

Advocate

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Free

Graduate Council rejects WAR Report

DSC resolution is adopted with one friendly amendment

By Christina Pretto
OF THE ADVOCATE STAFF

Members of the Graduate Council voted in favor of a resolution condemning a report submitted by CUNY Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds that suggests certain departments be closed at various CUNY campuses due to allegedly low numbers of majors in those disciplines.

Specifically, the council resolved that, "The December 1992 report from the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Academic Program Planning be withdrawn as the basis for any discussion of the restructuring of the academic programs of the CUNY system."

The resolution, which was written by the Doctoral Students Council, passed after a voice vote on March 11 during the council's regular meeting.

While some graduate council members expressed opposition to the resolution's numerous dependent clauses and their alleged dubiousness, these concerns were not

raised until after the council voted. No debate occurred before one member called the question.

Several members of the Graduate Centers faculty, including President Frances Degan Horowitz, authored the report. The report claims that low numbers of majors in certain departments — such as philosophy at Lehmann College — legitimate discussion regarding closing those departments. The report fails to consistently compare majors by year, which, the resolution points out, weakens the plausibility of the report's conclusions.

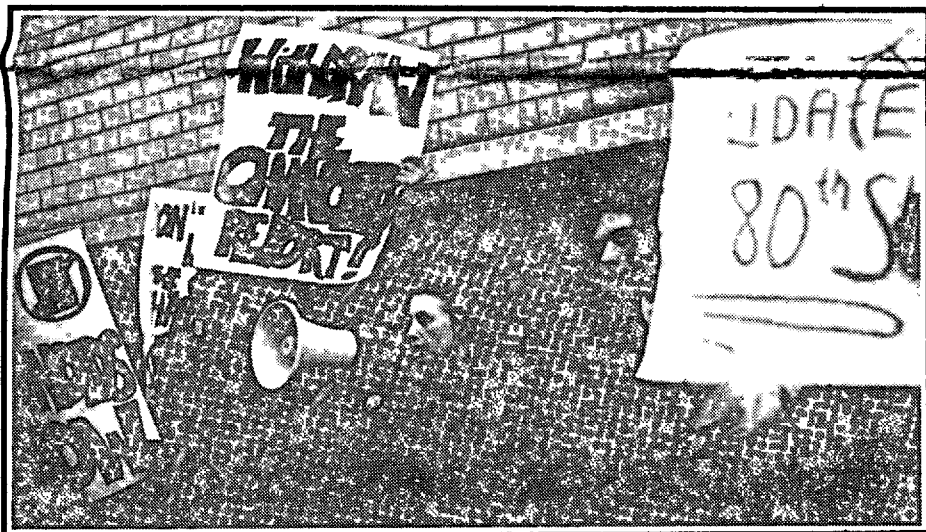
The council's resolution also attacks the report's lack of a philosophical definition of a quality liberal arts education and how that it should be provided at each CUNY institution.

The council's resolution includes claims that the Chancellor's recommendations in the report, if enacted,



Philosophy Professor Stefan Baumrin

See COUNCIL, page 12



Students protest report in front of Board

Only 30 of 100 students let inside 535 East 80 Street

By Michael Weinstein-Mohammed
OF THE ADVOCATE STAFF

Approximately 100 CUNY students protested the Goldstein Committee Consolidation Plan at the CUNY Central Administration Offices at 535 East 80 Street on March 15. Despite rigorous mobilization at several campuses, students did not turn out in the numbers that protest organizers, the CUNY Student Union, had expected.

After waiting more than an hour in cold and windy weather, thirty of the students were permitted to participate in hearings inside CUNY headquarters. Only some students were allowed to voice their opinions on the proposed plan for CUNY before the Board of Trustees. Given the limits on speaking that the Board placed, the students attacked the integrity of the meeting and left after a only few students had spoken.

CSU member Joan Parkin said that "students refused to be divided" by the Board since they only allowed some students into the hearing. A CUNY security spokesperson explained the limit on speakers as adhering to fire regulations

concerning overcrowding.

Both CUNY students and faculty members have voiced opposition to the Consolidation Plan because it aims to "phase out a majority of liberal arts programs" throughout CUNY. In the text of the report, the committee argued that low enrollment in these disciplines legitimates phaseouts. However, low enrollment in science and math fields have not yielded the same conclusions. Instead, the plan seeks to strengthen these other fields.

Committee members claim that consolidation will improve "the quality of education at CUNY." This entails not only the elimination of courses that encourage critical thinking, but also languages. The report says that "the contraction of the distances between nations and cultures have led to an increasing interest in interdisciplinary 'area studies' that draw on foreign language ability." (p.62) Despite this testimony, the report suggests dissolving 26 language courses instead of maintaining and strengthening educational facilities for language departments.

At the protest, students associated with the International Socialist Organization

Horowitz bypasses student government on provost search committee selection

By Christina Pretto
OF THE ADVOCATE STAFF

Graduate Center President Frances Degan Horowitz has refused to allow the Doctoral Students Council the sole right to nominate students to sit on the search committee for a new Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs.

In fact, some DSC members allege that the process for picking the search committee members is possibly biased because one of Acting Provost Geoffrey Marshall's staff members is holding the list of nominees.

Even worse, said DSC member Andrew Long, is that neither Horowitz nor Dean of Student Affairs Floyd Moreland respect the DSC as the sole, rightful, and democratically elected representative of the student body.

"It's a sham for the President or the Dean of Student Affairs to pick who will be on the committee to search for the Provost," Long said.

But Horowitz argued that no one constituency can choose the representatives on the search committee. It would not be appropriate, Horowitz said, to exclude other groups or individuals from nominating students, faculty, or staff to the committee.

"I am asking for a generous list of names from all groups of students, faculty, and staff," Horowitz said. "It is my responsibility that the committee be balanced and diverse."

Horowitz defined balance in terms of academic disciplines, campus interests, experience, gender, race, and ethnicity. She said it was important that the commit-

tee reflect the diversity of the Graduate Center, and, on that ground, the DSC, along with a variety of other constituencies, may nominate committee members.

"That is phony liberalism," Long said. "We represent the students. That is what we were elected to do. What makes the administration think the DSC would not present a diverse and balanced group of students?"

DSC Co-Chair for Communications G. Ganter agreed. The President's bypass of the students government, Ganter said, marks a serious attack on the right of the DSC to represent all of the students' interests.

The Provost is the chief academic officer of the Graduate Center and, as Vice-President of Academic Affairs, acts as deputy to the President. The position also includes taking the President's place in her absence.

Two administrative staff members, Rosa Mundana and Steven Gorlick, are in charge of maintaining the list of committee nominees, Moreland said. While it is true that Mundana is one of the Acting Provost's staff members, she is serving only the President regarding the search committee list, Moreland said. Gorlick serves as a staff member to the President.

"There will be no overlap between the current provost and Mundana regarding this matter," Moreland said.

Horowitz said she certainly respected the DSC's representative function, and it was likely she would choose students nominated by the DSC.

carried picket signs that read "Free Tuition, Open Admissions/Withdraw the Consolidation Proposal." Other students held up banners demanding Chancellor Ann Reynolds' resignation and the consolidation of 80 Street, not CUNY. Pro-

testers at one point repeatedly chanted, "Power to the students, down with the board!"

The president of Hunter College's Evening Session Student Government, See PROTEST, page 11

MARCH in the NEWS

Resign, Reynolds, insists a faculty group

Citing poor judgement in ethnic and racial issues, twelve CUNY professors have demanded Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds' resignation.

On the first day of this semester, the Italian-American Faculty and Staff Advisory Council of CUNY called upon CUNY Board of Trustee Chairman James Murphy "to ask for a vote of No Confidence in the Chancellor and request her immediate resignation."

This demand signifies the first opportunity in the academic year to respond to Judge Constance Baker Motley's order of last December barring CUNY and the Chancellor from any further discrimination against Italian-Americans.

The Advisory Council also pointed out that Reynolds has acted to circumvent Board of Trustees policy and may be guilty of perjury through certain statements in federal court.

In her decision, Judge Motley noted that Chancellor Reynolds had denied that Italian-Americans are an affirmative action group despite such repeated designation by the Board of Trustees. A recent reaffirmation appeared as a semiannual Notification of Policy in the November 1, 1993 edition of The New York Times:

The "protected classes," as delineated in the Federal Executive Order... were expanded by The City University of New York, effective December 9, 1976, to include Italian-Americans, and the University has and will continue to exercise affirmative action for the "protected classes," including Italian-Americans.

The Chancellor's "administrative confusion and insubordination" led the Advisory Council to conclude that "her continued leadership ... has been seriously compromised."

Moreover, the Council sees Reynolds as "an insuperable liability to the University," describing her "as someone who lacks integrity" and observing that she "will bring upon the University additional, unnecessary, financial burdens."

By Tom Burgess

Hunter Senate rejects WAR Report

The Hunter College Senate issued an official statement urging the rejection of the Report of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Academic Program Planning on the grounds that it is ahistorical and lacking in a concrete vision of CUNY's role in both serving New York and providing quality higher education.

The Senate, led by its President, political science professor Kenneth Sherrill, voted in favor of a reaffirmation of the need for a strong liberal arts curriculum as the basis for CUNY's mission.

Both the Chancellor, W. Ann Reynolds, and the Board of Trustees should aggressively pursue adequate funding for the university, the Senate statement said.

"The people of New York must be presented with the opportunity to affirm their support for this university," the Senate statement read. "Polite importuning has not been a method of dealing with a government not interested in higher education. The Chancellor and the Board must do more — and better — in the public sphere."

The Senate also encouraged Reynolds to take advantage of the "furor" the report has instigated by listening seriously to the "rage, anger, and ... sagging confidence" of many students and faculty toward CUNY's central administration.

See HUNTER, page 12

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Cultural Determinism: Trained Pigeons Need Only Apply

The modern Scholastic... criticizes the criticisms with which some other Scholastic has criticized other criticisms, and the writing upon writings goes on till the substructure of reality is long obscured.

—John Dewey, 1891-92.

"Education is undervalued in New York City's Italian-American neighborhoods. Unlike Irish-Americans. Unlike Jewish-Americans. Whatever upward mobility Italian-Americans have gained this city, little has come through higher education. So like any undereducated ethnic group, potential Italian-American students would be more likely to complete a college education if they had role models on faculty, and peer support on campus."

This passage, appearing in the "Editorial Context" for the December 1992 Advocate, transformed an otherwise fine editorial in support of the Italian-American Institute against Chancellor W.A. Reynolds's attacks, into faint praise, indeed, for Italian-Americans everywhere.

That group, by the way, includes myself. My mother's last name is Aliminosa. But she was by no means unhappy with our progress in school, nor with each of our decisions to go to college. Nor would the editorial explain why she herself went on to obtain a B.A. in Art, and a certificate in Math Education.

There are certainly enough other examples of New York Italian-American success stories, right here at the Graduate Center. Then of course there are the fantastic numbers of Italian-American high school teachers, civil servants, lawyers, and stockbrokers in this city, all to prove that this editorial statement was a well-meaning slip into untruth.



TOMFOOLERY

By Tom Smith

On its surface, to its writer, this stereotype might have seemed *kosher*. For the failing which the editor ascribed to Italian-Americans is cultural, not biological. The editor's characterization is a species of the mother of all cultural determinisms: the "culture of poverty" theories of Oscar Lewis.

Lewis argued that the poor tend to adopt an irrational, "oral" culture of immediate gratification and criminal immorality to deal with the frustrations of poverty in an avaricious consumer society. So far—if carefully applied to individual cases of marginal behavior—so good. But Lewis goes on to argue that

this culture, handed down to succeeding generations, prevents the children of the poor from taking advantage of new opportunities to rise out of poverty. Thus the culture of poverty itself purportedly explains, to some degree, why the poor stay poor.

Lewis's theory, as Queens College professor Stephen Steinberg in his book *The Ethnic Myth* points out, relies upon the assumption that culture is more powerful than the natural human capacity, in general, for rationality, achievement, See TOMFOOLERY, page 12

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Free Writing Workshop Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m., and Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m., in Room L-36 (in the library microfilm area). Drop-in or by appointment.

Alcoholics Anonymous Having a problem with alcohol? Want to get a handle on your drinking? You're not alone. Take a COURSE OF ACTION — come to a meeting. Meetings are every Tuesday, 4:30-5:30, Room 1514.

March 14 - May 2

The Museum For Modern Art The museum is sponsoring a major exhibition on the early work of Max Ernst entitled, "Max Ernst: Dada and the dawn of Surrealism."

Tuesday, March 23

William B. Kimmel Lectures on Performance Practice Malcolm Bilson, fortepianist, will discuss "Does the Choice of Instrument Really Affect the Musical Message?" at 7:30 p.m. in the Harold M. Proshansky Auditorium.

CUNY-TV Public Hearing What role should CUNY-TV play in education? Say your piece!!! Public hearing held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 207. Written statements are also encouraged.

Wednesday, March 24

Black Student Alliance The film *Four Women* by director Julie Dash will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in Room SC 10.

Thursday, March 25

Women's Studies Certificate Program Joni Seager, University of Vermont, will give a talk entitled "Thinking About Environmental Problems: Feminist Perspectives The Role Of Science." 4:15-6:15 p.m. in Room 800.

Friday, March 26

Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies Valentin Pequero, assistant professor of history, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will give a talk entitled "Arms and Politics: The

Military Under the Trujillo Dictatorship." 4:15-6:00 p.m., Room 1700C.

Organization For Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns A Forum concerning gays in the military service featuring guest speakers and discussion will be held in Room 544, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

1993 CUNY Big Apple Job Fair Students and alumni are encouraged to attend this event attended last year by more than eighty organizations. Students should dress for an interview and should bring a completed registration card, available at their college career placement and counseling office, their CUNY ID, and a resume. Alumni may register at the fair. Jacob J. Javits Convention Center, 11 Avenue between 34 and 35 Streets, 11-7 p.m..

Black Film Festival The film *Sugar Cane Alley* by director Euzan Palcy will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in Room SC-10.

Feminist Students Organization The films *True Love* and *First Comes Love* will be shown at 6:30 in the Basement Mezzanine.

Thursday, April 1

Anthropology Student Brownbag Series Del Jones will discuss non-academic careers in Room 1100, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14

Center For Gay and Lesbian Studies Chris Straayan will give a talk entitled "Deconstructing The Sexual Being." For more information, call 642-2924.

Ph.D. Program in Music Recital Adrianna Rosin will perform works by Schubert, Schumann, Kodaly, and Prokofiev on the violin, assisted by Motoko Kakizaki, piano, and Sarah Seiver, cello. 7 p.m., Harold M. Proshansky Auditorium.

Thursday, April 15, 1993

Jazz Concert The International Students Organization is sponsor-