

The meeting began with an update of the situation concerning the Security Mutual Building. The State Dormitory Authority is still refusing to sell bonds for the renovation of the building, although a bank is willing to buy them, because they say that there is a moratorium on construction in CUNY until a Master Plan through 1990 is completed. In addition, Hostos has been asked to reduce the projected \$6,000,000 budget for renovating the building by \$770,000 (including the construction of a new gym and other necessary facilities). Virginia Paris from the Admissions office reported that the Board of Higher Education is trying to limit Hostos to an enrollment of 2,500 students. Last semester, we had 2,700 students. After discussing details of the current situation, it was generally agreed that the survival of Hostos is at stake and that the building is the most important issue at present.

It was reported that a committee to support Hostos was being formed in the South Bronx community of people active in education.

In discussing the general situation inside Hostos, people mentioned the general lack of information and apathy among students and faculty. It was agreed that a number of activities need to be carried out early in the semester to inform everyone about what the situation is, and to involve people in concrete activities, such as letter-writing campaigns and the continuing petition drive. In addition, activities that are more dramatic and can get publicity also need to be planned. It was pointed out that we really only have February, March and April to work with, since by May students are already involved in term papers and exams. Faculty and staff involvement was generally considered to be important.

Structure

It was agreed to form a structured organization, which will be called Hostos United/Hostos Unido. There was some debate on the size of the committee and the relative weight that different groups should be given. How to involve and give representation to people not already members of existing organizations was also discussed. The structure finally adopted is:

1. Any student organization is eligible to have one voting member. However, the organization must show some kind of commitment by making a financial contribution from its budget. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis for organizations which cannot contribute as much as others. The maximum number of student organizations is 26, but since some of these are not functioning, the actual representation is expected to be less.
2. Faculty and Staff will be represented in a ratio of 1 faculty or staff member for each 2 student representatives. For instance, if there were 10 student organizations participating, there could be 5 faculty and staff representatives.
3. In addition, there will be five working committees (the five suggested were: finance, propaganda, community relations, activities, and press). Each committee will have one faculty or staff representative and one student. Members of these work committees can be members of existing organizations as well as unaffiliated students, faculty and staff.

If the steering committee becomes too large for frequent and workable meetings, it can decide to set up a smaller executive board. It was decided to leave for the next meeting a discussion of how to set up the work committees.