INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon and Happy New Year. I would like to welcome you to the first College Council meeting of the 2010-2011 academic year. Since our last meeting in May, much has happened at CSI with much to reflect upon, much to look forward to, and especially much to celebrate.
STUDENT ENROLLMENT

At the top of the list for our reasons to celebrate, is our fall 2010 enrollment. Once again CSI has achieved record enrollment for the 4th consecutive year. Additionally, we have experienced a 6.2% increase in the number of entering baccalaureate students which represents the largest number of entering baccalaureate students in the College - ever.

More than just the overall numbers, the academic profile of this incoming class has reached heights unparalleled in the history of the College. The CAA (or College Admissions Average) of our baccalaureate freshman have increased from 83.9 to
Average SAT scores have increased 7 points (1003-1010). The number of entering students passing all three assessment exams has increased by 10%, also an all time-high for the College. And our incoming class includes 8 new valedictorians and salutatorians.

Additionally, our selective academic programs continue to thrive. In the second year of the expansion of the Macaulay Honors Program our incoming class arrives with a CAA of 92 and a mean SAT score of 1264. The Verrazano School recorded its highest CAA and SAT scores for its entering students since the program’s inception.
Finally, for fall 2010, 792 associate degree students were converted to baccalaureate status. (The total conversion number over the last three years is 4,700)

These student achievements send a powerful message of CSI’s uncompromising commitment to academic excellence. I would like to thank the admission staff, the faculty and staff of our Macaulay Honors program, the Verrazano and Teacher Academy and all the faculty and staff who participated in orientation and open house programs.

NEW FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION
We also celebrate the arrival of an extraordinary group of 18 new faculty and several new administrators to the CSI community. This extremely accomplished cohort of faculty and staff represent some of the most promising talent in their respective fields, and they are certain to contribute to our evolving status as a senior college of The City University of New York.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Dr. A. Ramona Brown, Vice President of Student Affairs and welcome her to our first council meeting. (Ramona please stand)
RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF

We also celebrate the recent accomplishments of all of our faculty and staff, whom have had their grant proposals funded by state and federal agencies and have been recognized by several academic disciplinary organizations for their research and scholarship.

Additionally, for the first time in the history of CSI, the United States Senate appropriations Committee approved funding directly for the College. Specifically, $450,000 in funding was
approved to support research and infrastructure at the Interdisciplinary High Performance Computational Center. This project will allow CSI and other CUNY faculty to conduct important research to address traffic congestion in the New York Metropolitan Region. I want to thank Jonathan Peters, Paul Muzio and Vice President Michael Kress for their extraordinary efforts in securing these resources. I also want to thank our senior Senator Chuck Schumer for his support.

The accomplishments by respected faculty and staff which in many instances include externally funded support, serve as the foundation for CSI’s
mission in setting and meeting high expectations in our academic programs through innovative and effective teaching, scholarship and research.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

We can also now reflect upon a remarkable summer in which approximately 200 students from prestigious middle and high schools in and around Shanghai, China visited the College this summer as part of the Continuing Education and International Center Summer Camp Program to learn and study English and Art. This international partnership resulted in a transformative experience for the
visiting Chinese students as well as the CSI students and staff who served as gracious hosts.

This most recent experience reaffirms CSI’s standing as a global partner in academic excellence. Last year 197 international students were enrolled at CSI, while an additional 42 international scholars came to CSI through the exchange visitor program. Additionally, dating back to last semester, approximately 90 CSI students studied abroad in 7 different countries, while 418 other students from CUNY and other Colleges and Universities studied abroad via CSI-sponsored programs.
COMMUNITY IMPACT

While CSI’s impact is global, local events have reminded us of our commitment to community. In response to the bias crimes that have recently occurred on Staten Island, Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Member Debi Rose initiated the “I am Staten Island” campaign to unite all community stakeholders to put an end to the violence. As an integral component of the campaign, CSI has agreed to do its part by providing diversity and tolerance training to the local community.
The “I am Staten Island” campaign recognizes that CSI has notable experience in the area of diversity and inclusion. And, in fact, this year we will continue to celebrate our diversity every month at the College. Currently, we are celebrating Hispanic heritage month, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many compelling programs and events being offered to the College community as part of this celebration.

MIDDLE STATES

Looking forward, the 2010-2011 academic year will be a time filled with significant activities and
progress in the College’s Middle States reaccreditation process. Having successfully completed the first reaccreditation milestone last April, when our Commission Vice President visited campus and reviewed our draft self-study design, the College will submit its final plan early this fall.

More than 130 members of the broad campus community are directly involved in the reaccreditation process --- an opportunity for retrospection, introspection, analysis, and renewal.

With its special emphasis – Developing and Strengthening Assessment and Evidence-Based Decision Making to Continue Building
Institutional Effectiveness – the self-study design has already resulted in substantial discussion about student learning, integrity, transparency, processes, and plans.

According to the proposed timeline, each of the seven Working Groups will spend the fall doing research and developing an outline for their reports on assigned Middle States Standards. Concurrently, the College will participate in a process with the Middle States Commission to identify the Chairperson of the evaluation team expected to visit campus in 2011-2012.
Final reports due in early spring 2011 will become part of an initial draft of the self-study document by mid semester. The working document will be available for review and comment in the spring, leaving time for revision next summer.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

I will report on the progress of the strategic planning process when I deliver the IPC report.

BUDGET

It is remarkable that we have recently accomplished so much and we are on target to accomplish much more this academic year. Upon reflection, these accomplishments are all the more
impressive considering that they have occurred in a time of increasing fiscal constraint. As recently commented by the Chancellor, the State budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 represents $84.4 million in operating budget reductions for CUNY. Combined with the reductions of the past two years, the University has sustained over $205 million in state cuts since fiscal year 2009.

The cumulative effect of these reductions, combined with growing enrollments, have and will continue to have a significant strain on all senior colleges including CSI. That being said, I will do everything in my control to continue the increasing
level of academic excellence at the College and to ensure that we get through this budget downturn by preserving our core mission of teaching, learning and scholarship. That is my commitment to you.

CLOSING

In closing, I thank you for your presence and support here today, and together I look forward to hosting you at the President’s home and look forward to a terrific year.