Good afternoon. Although it has been only a short time since the last meeting of the College Council, a few major developments have taken place, the most pressing concerning the budget.

**BUDGET**

March 31\textsuperscript{st} marked the passage of a State budget for 2011-2012 in the amount of $132.5 billion.

There is a very troubling development for CUNY
which now faces a University-wide reduction of approximately $95 million to its senior colleges. Furthermore, while the State Executive Budget called for an increase in the University’s revenue appropriation by $40 million to recognize the recent 5 percent raise in tuition, this increase is not included in the fiscal year budget that was signed on March 31st. Again, this development does not impact the current fiscal year but may impact next year’s budget which begins on July 1.

This, of course, is equally troubling news for the College of Staten Island which faces a reduced
budget of approximately $4 million even before considering the impact of the lost appropriation. The university is working very hard to minimize the impact to the senior colleges, and the College has been actively engaged in preparing for the budget shortfall as well. Just yesterday, the Resource and Budget Advisory Committee (RBAC) finalized its recommendations concerning reductions to our tax levy budget. I will be reviewing these recommendations very carefully as I consider all options to address the reduced budget. However, under almost any feasible scenario, it appears inevitable that there will have to be some reduction
in temporary service. I will continue to keep you advised of any significant developments concerning the budget.

MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

In light of the difficult challenges ahead, I truly credit the faculty, staff and students for coming together, with resolve, to continue carrying-out the mission of this great institution.

Strategic Planning

Indeed, as you should now all be aware, after approximately two years of intense commitment and hard work, the Institutional Planning Committee
reached another milestone in the Strategic Planning Process when it completed the draft of the College’s new Strategic Plan.

I will report on this significant achievement in more detail when I give my report of the IPC.

**Middle States**

The Middle States process is on the cusp of reaching a similar milestone which is the completion of the initial draft of our self-study report. I will provide more comments on this major institutional initiative next month following the anticipated realization of this significant goal.
EXTERNAL FUNDING

With the mounting burdens on the tax levy budget, external funding to support our core mission of teaching, learning and scholarship becomes even more crucial.

Endowment

The College’s endowment dollars continue to grow, despite a challenging economic market, from 2.8 million to 3.8 million as of the close of the last calendar year. Endowment dollars remain critical because they build support for our students and faculty for not only immediate needs, but well into the future.
I am pleased to announce that just this week, through funding from NSF, our High Performance Computing Center received the Cray XE6 which is one of the most advanced computing systems in the world. In fact, this is the first such system in the Northeastern United states, and it will provide unsurpassed support for the research activities of CUNY faculty and their collaborators at other universities in a number of diverse disciplines that are dependent on computational methods.

Northfield Bank Foundation
Additionally, CSI recently received a $25,000 grant from the Northfield Bank Foundation for internship opportunities to support financially disadvantaged students. These students, who are traditionally unable to participate in non-paid internships, now have the opportunity to gain experience and explore their fields of choice, while developing new skills via hands-on training at a number of non-profit organizations.

**Goldwater Scholarship Winner**

And for the first time in the history of CSI, Mark Barahman, a junior participating in the Macaulay Honors College and Goldsmith Scholar, was named
a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship winner. The premiere, federally funded undergraduate award of its type, the Goldwater Scholarship is designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers and PhDs in the sciences, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and related fields.

Mr. Barahman, a biochemistry major, is one of only 300 students nationwide to earn this prestigious honor. I want to recognize our colleague Dr. Allan Lyons who has served as his mentor. Additionally, Dan Feldman, also a junior in the Macaulay Honors College at CSI and a Physics major, was one of only
150 students to receive an Honorable Mention award for the Scholarship.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

Our continued success is important, not only to the campus community, but to the larger Staten Island community as well. CSI’s commitment to community is unparalleled.

Dual Language Internship

For example, for two consecutive years CSI students, through the College’s French program, have been helping Public School 58’s Dual Language Program teachers in a unique internship program. Interns are selected, among other
qualifications, for their academic achievements and their interest in the French immersion program. These interns, who assist Dual Language Program teachers in all classroom activities, are able to perfect their French language skills and prepare themselves as future teachers as their work can be banked as observation hours toward a Master’s degree in education. I congratulate faculty of the Department of Modern Languages, the Education Department and the Career Scholarship Center for this collaborative initiative.

2010 CUNY Campaign
The 2010 CUNY Campaign for Charitable Giving at CSI has now concluded, and I am very happy to report that together we have once again exceeded our goals. The Campaign raised $18,474 which surpasses last year’s amount by an astounding 47%. Again, I wish to thank all of our Building Captains and Academic Deans who have helped spearhead our efforts to provide invaluable resources to those in need in our community.

Recylemania

CSI’s participation in “Recyclemania”, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection, is a part of the College’s
ongoing commitment to the community to “go green.” Recyclemania is a ten-week friendly competition among college campuses to reduce greenhouse gases through increased recycling. The winner of the contest will be determined by the amount of recycled material collected. I am pleased to report that as of the fifth week of the contest, CSI was in first place so please keep up the recycling.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The upcoming weeks bring several significant events to CSI.

*2011 Day of Assessment*
The culture of assessment, which has flourished and permeated CSI during the Middle States self-study process, will be the focus of the College’s 2011 Day of Assessment which will take place tomorrow from 9 am to 4 pm in the Dolphin Lounge.

The theme of this year’s program covers the varied ways in which information and quantitative data can be collected and used for assessment purposes.

**Undergraduate Conference/Chancellor**

As I informed you previously, Chancellor Goldstein will be visiting the campus on April 14th, which will coincide with the 2011 CSI Undergraduate Conference on Research,
Scholarship, and Performance. The Chancellor will be addressing the College community in the Williamson Theater from 12:30 to 1:30 pm, and I encourage you to attend.

Disability Awareness Month

April marks Disability Awareness Month at CSI. I encourage everyone to attend the numerous programs which have been scheduled throughout the month to bring greater understanding to those with disabilities at CSI and in our community.

CONCLUSION
In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and restful spring break.

Thank you.