PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Meeting of the College Council
May 19, 2011
Building 1P, Room 119
1:30 PM

BUDGET

Good afternoon. The last College Council meeting of the academic year signals the rapid approach of Commencement. And while we all look forward to our culminating celebrations with the same excitement and pride in accomplishment as in years past, the implications of the budget weigh heavy on our minds.
While the College has not yet received its Fiscal Year 2012 budget allocation, the latest indication from the CUNY Budget Office is that the College of Staten Island’s fiscal year 2012 tax-levy reduction, effective July 1, 2011, will be close to $4 million. This is consistent with projections that I have previously shared with the College Council.

The Resource and Budget Advisory Committee recommended $1.87 million in reductions which encompassed recommended decreases in Other than Personnel Service and Personnel Services Temporary. The recommendations by the RBAC
have been posted on the College’s website, and I encourage everyone to review them.

I commend the members of the RBAC for their hard work under extremely difficult circumstances. However, the anticipated University mandated budget reduction is significantly larger than the reduction recommended by the RBAC.

I reiterate, that no full-time employee will lose their position as a result of the College’s plan to meet this fiscal challenge.

Consistent with the transparent and inclusive budget process that we have followed to date, I will
soon be e-mailing a comprehensive message to the entire campus community detailing our budget plan.

Through these difficult and challenging times, we will continue to rely upon the commitment of our faculty and staff to fulfill our core mission of student access, persistence and excellence. I am confident that by continuing to work together we will ensure that CSI will eventually emerge a stronger institution.

**EXTERNAL FUNDING**

I have asked the Vice President for Advancement and External Relations to prepare a comprehensive report to the College Council early in
the Fall Semester. Now, more than ever, the College’s Office of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs, as a direct conduit to external funding, assumes a critical role in maintaining the strength of our institution.

It is significant to note that from Fiscal Year 2007 through 2011, the Office raised approximately $8.9 million in funds which have been used to provide scholarships for students, support academic and student life programs, and improve campus technology and communication.
The Office has also made significant strides in collaborating with faculty from the Departments of Nursing, Business and Education on alumni development activities to reconnect with former students as an integral component of our external support and giving outreach efforts. Additionally, CSI Alumni chapters have been established and networking events have been conducted both locally at CSI, Manhattan, and Brooklyn and nationally in Arizona and Florida. Through a comprehensive alumni survey which was completed this year, the Office will be utilizing a wealth of assessment data
to guide its strategies for achieving effective outcomes.

The Office of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs will continue to fulfill its vital role at the College and expand upon its efforts with external constituents as we prepare for the initiation of our $10 million dollar capital campaign. These accomplishments were achieved with a relatively under-staffed division.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Following the news last month that one of our students was named a Barry M. Goldwater
scholarship winner for the first time in the history of CSI, with another one of our students also receiving honorable mention for this distinction, I am pleased to inform you that CSI junior Daniel Kurtzweil, who is a Teacher Honors Academy student, was one of only 30 students nationally to be selected by NASA to participate in its Student Airborne Research Program. The summer program allows students to acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign using NASA’s DC-8 airborne science laboratory. I want to recognize our colleagues Professors Jane Coffee, Jane Alexander
and Alan Benimoff who have supported Mr. Kurtzweil in his academic pursuits.

**CSI ATHLETICS**

CSI’s athletic teams, which are an integral part of student and campus life, continue to reach new heights in the local, regional and national sports community. The men’s baseball team recently captured its 15th CUNYAC Postseason Championship winning a thrilling 1-0, 10-inning game against Baruch College. And the women’s softball team won their 14th CUNYAC championship by also defeating Baruch College 3-0. Along with the recent successes of our basketball,
swimming and other men’s and women’s teams, this has been a banner year for CSI athletics. I congratulate our athletic director, coaching staff and our tremendous student athletes for a job well done.

**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**

Student achievements such as these are positively correlated with the quality of our student support services. I am pleased to announce that this summer CSI will unveil a completely revised and expanded New Student Orientation, a College-wide initiative involving representatives from virtually every department on campus. All new freshman students will be required to attend the two-day
orientation, which promises to be an engaging and dynamic experience designed to assist students in their transition to College through: campus tours; interaction with other new students, faculty and staff; academic overview information sessions; and advisement. The orientation will culminate with student registration for first semester courses. I want to thank Associate Provost Ann Lubrano and Vice-President Ramon Brown who have spearheaded this initiative.

**MIDDLE STATES**

Other major institutional initiatives, such as Middle States, will continue to progress over the
summer as well. I am pleased to inform you that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the College of Staten Island have agreed upon the selection of Dr. Carlos Vargas-Aburto, Provost of Kutztown University, as the chair of the evaluation team that will visit CSI next year. The Middle States evaluation team is scheduled to visit CSI on April 1, through April 4, 2012. It is anticipated that a draft of CSI’s self-study will be completed over the summer, and the process of soliciting campus-wide feedback of the draft document will commence in September.
SMOKING POLICY

Additionally, I am pleased to announce CSI’s campaign launch of “Change is in the Air”, in support of CUNY’s new policy that will make it the largest smoke-and tobacco-free public university system in the United States. As an intermediate step, smoking will only be permitted in designated areas on the CSI campus beginning July 1, 2011, with CSI becoming completely smoke- and tobacco-free effective July 1, 2012. The CSI Tobacco-Free Environment Task Force has created a comprehensive website to address this important policy change which I encourage you to visit.
RELAY FOR LIFE

Further demonstrating CSI’s role as a leader in health and wellness on Staten Island, the College recently held the Second Annual Relay for Life fundraiser. The event, which was sponsored by the Office of Student Life and the American Cancer Society, engaged participants in physical activities, celebrated those who have suffered from cancer, remembered those we have lost, and raised money to help fight this terrible disease. Thanks to all those who participated.
CHILDREN OF FACULTY AND STAFF DAY

And finally, initiatives such as the College’s recent “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” continue to build a sense of community at the College. This event, which was filled with numerous activities for children, provided a wonderful opportunity for sons and daughters to learn first-hand about their parents’ professions. I want to thank the members of the “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Committee” who helped coordinate this event.
CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication over this past academic year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at Commencement on June 2\textsuperscript{nd} on the Great Lawn. Have a wonderful summer.