

THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Minutes of the 187th Meeting of the Faculty Senate
Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 2:31 to 3:25 pm in 1P-119.

Faculty Senate Members in Attendance:

Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniades, Paul Archibald, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Alan Benimoff, Paolo Cappellari, Andrew Colbeck, David Curcio, Deborah DeSimone, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Aris Efting, Gene Fellner, Valerie Forrestal, Kenneth Gold, Susan Holak, Nathalia Holtzman, Eric Ivison, Emma Johnson, Wilma Jones, Sylvia Kahan, Anatoly Kuklov, Carlo Lancellotti, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Rob Lovering, Alan Lyons, Lisa Manne, Dan McCloskey, Christine McEvilly, Catherine Paradiso, Carles Solà Belda, Sarolta Takács, Christina Tortora, John Verzani, Simone Wegge, John Wing, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski.

Faculty Senate Members via Zoom:

Yumei Huo, Jonathan Peters, Mark Aaron Polger.

Guests in Attendance:

Anita Bulan, Aleks Dudek, Nicolas Durst, Jennifer Durando, Emmanuel Esperance, Orit Gruber, Darryl Hill, Quia-Sheng Hu, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Crystal Montalvo, Terri Sangiorgio, Donna Scimeca, Amy Stempler.

Faculty Senate Members not in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Vandana Chaudhry, Ismael Garcia-Colón, Rosane Gertner, Timothy Lynch, Philippe Marius, Halil Ege Ozen, Sarah Pollack (sabbatical), Allen Tesdall, Madonna Shaker.

Meeting called to order at 2:31 pm by Chair Deborah DeSimone.

- I. Approval of the proposed agenda.
Motion moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate on February 19, 2026
Motion moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee Report, Dr. Deborah DeSimone (Appendix A)
- IV. Interim Provost's Report, Dr. Nathalia Holtzman (Appendix B)
Dr. Holtzman introduced the new Communications Director Anita Bulan.
- V. University Faculty Senate Report (Dr. John Verzani)

Dr. Verzani summarized UFS plenary presentations and current university-wide governance matters. CUNY Beyond is an initiative already active at four campuses and is expected to come to CSI in the future. The UFS is advancing a video recording policy. CSI was encouraged to consider creating its own

campus policy; however, a strong draft already exists from the UFS Library & Information Technology Committee. A May resolution is expected regarding commencement address modalities. With the upcoming UFS Elections, Dr. Verzani encouraged FS members to run for UFS seats. Newly elected senators will vote for UFS Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Committee members. As for Title VI Training, a working group is preparing feedback for the Chancellery. The mandatory Title VI training deadline is in late May. Feedback was requested for Senior Lecturer policy, E-permit policy, and SAT optional admissions policy. Concerns were raised that placement formulas still partly rely on SAT data and the response indicated that more years of data are needed before a full reassessment.

VI. Consent Agenda

DEGREE CHANGES

UNDERGRADUATE N/A

GRADUATE

1. Department of Curriculum & Instruction

- a. Change in existing degree: Childhood MSED

2. Department of Engineering and Environmental Science

- a. Change in existing degree: Electrical Engineering ME

3. Department of Education Studies

- a. Distance Education Application: Community-Based Leadership, EdD

NEW COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE

1. Department of Engineering and Environmental Science

- a. New course: ELE 702 Wireless Sensor Network & Systems

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE – N/A

Motion moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

VII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

Academic Freedom Committee

Cindy Wong informed the Faculty Senate that the Committee met in March and elected Michael Mandenberg as its new chairperson. The committee is coordinating with the PSC Union and the University Faculty Senate. A more detailed report is expected to be given at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Academic Technology Committee

The Committee discussed AI in education, concerns around recording and academic technology. A written report is forthcoming.

Curriculum Committees

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the chairpersons of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the General Education Committee, and the Graduate Studies Committee. The Goal was to improve the coordination among these committees and create a more unified curriculum process. Monthly meetings will continue.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Sarolta A. Takács, Secretary

Appendix A

Good afternoon to all! I am pleased to submit this report on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. On Tuesday, March 10th the FSXC met with the interim Provost, Deans, and members of the Administration. We began the meeting, as we always do, asking for a brief update from the interim Provost on issues of particular concern to her. You will hear from Dr. Holtzman shortly on a number of issues she is working on, but rest assured we discussed with her at length the issues that arose from the historic snowfall of earlier this month -- a topic of conversation fully explored as well by the CCXC with the President.

For Faculty, policies regarding mode of instruction during the aftermath of the snow were most important. We learned from Dr. Holtzman that CSI's President does not have the authority to keep our campus closed or remote when the chancellor opens all CUNY campuses; we also learned that because CSI is not registered with Middle-States as a "fully on-line campus," though we may have individual programs that ARE fully remote, we are bound by the mode of instruction of our accreditation. Though frustrating, we found this information useful in explaining why classes could not remain remote for the full week after the blizzard.

We also discussed faculty concerns regarding transfer students, T-Rex equivalencies, e-permits, and mode of instruction. Faculty are concerned, and rightfully so, that students who take courses on-line elsewhere have not sufficiently learned the skills and content to be successful within our programs. Faculty are also concerned about their ability to give in-person exams for their on-line courses, thus limiting the use of AI and cheating. We learned that MOI cannot be changed for courses – hybrid courses CAN give in-person exams – and that MOI is not taken into consideration by CUNY regarding transfer credits and e-permits, but that Dr. Holtzman will raise the issue with CUNY Central.

We broached the issue of building trust between the faculty and the administration, since shared governance is based on that trust. We discussed how the faculty may not grasp fully the breadth of Academic Affairs and the suggestion was made that members of that Division make short presentations to the Senate about their roles in the education of our students. Moreover, we explained that trust must be perceived by the whole faculty, not just its elected representatives. To that point, THE FSXC will create, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (11th Edition), a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW), the purpose of which is to allow the entire faculty to engage in informal discussions of ideas and issues, to build community and faculty engagement, and for the FSXC to learn the concerns of all faculty so that we can better represent you to the Administration. If shared governance is based on trust, then the whole faculty must know and trust its leaders. The administration must trust that faculty leaders accurately represent the concerns of all the faculty. And the faculty must trust that the Administration respects, appreciates, hears our concerns as they collaborate with the faculty to make decisions, promote accountability, and develop policy. To this end, we will have the first meeting of the COW in late April, in a town hall format. Stay tuned!

The FSXC asked about the interim Provost's plan to address the tensions between supporting Academic Freedom, Free Speech, and providing a safe work environment for all staff, students, and faculty. We were happy to learn that there have been few incidents on campus this semester, and that the concerns raised by faculty are being addressed. The work of the UFS as well as our own Academic Freedom Committee was discussed and it was suggested that a forum be held on this topic that includes members of the Academic Freedom Committee, along with Rob Wallace and CSI's members of the UFS, to explore

Academic Freedom, Free Speech, University policy, CSI policy, and resolutions being drafted by the UFS and our AF committee.

This month, the FSXC met with members of the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Program to see how Academic Affairs can assist in developing courses for this program. We were informed that Continuing Education courses at other CUNYs are created by the faculty but offered through their Offices of Continuing Education. Thus, the FSXC recommended to the interim Provost that a faculty member be appointed to serve as liaison between Academic Affairs & Continuing Education.

Finally, we informed Dr. Holtzman and the Deans of our meeting with Veronica DiMeglio, scheduled for March 30th, to discuss the relationship between our Associate's degree and our Baccalaureate programs. We informed Dr. Holzman and the Deans of this meeting and she discussed the need for a faculty advisor for this initiative, and perhaps joining this with the liaison to the Continuing Education.

Suffice it to say, a great deal has happened in the last month. Our next meeting is not until April 30th, AFTER Spring Break. Until then, I wish everyone a wonderful, restful, and rejuvenating break!

Deborah De Simone
Chair, Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Appendix B

Good afternoon, colleagues,

We find ourselves at that familiar point in the semester—the middle. And while it doesn't always get as much attention as the beginning or the end, this is, in many ways, the most consequential moment in the academic term.

Mid-semester is where intentions become outcomes.

It's where the energy of the first few weeks meets the realities of competing demands—grading, advising, midterms, and the growing pressure our students face balancing academics, work, and life. This is the point where persistence matters most—and where small interventions can make the difference between a student finishing strong or quietly slipping away.

So, as we move through this part of the term, I want to center our attention on student success—not as an abstract goal, but as something happening right now.

This is the moment to notice who has disengaged. To reach out. To provide clarity. To remind students they belong.

Even small actions—a quick check-in, encouraging office hours, connecting students with tutoring, or submitting a progress report—can have a meaningful impact.

What you are doing in real time—through your teaching and mentoring—is what drives retention and completion. It is the work that changes lives.

At CSI, we know our students are not just students. They are commuters, caregivers, employees—often all three. Many are navigating real constraints just to get here. And still, they show up. Our responsibility is to make sure that once they're here, the path forward is clear and the support is real.

I also want to acknowledge this moment for faculty. Mid-semester is when the workload peaks.

We see that. And we are being intentional about how we support you—not adding to the burden, but helping sustain it.

Thank you as well to the Faculty Senate leadership for your continued partnership and your work to build a more inclusive campus community. That work matters.

Because what we create right now also shapes our campus climate. This is when students can feel most overwhelmed—and where your presence and consistency make the greatest difference.

Looking ahead, we are entering an important planning window. Students can now register for summer, and fall registration opens next week. We are also continuing work on workforce-aligned programs, general education and the First Year Experience, and strengthening 2+2 pathways—all focused on building clearer paths to completion.

A few quick reminders:

- No classes tomorrow for Eid, and spring break runs April 1 through April 9
- The Undergraduate Research Conference is April 30—please consider attending and encouraging your students

- There are new opportunities to engage with AI in teaching and pathways work, as well as support for developing fully online programs—please reach out if you’re interested

I also want to thank those submitting grants and advancing faculty searches. Please remember to involve the Office of Research early—especially for budgets and letters—so we can fully support your submissions.

And finally,

There is a tremendous amount of impactful work happening at CSI—and we need to do a better job telling those stories.

Please share your work with me or with Anita Bulan in Communications. I’ll also be sharing updated faculty accolades this week, and we look forward to celebrating promotions and selected scholarly achievements at our final Senate meeting in May.

Let me close with this:

This is the part of the semester where what we do matters most—not in plans, but in whether a student stays and succeeds.

And that impact—steady, often unseen, but incredibly powerful—is because of you.

Thank you.