# College Council Chair’s report

## Committee positions

A Reminder that there are several committees of the College Council with openings.

Please check your email for such notice. One was sent 5/19 at 2:40PM from “Academic Affairs”.

The College Council has openings for these committees:

* AREC
* IPC
* CSI Association
* By laws committee

The Faculty Senate has many other committees with openings. The report from the Committee on Organization will certainly summarize the planned nomination and election processes.

In case it isn’t clear, these committees are active and will remain active for Fall 2021 *and almost certainly* beyond. In order for the governance to change several things must happen:

* a referendum must be held
* a referendum must pass **both** with **atleast** 30% of the eligible voters participating and **more than half** of the participants voting in the affirmative.
* the board must then approve any such changes.

## Summary of our May 11th meeting with the President and Provost

### We requested an update on reopening

*Rumors flying across CUNY about expectations of the Chancellery are not in direct alignment with the College’s reopening plans. E.g., where we have ~ 40% of classes with some in person experience, word is CUNY would like at least 60%. Will the college reconsider its plans for course offerings including course modalities now, even though students have begun registering? Similarly, how will the news of Monday on mandatory vaccinations for in-person attendance effect our plans.*

We heard about mandatory vaccination plans. (All students who attend in-person classes will need to be vaccinated **if** the vaccines drop their experimental status.)

We heard we had a “25% plan” but **as always** the “of what” question is begged. The **current** plan is for a mix of classes with **an in-person** experience and classes completely on line. The ratio would be **around** 60-40. We were told about an attempt to find a balance: many students are put off by online learning; many students are put off by face to face learning. This balance happens to agree with what CUNY has suggested.

We asked about the ability to change schedules, as students have enrolled. We heard this may be possible, especially with multi-section offerings. We asked about requiring attendance during exams.

What is a “hybrid” class – which to some has a specific definition – and what is a class with an in-person experience remains to be sorted out.

*Of course between the 11th and today there have been additional changes to covid-related guidelines by the CDC, the state, and the city. Certainly what will come to pass in the Fall will be different than what could come to pass were the fall semester starting today. [ed.]*

## We asked about the Budget.

*The 3rd quarter financial report shows a projected year-end deficit of 11.6M, far in excess of previous predictions. As such we need to dip into the federal funds more aggressively than most of our CUNY peer institutions. Though the federal dollars are still plenty, with the promise the tax-levy funding next year will not improve, what anticipated adjustments are being considered?*

Indeed the budget picture was not pretty for CSI. We heard

* there was an 8% “effective” cut in resources. (The state cut 26M in support from FY20, which was about 1.8%, leaving no funds to cover mandatory cost increases, such as steps, contractual raises, adjunct office hours, …)
* We discussed that the 3rd quarter budget report of CUNY showed *34* net losses to full-time staffing at CSI since F19 with *35* full time faculty lines counted therein. (At the IPC we learned that different time frames can be used to adjust this ration). We expressed concern that failing to re-hire lines would leave departments with demographic holes. We were told that about 4 years back the college was too aggressive with its hiring of FT faculty
* We heard that much of CUNY would be in the red were it not for federal stimulus monies. (The CCs had 46M cut in city support *and* 42M in lost tuition revenue; the comprehensives suffered enrollment losses or **collection rate** declines; some senior colleges also had significant revenue reductions, but amongst the senior campuses only NYCCT had a larger projected deficit.)
* We heard the plans to address the the “gap” were not fully implemented. (We learned that the plan included a 4M reduction through the *elimination* of PT personnel; no new hires; and adjunct decreases.)
* We asked about any truth to buzz about major changes to CUNY (consolidation, restructuring). The president indicated he had no details on any such conversations.
* We heard the financial position at one level rests on two things: **additional revenue** through tuition dollars; **reduced expenses** through position control. The latter is quite hard (at the IPC we learned that despite a large reduction in FT lines, the savings from the prior year were quite modest due to increased costs for remaining employees.)
* The federal funds are still *quite ample* (CSI spent ~21% of its CRRSAA and ARPA funds to balance the budget this year). This cushion gives CSI a 2-year window to find a *more sustainable way to do business*.

## We asked about Enrollment.

*Continuing student enrollment numbers are in flux, but seem trending towards a 10-percentage-point drop. This is certainly not promising, though not out of alignment with AVP Scott’s predictions. Does the college have updated predictions for F21 enrollment? If not, does the college have a working model as to why we might be experiencing this enrollment drop?*

We heard enrollment projections are premature; last year as an example showed a late surge in fall enrollment.

## We asked about efforst on Racism and Diversity

*Can we have a quick summary of activities taken in the past month on the issue of creating a more diverse and inclusive college?*

The president provided a summary and presumably will do so again in his report.

## We wanted to discuss the Governance proposal and Advancement

*There has been no follow up on the 4/19 announcement of the formation of task forces to work on specific aspects of your proposal. Is there any news?*

*With the departure of the chief Advancement Officer and disappointing fund-raising numbers under their watch, does the college have immediate plans and goals for improvement for this office?*

We didn’t have time for this discussion, but we did have a 10-minute discourse on air circulation and the mechanics of the buildings, which was also presented to the IPC and may end up in the president’s report today, so I won’t attempt to summarize.