

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

Minutes of the 181st Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, May 15th, 2025 from 3:30 to 4:25pm in 1P-119

Faculty Senate (FS) Members in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniadis, Jay Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Maria Bellamy, Alan Benimoff, Vandana Chaudhry, Andrew Colbeck, David Curcio, Deb DeSimone, Chiara Ferrari, Valerie Forrestal, Joseph Frusci, 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, Michael Paris, Jonathan Peters, Greg Philips, Tobias Schaefer, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Solà Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takács, Barbra Teater, Allen Tesdall, John Verzani, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski.

Guests in Attendance:

Michael Anderson, Kevin Ascolese, Michael Batson, Warrick Bell, Jason Bishop, Holly Block, Jessica Collura, Brian Cortijo, Lynne Curbelo, Aleks Dudek, Emmanuel Esperance, Katrina Fama, Gene Fellner, Stephen Ferst, Hernan Green, Michel Hodge, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Patricia Kahn, Nicole LaMassa, Mark Lewental, Charles Liu, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Tara Mastroilli, Christine McEvilly, Ralf Peetz, Keith Pisons, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Adrian Rosales, James Saccardo, Terri Sangiorgio, Alex Scott, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Donna Scimeca, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Muhammed Tekanyi, Harry Thorne, Dana Trimboli, Branda Valentin, Robert Wallace.

Members not in Attendance:

Robert Allen, Karen Arca-Contreras, Anatoly Kuklov, Robert Lovering, Randelle Sasa, Thomas Tellefsen, Mark White.

Meeting called to order at 3:30pm 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 April 24th, 2025.
Moved, seconded, and passed.
- III. Provost's Report
 1. Faculty Accolades
 2. Approval of 2025 degree candidates
Moved, seconded, and passed.
- IV. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)
- V. Consent Agenda:

DEGREE CHANGES

UNDERGRADUATE

1. Department of Chemistry
 - a. Change in existing minor: Chemistry
 - b. Change in existing degree: Chemistry BS and MHC Chemistry BS
 - c. Change in existing degree: Chemistry BA and MHC Chemistry BA
2. Department of Chemistry and Department of Biology
 - a. Change in existing degree: Biochemistry BA and MHC Biochemistry BA
3. Department of Political Science & Global Affairs and Department of Philosophy
 - a. Change in existing minor: Legal Studies

GRADUATE – N/A

NEW COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE

1. Department of Performing and Creative Arts and Program in African and African Diaspora Studies
 - a. New course: ART/AAD 2XX Topics in African Art
2. Department of Chemistry
 - a. New course: CHM 2XX Chemical Calculations

GRADUATE

1. Department of History
 - a. New course: HST 7XX Archaeology and History

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE

3. Department of Media Culture
 - a. Change in existing course: COM 328 Sports Media
 - b. Change in existing course: COM 204 Introduction to Online Journalism

GRADUATE – N/A

Motion moved, seconded, and passed.

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

1. Information from May UFS Plenary:
<https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/committees/plenaries/may-2025/>
2. Recently-passed resolutions: <https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/2025/07/10/ufs-votes-on-resolutions/>
3. Mutual Academic Defense Compacts: <https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/2025/06/03/faculty-batten-down-and-arm-up-with-compacts/>
4. CUNY Citizenship Now: <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/communications-marketing/citizenship-now/>

VII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

1. Report from Admissions Committee
 - i. Regents exams being discontinued as graduation requirement
 - ii. ReAlign Education update
 - iii. 5 open seats on Admissions Committee
2. Report from Faculty Personnel Policy Committee
 - i. Faculty Handbook
 - ii. AAUP Red Book
 - iii. Periodic Review charged by Faculty Senate
 - iv. 5 open seats on FPPC

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

1. Proposed resolution from the Faculty Senate regarding the creation of a mutual defense pact (Appendix B)

X. Adjournment at 4:25pm

Appendix A: Faculty Senate Executive Committee report for May 15th, 2025

On May 14, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the provost and deans. We discussed the Undergraduate Research Conference, which was a great success. There was an impressive turnout from students and faculty mentors. However, there were also some problems of success. In particular, there were so many posters that it was hard to see them all and to hear the students, according to multiple observers. We discussed various ways to deal with this, such as possibly using more classrooms and considering alternate scheduling. There was discussion about creating a survey next year to get a sense of what the students are experiencing.

We discussed the Know Your Rights tools available to the campus community. I had checked to make sure that public facing offices listed as having red cards, which list what to say if stopped by ICE, in 1A actually did and was pleased to see that they were stocked with them. Staff reported that students were picking them up. I also noted that large posters with a link to CSI's Know Your Rights website are scheduled to be placed in the glass cases but need to be picked up by Buildings and Grounds and put in the cases. Hopefully this will be done before the end of the semester. Students should be aware of the wealth of resources on the webpage and the posters will help with this.

We discussed the mutual defense pact resolution that is before this body today. People agreed that it does reflect what our mission is. CUNY is working on the topics mentioned in the resolution, but quietly. A good place to see what is being done is the email from the chancellor from 4/23, titled "Standing Together," which refers to CUNY as "a university for immigrants." The resolution has already led to the creation of an email list of faculty governance leaders in the northeast, initiated, like the resolutions, from Rutgers faculty. This new network will help leaders learn what is going on at other campuses and organize mutual support. While CUNY has not yet been targeted by the federal government, it is important to work on institutions that can respond in such a situation before it happens.

Appendix B: Proposed resolution from the Faculty Senate regarding the creation of a mutual defense pact

WHEREAS we, the Faculty Senate of the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York, believe that institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good, and

WHEREAS the success of the common good depends on the production and dissemination of knowledge and that the accumulation of knowledge requires an environment allowing for a critical, open, unending process conducted with discipline and rigor; and

WHEREAS, the fruits of knowledge are wisdom, respect for justice, and an appreciation of civic duty and that a student-centered urban university system requires a focus on access, affordability, academic excellence, and research and innovation; and

WHEREAS, only by preserving all these qualities can CUNY remain an engine of equity and upward mobility able to advance the well-being of all residents of the City and State of New York; and

WHEREAS we join with faculty colleagues throughout higher education in a call for unity to preserve the central role higher education plays in civic society. Together we stand; divided we fall.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that we urge the CUNY Board of Trustees and the CUNY Chancellery to propose and take a leading role in establishing an alliance among the public colleges and universities of New York State in defense of higher education, research, and academic freedom. Under this alliance, all participating institutions would cooperate to support any member institution under direct political or legal infringement. Such support would come by mobilizing constituencies to preserve the institutions and resources they have built to further the common good and to recognize and respond to attacks on the fundamental right to higher education.

THEREFORE, Let it be further resolved that, in instances of direct political interference, participating institutions would make available the combined services of their legal counsel, governance experts, and public affairs officers to coordinate a vigorous and unified response. We further call on the state to engage in necessary legal actions and provide financial support to CUNY and SUNY to defend the integrity and principles of higher education in the State of New York.

FINALLY, Let it be resolved that we call on the City University of New York to refuse to comply with illegal governmental overreach that undermines a university's academic decision-making and self-governance; defend freedom of inquiry; refuse to share student records with federal authorities seeking to suppress dissent that is protected within the law, unless required to by a judicial warrant; engage with media at all levels to shed a light on these issues; lobby legislators at all levels to assert their constitutional powers; resist attacks on sanctuary cities, which are defended by New York State law; and engage alumni to support the institution that supported them.