**Draft Minutes for the One Hundred and Forty-Third Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002  
  
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 3.30pm – 4:30pm  
Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance**:

John Verzani, Alana Gaymon, Alan Benimoff, Michael Volpe, Warrick Bell, Cynthia Chris, Suzy Shepardson, Cindy Wong, Jane Marcus-Delgado, George Sanchez, Catherine Lavender, Hope Berte, Patricia Kahn, Thomas Tellefsen, Wilma Jones, Jonathan Peters, Simone Wegge, Jennifer Borrero, Simone Wegge, Kerri Gerson, Jason Bishop, Brian Farr, Katie Cumiskey, Veronica Dimeglio, Maxwell Velikodny, Hernan Green, Darryl Hill, Alyson Bardsley, Michael Parrish, Juline Robinson, Robert Wallace, Michael Ivany, John Wing, Chang-Hui Shen, Susan Imberman, Lee Papa, Angelo Bongiorno, Gene Fellner, Michael Paris, Sarolta Takács, Susan Holak, Christine Flynn Saulnier, John Lawrence, Rosane Gertner, Carlo Lancellotti, Sylvia Kahan, George Wang, Vandana Chaudhry, Peter Galati, Maurya Wickstrom, Roshen Hendrickson, Maryann Feola, Yumei Huo, Natalie Fischetti, George Vachadze, Alfred Levine, Orit Gruber, Jay Arena, Neo Antoniades, Comfort Asanbe, Heidi Bertels, Michael Cavagnero, Michael Chiacchiero, Deborah DeSimone, Valerie Forrestal, William Fritz, Nelly Tournaki, Winsome Alston, Mary Murphy, Chrisanthi Anastopoulou, Jia Yu Chen, Marwan Mahmoud, Andrew Leykam

**Guests:**

Tony Gallego, Emmanuel Esperance, Prentiss, Stephen Ferst, Michael Baybusky, Marianne Jeffreys, Florinda Mattia, Joyce Taylor, Lauren Mullins, Susan Mee Crimmins, Mark Lewental, Danielle Dimitrov, Mark White, Debby Meise, Linda John, Sharon Christian, Carles Sola Belda, Michael Lederhandler, Jennifer Durando, Ralf Peetz, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Jessica Collura, Beth Livensperger, Tara Mastrorilli, Valeria Belmonti, Koby Kohulan, Catherine Ferrara, Doriann Pieve-Hyland, Cesare Barreca, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Manuela Alongi, David Allen, Michele Karpeles, Patti Gross, Rob Wallace, Lara Saguisag, Donna Scimeca, Katrina Fama, Kim Williams, Jonelle Knox, Alex Scott, Anat Niv-Solomon, Byron Taylor, Nina Del Gatto, Michelle Borowski, Saadia Toor, Terri Sangiorgio, Intissar Hasan, Ananya Mukherjea, Lucas Marchante-Aragon, Beatrix Reinhardt, Angelina, Michael Baybusky, Clarisse Domingo, Sarah Zelikovitz, Joanne Morris, Lynne Lacomis, Carol Brower, Cesar Arenas-Mena

**I. Approval of the proposed agenda - *approved*  
  
II. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – *approved***

**III. Executive Committee of College Council Report - J. Verzani**

[**Chair's report**](https://csicollegegovernance.github.io/CCFS/Nov2021Meeting/cc-chair-report/#chairs_report)

The College Council Executive Committee met with the President and Provost on November 9th.

*We began by congratulating President Fritz on his retirement and wished him well in his future pursuits.*

[**Finances**](https://csicollegegovernance.github.io/CCFS/Nov2021Meeting/cc-chair-report/#finances)

We followed with comments about finances

* The college had anticipated reporting hefty balances for the closeout of FY21. This was due to use of federal funds. However, CUNY did not approve of this, and instead the college shows an end-of-year (FY21) CUTRA balance of -3.309M. [This number is wrong; there was 3.309 of stimulus funds for revenue loss appied, leaving a 59L CUTRA balance/] It was emphasized that this was an accounting difference, not a substantive one.
* More student stimulus checks will be going out very soon. The college is hopeful that students will pay off outstanding balances and expects this to be facilitated through the web interfaces the students use.
* AVP Serrano gave a high-level overview of the spending of the federal funds. Most all (~16M) is slated to cover losses in revenue (e.g., the FY21 headcount slid from 12366 to 12095; F21 is off 7.8% from F20). However, there are monies (spent/available) for **Reopening** (2.6M); **Technology** (1.8M); **Health Wellness** (1.2M); **Faculty** (900k); **Residence Halls and Consultants** (1.3M)

Questions asked related to staffing numbers; how can HEOs be reimbursed for expenses.

We asked about the financial impact of the WA grades. At the meeting it was unclear, and the WA grade had not yet been applied to all students.

[**Dean Searches**](https://csicollegegovernance.github.io/CCFS/Nov2021Meeting/cc-chair-report/#dean_searches)

The College Council Executive Committee expressed its concerns about the two ongoing searches for *interim* Academic Deans for the schools of Education and Health Sciences. We expressed reservations about the pool and the timing of the hires, given the uncertainty in leadership at the college. The Provost indicated that his assuming these duties was unsustainable. Alternate options were suggested.

[**Facilities**](https://csicollegegovernance.github.io/CCFS/Nov2021Meeting/cc-chair-report/#facilities)

We discussed the sidewalk situation. We know there is a funded plan to renovate the sidewalks on campus, but also know that this will not be done prior to the commencement of spring term – it is a 2-year plan. The costs of hiring masons was used as an issue; it was suggested perhaps there could be savings in adminstrative costs, should the Dean roles not be filled at this time.

We discussed 1N and 2N, both currently off-line, though with some access possible. The basement rooms were described as in the demolition phase. Maybe by spring they will be ready. It was suggested that moving forward, the basement classrooms be de-commissioned given the additional classrooms due to 2M, St. George, and an expectation that there will be more on-line offerings.

The question of how many community members will be on campus this spring was brought up. We were told the 70-30 rule is sections, not headcount. A question about the right mix of staff was brought up.

[**Transition**](https://csicollegegovernance.github.io/CCFS/Nov2021Meeting/cc-chair-report/#transition)

We asked if there was news on the transition. There is no official news. The President *mused* that it seemed unlikely there was enough time to undergo a search this spring for a fall arrival of a new president.

**IV. PSC Report: N Tournaki**

The chapter held two events with two speakers that addresses the June 10 PSC Delegate Assembly resolution in support of the Palestinian people. The chapter executive committee expressed the desire to host chapter events where it would hold educational and civil discussions around the context of this resolution. Both events were well attended.

The contractual raises were implemented Monday November 15, 2021.

The chapter will inquire about the contractual travel funds that departments were supposed to receive for 2020 and 2021.

Discussion will be held on the proposed PSC strategic plan and on the December 11 rally for the CUNY New Deal

**V. President Report: W Fritz**

[**https://www.csi.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/presidentsoffice/newsletter/College\_Council\_Remarks\_November18\_2021.pdf**](https://www.csi.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/presidentsoffice/newsletter/College_Council_Remarks_November18_2021.pdf)

College Council Remarks November 18, 2021

As I announced a few weeks ago, I am retiring at the end of this semester. This is probably my 106th, and likely my last, College Council at the College of Staten Island, as the December’s meeting is scheduled while I will be on annual leave.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you all how much I have enjoyed serving as your President, and previously as your Provost, over the past 13+ years, about a third of my academic career post-graduate school. I also want to say thank you to the many, many hard-working faculty and staff – CSI would not run without you!

As many of you know, this is actually my second retirement. I came to the College of Staten Island after having already retired from another institution and when I was appointed here, I was appointed with an underlying title of a tenured full professor. This afforded me some freedoms in decision making that not all Presidents have. Given my tenure, and retired status, I was able to make decisions that I believed were the right decisions and not necessarily the politically expedient

ones. With each decision I made, I considered the institution first and did what I thought was best for the College, for the students, and for the community. And while many of you didn’t always agree with my decisions, I can honestly say that I followed my moral compass and never wavered in my commitment to do what I believed best for the future of CSI given the information available at the time.

When I announced my retirement to the campus, I listed many campus accomplishments during my tenure that I am proud of, but some, in my opinion, will continue to help move this College forward far into the future. If the campus continues to believe in the mission of this great institution and make every effort to build upon its solid foundation, everything is possible!

I am so proud of our Strategic Plan, *“Opportunity to Ascend.”* Our Strategic Plan is a powerful tool and map that will help guide the institution with every decision that is made. Our plan solidifies our mission to put students first and focuses on ensuring their success. Each priority builds upon priority number one, our students, and strengthens our resolve to ensure that each student gets a quality, affordable, well- rounded education to help them graduate and accomplish their dreams. We must never waiver in our commitment to our students. They must

always be the priority and every decision made must support that mission.

Building upon the Strategic Plan, our move to NCAA Division II, is another source of pride for me. Friday night, Bonnie and I went to one of the CSI Dolphin Basketball Games here on campus. As we entered the gym, we could hear and feel the excitement surrounding us, and as we watched the game we could see and feel the energy of the fans and the players on the court. It was a new energy, a great college competition with real spirit and pride – one that we haven’t seen before. We had visitors staying in thirteen hotel rooms booked for the weekend in neighborhood hotels, a crowd of family and friends that traveled to cheer on the student athletes, students cheering on their classmates, and people having fun - albeit with masks and social distancing and limited capacity due to COVID restrictions. But the point is, we had school spirit, school pride, a fun college experience, while we were showing the crowd why the College of Staten Island is a campus that students will want to attend, and at the same time being good stewards for our community. Some of the friends and siblings of the visiting teams will eventually choose CSI as a *Destination Campus*.

Transitioning to NCAA Division II is a decision that will help make us a destination campus. For the first time, our baseball team has eight

athletes who are academically eligible to apply for Macaulay Honors College. Fifty-one student athletes reside in Dolphin Cove, 99 student athletes are enrolled who would not have been here without DII and we are generating approximately $1.4M in tuition revue, and an addition $1M in fees, housing, and meal plans, most for use of the general college budget, and far exceeding the non-tax levy scholarships that it took for them to come. CSI is becoming a school of choice for scholar athletes; we are thereby attracting and increasing our population of fully academically prepared baccalaureate students. In addition, the transition has a great community impact, increases the number of baccalaureate residents in Dolphin Cove, and positively impacts student life. We need to embrace student life programs like this and support them and their potential to transform us as a destination of choice.

Another source of pride is the formation of the three schools, the School of Education, the School of Health Sciences, and the School of Business. In addition, we received the largest ever gift for a non-for-profit on the Island, $7.5M cash gift for the naming of the Chazanoff School of Business, that subsequently generated $1M more in an estate gift as part of the original gift (and not a new naming opportunity). These funds will really help the Chazanoff School become accredited and will make us an attractive choice for students seeking an education and future career in Business.

In addition, we opened up St. George to reach more students on the North Shore and provide an opportunity to Staten Island residents to access higher education classes and earn degrees.

During my tenure, there has also been an increase in Foundation and unrestricted funds. When I first started, the CSI Foundation was in a hole. Now, it has more than quadrupled its assets, going from near bankruptcy with $4M in assets but an unrestricted fund that was $-300,000 underwater to a foundation with $22M in assets and a million and a half -dollar surplus in unrestricted funds. Of course, to be consistent with other senior campuses, an institution like ours needs over $100 million, a number that did not seem possible nine years ago. Today, it is well within our sights within the next nine years.

Finally, the over $250 million in major construction, critical maintenance, and renovations, that we fought for and have completed on this campus, as well as the future projects that we have already secured funding for, has helped and will continue to help build upon the foundation of this campus as we move into the future.

It is easy to forget but just a few years ago, loop road was undrivable, our buildings had no gutters, and work had not started on the front entrances to the academic buildings, power went out on an all too regular basis, and 2M was vacant. Today, renovations of 2M are continuing, four front entrances have been done and work will start on more, a new $39M substation to bring power stability and to allow for future growth is nearing completion, and the sidewalks will all be redone, hopefully starting in the spring when the snow leaves.

Of course, we could pour another billion dollars into the campus and it would not fix everything. I know many of you remain frustrated that so much remains to be done. However, consider that we had to start somewhere, and like eating the proverbial elephant one small bite at a time, or the single step to start a journey of 1,000 miles, we had to get started. Our construction budget from CUNY has also quadrupled with improvements that are coming. Throughout my career, as a guiding principle, I have built and planned for sustainability and for the long term, something for future generations to enjoy.

We must continue to keep the pace and not stop the momentum of building and growing.

I want to end by saying how grateful I am for the opportunity to have been your leader, for all the support you have provided me over the years, and for all that you do to help make this College the best institution it can be. Continue to build upon this great institution, focus on our students and providing them an exceptional education, and this College will continue to evolve and succeed in its mission.

I wish you all much success and happiness in both your professional and educational journeys at the College of Staten Island. Beyond that, I wish you all the best wherever your path should lead you.

Again, thank you! Wishing you all have a very Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely, William J. Fritz President

**VI. Reports of the Committees of the College Council**

1. Committee on Organization: W. Bell – No Report
2. By-Law Committee – J Verzani – No Report
3. Administrative Review Committee – no report
4. Institutional Planning Committee – no report
5. Budget Committee – no report
6. Facilities Committee – no report

**VII. Student Government Report – Marwan Mahmoud**

The student government primary concern is to raise the morale of the students, encouraging them to return to campus in Spring 2021. We will be updating the game room. We have a School Spirit Committeeso that we can come up with ideas and search for effective ways of promoting communication. People are naturally getting fatigue and we want to promote school spirit to thrive.

**VIII. Higher Education Officer Steering Committee Report – M. Murphy**

The HEO steering committee has submitted a proposal to the bylaws committee for increase representation in college governance. It is a comprehensive document, and we look forward to lots of discussion and good end results.

Many HEOs are concerned about the work arrangements for the Spring semester. The group has been talking and would want a continuation of remote work that was in place this semester. We also believe that we can carry out our activities in the week between Christmas and New Year.

In terms of the lack of HEO’s representation in the search committee for the president, colleagues of the executive committee have informed me that their hands are tied. With the advice of the PSC, we will be advocating for the inclusion of HEOs in presidential search committee by working with the Labor Management Committee.

**IX. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report: R. Wallace –** No Report

**X. Old Business -- none  
  
XI. New Business –**

**For a Full Investigation into the Death of College of Staten Island (CSI) Cafeteria Worker Corey Holmes**

**(Submitted by Jay Arena on behalf of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology)**

**Whereas**, the College of Staten Island Governance Plan, which we have mightily defended, states that “[Everyone participating in the College community has important, legitimate, and respected roles and responsibilities in sustaining and furthering the goals of the College](C://Users/jaren/OneDrive/Documents/activism/NY%20activism/CSI/Coronavirus%20crisis/Governance%20Struggle%202021%20Spring/Governance_Plan--existing.pdf)”, and therefore when anyone in our community has those rights violated, it is an assault on the rights of all; and

**Whereas**, November 29, 2021 marks ten years since long time CSI Cafeteria worker Corey Holmes’ died after an engagement with New York Police Department officers on the campus of the College of Staten Island; and

**Whereas**, the corporate press, including the *New York Post* (which ran a headline of a [“Pot Smoking SI Thug . . . ”](https://nypost.com/2011/12/15/pot-smoking-si-thug-who-died-of-apparent-heart-attack-after-fleeing-cop-was-violent-fugitive-from-texas/)), and the *Daily News* (which described a “[wild Holmes](https://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/man-smoking-pot-college-staten-island-dies-confrontation-police-article-1.984099)”), failed to seriously investigate the death of Holmes; and

**Whereas**, under the Memorandum of Understanding between the New York Police Department and the City University of New York, NYPD personnel are to only enter on CUNY campuses in “non-emergency” situations “[upon the request or approval of a CUNY official designated by CUNY as having authority to make such a request](file:///Users/cindywong/Downloads/New%20York%20Police%20Department)”; and

**Whereas**, the official version of events, which attributed Holmes’ death to “[cardiac arrest](https://gothamist.com/news/si-man-dies-after-cop-catches-him-smoking-pot-in-bathroom)” and later, from the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, an “[accidental overdose](https://www.silive.com/westshore/2012/01/worker_in_nov_scuffle_with_cop.html)”, eerily mirrors the initial lie used by the Minneapolis Police Department to explain the murder of George Floyd: “[Man Dies After Medical Incident During Police Interaction](https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/21/us/minneapolis-police-george-floyd-death/index.html)”; and

**Whereas**, a recent study by the University of Washington School of Medicine found that in the “[US between 1980 and 2018, more than 55% of deaths](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/30/police-killings-not-reported-mislabelled-study), over 17,000 in total, from police violence were either misclassified or went unreported”; and

**Whereas**, the University of Washington School of Medicine study further found that there are “[large conflict of interests inherent in tracking](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/30/police-killings-not-reported-mislabelled-study) police-involved deaths. Coroners are often embedded within police departments and can be disincentivized from determining that deaths are caused by police violence”; and

**Whereas**, the recent indictment of two law enforcement officer in Georgia for the murder of [Jamarion Robinson was greatly assisted by the family hiring a private investigator](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/27/us/jamarion-robinson-shooting-officers-charged.html); and

**Whereas**, our outgoing President, William Fritz, in his April 20, 2021 email to the CSI community following the conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, wrote that we must “be resolute” in the “pursuit of justice”; and

**Whereas**, the formation of the anti-racism collective at CSI was in part prompted by the summer 2020 mass protests against police murder, particularly of African Americans; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the CSI Faculty Senate and College Council call on the Diversity Council, an initiative of the CSI administration, to use the college’s resources to conduct a full investigation to determine the truth in the death of Corey Holmes.

The resolution was discussed and will be brought back as Old Business in the next December meeting.

**Adjournment – 4.30PM**

**Video link:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/mYeRfPgwptmpS1s5LZB1FKQu\_Qn2sIMdGZinvAffBtjDG0dgwRfFeUAUkjqAVHUsiOrQWXuh\_9Htzzww.RkItVE\_t\_YHcaGlf?continueMode=true&\_x\_zm\_rtaid=6jD95Z-7QXK6MIqzY1yAlw.1639289516001.57e3d5d3a7e1949bb2a2b6cc30d9a0a7&\_x\_zm\_rhtaid=10**](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/mYeRfPgwptmpS1s5LZB1FKQu_Qn2sIMdGZinvAffBtjDG0dgwRfFeUAUkjqAVHUsiOrQWXuh_9Htzzww.RkItVE_t_YHcaGlf?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=6jD95Z-7QXK6MIqzY1yAlw.1639289516001.57e3d5d3a7e1949bb2a2b6cc30d9a0a7&_x_zm_rhtaid=10)