

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

Date: Thursday, December 18th, 2025, 2:30pm – 3:25pm

Location: 1P-119 & Zoom Meeting

CC Members in Attendance

Zaghloul Ahmed, Neo Antoniadis, Paul Archibald, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Warrick Bell, Alan Benimoff, Paolo Cappellari, Vandana Chaudhry, Andrew Colbeck, Brian Cortijo, Lorianne Crowder, David Curcio, Debbie DeSimone, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Aris Efting, Gene Fellner, Valerie Forrestal, Kenneth Gold, Hernan Green, Susan Holak, Nathalia Holtzman, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Patricia Kahn, Carlo Lancellotti, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Timothy Lynch, Lisa Manne, Tara Mastrorilli, Dan McCloskey, Christine McEvilly, Vincent Mirabella, Steve Monte, Jackson Mushnick, Michael Paris, Ralf Peetz, Jonathan Peters, Sarah Pollack, Alexander Scott, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Carles Solà Belda, Sarolta Takács, John Verzani, Ashley Villalva, Robert Wallace, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, John Wing, Cindy Wong.

CC Members Via Zoom

Gabriella Rosales, Madonna Shaker, Yumei Huo

CC Members Absent:

Banu Aslanertik, Clarisse Domingo, Ismael Garcia-Colón, Eric Ivison, Anatoly Kuklov, Jeanne-Rachel Leroux, Rob Lovering, Philippe Marius, Angie Mekki, Halil Ege Ozen, Catherine Paradiso, Michelle Pasaca, Mark Aaron Polger, Angelina Raio, Allen Tesdall, Gaolan Wu, Mark Zdziarski, Kelly Zyko.

Guests In-Person

Cheryl Adolf, Stefan Charles-Pierre, Jessica Collura, Jonathan Cope, Aleks Dudek, Emmanuel Esperance, Orit Gruber, Stephen Ferst, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Michael Lederhandler, Jorma Loci, Carey Manifold, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Susan Massara, Chrystal Montalvo, Dimitrios Pavlides, Gary Pizzolo, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Matthew Scally, George Sulley, Rosemary Vitale.

Guests via Zoom

Manuela Alongi, Thomas Chen, Barbara Cohen, Celeste Del Maestro, Catherine Ferrera, Ruta Gordon, Jane Kisto, Koby Kohulan, Mary Murphy, Doriann Pieve-Hyland, Carly Racioppi, Joyce Taylor, Brenda Valentin.

- 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 and Interim Provost Holtzman on December 9 for its monthly consultation.

We heard about continued efforts to monetize the St. George facility and bring more MTA routes on campus, though no progress was reported. The president reminded us that the MTA is deterred by high fare evasion rates on the buses already coming to campus but spoke of partnering with the Borough President's office to lobby for a new line and that public advocacy such as a letter writing campaign might help as well.

We were pleased that planning continued for a series of workshops in January conducted by the HR office. I encourage current and potential future heads of office and department chairs to take advantage of them. We discussed some maintenance and repair projects on campus; most notably work on the end stairwells and courtyards of the academic buildings. These and other projects are the topic of the administration's report later in the meeting.

We discussed the staffing data that Deborah DeSimone reviewed at the November meeting of the Faculty Senate, focusing especially on the abysmally low number of assistant professors and the possibility of converting some lines from lecturer to tenure track. We all noted the loss of 52 full-time faculty positions since 2017; the only full-time job title with a more precipitous decline were the Gittleson's. The executive committee thinks both areas warrant focused replenishment. We spoke about onboarding new faculty and staff and encouraged renewed efforts despite a disappointing turnout at a recent dinner for new faculty.

The President shared that 4% of the incoming student population had IEPs as K-12 students—a far cry from a much higher rumored number. We congratulated the President and Provost on some outstanding retention data from first to second years.

I also want to report that the Council's *ad hoc committee on commencement speeches* completed its report and shared it with President Lynch. He and I met earlier today to discuss it, and I asked him to reach and share a decision no later than the February meeting of this council.

IV. President's Report – Timothy Lynch

President Lynch began his report with a word of acknowledgement for the tremendous work each member of the college does. In advance of the upcoming holidays, he wished that all would experience a restful and restorative time with their families.

As always, starting with good news, President Lynch was pleased to report that CSI's Giving Tuesday campaign was the most successful in recent history. He stated that we surpassed our goal and had raised close to \$250,000.00 dollars for the college's greatest needs. He expressed sincere thanks for everyone's participation, and for getting the word out to their networks. He was very excited about where CSI stood in terms of fundraising and philanthropy and was certain that CSI was well positioned moving into 2026.

In terms of enrollment, projections for the January intersession were showing an increase of about 12%, and our Spring numbers were trending ahead of last year's by 4%. For that, he thanked all for continued efforts with regards to students' engagement and retention. He added that as we approached the midpoint of the fiscal year, CSI was still on track to end the year in the black, outpacing even the first-quarter projections. As an aside, President Lynch mentioned the breaking news today that CUNY's CFO Sharif Solomon, Staten Island born and raised, had been appointed as Director of the Office of Management and Budget for New York City. He hoped that Director Sharif Solomon would continue to advocate for CUNY and for the College of Staten Island.

President Lynch acknowledged the recent tragic events that week – the shooting at Brown University and the terrorist act in Bondi Beach, Australia – and took the opportunity to offer condolences to those who are affected, and also to offer a reminder about the active shooter training available through CUNY on Brightspace. He urged everyone to familiarize themselves with the training, if they haven't done so already. He expressed his thanks to the Public Safety department and Chief Leder handler for their work in ensuring that our campus remains as safe as possible, not just during this holiday season, but every day of the year.

President Lynch concluded his remarks by wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Q&A

A question raised stemmed from the financial report given in November. Could the CFO prepare a monetary breakdown of instructional vs non-instructional staffing costs for AY2025, including CLTs, adjuncts, and part-time staff, so that the budget committee members could review and assess staffing allocations? The president asked the CFO to respond, and Carlos Serrano stated that while there was no breakdown available, but he would try to accomplish this task which would take some time.

A question was raised as to how CSI had performed in the Giving Tuesday campaign compared to York College, whose President has raised a bet with President Lynch. President Lynch was all too pleased to inform us that CSI contributions far outpaced York's. He extended special thanks to Dana Trimboli, Cheryl Adolph and the Advancement Team for their outstanding work.

Chair Gold added that the results of whether HEOs had redeemed themselves in the number of contributors' competition against faculty was unknown at this time, since the giving season was still open through Dec 31. As such, he encouraged all who had yet to make a contribution to do so by the end of the year.

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

Jonathan Cope, Chair of the PSC-CUNY CSI Chapter, announced a few important dates for PSC-CUNY members at CSI:

- Feb 10th - The Campus Action Team/Immigrant Solidarity Working Group is organizing an event for students and community members
- Feb 12th - The chapter will hold a tea and coffee hour in the union hall for an in-person meet and greet.

- Feb 24th - The PSC is organizing a bus trip to Albany to lobby for CUNY funding to advocate for increased revenue.
- March 1st - For faculty, please contact your supervisor if you have not arranged an annual review meeting by this date.

Q&A

Comment from the audience reminded everyone that the deadline to schedule annual evaluations for HEOs was December 31, 2025. Cope apologized for omitting information about the HEO evaluations. He reminded all about the significance of the annual evaluation process for both professional staff and faculty, especially in light of any potential grievances.

VI. Report from the Administration – Facilities Update from Jessica Collura, Chief of Staff

Jessica Collura introduced Jorma Loci and George Sulley, project managers at Campus Facilities, who oversee all campus capital projects, construction, renovations, and facilities upgrades. They presented on several projects that were currently under construction, as well as some that were recently completed. Collura emphasized that all the work being undertaken by Campus Planning were aligned with strategic planning priority number five, which is committing to a campus that has modern facilities and infrastructure.

Some recently completed projects mentioned included the soccer and softball fields; 4N Makerspace, and 1P Media Screening Room. Some projects under construction were entrance doors to Buildings 1A & 2A, and the baseball field. Several projects in design included the relocation of the career center, reconstruction of the student center service line and kitchen, modernization of the elevator cars, renovation of entry plazas of 3N, 4N, 5N, 1S, 2S, 4S, and 6S, and a campus wide toilet reconstruction.

Attached to these minutes, please find a slide presentation that includes an extensive report of completed capital projects, projects that are in-design, and projects under construction.

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 the committee met two weeks ago to address several issues that have arisen this year, including who can serve on the executive committees of this Council and the Faculty Senate. Committee members largely agreed that administrators should not serve on them, nor should anyone other than the Faculty Senate Chair serve on the executive committees of both bodies. The question before us was whether prohibitive language should be added and after much deliberation the committee determined not to make any changes. Its thinking was that these bodies should reaffirm and rely on the norms that have shaped the membership of the executive committee for decades.

c. Administrative Review and Evaluation Committee – Ken Gold

Chair Kenneth Gold confirmed that he was in receipt of the administrative report on Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention from the Administrative Review and Evaluation Committee.

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

e. **Budget Committee** – Kenneth Gold

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Kenneth Gold, reported that the committee met with the President, Provost, and AVP Serrano last week to review the first quarter numbers. As is often the case, the committee engaged in a fruitful conversation with our colleagues in the administration but also wished they had shared far more financial details to form the basis of discussion. One point worth reporting here is that once the College has eliminated its structural deficit this fiscal year—remember the projection is now that we'll end at nearly two million in the black—CUNY expects the College to build its reserves up to at least 5% of its operating budget, which comes to about \$5.2 million. The committee urged the administration to pursue that goal—to borrow an infamous phrase from the Supreme Court—with all deliberate speed. In other words, the college should continue to make strategic investments in personnel and elsewhere even if it takes a bit longer to reach that \$5.2 million reserve.

f. **Facilities Committee** – No report

VIII. Student Government Report – Ashley Villalva

The Student Government Report was delivered by President Ashley Villalva. She began with a summary of activities this fall:

- Five initiatives completed.
- Thirteen events accomplished
- Podcast established (never done before for SG).
- Initiated a special community proposal

Other highlights of the report included the following:

Ongoing:

- Interviews for New Student Government Coordinator
- Review of resumes for New Student Government Office Assistant

Initiatives

- Funding allocated for part-time staff to maintain pantry operations to ensure ongoing support for students facing food insecurity.
- Game Room Manager position approved (15 hours per week); soon to be posted to Indeed.
- Allocated \$2,000 for a game room scanner
- Allocated \$2,075.00 for a Mamvalock with installation for the Lactation Room in 1A.
- Allocated \$2,500.00 for Hygiene stations in the Game Room, Bijou Lounge, 1C-227, 1C-215 and 1C-206

Events Accomplished

NYC Student Union – CUNY-Wide Survey (9/16)

- Student Government participated in a CUNY-wide survey aimed at gathering information on student needs regarding higher education and student success.

Halloween Bash

- A successful night with about 100 students participating. Got a “shoutout” from CUNYEdU’s Instagram account with photos.

Club Fair: Academic and Curricular Affairs Commission

- The Club Fair on October 30th was another huge success. Many clubs participated and over 100 students were in attendance.

“Jammies and Jeopardy” in collaboration with the Tutoring Center: Academic and Curricular Affairs Commission

- Another successful night for Jammies and Jeopardy held on November 4th as we had about 50 students come by and participate in Jeopardy, riddle games, and guess the flag games.

Student Services Fair: Student Services Commission

- On November 18, we held our Student Service Fair and Over 180+ students were introduced to 18 different offices and organizations on campus. Many thanks to the offices and organizations who joined us.

Spirit Days - 11/6 and 12/4

- SG and the Office of Student Affairs experienced amazing Spirit Days on Nov 6 and Dec 4. We worked with Athletics, who brought activities such as floor chess, volleyball, bean bag toss, etc. VP Gordon and the SG president rode around campus with a megaphone, encouraging students to join us for Spirit Day, and giving out free CSI apparel. 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 by writing a post-it note of affirmation for our campus kindness wall and grabbed a card to give to a friend, professor, or loved one.

Freakier Friday Movie Night

- On Friday, November 21st from 6:30 - 10 PM, the Non-Traditional Students Commission of SG hosted a Movie Night (movie: Freakier Friday) in hopes of reaching students that we don’t normally see.

Eco-Pumpkin Making

- On Saturday, November 22 from 2:30-4:00 PM in the Rotunda, the Campus center, Facilities & Sustainability alongside the Non-Traditional Students Commission held an Eco-Friendly Pumpkin making Workshop, where they transformed recycled materials into festive decorations. Families of the Children’s Center were encouraged to attend this wholesome event.

Winter Formal: Winter masquerade 12/4

- Over 100 students joined us to celebrate a fun and community building event.

Afghanistan/Caribbean Disaster Relief Fundraiser

- SG raised \$777.00 in two weeks in collaboration with 10 clubs, demonstrating that when we work together, we really can make a large impact. We hope to continue to have initiatives like these in the future.

Special Community Proposals - \$100,000 Special Proposal Funding Initiative

- o Open to the entire CSI community—students, faculty, and administration—to submit initiatives via CSI Connect SG Funding.
 - o Funds come from Student Activities Fees (SAF) and must benefit the broader campus community.
 - o Proposals should include detailed documentation, such as invoices, to ensure proper allocation and adherence to CUNY fiscal guidelines.
 - o For guidance or questions about proposal appropriateness, contact Mario D’Alessandro, Director of Student Life.
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- € **\$3,000 for the development of a new CSI mascot**, reimagining school spirit and strengthening our campus identity.
 - € **\$1,500 for the Spring Spirit Design Competition**, where student art can become official CSI representation—elevating student creativity and amplifying their voices.
 - € **\$6,000 for the revitalization of the 1C Garden**, including essential fence repairs to create a more welcoming and sustainable community space.
 - € **\$1,000 for new Campus Center microwaves**, improving daily student life with reliable and accessible dining resources.
 - € **\$4,275.00 for the Winter Involvement Fair**, which will support the Office of Student Life to create amazing events for students

To submit a Special Proposal: 1) Log in to CSI Connect. 2) Search for “Student Government Funding Request.” and 3) Complete and submit the form that appears. For any questions or additional guidance, please contact Mario D’Alessandro.

Closing Remarks

Thank you all for your collaboration and continued support in everything we do. Student Government is incredibly grateful to work alongside such dedicated administrators, faculty, and staff, and we look forward to continuing to build and strengthen these relationships.

IX. HEO Steering Committee – Tara Mastrorilli

The HEO Steering Committee met on Monday, December 15. During the meeting we discussed how to improve our communication with the HEOs on campus. We want to engage with the HEO community to ensure we receive updates from them, and they are informed about what is happening on campus.

We particularly want to ensure that we can reach out to HEOs to participate in the HR-led professional development that will be offered in January. AND encourage HEOs to participate in the four upcoming Executive searches (for the Provost, Assistant Provost for Student Success, VP of Student Affairs, and the Dean of Education and Social Work), to the extent possible.

Those in the room and on Zoom, please consider attending one of our committee meetings, which are on the Monday before College Council. The information for the meetings is on the [College Council HEO Steering Committee website](#).

We also discussed the HEO Handbook that was drafted by HR and the PSC Labor Management Committee. The handbook is a benefits guide for HEOs. We will be submitting our feedback and the Handbook should be finalized before next semester.

On behalf of the HEO Steering Committee, I hope everyone has a happy holiday and a well-deserved, relaxing and restful break!

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – No Report

XI. Old Business

With 10 minutes left of the meeting, Chair Gold allotted the time for continued Q&A regarding the Facilities Update report.

A question was raised about the proposed survey of restrooms on campus of students, faculty, and staff. Collura responded that renovation of restrooms was one of the capital projects in progress.

Another question raised sought the percentage of “state of good repair” for buildings on CUNY campuses. A response would be provided later as this number could not be recalled, at that moment.

Another question raised was about the need for signage on the sidewalks, several of which had recently included bike lanes. Wallace responded that this was a project in progress, and that signage would be installed as soon as the weather allows.

A concern raised was about the stark difference between the maintenance of north and south buildings and sidewalks. The south side of campus appeared to be less well maintained than the north side. A particular example given was the automatic door opener that has been inoperable for over 6 months. Collura assured the speaker that Campus Facilities was quite aware and were doing their utmost best to remedy the situation. Outside contractors have been engaged and the door will hopefully be fixed in January 2026. Stefan Charles-Pierre added that his office was aware of these in-accessibility issues. A member of the body also added that the north side was not Beverly Hills, sharing the example that the automatic door of 3N had also been inoperable for over 6 months.

A comment made encourage Campus Facilities to prioritize repairs that would aid to reduce visual noise.

Another concern raised appealed to Campus Facilities or Buildings and Grounds to do a better job with snow removal. The college community arrived on campus on Monday (Dec 15), which may have been the first day of finals, to icy parking lots and none of the sidewalks plowed nor salted – this was at least the case around the 1L building – even though it had been over 24 hours since the snowfall ended.

Chair Gold thanked the Team from Campus Facilities for their detailed report and promised to follow up with them on the many issues raised.

XII. New Business - None

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm

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