

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

Date: Thursday, February 19th, 2026, 2:30pm – 3:25pm
Location: 1P-119 & Zoom Meeting

CC Members in Attendance

Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniades, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Warrick Bell, Alan Benimoff, Paolo Cappellari, Vandana Chaudhry, Andrew Colbeck, Brian Cortijo, Lorianne Crowder, David Curcio, Deborah DeSimone, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Aris Efting, Gene Fellner, Kenneth Gold, Hernan Green, Susan Holak, Nathalia Holtzman, Eric Ivison, Emma Johnson, Wilma Jones, Patricia Kahn, Anatoly Kuklov, Carlo Lancellotti, Catherine Lavender, Rob Lovering, Timothy Lynch, Alan Lyons, Lisa Manne, Dan McCloskey, Christine McEvilly, Catherine Paradiso, Ralf Peetz, Jonathan Peters, Angelina Raio, Alexander Scott, Tobias Schaefer, Suzy Shepardson, Carles Solà Belda, Sarolta Takács, John Verzani, Michael Volpe, Robert Wallace, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, John Wing, Mark Zdziarski.

CC Members Via Zoom

Clarisse Domingo, Alfred Levine, Tara Mastroilli, H. Ege Ozen, Gabriella Rosales,

CC Members Absent:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Paul Archibald, Valerie Forrestal, Ismael Garcia-Colón, Rosane Gartner, Yumei Huo, Jeanne-Rachel Leroux, Philippe Marius, Angie Mekki, Vincent Mirabella, Jackson Mushnick, Michelle Pasaca, Mark Aaron Polger, Sarah Pollack, Carlos Serrano, Madona Shaker, Allen Tesdall, Christina Tortora, Gaolan Wu, Ashley Villalva, Cindy Wong. Kelly Zyko.

Guests In-Person

Cheryl Adolf, Michael Anderson, Alyson Bardsley, Anita Bulan, Stefan Charles-Pierre, Jessica Collura, Chrystal Deosaran, Danielle Dimitrov, Aleks Dudek, Jennifer Durando, Emmanuel Esperance, Ruta Gordon, Orit Gruber, Erlan Feria, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Jackie Lamberti, Michael Lederhandler, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Susan Massara, Chrystal Montalvo, Donna Scimeca, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Dana Trimboli, Paola Ureni, Brenda Valentin, Rosemary Vitale, Rhoda Wilson.

Guests via Zoom

Vincenza Albarano, Thomas Chen, Barbara Cohen, Sharon Christian, Celeste Del Maestro, Catherine Ferrara, Stephen Ferst, Antonio Gallego, Jane Kisto, Koby Kohulan, Lynne Lacomis, Andrew Leykam, Carey Manifold, Lily-Ann Meyer, Tara Mastrangelo, Mary Murphy, Doriann Pieve-Hyland, Janine Scotto, Joyce Taylor.

- 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 and welcome back. The Executive Committee met with President Lynch and Interim Provost Holtzman on February 10 for its monthly consultation.

President Lynch shared positive news regarding spring enrollments and mid-year budget projections. He then reported on the series of HR workshops offered in January. We were pleased both by the average turnout at each session and that the numbers were viewed favorably by the administration as well. President Lynch saw the program as a reasonably effective start to what he intends will be an annual series. I look forward to seeing what can be done next year with more time for planning and better publicity.

We discussed the President's decision to revert to an 80%/20% remote work policy. This topic had come up in the Fall so the change was not a surprise to us, but the immediacy of its implementation was. Committee members emphasized that a more robust communications strategy would have served employees affected by the change, especially those who had made family arrangements based on the year-long agreements they had previously signed, a point on which President Lynch, to his credit, conceded.

AREC's report on the college's recruitment, enrollment, and retention policies was shared with President Lynch during the Winter term. He praised the report's impressive scope and constructive tone and noted two main takeaways: the unevenness in advisement options available to students and the role of faculty in recruitment and retention practices. The latter subject was not an explicit recommendation from AREC, but President Lynch concluded that the report indicated some sense of ownership from faculty in areas where traditionally they had avoided. We repeated a longstanding request—that before the start of the academic year the College identify all of its asks for faculty to attend recruitment events so they can be distributed fairly and methodically.

Finally, we discussed the practice of playing prerecorded student speeches at commencement even when the student is present. You may recall that this body created an *ad hoc* committee last fall to explore alternative means of protecting the college from a rogue speech without diminishing the honor of giving a commencement address. President Lynch indicated that he took the report seriously and plans to adopt some of its recommendation but unfortunately, he resolved to continue with what the committee viewed as overly cautious and unnecessary practice. It's a bad look for the College, displaying a lack of faith and trust in the very students we've chosen to recognize for their academic success and oratorical skills. If you've not yet shared your views on this topic with President Lynch, I encourage you to do so.

IV. President's Report – Timothy Lynch

President Lynch opened his report by welcoming everyone to the spring semester and sharing that enrollment remains steady and strong. The Winter Intersession's enrollment was strong and exceeded both last year's figure and our own projections. He noted that Assistant Vice President Scott would provide a more detailed enrollment update later in the meeting.

Given this enrollment growth, President Lynch reported that CSI was projected to close the fiscal year with a \$1.5 million surplus. This marked a significant turnaround from the \$14 million deficit the College faced in January 2022, when he began his tenure. He emphasized that this progress would not have been possible without the dedication and support of the entire campus community, and he thanked everyone for their hard work and patience throughout the process.

President Lynch also addressed facilities concerns raised at the December College Council meeting. He confirmed that hot water service has been restored in Building 1P and that accessibility doors across campus have been repaired by external contractors.

He was pleased to announce that the “Season of Giving” campaign, which ran from mid-November through the end of the year, was the most successful in CSI’s history, raising nearly \$500,000. He congratulated the HEOs for their strong participation, noting that they surpassed full-time faculty in headcount (though not in dollars raised).

Finally, President Lynch provided an update on the ongoing searches for key administrative positions, including the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs. Candidate interviews—including on-campus visits, town halls, and stakeholder meetings—are expected in March and April, with final announcements anticipated in May and appointments beginning with the new fiscal year on July 1, 2026. He also welcomed the new Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Anita Bulan, highlighting her extensive higher education experience and her plans to elevate CSI’s institutional brand.

Q&A

A question was raised about an article in the newspaper that discussed the use of CUNY college properties for low-income housing. President Lynch responded that neither the college, nor CUNY were consulted in advance of those articles using college properties across the system to for low-income housing. He added that because CSI was on state property and not city-owned it was not subject to eminent domain by the Mayor of New York City.

V. Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – Alyson Bardsley

Alyson Bardsley, Vice Chair of the PSC-CUNY CSI Chapter, gave the following report:

1. CSI PSC Chapter March Meeting will be held on Zoom **Thursday, March 12th at 2:30pm**.
 - a. David Hatchett--chair of the Retirees Chapter will present the need for faculty and staff to begin preparing for retirement early and provide advice on how to go about making those preparations.
 - b. We also provide updates and room for discussion about key issues impacting CSI specifically such as health and safety hazards on campus and recent changes to remote work for HEOs, CLTs, and non-teaching faculty. If you have items that you would like to be added to the agenda, please contact Chapter Chair Jonathan Cope
2. The Immigrant Solidarity Working Group and the Campus Action Team are busy organizing an event for **Tuesday, March 3rd** titled "**Empowered Voices: Immigrant Rights & Solidarity Workshop.**" Educators and staff at the College of Staten Island will host an event for the CSI student body with local community groups and other staff from offices across CUNY to give students the opportunity to network, share resources, and strengthen the support system for immigrant families on Staten Island.
3. There is still time to join the PSC in Albany on **Wednesday, Feb 25th** to demand that the millionaires and billionaires of New York who just received a massive tax cut pay their fair share to New York State to fund things we desperately need--such as universal childcare and a fully funded CUNY. The buses leave Manhattan bright and early at 6am and return around 7pm the same day. Sign up on the PSC CUNY website.
4. **Three of the Fired Four Reinstated!** -- Three of the “Fired Four” -- the Brooklyn College adjunct faculty members who lost their jobs in apparent retaliation for protected political expression--

are now eligible again for employment at any CUNY! The union continues the campaign to get the remaining one member of the “four” to be rehired. More details are available on the PSC website along with ways to get involved in the campaign to rehire the one member who has yet to be rehired <https://psc-cuny.org/news-events/psc-cuny-celebrates-the-reinstatement-of-three-members-of-the-fired-four/>

VI. Report from the Administration – Enrollment Update

AVP Scott presented a report with a slide presentation that included an overview of the spring 2026 enrollment and concerns for the future. Spring enrollment figures exceeded 11,000 students, a difference of 3.4% from the forecast and a 4% difference from the previous year, and one of the highest in recent years. The number of high school students enrolled was 749, significantly higher than the forecasted 349, contributing to the overall increase in spring enrollment. In comparison to other CUNY colleges, senior colleges saw a 1.9% increase, while comprehensive colleges saw an increase of 3.9%. Community Colleges experienced a 8.5% increase, possibly due to free tuition for students aged 25 to 55, under the Reconnect program. CSI’s enrollment growth was driven by returning students, with a 1.9% increase while freshmen’s enrollment decreased by 24%. Transfer students saw a minimal decrease of -4.5%, and graduate students showed a significant increase in new, non-degree students (91%, n=108 students), thanks to the programs in the School of Education.

Concerns for the future included: i) reduction of freshman applications; ii) potential impact of the Department of Education’s funding of graduate programs; iii) decrease in numbers from feeder high schools; free tuition at community colleges as a potential draw for students.

Future initiatives to support student recruitment and retention included: i) two admitted conferences in March and April to engage prospective students; ii) outreach by telephone to encourage students to attend the conferences – faculty and staff are encouraged to participate; iii) faculty are invited to participate in master classes at high schools; iv) programs for adult students and reconnect students scheduled in May; “Dolphin Day” being organized for high school students to sit in on classes; and v) FAFSA completion events to help students with financial aid applications.

A copy of the slide presentation is attached.

Q&A

A question raised concerned the trajectory of students who attend community colleges versus comprehensive colleges, noting that community college rates are bleak. AVP Scott acknowledged that CSI’s graduation rates were slightly better than those of the community colleges, but he also indicated that enrollment alone did not guarantee student success.

Another question raised was whether the decline in high school students from the feeder schools was a long-term issue? AVP Scott responded that he would look into this and could provide more data on high school student numbers at his next presentation.

VII. Reports of the committees of the College Council

a. Committee on Organization – Warrick Bell

Warrick Bell, Chair of the Committee on Organization, announced that materials are to be expected within the next two weeks for the nomination process for the University Faculty Senate (UFS) seats. Full

time and part time faculty and CLTs are eligible to be members of the UFS. There was one vacancy from the College of Staten Island, and several seats were expiring. Elections for the UFS seats will take place in May 2026.

b. By-Laws Committee – Kenneth Gold

The Chair of the By-Laws Committee, Kenneth Gold, reported that the committee met last week and began to map out a new round of bylaws review. To that end, please solicit the departments to which you are appointed and the committees on which you serve any suggestions for the committee to consider.

c. Administrative Review and Evaluation Committee – No report

d. Institutional Planning Committee – No report

e. Budget Committee – Kenneth Gold

Kenneth Gold, Chair of the Budget Committee, reported that the Budget Committee was awaiting mid-year numbers from CUNY, which the committee will review

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:

New Student Government Coordinator

- The search committee has chosen a coordinator. Claire James is the new SG Coordinator and will start on Monday and will be meeting with SG and stakeholders.

New SG Office Assistant

- The search committee is the final process of interviews and will be putting forth a name by next week.

Past Events

- Involvement Fair: Tuesday February 10th sponsored by SG

Upcoming events

- Club Feud Game Show: Event to be held February 24, 2026, at 3:00PM
- Mad Science Interactive Adventure: March 3, 2026, 2:30 - 4:30
- Our Town Hall - March 17, 2026
- President/Vice president Panel- April 14, 2026.
- Spring Club Fair: April 21, 2026, 2:30-4:30
- Spring Student Service Fair: Tues. April 28, 2026, 2:30 - 4:30 PM
- Community Day: Anticipated May 9th date.

- SG Memorial Awards: approved \$2,250 for nine \$250 SG Memorial Awards

Campus-Wide Elections:

- Nominations- March 2-24, 2026
- Orientation- March 25-27, 2026
- SERC confirmations- March 30th through Spring Break.
- Voting- April 14-23, 2026

Special Community Proposals

- Everything has been processed on our end for approved Proposals, now waiting on CUNY's end to finalize everything.

IX. HEO Steering Committee – Suzy Shepardson

Welcome back to the spring semester, even though Mother Nature seems to have other ideas! The HEO Steering Committee had its first meeting of the term on Tuesday, February 17th (due to the holiday closure).

- We debriefed about the initial Professional Development series held in January just prior to the start of the spring term, focusing on content, session format, timing, and our pleasure at being able to provide suggestions regarding what would be most pertinent/relevant content for the College community. We want to thank the administration for supporting and organizing what we hope will be an annual event.
- We discussed outreach to HEOs to encourage participation in various events and opportunities across campus, and how to ensure that the function and role of the HEOSC are clear to all constituents, particularly in relation to and in comparison, with those of both the PSC-CUNY and its HEO chapter.
- As a friendly reminder, our monthly meeting dates and the Zoom login information are posted online as part of the Faculty Senate/College Council web page, along with the names and departmental affiliations of the HEOSC members. Please feel free to join us at a meeting or reach out if we can be of assistance.

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – Robert Wallace

Robert Wallace, Vice President for Economic Development and Community Partnerships, gave a brief report that included:

- A follow up to the December Facilities Report which mentioned the server reconstruction in 1C. That will begin on October 26.
- A partnership with Lifestyles for the Disabled which will hopefully be completed by next semester, and this will provide work for students to produce apparel for the dolphin store.
- New Dolphin gear was available now via the [Dolphin Dash store](#).
- Apple Pay ordering now available, printing orders automatically for cafeteria service.
- May 17th is the second annual Jodi Merendino Run/Walk. Save the date and join us, then. The first Run/Walk fundraiser last year raised \$45,000--\$30,000 short of our goal to rename the Park Cafe in memory of Jodi. This year's Run/Walk will hopefully reach the goal.

Q&A

A question was raised about paving the parking lot by 1N. Wallace responded that the 1N parking lot and two others were in the queue to get done.

Another question was raised about offering more vegan options. Wallace responded that vegan and vegetarian options can be directed to the director of dining services, Carolyn Giannola. He added that she was open to testing new options, and he encouraged members to reach out.

Another question raised was about the acquiring charging stations for electric cars. Wallace responded that discussions are underway with CUNY to pursue energy-efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Another question raised was about the displacement of Starbucks by Chick- fil-A. Wallace responded that Starbucks will be returning to the 1C Cafeteria later in the year.

XI. Old Business

XII. New Business - None

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm

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