Oviedo*

Encouraged everyone to attend events at the Hostos Research Center:

Oct. 25 & Nov. 14 @ 3:30, Community Building Circle events

Oct. 26 @ 3:30-4:30, Second Open House

*Prof. Ernest Ialongo*

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – spread the word about resources at college: Public Safety, Family Justice Center.

*Vice President of SDEM La Toro Yates*

SDEM would like to work with students and coordinate with Jerry Rosa and Jason Libfeld so that students can participate in events and serve in Senate committees and not fall behind in class.

*Laura Cuevas*

SGA would like to invite everyone to attend the We Stand with Immigrants Event on Oct. 25 in the A-Atrium.

**12. Adjournment**

Prof. Ialongo motioned to adjourn.

Seconded.

No objections   
   
 The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

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

Appendix 1:

Charter Amendment

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|  | **Charter Amendment**  **October 2023, Second Presentation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Current** | **Proposed** | **Rationale** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **1** | **Article VI: Academic Departmental Structure, Section 1, I** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mathematics Department | Mathematics and Computer Science Department | The Mathematics Department voted to change their name to better represent their varied curricular offerings. The Senate approved the change on April 20, 2023. This is the second of two presentations at Senate for a Charter amendment to recognize the name change. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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Appendix 2:

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**The Senate Executive Committee’s Response to the Israel-Hamas Conflict**

Delivered at the Hostos College-Wide Senate, October 19, 2023

The Senate Executive Committee has been following the news concerning the Hamas attack on Israel, the Israeli state’s counterattack across the Gaza Strip, and the civilian casualties on both sides of the conflict.

In response to various concerns brought to us by faculty, staff, and students regarding the effect the crisis is having on the college campus, and more widely, the Senate Executive Committee, as the leadership of the College-Wide Senate, which represents all of our constituencies, felt it was incumbent upon us to share with you our views.

The region is, and has been, a site of unspeakable human tragedy for all involved. We, the Senate Executive Committee, unequivocally and without reservation condemn the killing of children and non-combatant civilians by any party to the conflict, by whatever means.

Further, recognizing that there are strong opinions on all sides of the issue, in a conflict that spans, and has evolved, over many years, the Senate Executive Committee believes that our college, and our university, should continue to be a site in which such fraught issues are discussed in an open, safe, respectful, and productive setting for all, in the interest of advancing our collective purposes of producing an informed and humane citizenry, and of promoting a welcoming environment for the diverse members of our community.

Sincerely,

The Senate Executive Committee:

Prof. Ernest Ialongo

Prof. Hector Soto

Prof. Tram Nguyen

Prof. Diana Macri

Prof. Christine Hutchins

Prof. Alexandra Milsom

Ms. Jewel Jones, HEO Representative

Mr. Ansumana Jammeh, SGA Representative

Ms. Dainma Martinez, SGA Representative