

Minutes of the One Hundred and Seventy-Second Meeting of the College Council  
Formed on November 14, 2002

Date: Thursday, May 15th, 2025, 2:30pm – 3:25pm  
Location: 1P-119 & Zoom Meeting

**CC Members in Attendance**

Zaghloul Ahmed, Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniades, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Maria Bellamy, Warrick Bell, Alan Benimoff, Holly Block, Vandana Chaudhry, Andrew Colbeck, Brian Cortijo, David Curcio, Debbie DeSimone, Gene Fellner, Chiarra Ferrari, Valerie Forrestal, Joe Frusci, Kenneth Gold, Hernan Green, Patti Gross, Orit Gruber, Roshen Hendrickson, Michel Hodge, Susan Holak, Yumei Huo, Eric Ivison, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Patricia Kahn, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Sharon Loverde, Timothy Lynch, Lisa Manne, Tara Mastroilli, Michael Paris, Lee Papa, Ralf Peetz, Jonathan Peters, Greg Philips, Adrian Rosales, Tobias Schaefer, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Solà Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takács, Barbara Teater, Allen Tesdall, John Verzani, Robert Wallace, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski.

**CC Members Via Zoom**

Thomas Chen, Rosane Gertner, Angelina Raio, Kelly Zyko.

**CC Members Absent:**

Probal Banerjee, Kevin Do, Clarisse Domingo, Ismael Garcia-Colón, Joseph Frusci, David Kritt, Anatoly Kuklov, Philippe Marius, Regina Minaya, Vincent Mirabella, Mark Aaron Polger, Randelle Sasa, Alex Scott, Muhammed Tekanyi, Thomas Tellefsen, Mark White.

**Guests In-Person**

Jason Bishop, Jessica Collura, Lynne Curbelo, Aleks Dudek, Emmanuel Esperance, Katrina Fama, Stephen Ferst, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Nicole LaMassa, Mark Lewental, Chairles Liu, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Christine McEvilly, Keith Pisons, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Donna Scimeca, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Harry Thorne, Dana Trimboli, Brenda Valentin.

**Guests via Zoom**

Vincenza Albarano, Manuela Alongi, Alyson Bardsley, Stefan Charles-Pierre, Sharon Christian, Danielle Dimitrov, Donna Garambone, Linda John, Yolelda Ira, Michelle Karpeles, Jane Kisto, Koby Kohulan, Lynne Lacomis, Mary Murphy, Ed Patri, Carly Racioppi, Janine Scotto, Joyce Taylor, Rosemary Vitale.

- I. **Approval of the proposed agenda** – approved.
- II. **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting** – approved with no changes
- III. **Executive Committee Report – Kenneth Gold**

Good Afternoon. The Executive Committee met with President Lynch, Provost Steiper, and Chief of Staff Collura on May 6th for its monthly consultation.

We reflected on the recent Gala—about which we will hear more shortly—and noted our satisfaction that a faculty member was honored after a hiatus last year. The president indicated that he is open to suggestions for future honorees.

We spoke about doing more in the summer to address various campus issues. I urged that the administration put together small working groups of the appropriate staff and willing faculty to tackle matters of mutual interest. This approach was a common part of my early years on the faculty, one that I employed when I served as a dean, and one that lends itself to the provost's interest in how the College provides academic tutoring to its students—which I reported on last month. It also can be done with a relatively small expenditure of resources for summer salary.

We dared to imagine what we might restore when the College returns to fiscal solvency: staffing up especially depleted offices and departments, increasing OTPS<sup>1</sup> funds, building up our CUTRA<sup>2</sup>—basically our reserves, renewing much beloved events that we have not run in some years. This conversation was enjoyable but certainly premature and we must maintain our focus on restoring fiscal solvency.

We discussed the delay in the NY State budget process such that the College's FY 26 submission to CUNY will almost certainly occur in the summer. Even so, we requested and the President agreed to alert the budget committee members when that work is occurring. As you can surmise, I shared my strong views on how to honor both faculty commitment to annual leave and to shared governance. As far as the latter is concerned, there is one more day to nominate yourselves or a colleague to serve on one of the many committees of the College Council and Faculty Senate. I ask that you encourage more recent arrivals to step up as well. We must recognize the toll that COVID took on our civic life and work extra hard to get more people involved.

Finally, I want to reflect on the academic year that is nearly over. In many ways it has been a good one for the College as its structural budget deficit shrunk further, its strategic plan was completed, and its campus appeared even more populated with students and faculty, among many other accomplishments. It has so far largely withstood the assault on higher education coming from Washington, D.C. —and though we have asked but not received written strong statements on some of the issues, I do commend our Administration for its savviness on how to navigate partisan pressures particular to this Island. I'm also grateful to the Faculty Senate for its assertiveness on the vital importance of academic freedom and, in the next hour, on the need for a higher education alliance in NY State. It's been my privilege to consult regularly with Jason Bishop over the past two years. I look forward to continuing that partnership with Jonathan Cope. I wish you all a successful completion of the semester, I hope to see you at the commencement ceremony on May 28, and I trust that you all will find the right balance between work and leisure this summer. But if there is just one takeaway from this report, it's for all of us to complete our mandated trainings.

At this time I want to acknowledge Mark Lewental as he retires his 38 years of service. Before we applaud, I ask the membership to share the names of any other retirees—post trivia. [John Jankowski (24 years) and Marianne McLoughlin (50+ years) were mentioned]

---

<sup>1</sup> OTPS – Other Than Personnel Services

<sup>2</sup> CUTRA – College University Tuition Reimbursable Account

#### **IV. President's Report – Timothy Lynch**

[Due to a glitch in the zoom recording of the College Council meeting on May 15, 2025, a transcript of the president's report could not be retrieved. Below are highlights of his report:]

President Lynch's report included:

- ☐ An update on the recent gala—most successful in history in terms of funds raised and attendees present. It was a true night of celebration;
- ☐ early data regarding summer and fall enrollments, both numbers are up. This was largely due to concerted efforts between Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Services regarding retention initiatives;
- ☐ preliminary news about recently passed city and state budgets (generally good news for CUNY);
- ☐ ongoing lobbying efforts, i.e., CUNY Day on the Hill, and meetings with local elected officials; and
- ☐ soon-to-be-completed facilities projects (soccer and softball fields, in particular). He alluded to a meeting later that day with VC Dr. Mohamed Attalla, Vice Chancellor of Facilities, Planning, Construction, and Management.

#### **Q&A**

A question was asked of what benefit will the “free community college for all” offer CSI.

President Lynch pointed out that the “free community college for all” initiative did not apply to comprehensives colleges but promised to look more closely at the recently enacted state budget that supposedly contains opportunities for science research lab enhancements.

#### **V. Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – Jason Bishop**

Good afternoon, everyone, good to see you. This is in fact my last report!

I want to start by echoing PSC President James Davis's condemnation of and disappointment at the heavy-handed police response at Brooklyn College last week. And as commencement season is now also protest season, I hope that our administration's decisions, and public safety's execution of them, will show the same restraint and respect for political expression as they did at last year's commencement, when disruptive protests and civil disobedience took place. This was, in fact, a topic of discussion at this week's labor-management meeting with President Lynch and his administration. At that meeting, the chapter executive committee was told that a number of preparations have been made to ensure that both the ceremony's integrity and free speech / political expression are protected. We were also told that, like last year, a space would be provided for protesters to engage in such expression; however, if (also like last year) protesters do not follow the rules, I hope we remember that the real test is not how we react when protesters follow the rules, but how we react when they don't follow the rules. And I note that the extreme overreaction by Brooklyn College's administration resulted in totally unnecessary escalation — which included physical confrontations, tasers, ambulances and arrests.

In lighter news, we will be holding a chapter meeting next week; there will be a speaker from the PSC's retiree chapter to discuss important issues related to retirement for PSC members. Look for an email later today about the day and time next week.

And: our chapter will once again be holding a "labor breakfast" on the morning of commencement! Please come by and have something to eat (including just grabbing-and-going) in the atrium of 1A, starting 7am the morning of commencement. And we welcome members of all unions working on campus, including our DC-37 siblings, and also our Teamsters Local 237 in Public Safety. (If some members of the administration come by and grab a donut, we'll probably let it slide).

Finally, as this is my last report, I hope you can all indulge me in giving a few "thanks" (many more will come, but will have to wait for an email) before introducing Jonathan Cope, our incoming chapter chair. I would like to first thank Ken Gold and Susan Smith-Peter; working with these two colleagues has been one of the great pleasures, not just of the last three years, but of my twelve years at CSI so far. I must thank everyone who has served on our executive committee, to our departmental chairs (a few of whom I've really relied upon over the last few years), our partners in administration (Tim, Mike, Tim's cabinet and his staff), and also everyone in this room (as you all are performing such an important role for the college in executing shared governance).

And let me now introduce to you all, Jonathan Cope, our colleague from the Library and our new chapter chair!

**VI. Report from the Administration – Dana Trimboli, Associate Administrator in Charge of Business Development**

Dana Trimboli, Associate Administrator in Charge of Business Development, gave a brief report that covered the activities of the Office of Advancement, The Center for the Arts, and on revenue generation for the 2024/2025 academic year. She highlighted selected events of the Friends of CSI, Season of Giving, Amazon Career Choice Winter Achievement Celebration, Spring Into Giving Benefit, Alumni Senior Toasts, and Bench Naming Dedication. CSI now boasts of a \$23 million endowment and 409 scholarship awards, for an approximate total of \$619,000.00. Efforts made to revitalize the Center for the Arts saw an increase of \$47,000. For more details of her report, please see the attached.

**VII. Reports of the committees of the College Council**

**a. Committee on Organization – Warrick Bell**

Warrick Bell, Chair of the Committee on Organizations, gave an update on vacant seats on College Council and Faculty Senate committees that needed to be filled by September 2025. The report (slide presentation) is attached.

**b. By-Laws Committee – Kenneth Gold**

Kenneth Gold, chairperson of the By-Laws Committee stated that the committee met and considered whether the committee should play a role in interpreting the bylaws and concluded that it does not.

**c. Administrative Review and Evaluation Committee – No report**

**d. Institutional Planning Committee – No report**

**e. Budget Committee – No report**

f. **Facilities Committee** – No report

**VIII. Student Government Report** – Adrian Rosales

The president of the Student Government Association, Adrian Rosales, gave his final report. Highlights are as follows:

- Student Government was very proud to be a Gold Sponsor at this year's Gala. All 10 of their senators in attendance enjoyed the venue and gained exposure to the community partners present at the event. He gave special thanks to the Foundation and the Gala committee for inviting his sister and himself to be guest speakers and for his family to be present. It meant the world to them and they will not forget it.
- Spirit Week was very successful!! Great turnouts every day, even with the evening events and Friday night and baseball doubleheader. The theme was "United We Stand" to celebrate the diversity on campus.
- Student Leadership Summit Awards was held at The Staaten last Tuesday. Many students were recognized for their efforts in Student Government, WSIA, CAB, Clubs, Publications, etc.
- Student Government has approved the base budget for next year's operations. They are now working on submitting transition documents for each commission.
- Lastly, Adrian Rosales, expressed sincere thanks to the College Council for a wonderful year. He gave special thanks to the various campus constituents for meeting with Student Government Officers to inform them of their roles and responsibilities on campus and how they could bridge partnerships between the students and faculty. The biggest goal was to improve campus community, and they exceeded that goal. This position as president, he said, gave him tenfold what he put into it, and he looks forward to supporting the next Student Government in any way that he could.

**IX. HEO Steering Committee** – Suzy Shepardson

The HEO Steering Committee held its final meeting of the 2024-25 academic year on Monday—while we'll be around all summer, we're taking a breather from regular meetings until the fall term.

We discussed the upcoming elections: as Warrick stated in his Committee on Organization report, the deadline to submit your nomination forms is *tomorrow (Friday, May 16)*. If you want to be involved in governance, turn in your forms—and remember, self-nomination is absolutely allowed.

We would like to thank Wilma Jones and the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development for once again hosting this year's Technology Day, and we'd like to offer special recognition to all of the presenters and our own IT team, under the leadership of Patty Kahn, for their contributions to making the event a success.

The Committee is already planning for our fall meetings with the President and members of his administrative team, once the new HEOSC members are on board after the elections.

Thank you for another year of collegiality and collaboration, for as a campus and community we are truly stronger together.

**X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – Robert Wallace**

Robert Wallace gave a brief report in which expressed his thanks to all in the college community who participated in the Jodi Merendino Walk/Run Fundraiser.

XI. Old Business - None

XII. New Business - None

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm

Respectfully submitted by Wilma Jones  
Secretary, Executive Committee of the College Council