

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

Date: Thursday, November 20th, 2025, 2:30pm – 3:25pm
Location: 1P-119 & Zoom Meeting

CC Members in Attendance

Zaghoul Ahmed, Neo Antoniades, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Warrick Bell, Alan Benimoff, Holly Block, Paolo Cappellari, Vandana Chaudhry, Andrew Colbeck, Lorianne Crowder, David Curcio, Debbie DeSimone, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Aris Efting, Gene Fellner, Kenneth Gold, Hernan Green, Patti Gross, Susan Holak, Nathalia Holtzman, Shi Jin, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Patricia Kahn, Anatoly Kuklov, Carlo Lancellotti, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Rob Lovering, Timothy Lynch, Lisa Manne, Tara Mastrorilli, Christine McEvilly, Halil Ege Ozen, Michael Paris, Ralf Peetz, Jonathan Peters, Mark Aaron Polger, Sarah Pollack, Alexander Scott, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Carles Solà Belda, Sarolta Takács, Christina Tortora, John Verzani, Robert Wallace, Siona Wilson, John Wing, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski, Sarah Zelikovitz.

CC Members Via Zoom

Banu Aslanertik, Clarisse Domingo, Valerie Forrestal, Jackson Mushnick, Gabriella Rosales, Yumei Huo

CC Members Absent:

Ismael Garcia-Colón, Eric Ivison, Jeanne-Rachel Leroux, Philippe Marius, Dan McCloskey, Angie Mekki, Vincent Mirabella, Catherine Paradiso, Michelle Pasaca, Angelina Raio, Madonna Shaker, Allen Tesdall, Ashley Villalva, Simone Wegge, Gaolan Wu, Kelly Zyko.

Guests In-Person

Cheryl Adolf, Michael Anderson, Sharon Christian, Jessica Collura, Jonathan Cope, Chrystal Deosaran, Veronica DiMeglio, Danielle Dimitrov, Aleks Dudek, Jennifer Durando, Emmanuel Esperance, Katrina Fama, Michael Lederhandler, Carey Manifold, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Susan Massara, Leonardo Pignataro, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Terri Sangiorgio, Donna Scimeca, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Dana Trimboli, Rosemary Vitale, Rhoda Wilson.

Guests via Zoom

Manuela Alongi, Barbara Cohen, Celeste Del Maestro, Catherine Ferrera, Antonio Gallego, Matthew Ganz, Ruta Gordon, Stephanie Gonzalez-Allen, Koby Kohulan, Lynne Lacomis, Thomas Lauria, Mary Murphy, Doriann Pieve-Hyland, Gary Pizzolo, Carly Racioppi, Caterina Scarimbolo, Janine Scotto, Joyce Taylor, Brenda Valentin, Dimitriy Verkhovskiy.

- 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, Interim Provost Holtzman, and Chief of Staff Collura on November 11th for its monthly consultation.

We heard some good news from the President that I know he'll share during his report so no need for me to as well. We discussed ways of making our HR office more proactive in offering guidance to heads of offices and department chairs regarding performance management and other topics. We learned that HR staff had recently informed the President of the challenge posed by supervisors and department chairs who were hesitant to include negative assessments in performance reviews. As many of us have learned with difficulty, being "nice" now can create some real headaches down the road. We also learned that President does not expect to alter the current CSI remote work policy at this time, though he reminded us that the Governor or CUNY Board of Trustees could take action with which CSI would have to comply.

We sought and received clarification on the faculty and staff searches for this fiscal year. Those positions already approved by the College and included in our FY 26 budget plan are green lit. As future staff needs develop, proposals for positions will need, save for a few exempt job titles, to be vetted by the college and then CUNY. As for faculty, given our concerns about running effective searches when it's now November, I urge all departments to get their paperwork submitted and advertisements posted over the next two weeks. In this way at least search committees can embark on their work at the start of the spring semester. We also encouraged the Provost to begin deliberating with the Lines and Budget Subcommittee of the P&B to establish priorities for faculty searches next year so that lines can be authorized, pending the College's FY 27 budget, before the start of the next academic year

As you probably recall, last month the Faculty Senate passed a resolution calling "upon the College and University administrations to join with other institutions of higher education in collective opposition to federal intrusion into academic matters." To that end Deborah and I wrote to President Lynch urging that he sign the AACU statement of October 3, or at the very least, recommend signing to the Chancellor. We deliberated over whether signing would put a target on the College's back, as President Lynch contends, but the point was moot as he informed us that he would not get ahead of the chancellor on this issue.

I hope you noted the recent email invitation to attend the joint Convocation ceremony and holiday party. Next year the College will resume its past practice of having these as separate events, with Convocation occurring more appropriately near or at the start of the semester. We will continue to press for the resumption of other well-regarded ceremonies, most notably the Deans Ceremony for students graduating with honors.

Finally, the *ad hoc* committee on commencement speeches has begun its work and is on pace to finish its work before the end of the semester. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving filled with delicious food, well behaved family, and light traffic

IV. President's Report – Timothy Lynch

President Lynch delivered a brief report on recent achievements and some college updates. He was extremely proud to begin his report with congratulatory remarks to the Founding Dean Holak and the Faculty and Staff of the Lucille and Jay Chazanoff School of Business on attaining accreditation status, last month. They have been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business (AACSB) and have become the third accredited School of Business in CUNY.

Next, he reported on enrollment wherein the Spring 2026 numbers showed, to date, an increase of 9% over last Spring. He noted that the Winter Intersession numbers were also strong. President Lynch firmly believes that students are drawn to the College of Staten Island, not merely because of its convenience or affordability, but because CSI has outstanding academic programs, world-class faculty, exceptional facilities, and a wealth of opportunities that make us proud.

In terms of the budget, CSI remains relatively stable to original projections for the fiscal year, and CFO Carlos Serrano will elaborate on that in his presentation, shortly. In short, financial projections indicate a nearly \$2 million reserve, up from about \$200,000.00, initially. President Lynch noted that CSI was still on the University's financial list of concerns, though CSI was projected to end the fiscal year in the black (from being \$14 million in the red to \$2 million in the black). He maintained that CSI remained prudent and strategic in investments and hiring. He pointed out that Ryder University in New Jersey has eliminated full-time tenure track faculty positions and has had across-the-board cuts of 15%. However, CSI remains stable and since July 1, 2025, CSI has added 41 full-time positions, including 17 faculty members.

President Lynch called our attention to CUNY Day of Giving campaign, which for CSI was on track to exceed fundraising goals. CSI's campaign will be to raise funds for the College's greatest needs. He admitted that he was in a personal battle with his friend, colleague, and nemesis President Claudia Schrader from York College. He is confident that CSI could outperform her and her college on every level.

Lastly, President Lynch mentioned upcoming plans of Human Resources to produce a series of professional development workshops during the January intersession. Workshops will focus on challenging personnel issues for managers and supervisors, dealing with a range of topics from annual evaluations to remote work to the use of technology platforms that can improve workflow efficiency.

He concluded his report with best wishes for a happy, restful, and restorative Thanksgiving holiday.

Q&A

A member raised the issue of the lack of hot water in the 1P building, a building that also hosts people from the community. President Lynch responded that he was not aware of this issue and promised to have it addressed.

Another question raised concerns about CUNY colleges sharing student, faculty, and staff data with the Trump administration regarding antisemitism. President Lynch responded that, to date, he was not aware that CUNY had received any requests for information about students or employees from the Trump administration or any other authority. No requests have come to CSI. If the college received any sensitive requests for information about students or employees, the process, corroborated by Robert Wallace (Legal Counsel), would be to coordinate with the CUNY Central Office.

V. Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – Jonathan Cope

CSI Chapter Chair Jonathan Cope delivered the following PSC-CUNY report. Highlights included:

☒ Health Care -

- ☒ In past few meetings, I have mentioned the coming changes to our health insurance.
The current GHI plan is changing to The New York City Employee PPO Plan, administered

by Emblem and United Healthcare starting January 1, 2026. This change will impact all public employees in NYC with these plans.

- The City's Open Enrollment Period ends on Nov. 30th.
- James Davis attended and answered questions last Thursday, Nov. 13th at our Chapter Meeting.
- Visit "What's Happening to Our Healthcare" on the PSC website for detailed information and ask specific questions.
- Reach out to your provider if you are concerned about taking on the new plan.

▫ Health and Safety Labor Management Meeting

- On Friday Nov. 7th we held a very productive meeting with Public Safety and Facilities Management regarding a range of specific workplace hazards on campus.
- There should be someone in every office and academic department with access to the Archibus Work Order system.

▫ Final Chapter Meeting of Fall semester will be Thursday December 11, 2025

▫ Campus Action Team – The CAT is continuing to organize in solidarity with immigrant communities. The union is continuing our campaign in support of the [Brooklyn College] Fired Four.

VI. Report from the Administration – Carlos Serrano

Assistant Vice President for Finance and Budget, Carlos Serrano, provided an update of CSI's year end for FY25 and the fiscal year outlook for FY26 based on the most recently published numbers released by CUNY. From a one-page document (**see attached**), he outlined how CSI's structural deficit had been reduced significantly, from \$13.2 million in FY23 to \$2.2 million in FY25. Given this, CSI projects to live within our resources for FY26, which will end with a positive balance, attributed to increased enrollment and collection efforts that exceeded University's target.

However, AVP Serrano reported that CSI remains on CUNY's list of high concern campuses. CUNY has established a stabilization reserve account requirement for all campuses to create budget flexibility and the capacity to react to fluctuations and resource needs. As such, campuses were required to maintain a minimum reserve level of 5% of their College's initial allocation. For CSI, that number currently stands at \$5.2 million. However, at present CSI was projecting a first quarter outlook forecast of \$1.8 million. Another requirement established by CUNY is for mandatory recurring meetings between CUNY and CSI leadership to monitor our process.

AVP Serrano will be meeting with the College Council Budget Committee in early December to discuss the budget in detail, and another budget report is expected to be submitted to CUNY in late January-early February.

VII. Reports of the committees of the College Council

a. Committee on Organization – No report

b. By-Laws Committee – Kenneth Gold

The Chair of the By-Laws Committee, Kenneth Gold, reported that a meeting has been scheduled for the week after Thanksgiving.

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

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

e. **Budget Committee** – Kenneth Gold

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Kenneth Gold, reported that the Committee will be meeting soon to discuss FY26 first quarter report.

f. **Facilities Committee** – No report

VIII. Student Government Report – Rhoda Wilson

The Student Government Report was delivered by Vice-President Rhoda Wilson. Highlights of the report included the following:

Past events/news

- Full Student Government Senate - For the first time this year, we have a full senate and we are so excited to have such amazing and dedicated students on the senate who are ready to support and advocate for our students.
- New Student Government Coordinator - Alex Cammarano resigned on October 20, 2025. A new search has begun. With SG's approval at today's meeting, they have decided to increase the salary of the SG coordinator from \$48,500 to \$57,000 with the minimum requirements including a bachelor's and 4 years of relevant experience.
- New SG Office Assistant - The search committee will be meeting next week to start reviewing resumes to fill in this position. We are doing everything possible to try to get the support needed for our senate and that starts with having a SG coordinator and an office assistant.
- Halloween Bash - It was such a success, and about 100 students attended the event. CUNY's Instagram account gave the SG a "shout out" with a few photos from the Halloween party.
- Club Fair: Academic and Curricular Affairs Commission - The Club Fair on October 30th was a huge success. Many clubs showed up for the event. We had over 100 students in attendance and engaged. It was great to see our students find new communities.
- "Jammies and Jeopardy" in collaboration with the Tutoring Center: Academic and Curricular Affairs Commission - "Jammies and Jeopardy" was also another successful event held on November 4th. Over 50 students participated in Jeopardy, riddle games, and guess-the-flag games. We are proud to continue to hold fun and educational activities/events for our students.
- Student Services Fair: Student Services Commission - On November 18th, we had our Student Service Fair and we can proudly say it was a huge success. Over 180+ students were introduced to 18 different offices and organizations on campus. We want to thank all the offices and organizations who joined us. It really means a lot to the students, and we hope to continue to collaborate together in the future.
- Spirit Day 11/6 - SG and the VP's office worked together and had an amazing Spirit Day. We worked with Athletics to bring fun activities such as floor chess, volleyball, bean bag toss, etc. We also had a cart that VP Gordon and the SG President rode around with the megaphone, encouraging students to join us for Spirit Day. Free CSI apparel was given out. Danny Dolphin made a celebrity appearance, which was well received by our student body.

- World Kindness Week - From November 12–14 in 1C, the Accessibility, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission celebrated World Kindness Week. Students participated in writing a post-it note of affirmation for our campus Kindness Wall and the grab-a-card to give to a friend, professor, or loved one.

Upcoming Events/Ideas

- Fall Feast - SG will be sponsoring two Fall Feasts. One will take place today from 6pm-8pm in the rotunda of 1C and the second will take place on November 25th from 2:30pm-4:30pm in 1C-Green Dolphin Room. Our entire menu is halal, which has never been done before. We are excited to have created a more inclusive environment for all and will continue to do so.
- Freakier Friday Movie Night - On November 21st from 6:30pm – 10pm, the Non-Traditional Students Commission of SG will host a Movie Night (movie: Freakier Friday) in hopes of reaching students that we don't normally see. We are super excited to be super busy and planning so many events for our students.
- Eco-Pumpkin Making - On November 22nd from 2:30pm-4:00pm in the Rotunda of 1C, Facilities & Sustainability alongside the Non-Traditional Students Commission will hold an Eco-Friendly Pumpkin Making Workshop, where they'll transform recycled materials into festive decorations. We've invited families from the Children's Center. We are extremely excited about this wholesome event.
- Spirit Day 12/4 - We hope to continue to have the same games and activities as this past spirit day month. Thanks to the VP's office for their help and we hope to collaborate with CAB to bring in a food truck for our students.
- Afghanistan/Caribbean Disaster Relief Fundraiser - We are looking toward having a fundraiser to support Afghanistan during the hurricane. We hope to continue to have initiatives like these in the future.
- Special Community Proposals - SG has reviewed the proposals submitted prior to November 6th. Responses are being sent out soon. If there are any questions, please contact the Director of Student Life, Mario D'Alessandro or SG President Ashley Villalva.

Thank you all for your collaboration and support in all our endeavors. SG is so grateful to have administration, faculty, and staff support and we hope to continue to build and foster relationships.

IX. HEO Steering Committee – Suzy Shepardson

The HEOSC met last week with President Lynch and members of Cabinet: many of our topics happened to overlap with recent discussions he's had with the College Council Executive Committee, and included:

- The status of ECP searches and the importance of constituency participation in the process, both on the search committees and the provision of campus-wide town hall opportunities. Town halls are often the only time campus community members as a whole can meet with the people they'll possibly be collaborating with in the future, and it's important to remember that candidates are interviewing us as well. Having the town halls and utilizing the opportunity to meet candidates shows that we are involved with and committed to the College's community, its students, and its future and success.
- HEO participation in the Strategic Plan process and implementation: invitations have been going out, and we look forward to our involvement.

- Professional development opportunities: the HEOSC will be working with Human Resources to help create programming to provide training and support for faculty and staff.
- Updates on remote work and the reclassification process for HEOs

Tara Mastrorilli and I met with Manuela Alongi and Catherine Ferrara today to brainstorm ideas for the HR-led training sessions, with the hopes of offering this professional development during January. PD matters, as it's an investment in personnel, which in turn contributes to the success of their offices and supports their colleagues and our students. In addition to the free programming offered through the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development, please utilize the CSI Professional Development Fund!

Finally, community involvement matters, so please support the CUNY Giving Campaign. Thanks for giving, and Happy Thanksgiving!

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – No Report

XI. Old Business - None

XII. New Business

Kenneth Gold, Chair of the College Council, urged all members to make a donation in the upcoming CUNY Giving Tuesday Campaign, emphasizing participation and not amount. He reminded members that the faculty had won the competition in percentage of participation against the HEOs for the Bylaws referendum and offered a challenge to the HEOs to rectify that defeat.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm

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