

Minutes of the One Hundred and Eightieth Meeting of the College Council
Formed on November 14, 2002

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026, 3:30pm – 4:25pm

Location: 1P-119 & Zoom Meeting

CC Members in Attendance

Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniadis, Paul Archibald, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Warrick Bell, Alan Benimoff, Paolo Cappellari, Andrew Colbeck, Brian Cortijo, Lorianne Crowder, Brian Cortijo, David Curcio, Deborah DeSimone, Valkiria Durán-Narucki, Aris Efting, Gene Fellner, Valerie Forrestal, Kenneth Gold, Hernan Green, Patti Gross, Susan Holak, Nathalia Holtzman, Eric Ivison, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Sylvia Kahan, Patricia Kahn, Anatoly Kuklov, Carlo Lancellotti, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Timothy Lynch, Alan Lyons, Lisa Manne, Lucas Marchante-Argon, Tara Mastroilli, Dan McCloskey, Christine McEvilly, H. Ege Ozen, Catherine Paradiso, Ralf Peetz, Angelina Raio, Gabriella Rosales, Alexander Scott, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Carles Solà Belda, Sarolta Takács, Ashley Villalva, John Verzani, Robert Wallace, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, John Wing, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski.

CC Members Via Zoom

Jackson Mushnick.

CC Members Absent:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Banu Aslanertik, Vandana Chaudhry, Clarisse Domingo, Ismael Garcia-Colón, Rosane Gertner, Yumei Huo, Jeanne-Rachel Leroux, Rob Lovering, Philippe Marius, Angie Mekki, Vincent Mirabella, Michelle Pasaca, Jonathan Peters, Mark Aaron Polger, Madona Shaker, Thomas Tellefsen, Allen Tesdall, Christina Tortora, Paola Ureni, Gaolan Wu, Kelly Zyko.

Guests In-Person

Cheryl Adolph, Michael Anderson, Karen Arca-Contreras, Deserie Bebe, Valeria Belmonti, Jasmin Cardona, Sharon Christian, Jessica Collura, Jonathan Cope, Lynne Curbelo, Chrystal Deosaran, Veronica DiMeglio, Aleks Dudek, Jennifer Durando, Emmanuel Esperance, Katrina Fama, Stephen Ferst, Linda Goffin, Intissar Hasan, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Koby Kohulan, Anna Lambert, Jackie Lamberti, Michael Lederhandler, Maria Levine, Beth Liversperger, Mitchell Lovell, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Susan Massara, Sophia Naylor, Aleksin Ortega, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Terri Sangiorgio, Matthew Scally Donna Scimeca, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Dana Trimbolli, Rosemary Vitale, Rhoda Wilson.

Guests via Zoom

Cesare Barreca, Stefan Charles-Pierre, Christine Cohen, Thomas Chen, Celeste Del Maestro, Antonio Gallego, Donna Garambone, Orit Gruber, James Hamilton, Doriann Hyland, Linda John, Michele Karpeles, Lynne Lacomis, Thomas Lauria, Andrew Leykam, Mary Murphy, Edward Patri, Carly Racioppi, Janine Scotto, Ruta Shah Gordon, Joyce Taylor, Dimitry Verkhovskly.

- 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, Chair of College Council

Good afternoon and welcome to our final meeting of the academic year. The Executive Committee met with President Lynch, Interim Provost Holtzman and Chief of Staff Collura on May 12 for its monthly consultation.

President Lynch reported on the continued positive outlook regarding the budget. He noted that there may be funds for CUNY's three comprehensive colleges to participate in CUNY Reconnect. We held an exploratory conversation about service at the College: the need for greater faculty participation in shared governance, the divided views of faculty on the appropriate role of service in reappointment, tenure, and promotion decisions, how ignoring most every recommendation from a self-study or assessment committee dampens enthusiasm for future participation, and how more administrative support for faculty governance leadership would be most welcome.

We discussed the commencement task force that President Lynch mentioned last month in his report to this body. He reiterated that all aspects of the day could be examined, including policies related to commencement speeches, departmental exercises, the reading of student names, and Dolphin awards. We advocated that such a task force be co-chaired by the new VP for Student Affairs, a student, and a faculty member, that its membership be identified this summer so that work can proceed immediately in the fall semester.

The president agreed to maintain on-campus interviews with the finalists by the search committee for searches within Academic Affairs provided that all committee members are present for the in-person interview.

We want to welcome James Doyle as Interim Director of Facilities Management, Planning, and Operations. This appointment comes in lieu of starting a search for this position this summer as CSI awaits CUNY's further implementation of shared services. The President and Provost were receptive to our recommendation that allocation of faculty lines occur this spring and noted that all positions needed to begin advertising prior to November 1 and that starting even earlier would well serve departments with fall conferences.

IV. President's Report – Timothy Lynch

President Lynch began his report by expressing his gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work that each member had contributed to the campus over the last 10 months. He noted that at this year's upcoming Commencement Ceremony, 2,247 individuals will be earning their degrees, and he was looking forward to celebrating their accomplishments with all faculty and staff. He added that CSI would be awarding an honorary degree to Laura J. Kennedy, tireless advocate for individuals with disabilities, former chairperson of The Arc of the United States, and a good friend of the college. He thanked the body for recommending her name to the Chancellery for approval, and he extended his congratulations to her on this achievement.

In his budget update, President Lynch mentioned that after last month's financial presentation by CFO Carlos Serrano at the last College Council on April 30th, he and Serrano have had a number of meetings with the University's Budget Office, and others from the Chancellery regarding CSI's financial status. CSI has submitted a quarterly report, which has been tentatively approved, and he noted that CSI was still on track to end fiscal with a positive balance. Currently, enrollment numbers for both the summer and fall 2026 were trending above last year's numbers, 8% and 6%, respectively.

President Lynch offered congratulations to those individuals who were being celebrated for earning tenure, promotion, or certificates of continuous employment. He thanked Interim Provost Holtzman for resurrecting this recognition ceremony, previously halted by COVID-19, and he looked forward to celebrating the accomplishments and achievements of our colleagues.

Lastly, President Lynch reaffirmed his commitment to a comprehensive Commencement Task Force to be formed in summer 2026, with input from governance leaders. The Task Force will begin this work in the Fall, and they will be charged to focus on various aspects of commencement, from the prerecording of student speeches to departmental ceremonies.

Q&A

A member of the body suggested that the President consider including Gittlesons on the Task Force. The suggestion was noted by President Lynch.

A question raised asked the President to imagine whether he would accept a recommendation from the Task Force if it led to a recommendation in which it was possible for a student to deliver a live speech rather than a recorded one? President Lynch's answer was "Yes."

A speaker highlighted the significant number of full-time faculty members retiring and suggested a public acknowledgement of their contributions. President Lynch welcomed the idea and suggested that HR could generate a list to announce a welcome to new hires and acknowledge those departing.

Another question raised sought to understand whether CSI's positive financial status at the end of the year would remove CSI from the list of campuses being monitored. President Lynch responded that even though CSI was on track to end the year with a positive balance, it had yet to meet the University's requirement for a CUTRA balance equivalent to 5% of CSI's budget allocation, thus keeping CSI on the list.

The last question raised mentioned the lack of nameplates on doors for new faculty members. President Lynch noted the issue and will look into it.

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

Jonathan Cope, Chair of the PSC-CUNY CSI Chapter, delivered the following report:

1. I would like to announce a new member of the CSI PSC Executive Committee in the role of Welfare Fund Officer. Lorianne Crowder is Program Manager for the MA in Clinical Mental Health and Counseling, and we are very excited to have her as a part of our EC.
2. Prior to commencement there will be a Labor Breakfast in Building 1A starting at 8am - PSC CSI will provide coffee, tea, bagels, etc. Please join us!
3. Sign the petition to get an Immigrant Student Success Center at CSI. More than one third of CUNY students are immigrants and many are undocumented, yet only four CUNY Colleges (Brooklyn, John Jay, Hunter, and City College) have Immigrant Student Success Centers with dedicated, trained, full-time staff members and the resources needed to provide adequate services. We are asking for CUNY to immediately hire two permanent full-time staff members on every campus whose jobs are solely to support immigrant students by establishing an Immigrant Student Success Center at CSI.
4. Watchdog Workplace Health and Safety Update Zoom June 4 at 3:30pm on Zoom
5. Department chairs and anyone who advises new faculty, please be aware that the union has revived our How to Survive and Thrive at CUNY daylong workshops. Held again for the first time since the pandemic last month. Opportunity to meet colleagues from other CUNY campuses and generally very helpful and is currently scheduled for October 23rd at the union hall in Manhattan

VI. Report from the Administration – Dana Trimboli, Associate Administrator in Charge of Business Development

Before starting her report, Dana Trimboli, Associate Administrator in Charge of Business Development, acknowledged the Institutional Advancement team by asking them to stand to be recognized. She reported the Foundation currently has a \$24.5 million endowment with 62 endowed funds, \$1,402,000 in gifts received through May 1, and 372 students receiving \$665,000 in scholarships. Recent fundraising events included a Library Appeal, President's Appeal, and a season of giving that raised over \$400,000. She announced a new member of the staff, Sophia Naylor, who will serve as a prospect researcher and database manager, funded by the CSI Foundation. Ms. Naylor's role included managing the donor database and supporting departments with donor information. Looking ahead, the team was preparing for a comprehensive campaign, with the support of a consultant, with the aim of raising funds for the college's greatest needs. Dana Trimboli ended her report by congratulating student members of the College Council from the class of 2026 on their graduation.

A slide presentation for this report is attached to these minutes.

Q&A

In response to a question about the percentage of funds raised that go to administrative costs, Cheryl Adolf, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, responded that the Foundation's management fee calculation is 5% on Temporary Restricted gifts and 2.5% on Endowed funds, unless otherwise stated in the donor's gift agreement.

In response to the question regarding clarification on the focus of fundraising efforts, Trimboli clarified that the campaign would focus on student success, faculty support, and campus facilities, goals that aligned with the strategic plan.

VII. Reports of the committees of the College Council

a. Committee on Organization – Warrick Bell

Warrick Bell, Chair of the Committee on Organizations, reminded everyone of vacant seats on following committees as of date:

- University Faculty Senate: Four (4) seats remain vacant
- Admissions Committee: One (1) seat vacant
- Faculty Senate and College Council: Terms of several departmental representatives and alternates were expiring as of May 2026. He reminded Department Chairs to place this as an agenda item on their first meeting in the fall semester. If a departmental representative is not elected by the first meeting of the fall, the chair would automatically become the department representative, according to the new By-Laws.

b. By-Laws Committee – Kenneth Gold

Kenneth Gold, Chair of the By-Laws committee, stated that the committee met and discussed an array of issues related to adjunct participation in governance. Rather than insert more permissive language into the bylaws right now, the committee recommended that the Faculty Senate create an *ad hoc* adjunct faculty steering committee.

c. Administrative Review and Evaluation Committee – no report

d. Institutional Planning Committee – President Lynch

President Lynch mentioned that the IPC met on May 15, 2026, to discuss the implementation of the strategic plan.

e. Budget Committee – No report

f. Facilities Committee – No report

VIII. Student Government Report – Ashley Villalva

Ashley Villalva, Student Government President, began her report with highlights of projects accomplished this academic year:

- Eight initiatives were passed, including a proposal for \$100,000.00 budget.
- Established a podcast for students.
- Recruited new Student Government Coordinator, Claire James.

- Established Bloom Fest, a spring festival that was open to the entire College Community and raised over \$100.00 for the food pantry.
- Partnered with NYPIRG to lobby MTA for better service to CSI and possibly start a whole new line for Staten Island.
- Funded Pride Kamp, an event that supports an experience for students to come and feel welcomed and connect with the LGBTQ+ Center.
- Raised almost \$800.00, to be split between two different organizations, Doctors Without Borders and Hope. Thanks to twenty (20) different student clubs that participated.
- Six initiatives were funded, including the \$19,735 for new student orientation t-shirts. Every new student and every transfer student will get one.

Ashley Villalva acknowledged the Vice President of Student Government, Rhoda Wilson, who had been an exceptional partner, filled in as a substitute for her at the College Council meetings and helped make the year a successful one that included 27 amazing events.

Ashley Villalva took the opportunity to introduce next year's incoming Student Government President, Gabriella Rosales, and expressed confidence in her leadership.

Lastly, Ashley Villalva expressed her gratitude to the community, in particular, to President Lynch, Interim Ruta Gordon, CFO Carlos Serrano, for their support, confidence, and belief in her and for the ability to voice opinions and have tough conversations with them. She truly felt that this year had been one of the best years for Student Government, and hopefully next year would be even better.

Q&A

A faculty member raised concern about the conflict between Student Government meetings and the College Council meetings. Villalva responded that she would inform Claire James, SG Coordinator, about the need for closer collaboration among these bodies so conflicts in dates would be avoided and ensure that the President of Student Government attend all meetings.

Another faculty member congratulated Villalva on her dynamic presentation and donations to Doctors without Borders and for being selected as the Salutatorian at this year's Commencement. The faculty wondered whether Villalva would like to deliver her speech live? In response to the question, Villalva explained that, as a student, she is required to follow the institution's regulations and therefore will be presenting a pre-recorded speech. She expressed hope that the Faculty Senate and College Council would advocate policy changes that allow students to deliver live speeches. In the meantime, she was excited and honored to be the Salutatorian and thanked the committee for recognizing her accomplishments.

IX. HEO Steering Committee – Suzy Shepardson

The HEOC met on Monday and the members, along with our colleagues in attendance,

- Conducted a review/debrief of our recent meeting with the President and members of his cabinet
- Reviewed items for follow-up, including additional training support for the purchasing process and planning for upcoming professional development activities (as a continuation of the collaborative work which kicked off prior to the start of this semester)

- Received a College Council Exec Committee update from 2026 Dolphin Award winner Tara Mastroilli
- Discussed the upcoming elections for the governance positions which HEOs were eligible to run for—ballots went out right on schedule Tuesday for AREC and HEOSC vacancies, so please make sure to cast your votes! I'd like to highlight something Warrick didn't mention: for AREC, there are 3 open seats and 4 HEOs were nominated, and for the 1 seat on the HEOSC, 6 HEOs were nominated. What's great about the Steering Committee election is that once the vacant seat is filled, the remaining 5 HEOs will all be seated as alternates, and that's a great gateway for governance involvement.
- Received a By-Laws Committee update from Brian Cortijo—we encourage everyone to take a look at the document, which is currently available on the CSI intranet, and ask HEOs to bring their questions and concerns to either the HEOSC or the By-Laws Committee (which has 2 HEOs serving). It's important to review the by-laws, as it's a living, breathing document that requires everyone's contributions for it to be successful, meaningful, and representative.

Thank you for a great year of conversations and collaborations, and we look forward to continuing our work next year. We're here all summer, so be sure to stop by and visit your local HEOs!

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – Robert Wallace

Robert Wallace briefly mentioned that the Jodi Merendino Bencivenga Run/Walk Fundraiser took place on May 17, 2026, and that it was extremely successful in raising a lot of money toward their goal. This was the second fundraiser event held to support the renaming of the CSI Campus Park Cafe in her memory.

XI. Old Business - None

XII. New Business - None

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm

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