June 12, 2012

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate:

I hope that the spring semester ended on a successful note for you and that your summer goes well. As you know, at the last Faculty Senate meeting I agreed to share with the Senate a copy of the cover letter that will be sent to the central office of CUNY when I send our other materials to them. A copy of this letter, along with The Current (6_12_2012) CSI Pathways Model for the CSI Framework for Pathways will be posted to the CSI Pathways website (see below). I plan to send the material to the central office of CUNY by the end of the day, Tuesday June 12, 2012. The cover letter expresses my commitment to shared governance and I have provided a short history of the process of consultations in the General Education Committee, in the Faculty Senate, in the "Lemonade Committee," in meetings with general chairs, in Town Hall meetings, and in other venues, toward developing the Pathways Framework.

As you know, the General Education Committee voted to cease work for the year before any proposal was brought to a vote. At the March 24 meeting I had explained to the Senate that CUNY required submission of a framework plan by the end of the spring semester. Nevertheless, similar to the General Education Committee, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution on May 17, 2012, asking for more time than allowed by the Board and refusing to act on Pathways proposals, stating that, "… the Faculty Senate of CSI affirms that it will not implement a Pathways curriculum under the current guidelines …" While I deeply regret that the General Education Committee and the Faculty Senate did not bring the matter to a vote, the model I will submit represents my understanding of the current status of the various positions articulated. To the best of my abilities, the submission reflects the very extensive discussions that took place in all of these faculty groups. In the Current (6_12_2012) CSI Pathways Model, I have tried to present a balance between the various models that the General Education Committee has been working on all year and what was recommended by the Faculty Senate ad hoc "Lemonade Committee."

The framework I will submit has been posted to the CSI Pathways website under the title "The Current (6_12_2012) CSI Pathways Model. It contains input and feedback from the General Education Committee, from departments who provided input after the General Education Committee ceased to work, and from the Lemonade Committee itself after the GEC stopped working. There is nothing in this model that has not been evaluated at some stage in the process by the General Education Committee and various other college constituencies.
CUNY requires that CSI submit its framework and also requires that courses be submitted to the CUNY Review Committees over the summer for preliminary review and approval. Many CUNY colleges are well ahead of us in this process and have already begun submitting courses. It is important to note that if courses are submitted and later changed by local governance processes, these can be resubmitted to the CUNY Review Committees. Towards that end, in keeping with our tradition of shared governance, I urge the faculty to begin preparing syllabi for course submission, and the General Education and Undergraduate Curriculum Committees to meet over the summer to further the process towards finalizing our Pathways Framework. Funds are available to compensate faculty for these tasks. I earnestly hope that this occurs, as it is important that faculty maintain control over the curriculum. To ensure the scheduling of sufficient courses by Fall 2013, we must as a community proceed with course submissions for preliminary review.

As your Provost it is my continuing desire to use our regular governance process to comply with the CUNY timeline for the Pathways Framework. By deciding to halt the process in May the General Education Committee and the Faculty Senate did not put forth any plan that would be responsive to CUNY’s requests. I, therefore, was in a position where I was forced to decide between putting CSI in noncompliance with a Board directive or proceeding without the consent of the faculty. It was my decision to submit the material as required by the Board resolution, as required by my position as an appointed officer of CUNY. I will continue to submit course materials, as they are prepared by our faculty over the summer, for review by the central CUNY committee.

Sincerely,

William J. Fritz
Provost & Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs
Interim President Effective 8/15/2012

Cc: CSI Faculty