

Minutes of the 177^h Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, December 19th, 2024 from 3:30 to 4:25 pm in 1P-119

Faculty Senate (FS) Members in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Neo Antoniadis, Karen Arca-Contreras, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Michael Batson, Alan Benimoff, Andrew Colbeck, David Curcio, Deb DeSimone, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Valerie Forrestal, Kenneth Gold, Susan Holak, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Alfred Levine, Sharon Loverde, Lisa Manne, Jonathan Peters, Greg Philips, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Solà Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takács, Thomas Tellefsen, John Verzani, Siona Wilson, Mark Zdziarski, Sarah Zelikovitz.

Guests in Attendance:

Cheryl Adolph, Stephanie Allen, Michael Anderson, Warrick Bell, Jessica Collura, Brian Cortijo, Aleks Dudek, Emmanuel Esperance, Hernán Green, Michel Hodge, Yolelda Ira, Jackie Lamberti, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Tara Mastroilli, Christine McEvilly, Michael Paris, Ralf Peetz, Keith Pisons, Angelina Raio, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Lizbeth Rodriguez, Lisa Roe, Adrian Rosales, Alex Scott, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Amy Stempler, Dana Trimbolo, Brenda Valentin, Rosemary Vitale, and Robert Wallace.

Meeting called to order at 3:30pm by Chair Susan Smith-Peter.

I. Approval of the agenda.

Motion seconded, and passed.

II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of November 12th, 2024.

Moved, seconded, and passed.

III. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)

IV. Provost's Report

- Thanks faculty for their hard work during the semester and reminds them that grades are due by December 27.
- Enrollment updates:
 - Winter enrollment is up by 8%, showing strong student interest.
 - Spring enrollment is slightly up but below target, with efforts ongoing to increase retention.
 - Encourages faculty to work with deans and student success offices to improve student retention.
- Announces the Undergraduate Research Conference is scheduled for May 1, 2025.
 - Highlights its importance in showcasing student work across disciplines.
 - Mentions discussions about reviving the Graduate Conference as part of the same event.
- Introduces Yolelda Ira as the new director of the Faculty Success Office.
- Announces upcoming programming from the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development, including:
 - A February 11 event on navigating political challenges in the classroom.
 - Training sessions for Brightspace D2L, CSI's new learning management system, which goes live in January 2025.
 - Encourages faculty to log in and prepare for the transition.
- Moves on to faculty accolades, recognizing multiple professors for achievements in research, publishing, and grant funding.
 - Mentions major grants in sustainable workforce development, cybersecurity, education, and financial planning.
 - Highlights publications and conference presentations across various disciplines.

V. Consent Agenda:

DEGREE CHANGES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE

1. Department of Curriculum & Instruction
 - a. Change in existing degree: MEd in Early Childhood Education
2. School of Education – Department of Curriculum & Instruction and Educational Studies
 - a. Double Counting Policy

NEW COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE – N/A

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE

1. Department of Curriculum & Instruction and Teachers on Sabbatical Program
 - a. Change in existing course: EDE 662 Advanced Art
 - b. Change in existing course: EDE 615 Special Topics in Literacy
 - c. Change in existing course: EDD 642 New Media of Instruction
 - d. Change in existing course: EDD 711 Introduction to Computational Thinking for Teachers

Consent Agenda approved.

VI. New Programs: Department of Curriculum & Instruction (Prof. Jonathan Peters)

- a. New degree: TESOL and Special Education MEd Dual Certification
- b. New degree: Special Education MEd and Bilingual Dual Certification
- Explains that these programs will now be available in multiple formats, including online and asynchronous.
- Clarifies that they have already received unanimous support from the Graduate Studies Committee.
- Responds to faculty questions about why certain joint programs (e.g., autism studies) were not included in this proposal.
- Clarifies that this proposal only covers new programs and does not affect existing ones.

Both programs approved.

VII. University Faculty Senate Report (Prof. John Verzani)

- Acknowledges an earlier mistake regarding Wi-Fi issues and apologizes to IT staff.

- Reports that recent bylaw updates at CUNY included the formal inclusion of the Provost in governance structures.
- Updates on CUNY-wide discussions on faculty rights, freedom of expression, and doxing policies.
- Notes that a CUNY committee will soon be formed to draft new policies on freedom of speech.
- Encourages faculty to engage in upcoming system-wide discussions.

VIII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

- Reports on discussions regarding Dean's List criteria and student petitions.
- Mentions efforts to develop a rubric for reviewing student petitions.
- Announces that the committee will present formal recommendations in a future meeting.

IX. Old Business

- a. Open nominations for Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) representative
- b. Prof. Greg Phillips nominated, elected unanimously

X. New Business

- a. Honorary Degree Candidate (Appendix B)

Motion seconded, and passed

XI. Adjournment

Appendix A: Faculty Senate Executive Report for December 19th, 2024

Before I get to the details of our meeting with the provost, I would like to speak briefly about the difficult political situation that we find ourselves in as part of higher education. Higher education is under attack and we need to be aware of the new dangers we face. While much discussion has been given to academic freedom, which shields academics from political interference, we also need to be aware of the danger of going viral in an ever-more divided country.

As faculty members, we should assume that we could be videoed by our students at any moment and we should not do anything in our classrooms that we would not want to see on video. My statement is not in response to any existing video or case, but rather a warning for the future. Each of us represents the college and what we do has implications for our colleagues. Many actions or statements that are legal but seen as hurtful by students may result in severe personal consequences such as doxing, or the release of private information. CSI now has a doxing policy available on the website, which notes that there are no New York State laws against it, but that there are other laws on harassment and that the faculty member may need to retain a lawyer.

On December 17, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the provost and deans. We discussed the need for a media strategy for the college and several ideas were proposed, including seeing if the president could write an occasional column for the Staten Island Advance. There was discussion about building upon the outreach started by the School of Education to local officials. There was a general agreement that the more outreach there is, the better. There is a search for the director of communications going on now and a planned communications strategy would likely be a result of that.

We learned that the Transportation Task Force, headed by Michel Hodge, will work on creating a survey on transportation needs together with Tara Mastrorilli, director of institutional research at the college. This will build on the survey of the communication students, which mainly reached students.

We were very pleased to hear that there is a good possibility that Colin Jost will be the honorary degree recipient.

We discussed budget issues and their impact on animal research at the college. The provost stated that more students meant a greater budget and that attracting them through programs and classes was key. He stated that the eight primary investigators that use animals in their research would receive an invoice for the cost of the animals in January and then there would be a discussion about how to pay for it. The executive committee raised questions

regarding if there had been enough time for the PIs to get grants to cover the costs of the animals. The provost stated that the invoice is the start of a conversation on how to proceed but that there is an expectation that these costs be covered by grants and not the college in the future.

At a request for information about the status of the School of Health Services, the provost said that there are ongoing discussions between social work and the School of Education about a possible merger and that nursing and physical therapy are currently in the Division of Science and Technology and that conversations there do not have a specific direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Smith-Peter

Appendix B: RESOLUTION TO Award an Honorary Degree at the 2025 Commencement to Colin Jost from The College of Staten Island

WHEREAS, Colin Jost is a writer, performer and author best known for his work on *Saturday Night Live (SNL)*. He started writing for *SNL* in 2005 and has been the co-anchor of the show's *Weekend Update* sketch since 2014; and

WHEREAS, Jost is from Staten Island, N.Y. and his family maintains deep roots in the NYC area. Jost graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, in 2004, majoring in Russian and British Literature, where he was president of *The Harvard Lampoon*; he then started a career at the *Staten Island Advance* as reporter and copy editor; and

WHEREAS, Jost co-hosted the special editions of *Weekend Update* that aired on MSNBC during the 2016 Republican and Democratic National Conventions, as well as the primetime *Weekend Update Summer Edition* in 2017. In 2018, Jost and a co-anchor hosted the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards; and

WHEREAS, Jost wrote and starred in the Paramount/Netflix film *Staten Island Summer*, based on his days as a lifeguard.; and in July 2024, it was announced that Jost would be the host of the game show *Pop Culture Jeopardy!* on Amazon Prime Video; and

WHEREAS, He has won five Writers Guild Awards, two Peabody Awards, and has been nominated for 14 Emmy Awards for his writing on *SNL*; and

WHEREAS, In July 2020, Jost released a memoir titled *A Very Punchable Face: A Memoir* appearing on the *New York Times Bestseller List*; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the College of Staten Island award Colin Jost the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, at the College's annual commencement ceremony on May 28 2025.

EXPLANATION: In awarding Colin Jost the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, the College of Staten Island honors him for his accomplishments as a distinguished writer, performer, and author.

The College is proud to recognize Colin Jost with this honor.

This resolution is adapted from biographies available [here](#) and [here](#).