**Draft Minutes for the One Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002  
  
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021, 2:30pm – 4:15pm  
Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance:** Patricia Kahn, Alvaro Baquero-Pecino, Dalia Kandiyoti, Roberta Klibaner, Maryann Feola, John Verzani, Theodora petratos, Brian, Francisco Soto, Natalie Fischetti, Linda Coull, Elizabeth Livensperger, Warrick Bell, Gloria Gianoulis, Shawn Abraham, Michael Anderson, Maurya Wickstrom, Carol Brower, Cindy Wong, Danna Curcio, Maxwell Velikodny, Alana Gaymon, Florinda Mattia, Deborah De Simone, Deborah Meise, Patricia Galletta, John Wing, Marta Cabral, George, Michele Karpeles, Susan Rocco, Mark Lewental, John Jankowski, Cynthia Chris, Peter Galati, Michael Chiacchiero, Thomas Tellefsen, Andrew Colbeck, George Vachadze, Jane Alexander, Abhijit Champanerkar, Sandra Gambetti, Jennifer Wagner (Sapir), Jason Bishop, Michael Mandiberg, Ping Shi, Alfred Levine, Susan Imberman, Anat Niv-Solomon, Saadia Toor, Isabel Rechberg, 19177161640, Mark D. White, Lee Papa, Zaghloul 11, Jennifer Macchiarola, Christine Myers, Simone Wegge, Harry Thorne, Mike Cavagnero, Intissar Hasan, 15857291122, Claudia Mitzeliotis, Gary Pizzolo, Stephen Ferst, Gene Fellner, Jenn Pizzuto, Mark Lewis, Susan Holak, Gerry Milligan, Dick Veit, Marcus Tye, 19178167791, Carlo Lancellotti, 19177767980, Christopher Santiago, Ellen Goldner, Mario D'Alessandro, Michelle Borowski, Maureen Garvey, Angelo Bongiorno, Leonardo Pignataro, Valerie, Jessica Pizzolo, Barbara.DiciccoBloom, Patti Gross, Fred Naider, Terri Sangiorgio, Comfort Asanbe, Ilya Kofman, David Allen, Suzy Shepardson, Kerri Ferretti, Esther Son, Christina Boyle, Christine Cohen, Barbara Cohen, Carles Sola Belda, Crystal Deosaran, John Lawrence, Anita Romano, George Wang, Roshen Hendrickson, Darryl Hill, Lisa Manne, Donna Scimeca, Liqing Tao, Beatrix Reinhardt, 17187024129, 19174952783, 17183139054,16462566837, iPhone, Linda, Katie Cumiskey, Xiaowen Zhang, Kristi Brescia, Mary Murphy, Ken Wolpin, Koby Kohulan, Mary Boland, Christine Flynn Saulnier, Chrisanthi Anastopoulou, Ilyssa Silfen, Eric Ivison, Donna Sauthoff, Linda Conte, Amy Stempler, Winsome, Fred Loweff, Barbara Schiano, Brenda Valentin, Karen Arca-Contreras, Katrina Fama, Nada Michael,Momtahina Akter, Sylvia Kahan, Nan Sussman, Jonathan Peters, Qiao-Sheng Hu,Ali Elkomy, Paola Ureni, Matt Brim, Kristen Gillespie-Lynch, Hernan Green, Christina Hagedorn, Nelly Tournaki, Carlos Serrano, Gunter Fuchs, Cynthia Palumbo,Robert, Marianne Weil, Louis Petingi, Ozlem Goner, Lara Saguisag, Patricia Brooks, Alex Scott, Deborah Stengle, Olivia Frasca, Jasmine Cardona, Mark Stroud, Michael Paris, Regina Lama, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Russell Davis, Sarolta Takács, Michael Batson, Lucas Marchante, Greg Phillips, Orit D. Gruber, Don Selby, Wilma Jones, Roshen Hendrickson, Ananya Mukherjea, Manuela Alongi, Joyce Taylor, Frances Yee, Jennifer Durando, Dan McCloskey, Ewa Dzurak, Tara Mastrorilli, Susan Sullivan, Ralf Peetz, Jessica Stein, Lynne Lacomis, Roslyn Bologh, Veronica Dimeglio, Ken Gold, Susan Massara, Juline Robinson, Chris Miller, Holly Block, Catherine, Kerri Gerson, Jesse Mariya Rodriguez, Neo Antoniades, Chang Guo, Jennifer Wagner, Alyson Barsley, Paul Archibald, Adam Imberman, Jonelle Knox,Janice, Cheryl’s iPhone, Andy Leykam, Chandan Acharya, James Saccardo, Soon Chun, Jean Halley, Lillian N, Nina Long, Janine Scotto, Michael Volpe, Judit Kerekes, Sandi Cooper, Rafael de la Dehesa, Ruth Silverberg, Erma Tacopino, Russell Rosen, Emmanuel Esperance Jr., Sarah Zelikovitz, Jennifer Lynch, Seamus Hughes, Michael Ivany, Donna Elwell, Laura Maraio,Gregory Brown, Jessica Stein, Tom Volscho, Tara Mateik, (Nina), Vandana Chaudhry, Kathleen, Susan Brillhart, Joseph, Jason Simon, Cesar Arenas, Alexander Zevin, Jay Arena, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Ismael Hasan, Georgia Landrum, Clarisse Domingo, Mark Aaron Polger, Victor Miller, Marguerite Fuller, Dina Pattelli, Alan Benimoff, Catherine Lavender, Debi Kee, Shuqun Zhang, Stephanie Schmier, Donna Garambone, Joanne Morris, Hosu Kim, Eric Henry, Andrés Cerpa, Peter's iPhone, Kerri Ferretti’s iPhone, Alberto Ballesteros, Sharon Christian, Jonathan Cope, Intissar Hasan, Patricia Smith, Andrew.Diaz, Barbra Teater, Steven Monte,Laura Maraio, Simone Wegge, Anjail Ameen-Rice, Lauren M. Silverman, Khuyen Vo, Michal Kruk, Katharine Goodland, William Bernhardt, Katerina

Purpose: To discuss the Proposed new governance plan by President Fritz, sent to the college community on March 3, 2021.

* Introduction: Thanks to the PSC members for re-scheduling their standing 2nd Thursday meeting to next Tuesday;
* A history of governance changes at CSI (Cindy Wong)
* A comparison of the replacement plan with the current plan (John Verzani)
* Power Point Slides of the above two presentations can be found at:
* <https://csi-covid19.github.io/CCFS/Mar-SpecialMeeting/>
* Discussions followed
* During the Discussion, different departments and entities of the college community presented statements to the body.
* From the English Department, Lee Papa
* The Department of English
* College of Staten Island, City University of New York
* Statement of Opposition to President Fritz’s Proposed CSI Governance Plan
* The principles of academic freedom and shared governance have defined the modern University and ensured its integrity for over one hundred years. The American Association of University Professors first published its “Declaration of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure” in 1915. Its “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities” appeared in 1920. Academic freedom assures that faculty may pursue their research and teaching free of fear or favor. Shared governance further protects that principle by assuring that curricular and other decisions that go to the heart of the intellectual life and health of the institution are shared with faculty, who have the subject matter expertise and pedagogical experience to build a strong curricular foundation for students. The premises of these documents have been reaffirmed and adopted by most major scholarly and academic organizations time and again. All efforts at the College of Staten Island, instructional or otherwise, should be undertaken with these principles in mind. Anything that undermines them has no place in this institution.
* President Fritz’s proposal violates these principles in both process and content, jeopardizing the well-being and reputation of the College of Staten Island.
* In his haste to push the proposal forward, he has bypassed existing structures including the Institutional Planning Committee and the Bylaws Committee when they stand ready to engage in governance revision. He seeks to remove faculty from positions of authority in standing committees, especially in matters of curriculum, instruction, and research, trampling on the principle that the intellectual life of a university is the charge of the professional scholars and educators who staff it.  His proposal threatens a strong tenure and promotion system, the very thing that is essential to protecting academic freedom and preventing intimidation and arbitrary dismissal.
* When a university abandons its commitment to academic freedom and shared governance, it ceases to be a credible institution of higher learning. The English department rejects the current effort to circumvent established processes and meaningful consultation, and to curtail faculty voice and participation in channels of governance. We demand President Fritz respect the tenets of shared governance, rescind the current unilateral proposal, and open a meaningful and collegial conversation about governance structures using those procedures currently in place at CSI.
* From The Council of Chairs, Maurya Wickstrom
* *We, the Chairpersons of the academic departments of the College of Staten Island, meeting as the Council of Chairs, object to the process through which the governance proposal has been presented without thorough consultation. We have strong concerns about the diminishment of the faculty role in academic decisions. We recommend a revised timeline that allows for careful consideration of every aspect of this plan and input from an array of stakeholders.*
* From the Department of Chemistry, Fred Naider

The Department of Chemistry at the College of Staten Island has considered the proposal for a Governance change put forth by the President on March 3, 2021. We are perplexed by the sudden request for this change in the College’s governance, by the lack of a specific justification for such a change and by the development of a Governance Document without any apparent input from the faculty of the College. The current Governance plan reflected a process that was conducted by the College over a period of nearly ten years. This process was to some extent initiated by President Fritz, and was overseen by several of his Provosts. The previous deliberations involved input from many faculty members and was ultimately approved by the college. The view of the Chemistry Department is that changes in College Governance should reflect careful deliberations and should only be initiated when there is a specific and urgent need. Frequent changes in Governance can create uncertainty and demoralization. Our Department therefore counsels the President to table this Draft plan, to initiate a process of collaboration and consultation with the faculty and to articulate his views why a change in Governance is needed at this time.

Based on the above considerations we find ourselves in general agreement with our colleagues from the Mathematics department. While we would not use all of the wording of their Motion of March 4, 2021 we support their motion and

Resolve that the Department of Chemistry strongly objects to a continued consideration of the Draft governance plan of March 3, 2021, asks that this plan be tabled in its entirety and that the President and Provost immediately initiate discussions with the faculty to explain the need for a change in our recently approved Governance plan. If such discussions elucidate the merit of changing our governance we ask that such changes be made with the full input and collaboration of the faculty.

(approved unanimously by the faculty of the Department of Chemistry at the meeting of March 9, 2021)

* From the Course and Standing Committee, Suzy Shepardson

On March 10, the Course and Standing Committee reviewed the newly-proposed College of Staten Island Governance Plan, specifically the details and provisions relevant to the work of this committee, and we would like to share our feedback.

We believe the proposed Academic Standing committee is an unworkable replacement for the current Course and Standing Committee for these reasons:

* There have been no problems or concerns expressed regarding the work of the current Course and Standing Committee. In fact, Course & Standing has been operating efficiently and effectively serving the interests of our students.
* There was no consultation with the current Course and Standing Committee about what could be improved and how.
* The newly-proposed Academic Standing committee as described will be too small to handle the workload.
* Representation in the new Academic Standing committee should be by department and not by division/school, to provide a forum that acknowledges and respects the expertise of multiple academic areas and allows for better representation of the interests of all students.
* The committee chair should be a faculty member and not an administrator, to allow for all present to feel comfortable with freely expressing ideas and opinions, including untenured faculty and members of the professional staff, without fear of retaliation.
* The role of the student representative on the committee should be clarified to address the level of participation, along with ethical and legal concerns regarding the petitioners’ rights to privacy.
* The newly proposed process of allowing students to appeal the committee’s decisions to the provost will undermine the expertise and powers of the committee, and would most likely result in a *de facto* process of a double-review of appeals, further increasing the workload of the body and jeopardizing student ability to receive results on time-sensitive matters in an efficient manner.

For these reasons, we reject the newly-proposed Academic Standing Committee, and recommend leaving the Course and Standing Committee unchanged, to operate under its current rules and composition.

* From the Department of the Library, Jonathan Cope

We, the faculty of the Department of the Library, object to  the proposed governance plan for the College of Staten Island announced by the Office of the President on March 3, 2021, and the process by which it was introduced. This governance proposal has been presented without any consultation. We have strong concerns about the diminished role of faculty in academic decisions and also specific matters pertaining to the Library.

Passed by the College of Staten Island Department of the Library on March 11, 2021.

* From the Department of Media Culture, Cynthia Chris

We, the faculty of the Department of Media Culture, oppose the imposition of changes in governance structures without due process of consultation with faculty and other stakeholders such as the standing By-Laws Committee, and without results approved by a majority of instructional staff resulting from established democratic procedures. Therefore, we reject the proposal issued by the Office of the President on March 3, 2021, due to its diminishment of faculty leadership and failure of due process.

* A straw poll was taken:
* Motion: We ask the President to withdraw his proposal and engage in collaborative work through the existing governance plan, working with the Bylaws Committee to recommend and discuss changes that he would like to see in the Governance Plan.
* Fewer than 5% of 193 attendants voted no or abstain.
* Meeting Recording:
* https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rNb7WKQPezZozZIvlj6cSprsugd5B4bX6tjC9u15tZd55D7lxtrcN8o8JwOQjsIa.ZvHaLQTH\_5B1XKR-
* Access Passcode: gT$uJSp6

*The 20-minute video, edited by Susan Imberman, attempts to fairly reflect the many points raised at the meeting into a shorter form for viewing.* … <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3e405ct7e4wwhfl/CC%20trailer.mp4?dl=0>