**Draft Minutes for the One Hundred and Thirty-Third Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002  
  
Date: Thursday, Nov 19, 2020, 2:30pm – 3:30pm  
Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance:**Shawn Abraham, Cheryl Adolph, Zaghloul Ahmed, Manuela Alongi, Neo Antoniades, Jay Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Alberto Ballesteros, Alyson Bardsley, Cesare Barreca, Michael Batson, Michael Baybusky, Warrick Bell, Valeria Belmonti, Alan Benimoff, Hope Berte, Jason Bishop, Angelo Bongiorno, Michelle Borowski, Jennifer Borrero, Christina Boyle, Prentiss Campbell, Jasmine Cardona, Michael Cavagnero, Vandana Chaudhry, Soon Chun, Sharon Christian, Christine Cohen, Andrew Colbeck, Jessica Collura, Linda Conte, Jonathan Cope, Katie Cumiskey, Mario D'Alessandro, Deborah De Simone, Celeste Del Maestro, Crystal Deosaran, Veronica Dimeglio, Jennifer Durando, Emmanuel Esperance Jr., Brian Farr, Gene Fellner, Maryann Feola, Catherine Ferrara, Stephen Ferst, Natalie Fischetti, Deborah Franzblau, William Fritz, Peter Galati, Antonio Gallego, Matthew Ganz, Maureen Garvey, Alana Gaymon, Kerri Gerson, Kenneth Gold, Ellen Goldner, Charles Gomes, Stephanie Gonzalez Allen, Amila Goonawardena, Hernan Green, Patti Gross, Orit Gruber, Christina Hagedorn, James Hamilton, Intissar Hasan, Anne Hays, Roshen Hendrickson, Darryl Hill, Alan Hoffner, Susan Holak, Eli Hollander, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Yumei Huo, Susan Imberman, Eric Ivison, Linda John, Wilma Jones, Sylvia Kahan, Patricia Kahn, Michele Karpeles, Koby Kohulan, Benji Kuriakose, Lynne Lacomis, Carlo Lancellotti, Georgia Landrum, Thomas Lauria, Catherine Lavender, John Lawrence, Michael Lederhandler, Alfred Levine, Andrew Leykam, Lucas Marchante -Aragón, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Susan Massara, Tara Mastrorilli, Tara Mateik, Dan McCloskey, Christine McEvilly, Victor Miller, Gerry Milligan, Mary Murphy, Christine Myers, Lee Papa, Michael Paris, Michael Parrish, Edward Patri, Ralf Peetz, Jonathan Peters, Doriann Pieve-Hyland, Mel Pipe, David Pizzuto, Isabel Rechberg, Juline Robinson, George Sanchez, Christine Flynn Saulnier, Donna Sauthoff, Donna Scimeca, Alexander Scott, Janine Scotto, Carlos Serrano, Chang-Hui Shen, Suzy Shepardson, Ruth Silverberg, Carles Sola Beida, Francisco Soto, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Erma Tacopino, Sarolta Takács, Thomas Tellefsen, Marcus Tye, Brenda Valentin, Erin Van Nostrand, Maxwell Velikodny, John Verzani, Jeff Vilkov, Michael Volpe, Robert Wallace, Simone Wegge, Mark White, Siona Wilson, John Wing, Ken Wolpin, Cindy Wong, Alan Zimmerman, Sarah Zelikovitz (145)

I. Approval of the proposed agenda - *approved*  
  
II. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – *approved with updates on attendance*

III. Executive Committee of College Council Report - J. Verzani

November 19, 2020 Chair's Report

The College Council Executive Committee helped organize the October 29th Town Hall, with its 300 or so participants. In our meeting with the president and provost on November 10th, this informed much of our conversation. We expressed that "many voices were heard representing several corners of the community. Amongst these, some common themes were expressed, as related to Accountability, Inclusivity, Communication, and Vision."

During that meeting we received an update on efforts the administration will be taking to deal with the issue of diversity. The details I'll leave to the president, but we were promised "rich programming" though likely nothing will begin until the spring semester.

The Chancellor sent a "Fiscal and Budget Update" email and the PSC followed up with its interpretation of that email which included an anticipation that the the contractual 2% increase slated to take place this month would be deferred. In light of this, we posed the following

We ask if there are other planned spending controls being discussed within CUNY; we know some campuses are planning for very severe cuts (e.g., Lehman has penciled in a 10.6% reduction in tax levy allocation in its budget documents from late October) and ask what CSI is actually planning for, what processes are in place for handling this magnitude of a cut. We remind you of our suggestion for a task force that was not acted on this past spring. Also, is there any followup to last month's discussion regrading institutional grants.

In response we heard that several reductions were planned for entering the fall semester including

* adjunct budget reductions (though late enrollment effected these)
* savings in cuts to unsponsored research
* savings through vacancies, transportation, overtime, and others

We were told that the left us with a 2.4M gap. In reponse to a followup on what the gap was relative to, we were told the savings target was similar to Lehman's 10.6% reduction, or roughly 11-12M. The totals above then reflect a significant contribution from the CARES monies. (We heard that 4M in expenditures had been claimed, which *should* free up 4M in resources once we are paid out and with the possibility there will be more of the 7.2M available). We were assured that **if** the scale of pending cuts is on this order, we should be able to weather the year.

When pressed what would happen should the state retrench by 20% a different answer was given. (The 20% figure comes from the current withholding, though that is misleading as it isn't 20% of all monies, as the college's payroll is excluded from that). In this case (cuts of up to 20+M) the college would be unable to manage the year on its own. At that point only CUNY could. The college really only has spending authority over OTPS funds *and* payroll authority through position control. A reduction in PS expenses without reducing personnel would need to be negotiated through CUNY given the system we are in. The president indicated (and has acted in accordance) his strong desire not to layoff personnel, even temporary personnel such as the CA workforce.

In following up on our earlier question about grant support, we were told that Lehman has a large CUTRA (indeed, the largest in CUNY) and has not prioritized institutional grants, as they require some investment by the institution.

For context, the most recent [Performance Management Process Data Book](https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/oira/institutional/data/current-student-data-book-by-subject/PMP_University_Data_Book_final_rev_2020-08-26.pdf) has these numbers:

**Grants or training, equipment, sponsored and institutional activity**

FY18 FY19  
Lehman $12,340,248 $10,956,435

CSI $4,879,677 $3,803,549

**Research Award**

Lehman $2,923,732 $5,940,479

CSI $4,355,530 $2,531,963

When questioned about Transparency and Vision and how to communicate different scenarios we heard that the president thinks there should be

**a focus on undergraduate students**

This had me personally quite concerned and I pointed out that most institutions seek to build up Masters enrollment to supplement resources and likely this would to several areas of *defunding* notably impacting the research mission of the college, primarily in the sciences and computational sciences. In response, it was pointed out the the college --by some measure-- spends 2 to 2.5M more on research efforts than grants bring in. In response, it was noted that this amount needs to be put in the context that the state invests at least 80M in CSI net of tuition revenue each year and provides a campus worth atleast 1B.

The President responded twice about how our mission statement has a "priority" of Scholarship-driven education; but made no mention of research and scholarship as it appears in our statements of

* **Mission**: Grounded in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences, the College of Staten Island is committed to the highest standards in learning, teaching, **research**, **scholarship**, and service
* **Vision** Excellence in **scholarship**, **research**, and creative activities provides a strong foundation for our academic programs and student learning experiences, and by attracting and retaining an outstanding faculty we will also attract strong graduate students to our masters and doctoral programs and to work in our laboratories; **and**
* **Values** Strong commitment to teaching, **scholarship**, **research**, creative activities, and service.

We finished the meeting discussing two programs that were discussed at the town hall:

* The Library. We mentioned the significant and chronic underfunding and the recent personnel changes to Media Services that appear to have surprised the faculty. We heard that funding is an issue and it is coupled with the technology fee; and that there have been long discussions as regards the staffing model and the new model is believed to be more "efficient" though how that would be measured was not mentioned.
* The Nursing program. In the past 2 years the college has lost nearly 20 Full-Time Faculty lines and during the town hall meeting we heard loud and clear that Nursing is reeling from this. We mentioned that we had heard accrediation was on the line. A feeling that at least 2 lines were warranted was expressed by the president, though also that new lines are very difficult right now, due to a hiring freeze. We emphasized a need to clearly emphasize the importance of this "signature" program.

IV. Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – G. Sanchez

1. The Anti-Racism Working Group met last Tuesday, with a very productive meeting and have discussed a set of principles on combatting anti-racism. We should be able to distribute that document soom.

2. At the PSC Delegate Assembly meeting agenda, there was a discussion of a resolution on strike readiness and strike preparation. The 29 people at the meeting expressed support of the resolution, but it was not a vote because that would require a quorum of 10% of the membership which would be 73.

V. President’s Report – W. Fritz

<https://www.csi.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/presidentsoffice/newsletter/CollegeCouncilRemarksNovember2020.pdf>

College Council Remarks November 19, 2020 Good afternoon. To follow up on the plan I mentioned last month during College Council to further diversification, inclusion, and belonging at CSI, we submitted a meaningful and sustainable draft of the plan to IPC on November 3. We will be meeting tomorrow to discuss further. But we are starting to move forward on some items this semester including: • Student Affair’s Antiracism Committee will be hosting the first of a “What is?” series to educate the campus community on current issues. The first in the series is “What is White Privilege” with Prof. Jean Halley, which is scheduled for December 7, 2020; • The Committee reviewing COACHE and Rankin Survey results has completed its review and it will be holding a town hall on December 4, 2020; • I consulted with the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer of FDNY who is willing to work with our team to help us move our plan forward to promote inclusivity, diversity, and equality. We will be starting the 21-day equity challenge, modeled after the 21-Day Challenge© (21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge is the registered copyright of America & Moore, LLC., 2014) developed and trademarked by Dr. Eddie Moore Jr. of America & Moore, at the beginning of the Spring 2020 semester, followed by other meaningful programming such as: • monthly diversity and inclusion conversations; • discussions with Chairs and Deans, followed by discussions with each department to review the current makeup of each department and to encourage diversification of the workforce to be more representative of the student body. Again, if anyone is interested in submitting material to be used in the challenge, please send them to me or Jessica for inclusion. I will turn to the budget, as the State of New York released a Mid-Year financial plan update two weeks ago. Like I mentioned last month, state revenue shortfall increased to about $15B, equivalent to 15% of State Revenue collections. Accordingly, there is no change in the State holding onto 20% of State agency allocations, inclusive of student financial aid, contingent on the Federal Government’s response due to recent election results. It is unfortunate that our hard work to reduce the historical structural deficit, and one that I have written this body about many times, has been cut in half and would have been eliminated had it not been for this pandemic. CUNY has been working with campuses on a plan for use of $132M from the Institutional and the Minority Serving Institutions portion of the University’s CARES Act allocations now that $118M in Student Emergency Grants has been significantly disbursed. Late last week, CUNY provided additional guidance to assist with the development of campus strategies for use of these funding streams. As a result of our collective hard work and feedback through the various committees since early this summer, we are well positioned to submit a comprehensive plan for reimbursement of expenses. Some examples of line items to be submitted include costs of providing technology hardware to students, faculty, and staff, reimbursements of fees to students (i.e., dormitory, parking, and Student Activity Fees), purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), signage, and health screening equipment. With the most recent guidance, we are finalizing our plan, which will be submitted to CUNY for review and approval. Thereafter, reimbursement of expenses will occur on a quarterly basis for the current year following completion of reimbursement for FY 2020 expenses. Everyone received an email from the Chancellor on November 4, discussing a shortfall of millions to CUNY’s FY 2021 budget, resulting in furloughs for members of the ECP. There is no mincing words, these are hard times – emotionally, financially, and politically, and we at CUNY and the College of Staten Island have a long road ahead of us. There is a lot of uncertainty about the future and everyone is anxious, frustrated, and concerned. Some are even angry. On top of the pandemic was the historic and contentious election, further adding to the stress of the campus. We have been – and are continuing to be – challenged and tested at every level, leaving us feeling unsure of where we will end up when the dust begins to settle. So, we must find a way forward, together. I believe the best way to position ourselves for the future is to focus on what brought us here in the first place – our students. We need to be guided by our Strategic Plan, which lays out everything we need to focus on to put us in a position of strength. If we follow our Strategic Plan, which has broad acceptance by our community, our politicians, and our Board, we will be central to educating our students for providing broad access to the highest quality education and of taking students from tough backgrounds and making them successful. Student Success First and foremost, we must focus on our number one strategic priority, student success. We must do what it takes to continue to connect with our students and give them the best possible chances to succeed and fulfill their educational aspirations – especially during these challenging times. If you had an opportunity to watch our 2020 Virtual Commencement Ceremony, you saw and heard first hand, through our Valedictorian, Stephany Luciano, and Salutatorian, Tiffany HallClarke, why this priority is number one. Stephany overcame a battle with multiple sclerosis and graduated top of her class, with the mindset to “focus not on life’s obstacles but how we persevere.” Tiffany, a first-generation American, entered college as a 17-year-old single mother, and is now preparing for entrance to medical school. Tiffany spoke about how we must not let others define who we are and advised “when things get difficult, we all need to come together despite anything that divides us.” If you have not watched the ceremony yet, please do so. It is truly moving and uplifting. It is a reminder, that each and every one of us is here for the benefit of our students and we must ensure that our students always feel supported throughout their educational journey, from start to finish. We must focus on retention, advisement, mentoring, support services, reducing achievement gaps, removing barriers, and increasing graduation rates. Our goal is to help our students achieve their goals. Their success is our success. Borough Stewardship CSI has so much to offer and we must continue to show how invaluable we are to Staten Island. We are the only public-serving institution of higher education in the Borough and we have award-winning faculty who provide a first-rate education to our students from Staten Island and beyond. As a large institution, we offer employment opportunities to Staten Islanders and others in the surrounding areas. In fact, we are the number 2 employer on the Island behind only SIUH. We must continue to shape how we see ourselves as “a part of the community,” take pride in who we are, where we work, and what we are here to do. We have been an integral part of Staten Island since 1956 and we will continue to be so for many years, as long as we continue to help identify and meet community needs. Our educational partnerships, such as our Tech Incubator, the P-TECH program, 30,000 Degrees, and Small Business Development Center are invaluable to our community and make us indispensable, as we have so much to offer. Destination Campus We must highlight and rally behind what makes CSI “a campus students will want to attend.” School spirit is something we really need to focus on. If we have a true sense of pride in our institution, it will carry over to our students. School spirit will help give students a true sense of belonging to a community that can help motivate them and improve their performance. Overall, improving school spirit will make everyone feel more invested and help foster a happy and more welcoming environment. Importantly, we have a lot to be proud of – award-winning faculty like Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Tyehimba Jess and Pulitzer finalist and Kingsley Tufts Award recipient Patricia Smith; physicist Li Ge, who was recognized by the National Science Foundation with a prestigious CAREER award; Vadim Oganesyan, who was recently elected as an American Physical Society (APS) Fellow; and multimedia artist Valerie Tevere of Media Culture, who was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. We have incredible students like our 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian, and our current Student Government President Maxwell Velikodny, who is so involved in helping to make changes for the betterment of the student body in order to help them succeed. We have continued national recognition for value and academic excellence, such as being named to U.S. News & World Report 2021 Best Colleges list for Regional Universities North, gaining recognition for our Undergraduate Engineering program; and GradReports Best Colleges List ranked CSI’s Bachelor’s and Master’s in Social Work programs each as 20th in the nation. GradReports has also named CSI’s Undergraduate Nursing program to its Top 25 Undergraduate Nursing Schools 2020 list. Scholarship-Driven Education We must focus on scholarship and research that helps educate our students. Our students should be involved and incorporated into scholarship and research at all levels to strengthen our academic programs, enrich our students’ educations, and increase the value of their degrees. The Undergraduate Research Conference continues to be one of the best and most impressive events we hold at the College and it is invaluable to our students. These are the types of events that we should continue to build upon, grow, and invest in. Resource Management Through these tough times, we must position ourselves in a way to make the most of our limited resources and to earn the most amount of resources we can as a College. We must be very deliberate regarding how and where to invest funds and align our resource allocations. Right now, we must focus on online education and how we can best support our students in a remote learning environment. In addition, we must determine what classes and programs we can continue to offer as online programs beyond the pandemic. We must continue to make assessments and move our valued staff to priority areas as the situation may warrant, to reduce the effects of the budget impact. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have moved people from various offices to help provide staffing support where needed. Global Engagement We must have a diverse general education that has a global focus. In addition, as we prepare for a new administration in the White House, we should be prepared to welcome new international students and encourage meaningful exchanges and communications among members of the campus community with varied international knowledge and experiences. As we use our Strategic Plan as our roadmap to success, we must continue to be true to our core values. Our Mission states in part, “We embrace the strength of our diversity, foster civicmindedness, and nurture responsible citizens for our city, state, country, and the world.” We must strive to ensure that all who come to CSI feel welcomed, included, and valued. We will increase the diversity of our workforce by placing the final hiring decisions in the hands of Deans for faculty, and administrators for full-time staff. Consistent with our values, we will facilitate serious conversations about difficult subjects and we will grow by learning from each other and each other’s experiences. I care deeply about this College, and all of our students, faculty, and staff. I believe we are a great institution filled with great and extraordinary people, and no matter the challenges ahead, we will continue to be a great institution. But as in all cases, there are always areas in which each and every one of us can do better and be better, and I believe we will get there. We have a tough road ahead of us, but we will get through it as we have gotten through difficult times in the past. We must stay the course and follow the plan. I promise to do my best to lead us through these challenging times to the best of my ability. My hope is that you will help me by doing your part to help CSI and our students along the way. I close with the value statement of our institution that speaks to an “[e]mphasis on campus pride and the cultivation of a welcoming and inclusive environment. We cultivate pride in our institution in everything that we do. We strive to ensure that all who come to campus feel welcomed and valued. We enjoy celebrating our successes. Together, we work to achieve greater recognition through advancement and the promotion of campus activities.” William J. Fritz President

VI. Reports from the Administration – No Report

VII. Reports of the Committees of the College Council

a. Committee on Organization – W. Bell, the websites, with membership information has been updated to reflect the most current membership.

b. By-Law Committee - J. Verzani, the President has reviewed some proposed changes to the governance plan, and we were told that we could move forward  
  
c. Administrative Review Committee (AREC) – Chair: Darryl Hill, The AREC committee had been dormant for a while. The committee had its first meeting in the Spring. The Committee has reviewed our charge:

Purpose: In consultation with the Executive Committee of the Council, to evaluate administrative units and their incumbents and report the confidential findings to the Executive Committee of the Council and the President.

We have met twice this fall and I was elected Chair of the committee. We decided our first task would be to audit the college broadly and conduct a feasibility analysis.

d. Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) – President Fritz, Please refer to the President’s remarks.

e. Budget Committee – John Verzani, the committee had not met

f. Facilities Committee – Jonathan Peters was elected chair, the committee had not met yet.

VIII. Student Government Report— Maxwell Velikodny, The Student government has met with the General Education and Course and Standing Committees to discuss the possibilities of having a Credit/No Credit Policy and urges CSI to adopt a uniformed Credit/No Credit policy.

IX. Higher Education Officer Steering Committee Report – Mary Murphy, please refer to the CC Chair’s report

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – Robert Wallace, no report

XI. Old Business - *none*  
  
XII. New Business - *none*  
  
XIII. Adjournment – 3:23pm

Meeting recording can be accessed at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/adxobbNTY-9k2o47iInsxhOdXjLkF3DAtoE5A9XPQba5b6yHSm4QhuHE-5G9QULu.Sbm5LDqHP5paHwKQ

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Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Wong, Secretary for the College Council