**Draft Minutes for the One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002  
  
Date: Thursday, Feb 18, 2021, 2:30pm – 3:30pm  
Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance:** Jonathan Peters,Chang-Hui Shen, Angelo Bongiorno, Yumei Huo, Sarah Zelikovitz, Rachel Grant, Simone Wegge, Gene Fellner, Neo Antoniades, Lee Papa, John Wing, Wilma Jones, Carles Solà Belda, Soon Chun, Natalie Fischetti, Carlo Lancelloti, Tara Mateik Cynthia Chris, Sylvia Kahan, Mark White, Jane Marcus Delgado, Comfort Asanbe, Christine Flyn Saulnier, Jay Arena, Lucas Marchante-Aragón, Alyson Bardsely, Alan Benimoff, Jason Bishop, Vandana Chaudhry, Katie Cumiskey, Deborah De Simone, Maryann Feola, Ellen Goldner, Susan Imberman, Catherine Lavender, John Lawrence, Alfred Levine, Gerry Milligan, Michael Paris, George Sanchez, Francisco Soto, Thomas Tellefsen, John Verzani, Cindy Wong, Alan Zimmerman, Roshen Hendrickson, Andrew Colbeck, Brian Farr, Peter Galati, Victor Miller, William Fritz, Michael Parrish, Sarolta Takács, Susan Holak, Marcus Tye, Michael Cavagnero

**Guests**: A. leykam, Alan Hoffner, Alberto Sanchez, Alexander Scott, Ali Elkomy, Aliza Martini, Amila Goonawardena, Amy Stempler, Anat Niv-Solomon, Angela Cartmell​, Barbara Cohen, C Karacas, caterina scarimbolo, Celeste Del Maestro, Chris Conidis, Christina Boyle, Christina Hagedorn​, Christine Cohen, Christine Myers, Crystal Deosaran, Daniel Kurzweil, Darryl Hill, David Pizzuto, Deborah Meise, Donna Sauthoff, Donna Scimeca, Edward​ Patri, Elena Tzen, Eric Ivison, Erma Tacopino, Ewa Dzurak, Greg Phillips, Gregory Brown, Hernan Green, Holly Block, Intissar Hasan, Isabel Rechberg, Ivan Scott Lee, James Hamilton, Jay Arena​, Jeff Vilkov, Jenn Pizzuto, Jennifer Durando, Joanne LaPilusa, Jonelle Knox, Joyce Taylor, Karen Contreras, Karen Contreras, Katrina Fama, Kenneth Wolpin​,​ Kerri Gerson, Koby Kohulan, Leonardo Pignataro​,  Linda Conte, Lucy Lombardo, Lynne Lacomis, Maria Levine, Mark Lewental, Matthew Ganz, Maureen Garvey, Maurya Wickstrom, McKala Neese, michael anderson, Michael Chiacchiero, Michael Lederhandler, Michele Callahan,  Michele Karpeles, Michelle Borowski, Mike Cavagnero, Nada Michael, natalie fischetti, Nina Del Gatto​, Nina Long, Nina Morgenlander, Orit D. Gruber, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Ralf Peetz, Rob Wallace, Roberta Klibaner, Shannon Cammarano, Sharon Christian, Spozmi Nouri, Stefanie Gardiner, Stephanie Gonzalez Allen, Stephen Ferst, Susan Massara, Susan Mee Crimmins, Sylvia Kahan, Tara Mastrorilli, terri sangiorgio, Tom Lauria, Veronica Dimeglio, Wilma Jones.

I. Approval of the proposed agenda - *approved*  
  
II. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – *approved with revisions on couple of typos*

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

# Feb 2021 CC Chair’s Report

The CC Executive Committee met with President Fritz, Provost Parrish, and Interim Chief of Staff Collura on February 9th. Our conversation included:

## An overview of the budget position

* The state has announced that rather than a 20% cut for FY21, the amount will be 5%. This same amount is in the FY22 State Executive Budget for [FY22](https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/budget-and-finance/FY2022-State-Executive-and-City-Preliminary-Budget-Analysis.pdf)
* The new federal stimulus monies include 22.565M for CSI of which 16.267M is for the campus (the balance a match of the direct student support from the CARES act). These monies should have more relaxed rules as regards their usage (along with the balance of the unspent CARES funds):

Institutional portion funds may be used to defray expenses associated with coronavirus (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll), and to carry out student support activities authorized by the HEA that address needs related to coronavirus. Institutional funds may also be used to make additional financial aid grants to students.

* The board approved a budget [request](https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/budget-and-finance/FY2022-Budget-Request.pdf) for FY22 which reflected a recognition that the state and city will be unable to enhance support of the University.

(The Board will be asked to approve a budget for this fiscal year –running to the end of June–at its March meeting – the above request is for next year – but until then, each college has been operating in a very speculative environment)

* We asked about enrollment (currently down 3.8% from last year)
* We asked about the college’s positions on CAs:

several committee members have heard stores of staffing changes at the CA level. Has there been any policy changes related to part-time personnel, especially college assistant staffing (for those with health insurance)

We heard that we are not out of the woods, that layoffs had been postponed, but that there was a perception that some positions are not as effective when staffed remotely. The CC XC emphasized the precarious position of many CAs whose job provides health care for the family, the long-time commitment many CAs have made to the campus, and the need to ensure any mandated separations consider the expertise that must be replaced in the future.

* We asked about the activity of the Vacancy Review Board

We heard that there will be 5 faculty searches this year, all at the lecturer level – 2 in Nursing, 1 in Social Work, 2 in CS (as funded through a STEM initiative). There are other approved searches, but we did not discuss these.

In addition, the college is said to be working on a multi-year plan for position control. We heard that all searches will have members from outside the department to encourage diversity in hiring. We heard that the Deans have been charged to play a more involved role in the process.

# Diversity

We had asked:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The executive committee would like to have several concrete pieces of information. First, what are the current statistics on faculty and staff of color (positions, length of service, promotions, etc.). Second, how has this changed over time (comparative data looking at the past 5-10 years). And, third, what are the administration’s plans, targets and goals in this area? Similarly, what is the College’s plan for recruitment, retention, and support for students from underrepresented groups?

We heard that some data will be collated. Members of the XC urged an explicit articulation of goals in this area. The closing of achievement gaps for students were discussed; the goal of closing under-utilization rates by department was mentioned. It was pointed out the value of the students seeing a reflection of their diversity in the curriculum and in staffing.

# Ombudsperson

We had asked:

Members of the executive committee have heard several stories of issues arising from the transition to Division II athletics. As was made evident during the December Faculty Senate issue, many members of the college community still have concerns about this move. We propose the establishment of an ombudsperson who can act as a faithful intermediary so that an accurate narrative can be agreed upon for this particular matter, and others that may arise in the future. Historically the college has had such a position, though it has not for some time now.

The president said he would consider this. We will follow up on this promise. It was mentioned that he is comfortable with the current process of accountability. It was suggested that members of the community desire an honest broker (“Switzerland”) be empowered here.

# Reopening plans

We asked:

Members were informed of a preliminary target of just 25% percent capacity for Fall 2021. Is this the case? Could we have a report at this February’s College Council on current expectations for Fall 2021

The Chancellor had said the goal was 100% in person. We learned that “100%” is actually open to interpretation. For example, “100% of students have the opportunity for some in person experience during the fall semester” may be the scope of this statement.

We heard that the state may have the college still in a Phase III of reopening which requires masks and social distancing be used during any in-person setting. Social distancing dramatically reduces room capacity, perhaps down to as little as 25% of the original capacity. How this restricted size is implemented via hybrid, blended, fully online is to be determined.

We heard about efforts underway to make classrooms technologically able to handle “blended” instruction (some student in person/some remote).

We emphasized the need for clarity to the campus, especially in light of the need to schedule for Fall at the present time. We mentioned that funds are or will certainly be available through federal monies to address needs and that expense should not be a reason to delay the full return to campus.

IV. Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – G. Sanchez

- The union suggested a town hall to discuss reopening efforts

-       the union asked if College will consider a moratorium on bursa holds

-       The union asked if the administration will consider lowering the caps for online classes

-       New Deal for CUNY, information has been posted on the PSC website

-       our local chapter has put a lot of time and effort into the anti racism working group.

V. President Report: Bill Fritz

<https://www.csi.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/presidentsoffice/newsletter/February18_2021.pdf>

College Council February 18, 2021

Good afternoon. Welcome Back to Spring Semester.

I hope everyone had a nice break.

February is Black History Month, dedicated to recognizing the achievements of African Americans while also acknowledging the unjust treatment they endured in their own country.

• There have been several great events for Black History Month scheduled throughout the month sponsored by different departments and divisions.

• Student Affairs put together a robust series of events – some co-sponsored by academic departments. I hope everyone got a chance to sign up for at least one of their programs.

• Of note, on February 26, Student Affairs will be hosting What Does Racial Equity Mean to Me? in which a diverse group of CSI students and faculty will share their thoughts on this question, as well as strategies for achieving racial equity. This event will feature a reading by Distinguished Professor and award-winning poet Patricia Smith-DeSilva.

• You can find these events, as well as links to register for them, on our home page under CSI Campus Events.

Monday, we will begin our 21-Day Equity Habit Building Challenge. An email will be sent out shortly to the College community, with a link to the Website and an invitation to register for the first Zoom session scheduled on February 26 when we will share our experiences and begin to really listen to one another. All are invited to join us.

Thank you to those who provided feedback on our Diversity Equity and Inclusion programming. We are finalizing our Diversity Council, and many of your suggestions will be considered by the Council. We have important work ahead of us, and I believe that this Council will be able to help us with our goals.

My main goal and my personal challenge to the campus is to (1) close the achievement gaps for our students, and (2) at a minimum, have no underutilization in any academic or non-academic department.

Unfortunately, Commencement will be virtual again this year, as it will be on all CUNY campuses. The ceremony is scheduled to be released for viewing on Thursday, May 27, 2021. Earlier this month, we held the Legislative Forum. We were joined by our elected officials, their aides, faculty, and our Student Government President. It went very well, and we are grateful for the continued support they have shown for our students and institution.

The CSI Foundation virtual fundraiser, “Giving from the Heart,” premiered on February 11. The event is focused on raising funds to support our students during the pandemic and will be open through the end of the month. As is true for much of public higher education, support from friends who believe in our mission of providing access to high-quality education for our students has increased during the pandemic.

If you haven’t seen it already, you should view the event, which you can register for on our Website. Presidential Medals were awarded to Pulitzer Prize Winner and Distinguished Professor, Tyehimba Jess – who gave a powerful and moving speech; Andrea Dalzell, a proud graduate of our Nursing program, and the only disabled registered nurse in New York State, who has been recognized as a pioneering activist for people with disabilities; and Dr. Michael Nakao and his wife, singer-songwriter Kate McDonnell, alumni, friends, and donors of the College for many years.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have had some notable achievements:

• The College of Staten has been named Number 2 on the 2021-2022 Military Friendly® Schools list under the category “Small Public.”

• CSI is Number 1 on Best Value Schools’ list of the 19 Best Music Colleges in New York in 2021.

• According to the final 2020 NCLEX-RN reports, our Associate Nursing students had a 92.79% pass rate total for calendar year 2020.

• Dean Balsamini will be honored with the Louis R. Miller Leadership Award for his leadership and community service in helping small businesses – especially during the pandemic. Guiding these businesses through the loan applications process, it’s projected that the Small Business Development Center helped create or save 1,900 local jobs with an economic impact of $25M. This is what borough stewardship and being an anchor institution is all about.

Our budget still remains uncertain but we know a lot more now than a few months ago. We have been living off an 80% allocation (20% holdback) based on the FY20 budget. The good news is that the state recently announced that the 20% holdback is off the table. Instead there is a 5% budget cut for FY21 and FY22. The CUNY Board has approved a budget request for FY22 that includes the 5% cut for at least two years (FY21 and FY22) and authority for a tuition increase for four more years of up to $200/year, but that would have to be approved each year by the CUNY Board. The request does not include increases for mandatory costs.

The bad news is the that a 5% cut is on top of a flat budget that equates to a 3% cut. Therefore, the 5% cut is really 8%. On top of that, we still have a spring enrollment decrease that looks normal for the senior campuses but is still a decrease, and of course, we are still dealing with the structural deficit. We must continue to be vigilant.

Yet again, our capital budget is in relatively good shape. There were no reductions and CSI’s share has nearly quadrupled over the past three years. State and City projects deemed non-health- and safety-related were shut down due to the pandemic. A number of projects have been approved to resume; however, many are still in a holding pattern.

Our stimulus money sounds good but has mostly yet to be given to us. We must also remember that stimulus money is one-time money. Our priorities for these funds are: health and safety, to get the campus open, to assist students, and lost revenue. While this is better than December, time will tell if the stimulus money will offset our budget challenges – probably, but with great caution.

Consistent with the direction of the Chancellor, our goal for the fall is to have as much in-person programming as is responsible. Responsible means that we must follow our State-approved reentry plan with the understanding that the actual number of people permitted on campus per day will vary by each CUNY campus, as State-approved reopening plans vary greatly across CUNY due to each unique campus challenge.

For CSI, this means we are planning to implement Phase 3 of our plan by the start of Fall Semester and this will allow up to 25% of our community to come to campus each day. Unfortunately, the numbers cannot go above this unless the rules of social distancing change. I personally think that social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing will be with us for a long time. I have directed the Provost and the Deans to work out the schedule that best fits the needs of our students. Remote work, remote teaching, and remote learning are going to be with us for a long time.

I am looking forward to the work ahead of us. There is much to do and we are all working hard to address the many different competing priorities, all of which are very important to our community. I want to thank you all for your hard work as we move forward together, keeping the needs of our students first and foremost in all that we do, consistent with our Strategic Priority of Student Success.

William J. Fritz President

VI. Reports from the Administration – No Report

VII. Reports of the Committees of the College Council

a. Committee on Organization – W. Bell, No report

b. By-Law Committee - J. Verzani,

The bylaws committee is starting to roll out its proposed draft of changes to the bylaws; we had hoped to be on the general chairs agenda, but it was to cram, so we have requested that the departments consider it at their next department meeting and hopefully the provost will arrange for the materials to be sent out.

c. Administrative Review Committee (AREC) – Chair: Darryl Hill,

"The AREC committee is exploring the possibility of assessing the leadership of the College. We are going to use the strategic plan for the college, Opportunity to Ascend, as a rubric. AREC is asking leaders at the College to offer their thoughts on how we are doing with the plan and to provide evidence that could be used to establish any of the outcomes of the plan. We are seeking to generally take stock of where we are with respect to the strategic plan. Think of this as outcomes assessment for the strategic plan of the College. AREC is asking you to help make our effort strong by responding to our requests for your input. If I have not contacted you and you have information on the strategic plan that would help us in our tasks, please contact me and I will provide you with our survey instrument.  If all goes well, we hope to have a global assessment of the plan by the end of the Semester, with specific follow ups on specific strategic priorities in the fall.​"

d. Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) – President Fritz, No Report

e. Budget Committee – John Verzani, The Budget Committee will seek a meeting with the Provost and the Chief Financial Officier at the beginning of March.

f. Facilities Committee – Jonathan Peters We will be organizing meetings for the spring semester, and obviously with the campus close, we have to discuss what is going to be the goal the facilities committee over the next eight months right.

VIII. Student Government Report— Shawn Abraham,

1. We are holding in-house elections today, which is why SG President Velikodny is not attending today. We have 3 Freshman, 1 sophomore, and 1 junior seat open. Most importantly, though, SG elections for 2021-2022 are now open. We urge faculty and staff to share this information to get students to run and eventually vote for future student leaders.

2. There has been a lot of confusion among students regarding in-person learning in Fall 2021. We want to help alleviate this confusion by asking the administration to email updates on where the discussion is with the issue.

The re-opening committee is meeting next week and hopefully this will be addressed.

3. As the administration knows, the CUNYfirst system has made creating initiatives unbearably slow. Although we are working with USS to bring it to the CUNY Board of Trustees, we are unsure if they will budge on this matter. We hope there will be some changes, otherwise when we eventually transition to in-person learning, it will be unbearably difficult for students.

4. The SG graduate assistance fund will open soon. Essentially, the fund reimburses students up to $750 for graduate school related expenses like applications, test prep, etc. We hope to have many students apply.

IX. Higher Education Officer Steering Committee Report – Mary Murphy,

The staffing situation of CAs presents a real problem for HEOs because they will now have to take on additional work duties in addition to their own. We already have complaints of excessive workload above and beyond their job descriptions. I have been in touch with the PSC to discuss this issue.

HEOs are also very concerned about the re-opening of the campus. Many HEOs engage in direct service to students and we want to see that our workplaces are safe and healthy for all  on re-entry.

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – Robert Wallace, no report

XI. Old Business - *none*  
  
XII. New Business - *none*  
  
XIII. Adjournment – 3:30pm

Meeting recording can be accessed at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tC6n5f_KLftaSyWz5Ok3WykEkWqzkLHb9IwJFIDc5rYCCdV-PNf9VVDfcE-IdS7m.Gd0xrfmPuLt4WP3o> Passcode: .1\*mZ^=V

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Wong, Secretary for the College Council