**COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND    
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK    
    
Agenda for the One Hundred and Thirtieth Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002    
    
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020, 2:30pm – 3:30pm     
Location: Zoom Meeting**

I.     Approval of the proposed agenda    
    
II.     Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting    
    
III.     Executive Committee of College Council Report - J. Verzani (the report is included in this email)  
    
IV.     President’s Report    
    
V.     Reports from the Administration   
    
VI.     Reports of the Committees of the College Council    
    
a.     Committee on Organization    
b.     By-Law Committee    
c.     Administrative Review Committee    
d.     Institutional Planning Committee    
e.     Budget Committee – J. Verzani (the report is included in this email)   
f.      Facilities Committee

VII.     Student Government Report    
    
VIII.    Higher Education Officer Steering Committee Report    
    
IX.     Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report    
    
X.     Auxiliary Services Corporation Report    
    
XI.     Old Business    
    
XII.    New Business    
    
XIII.   Adjournment  

**COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND    
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK    
    
Minutes for the One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002    
    
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020, 2:30pm – 3:30pm     
Location: IP-119**

**Present:**Jonathan Peters, Richard Veit, Sebastien Poget, Margaret Berci, Gene Fellner, Neo Antoniades, Lee Papa, John Wing, Jonathan Cope, Gordan Di Paolo, Rosane Gertner, Carlo Lancellotti, Tara Mateik, Natalie Fiscetti, Zaghloul Ahmed, Cary Karacas, Florette Cohen, Christine Flynn Saulnier, Patti Gross, Hosu kim, Lucas Marchante-Aragon, Alan Benimoff,Katie Cumiskey, Deborah DeSimone, Maryann Feola, Deborah Franzblau, Ellen Goldner, John Lawrence, Alfred Levine, Micheal Paris, Goerge Sanchez, Thomas Tellefsen, John Verzani, Jane Marcus-Delgade, Andrew Colbeck, Orit Gruber, Williiam J, Fritz, J. Micheal Parrish,Sarolta Takacs, Susan Holak, Marcus Tye, Christine Myres, Michael Lederhandler, Danielle Dimitror,

Fatu Amara, Mehnoor Khan, Maxwell Velikodny, Jennifer Borrero, Susan Holak, Kenichi Iwama, Winsome Alston, Warrick Bell, Mary Murphy, Suzy Shepardson,

**Guests:** Jason Bishop, Laura Scazzafavo, Deborah Lloret, Emmanuel Esperance, Shannon Cammarano, Terri Sangiorgio, Sharon Christian, Jessica Stein, Alex Scott, Sarolta Takacs, Mel Pipe, Ruth Silverburg​, Kerri Gerson, Susan Massara, Ivan-Scott Lee, Koby Kohulan, Manuela Alongi, Jennifer Durando, Jessica Collura, Catherince Ferrara, Joya Taylor, Stephen Ferst, Thomas Lauria, Tara Mostrorilli, Barbra Cohen, Neila Green, Ralf Peetz.

I.     Approval of the proposed agenda - *approved*   
    
II.     Approval of the minutes - *approved*   
    
III.     Executive Committee of College Council Report – J. Verzani

# Notes on College Council Executive Committee actions

On February 4th, we met with the President and Provost. Topics discussed include:

#### President's remarks

* We learned that then new EdD program had 60 potential students indicate some level of interest
* We had several rankings summarized for us. For example:

Engineering and Economics came out in a list generated by Best Value Colleges

The college was ranked 119th in a list of regional colleges by US News

In response comments were made about the validity of such surveys and all should be treated with some level of skepticism. For example, the US News and World report one shows the range of the 25th -75th SAT scores for our students. These numbers turn out to be the 70th and 95 percentiles for *all* students, as only the Baccalaureate students (on entry) are counted (and even then we come out behind John Jay and Lehman).

Also, the 79% retention rate in the survey is not reflective of our students at large where our percentage of full-time first-time freshman retained after a year has declined from 70.4 percent to 61.4 percent between F13 and F17.

As for the *Best Value College* rankings, looking shows our program behind several CUNY campuses, as the low cost of CUNY and the high salaries of the region give a big boost to CUNY schools.

## Enrollment

We asked about enrollment, which on the first day of classes was down 3.5% though by week's end off by just 2%. We followed up with previous questions on what factors have been found, and what changes are planned.

We received a mid-year enrollment update (from 2/3/2020). It points out the main loss (continuing students are down 3.5%) is anticipated by declines in fall enrollments. The reporting of retention rates would help illuminate this.

We asked about the common app and its implementation. The college had announced applications were up, which may be due to this usage. If so, we asked about changes in the anticipated yield rate.

## Budget

We had several questions about the budget. During the break, we learned that CUNY loaned CSI 1M dollars so that its mid-year projections would be positive. The president emailed the community that:

1. Our collections must continue to improve.
2. Enrollment, including both admission and retention, must increase.
3. The Provost in partnership with the faculty must find sensible efficiencies in workload, reassigned time, and address courses with workload credit that exceed student credit, course caps, and the appropriate use of adjuncts, sub lines, and lecturers. This spring we will reduce adjunct hours by 10%.
4. We must explore efficiencies outside of Academic Affairs such as rebidding of contracts, saving money by hiring our own staff rather than the use of contracted services, and in other areas, using more contracted services, moving staff from lower to higher need areas, combining units with similar functions, and implementing the use of shared services.

We asked about collection rates; the impact on the actual enrollment on our budget position; did we find a savings with scheduling; and are there announcements on efficiencies.

We heard:

* Though enrollment was down, it was over the enrollment goal which was used to generate the financial model. So presumably, if collections hold up, our projected tuition revenue will match collected revenue. (if not exceed)
* We discussed that though sections were not reduced by 10%, we did have a reduction in section offerings from S19. (~ 56 sections)
* Some savings will be gained by changing the model for cleaning at St. George and we heard that some change that was *not* made to reduce the transportation costs.

## Communication

We asked for a discussion on how to improve communications on campus and gave several historical examples to learn from. Some examples raised at the meeting were an apparently absent academic response to the budget crisis, the whereabouts of a provost travel funds; how are we adjusting to the current climate. This conversation was heated and had no resolution but was summarized with a hope that the college could act more like a family where stakeholders are informed and consulted.

After the meeting, the CC XC sent an email to the Provost, in reminder, as per the governance plan, that our body is to be consulted on the formation of searches for members of the executive compensation class. We were bypassed in the formation of the committee searching for the open Dean of Education. We followed up with a reminder of the need for better communication and a general objection to having small committees for such important positions. Subsequently, names have been forwarded.

## Email privileges

We alerted the administration that the UFS is pushing for a CUNY-wide policy on email, including:

1. The elected Governance Leaders should have direct email access to their electorate- to those they represent
2. All faculty should have direct access to an “all faculty list” that permit members to opt out.
3. All faculty should have direct access to department email lists that shall be kept current by the College

Point 1 is of interest to the CC XC (it is already the case at Brooklyn, Queens, Lehman, MEC, Hostos, and QBCC) and

* On January 31st, we sent an email to the provost to forward on to the college community alerting them of a mistake in some emails surrounding the evaluation of President Fritz and encouraging participation. In response from the president, we heard back:

*Because this entire process is being handled by the Chancellor’s Office, and for several presidents simultaneously, we will need to check with them about whether it is appropriate for such a message to originate from the campus. As soon as Rob hears back from the Chancellor’s Office, I’ll get back to you.*

At the meeting the executive committee commented on how this makes the college look in the eyes of the Chancellery. We are still awaiting the promised response.

In response to our query the Provost sent us a link to the *current* policy (already well known to those who worked on it). Presumably not realizing this is a request to change a *broken* policy due to a stifling of the executive committees messaging.

IV.     President’s Report – W. Fritz

Please refer to the president’s page on the CSI website.

V.     Reports from the Administration - M. Lederhandler (Security)

Mr. Lederhandler provided updates on general security issues at CSI. He explained the special training for active shooters that officers have received in addition to a variety of other training sessions that our officers have taken.

VI.     Reports of the Committees of the College Council    
    
a. Committee on Organization - none

b. By-Law Committee – J. Verzani

Current draft of changes to by-laws are being reviewed.

c.     Administrative Review Committee - none   
d.     Institutional Planning Committee - none

e.     Budget Committee – J. Verzani

There has been 1 million dollar support for high-performance computer at CSI. The committee has heard that collections in general are up and are members are eager to hear about the taskforce that has been created to look at enrollment at CSI.

f.      Facilities Committee - none

VII. Student Government – F. Amara

Updates concerning student accessibility were presented. The issue of bringing ROTC to the CSI campus was discussed.

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

There are diminished professional development funds for HEOs.

IX.     Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – J. Lawrence

The union is canvasing all CSI academic departments to determine how recent budget cuts are affecting their operations. Also, the State Budget is coming up and the PSC is campaigning aggressively for increases to CUNY.    
  
X.     Auxiliary Services Corporation Report - none   
    
XI.     Old Business - none  
    
XII.     New Business – F. Soto made a motion to allow the elected Chair of the College Council, who represents the interest of faculty, staff and students to be granted direct email access to ALL without any administrative hurdles. The motion was expanded to include also the chair of the Faculty Senate. After a vigorous debate a vote was take: **YES** – 34, **NO** 5, **Abstentions** 2; the motion failed to pass.  
    
XIII.    Adjournment - 3:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Francisco Soto

Secretary, College Council