

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

Agenda for the 185th Meeting of the Faculty Senate
Thursday, December 18th, 2025, from 3:30 to 4:25 pm in 1P-119.

- I. Approval of the proposed agenda
- II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate on November 20th, 2025
- III. Executive Committee Report (Dr. Deborah DeSimone)
- IV. Interim Provost's Report (Dr. Nathalia Holtzman)
- V. University Faculty Senate Report (Dr. John Verzani)

VI. Consent Agenda:

DEGREE CHANGES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE

1. Department of Accounting & Finance

- a. Change in existing degree program: Accounting MS

Point of Information: Department of Social Work

- a. Application to Add Distance Education: Social Work MSW

NEW COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE – N/A

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE – N/A

VII. Item/s not on the Consent Agenda for Thursday, December 18th, 2025

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE – N/A

VIII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

Resolution to Award an Honorary Degree at the 2026 Commencement to Laura Kennedy from The College of Staten Island

WHEREAS, Laura Kennedy of Staten Island is a nationally recognized advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, currently serving as the President of the Board of Directors for The Arc of the United States, the largest community-based organization in the U.S. advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families; and

WHEREAS, Laura Kennedy earned her MA degree in Elementary Education and Teaching from Adelphi University, and her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Teaching from Hunter College; and

WHEREAS, Laura Kennedy has deep ties to Staten Island, where she previously directed the Staten Island Early Childhood Direction Center for over 25 years. Her work there focused on providing technical assistance, information, and special education training to families and professionals; and

WHEREAS, Laura Kennedy has served on the Willowbrook Mile Committee at the College of Staten Island as a strong advocate for a permanent remembrance documenting the history of The Willowbrook State School. The Willowbrook Mile officially opened on September 17, 2022, the 35th anniversary of the closing of the school, as a 12-station accessible, outdoor museum, that recounts the steps leading up to the 1972 exposé by Geraldo Rivera, to the eventual closing of the facility and its place in history as a milestone for social justice; and

WHEREAS, Laura Kennedy was elected President of The Arc of the United States in 2022. Prior to that, she served as President of The Arc New York, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to disability rights and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, As President of The Arc of the United States, Laura Kennedy is focused on advancing national policies that support caregivers, improve wages for direct support professionals, and ensure full inclusion for people with disabilities across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the College of Staten Island award Laura Kennedy, a stalwart disabilities advocate, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, at the College's annual commencement ceremony on May 28 2026.

EXPLANATION: In awarding Laura Kennedy the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, the College of Staten Island honors her for accomplishments as a distinguished community member, advocate, and educator.

The College is proud to recognize Laura Kennedy with this honor.

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

XI. Adjournment