

**THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Minutes of the 180th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, April 24th, 2025 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in 1P-119

Faculty Senate (FS) Members in Attendance:

Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniades, Jay Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Maria Bellamy, Alan Benimoff, Vandana Chaudhry, David Curcio, Deb DeSimone, Gene Fellner, Chiara Ferrari, Valerie Forrestal, Kenneth Gold, Patti Gross, Orit Gruber, Roshen Hendrickson, Susan Holak, Yumei Huo, Eric Ivison, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Sharon Loverde, Timothy Lynch, Lisa Manne, Lee Papa, Jonathan Peters, Greg Philips, Tobias Schaefer, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Solà Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takács, Barbra Teater, John Verzani, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski.

Guests in Attendance:

Michael Anderson, Kevin Ascolese, Michael Batson, Warrick Bell, Jason Bishop, Veronica DiMeglio, Aleks Dudek, Jennifer Durando, Emmanuel Esperance, Stephen Ferst, Hernan Green, Michel Hodge, Patricia Kahn, Mark Lewental, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Tara Mastrorilli, Christine McEvilly, Gerry Milligan, Ralf Peetz, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, James Saccardo, Terri Sangiorgio, Alex Scott, Suzy Shepardson, Ruth Silverberg, Jessica Stein, Muhammed Tekanyi, Robert Wallace.

Members not in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Probal Banerjee, Andrew Colbeck, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Joseph Frusci, Ismael Garcia-Colón, David Krittr, Anatoly Kuklov, Lucas Marchante-Aragón, Philippe Marius, Halil Ege Ozen, Michael Paris, Mark Aaron Polger, Randelle Sasa, Thomas Tellefsen, Allen Tesdall, Mark White.

Meeting called to order at 2:31pm by Chair Susan Smith-Peter.

I. Approval of the agenda.

Motion moved, seconded, and passed.

II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of March 20th, 2025.

Moved, seconded, and passed.

III. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)

IV. Provost's Report

- The Undergraduate Research Conference is next Thursday (5/1/2025) – Thank you to Associate Provost Ramasubramanian for organizing and also those who mentored students
- 62% of progress reports have been submitted – thank you to everyone who has submitted theirs
- CSI degree maps were highlighted by Inside Higher Ed:
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/life-after-college/2025/04/04/university-system-maps-careers-and-classes>
- Continuing student enrollment is up 10%
- Faculty accolades
- Congratulations to Dr. Alan Benimoff, who will be honored at tonight's Annual Gala for his over 50 years of contributions to CSI and Staten Island
- comment from body about CSI honoring someone from Amazon at the Gala

V. Consent Agenda:

DEGREE CHANGES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE

1. Department of Educational Studies
 - a. Change in existing degree: Special Education PreK-12 MEd Sequence I (based on existing degree program)

NEW COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE – N/A

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE

1. Department of Engineering and Environmental Science

- a. Change in existing course: ELE 322 Signals and Noise

GRADUATE

1. Department of Educational Studies

- a. Change in existing course: EDP 664 Practicum Mentorship in Curriculum and Instructional Practices for Childhood
- b. Change in existing course: EDP 666 Practicum Mentorship in Assessment and Classroom Management for Childhood Students with Disabilities

Motion moved, seconded, and passed.

VI. New Minor: Honors Health Sciences Minor

Motion moved, seconded, and passed with two abstentions

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

- Statement from UFS Executive Committee, "Together We Stand":

<https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2025/04/Together-We-Stand.pdf>

- Thank you to Warrick Bell for running the UFS elections, where 4 new senators from CSI were elected to UFS

- Impact of federal funding cuts on tenure and promotion

- Last board meeting it was agreed to buy body-worn cameras for campus security; policy issues are currently being ironed out.

- Recent report from comptroller on how CUNY spent \$24 million it was given for open educational resources; 3 campuses were audited on how they spent the money, but CSI was not one of those campuses. (<https://www.osc.ny.gov/state-agencies/audits/2025/03/27/open-educational-resources>)

- Freedom of Expression Committee met and there will be space for public comment in the Fall

VIII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

1. Resolution on the Reorganization of the School of Health Sciences (Appendix B)

- Discussion on reasoning for the change and possible logistics

Motion moved, seconded, and passed with 30 in approval, 0 against, and 3 abstentions

XI. Adjournment at 3:27pm

Appendix A: Faculty Senate Executive Committee report for April 24th, 2025

Before I discuss the particulars of the meeting with the provost and deans, I'd like to note that recent resistance to the federal government's demands has encouraged colleges and universities to band together. The statement from the American Association of Colleges and Universities defending the role of universities as a place for open inquiry has now been signed by our own president, as well as the CUNY chancellor and several other CUNY presidents.

In addition, I will bring forward a revised version of the mutual defense compact of CUNY colleges originally proposed by the University Faculty Senate to our May meeting. As you may have heard, the compact, based on the one put forward by the Big Ten schools, starts the process of connecting colleges and universities in New York State in order helping each other in case the federal government makes demands on them. This is an important step towards organizing in defense of academic freedom and CUNY's role as the greatest engine of social mobility in the country.

At the meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on April 23, 2025 with the provost and deans, we discussed the High Performance Computing Center. The provost and the Associate Provost for Faculty Success Ramasubramanian outlined how other campuses were now paying a flat fee and that this allowed for basic upgrades. Principal Investigators (PIs) will also begin paying part of the cost and they are working to identify the actual users.

We also followed up on the question of expectations of research support for new faculty members, which the Research Committee wrote. AP Ramasubramanian outlined how she has been working with the Research Committee on revisions and with the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee to incorporate it into the revised handbook.

We also discussed the details of how a per diem cost for animals used in research was arrived at and the provost and associate provost explained how they arrived at a cost of 27 cents an animal. Four PIs have applied for grants, and all those using the animal research facilities have committed to doing so going forward. They also outlined how they have proposed a plan where, going forward, those using the animal research facilities would sign an agreement outlining rights and responsibilities, including fiscal. They have not discussed this with the faculty yet. They hope that these agreements will be in place starting July 1. We noted that the animal facility staff salaries are covered by tax levy funds, not overhead. We hope to clarify some common misunderstandings regarding animal research going forward.

We discussed the process of evaluating the math and writing centers, some of which are housed in academic departments and some in the Office of Academic Affairs. We learned that the measures of evaluation were common metrics of student success, such as the pass, DFW rate, and persistence. The importance of using Navigate was stressed. The faculty involved in these

programs are deeply committed to the work and bring a depth of knowledge to the discussion that is especially helpful to the students.

We discussed the use of StraighterLine courses, which cost \$79 a credit for 3 credits and can be finished in a weekend. Several years ago, a college-wide process took place by which faculty evaluated the courses to ensure that they are equivalent to what we teach. The provost emphasized that these are only used to plug a specific hole in the curriculum or when a student needs only a few credits. It seems possible, however, that students might use them more broadly. Since Harvard is now offering free courses online, we may have more competition from that direction as well.

I noted that the oral history project undertaken by an earlier head of the CSI Foundation that resulted in a book of oral histories from CSI alumni titled *2021 In my Own Words* was unknown to most stakeholders, including the CSI Archives and that it did not discuss its process of collecting oral histories, which is part of the discipline. Relevant parties should know that the book exists. From it I learned that director Frank Capra received the first honorary degree from CSI. Who knew?

Appendix B: Resolution on the Reorganization of the School of Health Sciences

WHEREAS, the College of Staten Island has undertaken a review of its academic administrative structure in consultation with its shared governance bodies and academic departments; and

WHEREAS, this process determined that the three departments currently housed within the School of Health Sciences—Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Social Work—could be effectively supported within other existing academic divisions; and

WHEREAS, the Departments of Nursing and Physical Therapy would return to the Division of Science and Technology, where they were previously housed and where they are expected to continue to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Work would join to the School of Education in a unit called the School of Education and Social Work, promoting greater disciplinary alignment and opportunities for mutual academic growth; and

WHEREAS, this reorganization would eliminate a decanal-level administrative unit, resulting in increased administrative efficiency and meaningful cost savings, without the elimination of any Departments, programs, or faculty lines;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate endorses the reassignment of the Departments of Nursing and Physical Therapy to the Division of Science and Technology, the reassignment of the Department of Social Work to the School of Education, the renaming of School of Education to the School of Education and Social Work, and the dissolution of the decanal-level administrative structure of the School of Health Sciences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate supports submitting the proposed structural changes to the College Council of the College of Staten Island.