Motion

The Department of Chemistry at the College of Staten Island has considered the proposal for a Governance change put forth by the President on March 3, 2021. We are perplexed by the sudden request for this change in the College’s governance, by the lack of a specific justification for such a change and by the development of a Governance Document without any apparent input from the faculty of the College. The current Governance plan reflected a process that was conducted by the College over a period of nearly ten years. This process was to some extent initiated by President Fritz, and was overseen by several of his Provosts. The previous deliberations involved input from many faculty members and was ultimately approved by the college. The view of the Chemistry Department is that changes in College Governance should reflect careful deliberations and should only be initiated when there is a specific and urgent need. Frequent changes in Governance can create uncertainty and demoralization. Our Department therefore counsels the President to table this Draft plan, to initiate a process of collaboration and consultation with the faculty and to articulate his views why a change in Governance is needed at this time.

Based on the above considerations we find ourselves in general agreement with our colleagues from the Mathematics department. While we would not use all of the wording of their Motion of March 4, 2021 we support their motion and

Resolve that the Department of Chemistry strongly objects to a continued consideration of the Draft governance plan of March 3, 2021, asks that this plan be tabled in its entirety and that the President and Provost immediately initiate discussions with the faculty to explain the need for a change in our recently approved Governance plan. If such discussions elucidate the merit of changing our governance we ask that such changes be made with the full input and collaboration of the faculty.

(approved unanimously by the faculty of the Department of Chemistry at the meeting of March 9, 2021)