**Minutes for the One Hundred and Forty-Fourth Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002

Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021, 3.30pm – 4:30pm
Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance**:

Sylvia Kahan, Carlo Lancellotti, John Verzani, John Wing, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Deborah De Simone, Warrick Bell, Maurya Wickstrom, Natalie Fischetti, Alan Benimoff, Alfred Levine, Jonathan Peters, Andrew Colbeck, Peter Galati, Mark D. White, Hernan Green, Alyson Bardsley, Donna Scimeca, Susan Holak, Cynthia Chris, Hope Berte, Gene Fellner, Michael Chiacchiero, Lucas Marchante, Juline.Robinson, George Sanchez, Jay Arena, Christine Flynn Saulnier, John Lawrence, Jennifer Borrero, Carles Solà Belda, Valerie Forrestal, Steven Monte,

Catherine Lavender, Brian Farr, MIke Cavagnero, Cindy Wong, Patricia Kahn, Simone Wegge, Michael Parrish, Yumei Huo, Alan Lyons, Robert Wallace, George Wang, Susan Imberman, Wilma Jones, Chang-Hui Shen, Michael Paris, Maryann Feola, Vandana Chaudhry, Suzy Shepardson, Katie Cumiskey, Thomas Tellefsen, Angelina Raio, Comfort Asanbe, Patti Gross, Jason Bishop, Orit D. Gruber, Winsome Alston, Andrew Leykam, Roshen Hendrickson, Neo Antoniades, Angelo Bongiorno, George Vachadze, Vandana Chaudhry

**Guests:**

Jia Yu Chen, Tara Mastrorilli, Joyce Taylor, Beatrix Reinhardt, Christine Cohen, Debby Meise, Danielle Dimitrov, Amy F. Stempler, Cesare Barreca, Alex Scott, Christina Hagedorn, jessica.stein, Dante Tawfeeq, Lynne Lacomis, Stephen Ferst, Sarolta Takács, Catherine Ferrara, Terri.Sangiorgio, Jessica Collura, Anat Niv-Solomon, Susan Massara, Florinda Mattia, Jennifer.Durando, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Ralf Peetz, Eli Hollander, Jennifer Lynch, Katrina Fama,

Celeste Del Maestro, David Pizzuto, Joanne.LaPilusa, Donna.Sipp, greg.phillips, Stefanie Gardiner, Maureen Garvey, Adam Imberman, Shelley Giannina, T.J. Tibbs, Linda Conte, Michele Karpeles, Darryl Hill, Julio Valerio, Koby Kohulan, Winnie Brophy, Nada Michael, Sabrina Ganam, Janna Hemeda, Ricky Lui, Janine.Scotto, Andrew Mancuso, Michelle Borowski, Asemaa Sayedahmed, Dina Pattelli, Stephen Fried, Titus Abubakarr Kambia, Steven James, Anne Alarcon, Benedicta Gbemudu, Alan Hoffner, Caterina Scarimbolo, tony Gallego, Isabel Rechberg, Shuqun Zhang, Kerri Gerson, Jane.Kisto, Erlan, Sekou Blow, Matthew Ganz, Alex Scott, Debi Kee, Nobles Lilyon, Veronica Dimeglio, Edward Patri, melissa lalla, Enza Vario, Terianne.Darragh, Michael Lederhandler, Marsha.Turner, deborah stengle, DAINA CHARLES, Stephanie Allen, Chris Verene, Sheldon Briscoe, Ismael García-Colón, Dmitriy Verkhovskiy, Jasmine Cardona, Crystal Deosaran, Elizabeth Nieto, Maria Levine, Michael Dontis, César Arenas-Mena, Barbara Cohen, Leonardo Pignataro, Byron Taylor, Kristi Brescia, Sebastian llivichuzhca, Christina Boyle, Brenda Valentin, Nicole Pellegrino, Janyah Mercedes, Penny.varriano, Marissa Davis

**I. Approval of the proposed agenda - *approved*

II. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting – *approved***

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

<https://csicollegegovernance.github.io/CCFS/Dec2021Meeting/cc-chairs-report/>

We met with the President, Provost, and the President's Chief of Staff on December 7th. During that meeting we discussed the following:

We asked:

*The resolution on Corey Holmes. Given the receptiveness shown to the resolution at the last CC meeting and articles such as https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/30/us/prosecutors-investigating-police-killings.html?searchResultPosition=1, the CC XC would like to discuss that the administration be proactive as regards an investigation into the death on campus 10 years ago.*

We were told that the president felt "There is no advantage for the college to ask for the investigation, but it would do us great harm" as "On the simplist level simplist level you are asking one state agency to demand accountability from another state agency, and that has tremendous political implications and I have to protect the reputation and the funding stream of the campus."

We were told that over the years quiet enquiries had been made.

It was suggested that many things had changed since the death; that cases are being reopened; that this was something all stakeholders of the campus could align on.

We asked:

*Over the years, the College Council Executive Committee has expressed concerns about the athletics program, and recently were apprised of several specific complaints about harassment, bullying, and intimidation throughout the female athletics program. The accusers expressed an inability to have their message heard. We would like to discuss the reporting structures here to see where improvements can be made. At a minimum, the need for an Ombudsperson again is made.*

We were told several things mostly speculation, as it was apparent that the complaints had not reached the president or the president was unable to comment that they had. It was suggested that perhaps Catherine Ferrara would be the right person to contact and that all such complaints needed to be signed. It was our belief that the individuals raising the complaints had already done so, and had contacted the prior person to hold Ms. Ferrara's position. We were told that the president was known not to tolerate bullying; however, it was unclear how then these complaints were not acted on.

As for the discussion of an ombudsperson, the president did not seem to like this idea, though the provost said he was familiar with the benefits of the position due to his experiences in California and thought there was merit. The College Council Executive Committee will bring the request to the new interim president.

We asked:

*The status of 1N and 2N is again of concern to faculty and staff. We hope to dscuss any updates to the timeline for bringing them on line and the state of the exteriors*

We were told essentially the same thing as at the prior meeting. The first and second floors will very likely be open by January, the elevators may be fixed by then. That the basements were still in a demolition phase.

We asked about mold issues that had been reported. We were told that department chairpersons have been made aware as to the proper procedures to report such issues.

We asked:

*The College Council Executive Committee members have been alerted to issues ranging from supervision to serious concerns about the college's ability to pay its obligations in a timely and efficient manner. We would like to discuss these areas of concern.*

We explained that the issue many people have is failing to be reimbursed. It wasn't a specific complaint about there being no monies allocated; just the flow of allocated money.

We asked:

*The college is in a transition period without any indication of who will be in the leadership position on an interim basis. Are there any additional details that can be shared.*

At the time no news was available. Now we know that Timothy Lynch has been appointed by the Chancellor as an interim president effective 1/1/2022. The Chancellor also said we will learn more about a search for a permanent president in the spring.

We did not get time to discuss our enrollment, which as of writing was off by 13% from last spring (now ~12%)

**IV. PSC Report: George Sanchez**

- Nov 29, Labor management meeting with the President to discuss:

a. Lack of travel support

b. Remote work issues, some HEOs working beyond their job descriptions

c. The 70/30 split between face to face versus hybrid/online mode of instructions

G. Sanchez sent an email welcoming incoming interim President Lynch and he replied to Sanchez immediately, expressing his excitement to come to CSI.

**V. President Report: No Report**

**VI. Reports of the Committees of the College Council**

1. Committee on Organization: W. Bell – No Report
2. By-Law Committee – J Verzani – No Report
3. Administrative Review Committee – no report
4. Institutional Planning Committee – no report
5. Budget Committee – no report
6. Facilities Committee – no report

**VII. Student Government Report – No Report**

**VIII. Higher Education Officer Steering Committee Report – Suzy Shepardson**

Final meeting was held where the HEOs discussed ongoing contract negotiations and members of the HEOs Steering Committee are available to all HEOs to address any concerns they have.

**IX. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report: R. Wallace –**

Email Nicole Kempster directly for book orders.

Evaluating the conditions of the parking lots – like repaving and resealing

**X. Old Business --**

**For a Full Investigation into the Death of College of Staten Island (CSI) Cafeteria Worker Corey Holmes**

**(Submitted by Jay Arena on behalf of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology)**

**Whereas**, the College of Staten Island Governance Plan, which we have mightily defended, states that “Everyone participating in the College community has important, legitimate, and respected roles and responsibilities in sustaining and furthering the goals of the College”, and therefore when anyone in our community has those rights violated, it is an assault on the rights of all; and

**Whereas**, November 29, 2021 marks ten years since long time CSI Cafeteria worker Corey Holmes died after an engagement with New York Police Department officers on the campus of the College of Staten Island; and

**Whereas**, the corporate press, including the *New York Post* (which ran a headline of a [“Pot Smoking SI Thug . . . ”](https://nypost.com/2011/12/15/pot-smoking-si-thug-who-died-of-apparent-heart-attack-after-fleeing-cop-was-violent-fugitive-from-texas/)), and the *Daily News* (which described a “[wild Holmes](https://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/man-smoking-pot-college-staten-island-dies-confrontation-police-article-1.984099)”), failed to seriously investigate the death of Holmes; and

**Whereas**, under the Memorandum of Understanding between the New York Police Department and the City University of New York, NYPD personnel are to only enter on CUNY campuses in “non-emergency” situations “[upon the request or approval of a CUNY official designated by CUNY as having authority to make such a request](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjaren%5COneDrive%5CDocuments%5Cactivism%5CNY%20activism%5CCSI%5CCorey%20Holmes%20case%20CSI%5CNew%20York%20Police%20Department)”; and

**Whereas**, the official version of events, which attributed Holmes’ death to “[cardiac arrest](https://gothamist.com/news/si-man-dies-after-cop-catches-him-smoking-pot-in-bathroom)” and later, from the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, an “[accidental overdose](https://www.silive.com/westshore/2012/01/worker_in_nov_scuffle_with_cop.html)”, eerily mirrors the initial lie used by the Minneapolis Police Department to explain the murder of George Floyd: “[Man Dies After Medical Incident During Police Interaction](https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/21/us/minneapolis-police-george-floyd-death/index.html)”; and

**Whereas**, a recent study by the University of Washington School of Medicine found that in the “[US between 1980 and 2018, more than 55% of deaths](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/30/police-killings-not-reported-mislabelled-study), over 17,000 in total, from police violence were either misclassified or went unreported”; and

**Whereas**, the University of Washington School of Medicine study further found that there are “[large conflict of interests inherent in tracking](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/30/police-killings-not-reported-mislabelled-study) police-involved deaths. Coroners are often embedded within police departments and can be disincentivized from determining that deaths are caused by police violence”; and

**Whereas**, the recent indictment of two law enforcement officer in Georgia for the murder of [Jamarion Robinson was greatly assisted by the family hiring a private investigator](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/27/us/jamarion-robinson-shooting-officers-charged.html); and

**Whereas**, our outgoing President, William Fritz, in his April 20, 2021 email to the CSI community following the conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, wrote that we must “be resolute” in the “pursuit of justice”; and

**Whereas**, the formation of the anti-racism collective at CSI was in part prompted by the summer 2020 mass protests against police murder, particularly of African Americans; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the CSI College Council demands the next President of the College of Staten Island use the college’s resources to hire an investigator(s), approved by the College Council, to conduct a thorough investigation to determine the truth in the death of Corey Holmes.

A vote was taken:

Yes – 31

No – 8

Abstentions – 9

The resolution did not pass – needed 38 positive votes.

**XI. New Business –**

**Adjournment – 4.30PM**

**Video link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/n-QcCHGJixl7y0f3rbG_CnzrptWkJS_PB4qdgYZJfkikf0IfYlyPeJjzQHjI-U1upq4EiggE-eXxI4GC.YaZYzriPK7koeRL8?_x_zm_rhtaid=960&_x_zm_rtaid=VHzB_UeTRma-os3PB6MKHg.1644856182683.0feded806338134e3a5c7e1d6b1ebb0c&autoplay=true&continueMode=true&startTime=1639683142000>