On March 10, the Course and Standing Committee reviewed the newly-proposed College of Staten Island Governance Plan, specifically the details and provisions relevant to the work of this committee, and we would like to share our feedback.

We believe the proposed Academic Standing committee is an unworkable replacement for the current Course and Standing Committee for these reasons:

* There have been no problems or concerns expressed regarding the work of the current Course and Standing Committee. In fact, Course & Standing has been operating efficiently and effectively serving the interests of our students.
* There was no consultation with the current Course and Standing Committee about what could be improved and how.
* The newly-proposed Academic Standing committee as described will be too small to handle the workload.
* Representation in the new Academic Standing committee should be by department and not by division/school, to provide a forum that acknowledges and respects the expertise of multiple academic areas and allows for better representation of the interests of all students.
* The committee chair should be a faculty member and not an administrator, to allow for all present to feel comfortable with freely expressing ideas and opinions, including untenured faculty and members of the professional staff, without fear of retaliation.
* The role of the student representative on the committee should be clarified to address the level of participation, along with ethical and legal concerns regarding the petitioners’ rights to privacy.
* The newly proposed process of allowing students to appeal the committee’s decisions to the provost will undermine the expertise and powers of the committee, and would most likely result in a *de facto* process of a double-review of appeals, further increasing the workload of the body and jeopardizing student ability to receive results on time-sensitive matters in an efficient manner.

For these reasons, we reject the newly-proposed Academic Standing Committee, and recommend leaving the Course and Standing Committee unchanged, to operate under its current rules and composition.