**Draft Minutes for the One Hundred and Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the College Council Formed on November 14, 2002

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021, 2:30pm – 3:30pm
Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance:** Jonathan Peters,Chang-Hui Shen, Angelo Bongiorno, Yumei Huo, Rachel Grant, Simone Wegge, Gene Fellner, Neo Antoniades, Lee Papa, John Wing, Jonathan Cope, Carles Solà Belda, Soon Chun, Carlo Lancelloti, Tara Mateik, Natalie Fischetti, Siona Wilson, Robert Lovering, Zaghoul Ahmed, Bill Schreiber, Jane Marcus-Delgado, ,Florette Cohen, Christine Flynn Saulnier, Jay Arena, Lucas Marchante-Aragón, Alyson Bardsely, Alan Benimoff, Jason Bishop, Vandana Chaudhry, Katie Cumiskey, Deborah De Simone, Maryann Feola, Ellen Goldner, Susan Imberman, Catherine Lavender, John Lawrence, Alfred Levine, Gerry Milligan, Michael Paris, George Sanchez, Francisco Soto, Thomas Tellefsen, John Verzani, Cindy Wong, Alan Zimmerman, Roshen Hendrickson, Andrew Colbeck, Brian Farr, Peter Galati, Victor Miller, Sarah Zelikovitz,, Wilma Jones, Cynthia Chris, Sylvia Kahan, Mark White, Comfort Asanbe, William Fritz, Michael Parrish, Michael Cavagnero, Sarolta Takács,. Susan Holak, Marcus Tye, Maxwell Velikodny, Rob Wallace, Patricia Kahn,  Warrick Bell, Hernan Green, Juline Robinson, Angela Raio, A. Leykam.

**Guests**:  Alan Hoffner, Alberto Sanchez, Alexander Scott, Ali Elkomy, Aliza Martini, Amila Goonawardena, Amy Stempler, Anat Niv-Solomon, Angela Cartmell​, Angie Ramos, Barbara Cohen, Beth Livensperger, Cary Karacas, Caterina Scarimbolo, Catherine Ferrara, Celeste Del Maestro, Chris Conidis, Christina Anastopolou, Christina Boyle, Christina Hagedorn, Christine Cohen, Christine Myers, Christina Toti, Crystal Deosaran, Daniel Kurzweil, Darryl Hill, David Pizzuto, Deborah Meise, Donna Sauthoff, Donna Scimeca, Edward​Patri, Elena Tzen, Eric Ivison, Erma Tacopino, Ewa Dzurak,  Greg Phillips, Gregory Brown,  Holly Block,Intissar Hasan, Isabel Rechberg, Ivan Scott Lee, Janine Scotto, James Hamilton, Jay Arena​, Jeff Vilkov, Jenn Pizzuto, Jennifer Durando, Jessica Collora, Jessica Stein, Joanne LaPilusa, Jodi Merendino, Jonelle Knox, Joyce Taylor,  Karen Contreras, Karen Contreras, Katrina Fama, Kenneth Wolpin​,​ Kerri Gerson, Koby Kohulan, Leonardo Pignataro, Leonora Chiarunttini, Linda Conte, Lucy Lombardo, Lynne Lacomis, Manuela Alongi, Maria Levine, Maria Xenakis, Mark Lewental, Matthew Ganz, Maureen Garvey, Maurya Wickstrom, McKala Neese, Michael Anderson, Michele Callahan, Michael Chiacchiero, Michael IVany, Michael Lederhandler,  Michele Karpeles, Michelle Borowski,  Nada Michael, Nancy Casey, Natalie Fischetti, Nina Del Gatto​, Nina Long, Nina Morgenlander, Orit D. Gruber, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Ralf Peetz, Robert Engler,  Roberta Klibaner, Shannon Cammarano, Sharon Christian, Spozmi Nouri, Stefanie Gardiner, Stephanie Gonzalez Allen, Stephen Ferst, Steven Monte, Susan Massara, Susan Mee Crimmins, Tara Mastrorilli, Terianne Darragh, Terri Sangiorgio, Tom Lauria, Veronica Dimeglio.

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

# 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.

IV. PSC Report – G. Sanchez

1. Flexible work arrangement forms are available at HR
2. PSC wants to remind our members that summer work should be compensated.
3. Discussions with the President regarding HEO’s reclassification
4. PSC financial arrangements with NYSUT and AFT, and what these organizations do for the PSC
5. Report of the Anti-Racism Poll – Gene Feller & Jane Alexander, please refer to 00.28.25 to 00.34.37 of the video, link to the video can be located at the end of this minutes.

V. President Report: W. Fritz

<https://www.csi.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/presidentsoffice/newsletter/CollegeCouncilRemarks_May20_2021.pdf>

College Council Remarks May 20, 2021

Good afternoon. It’s hard to believe that we have reached the end of the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

I want to acknowledge that this will be Dean Marcus Tye’s and Cheryl Adolph’s last College Council and want to wish them well in their new endeavors. I also want to give a special acknowledgement to people who have been reporting to campus on a regular basis over the course of the last year to help students and to keep the campus running. Their dedication is greatly appreciated.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Earlier this month, several departments teamed together to host a panel of faculty, students and staff for a very important event, Speak out Against Anti-Asian Violence. This event was very sobering and powerful as the panelist reflected on the recent rise in violence against Asians and Pacific Islanders, America’s often overlooked history, and their own personal stories about how bigotry, bias and racism has affected their lives.

While these stories are often hard to hear, it is important that we hear them. It is important that we keep talking, listening and learning about racism, and working together to help create a more equitable and inclusive community and world where every feels a sense of belonging.

I encourage everyone to continue hosting, attending and participating in these types of events, as education is more than just what we teach and learn in the classroom, and we can grow so much just by listening to each other.

I want to wish all of our students the best of luck on their final exams. I also want to congratulate all of our upcoming graduates. This has always been an exciting time of year for us, and this year is no different. I am looking forward to our virtual Commencement on May 27 and seeing our graduates at the upcoming Grad Walks on campus June 9, 10, & 11.

This was a tough year, but we made it through. At the start of the year, I emphasized three priorities: 1. focus on our students to ensure their success 2. maintain the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students; and 3. protect jobs. Throughout the year these priorities remained at the forefront of everything we did and every decision we made. Considering where we were a year ago, and where we are now overall, I believe we had a pretty successful year. A large part of that success was due to all of your hard work and dedication, as well as your patience as we navigated these unchartered waters. We got through this year together, and I am going to rely on your continued dedication and patience as we now work on returning to campus in the Fall.

As you read in the Chancellor’s email dated May 13th, staff will be returning to campus the week of August 2nd to prepare for a more in person Fall, and faculty will follow in accordance with the academic calendar. Every office should be open during normal working hours starting August 2; however, we need to plan for flexible schedules to ensure adherence to our re-entry plan while maintaining appropriate staffing. Schedules should be rotated and staff should alternate between in person and remote work where possible to ensure that we don’t overcrowd the workplace and spread out days spent on campus.

VP Hope Berte and Jessica Collura have been meeting with the directors and heads of departments in each division to answer questions about the reopening of buildings and CUNY’s Flexible Work Guidelines.

Our facilities team has been working hard preparing our campus for re-entry. A few days ago, I toured the HVAC systems in some of our buildings and am happy to report that our team is ensuring the systems we have in each building are delivering sufficient fresh air to our classrooms and offices in alignment with the core recommendations from the CDC and ASHRAE’s (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) epidemic task force.

Our Engineering team is confident in our buildings and their systems and will continue to monitor airflow to ensure that we stay within the guidelines for cfm (cubic feet per minute) of fresh air per person given typical occupancy.

Our buildings get plenty of fresh air from the outside that is filtered, heated and conditioned before passing through, and exiting the building. It is not recycled. Our buildings were not designed to have windows that open. In fact, if windows do get opened, it actually reduces the amount of outside air coming in through the system. It also allows unfiltered, unconditioned air to enter the building and can contribute to mold growth. Please keep the windows shut as they were designed.

Provost Parrish and VP Berte are working on updating our re-entry plans which will include increasing the number of classes being offered in person and hybrid, using a combination of face to face, synchronous and asynchronous instruction. We are submitting a modified plan assuming a relaxation of social distancing rules from 6 feet to 3 feet. We are also planning for more in person presence and assuming mandatory testing along with increased numbers of community members being vaccinated.

Enrollment is key to our budget. It is important that we have sufficient fully online courses for students who cannot come to campus and it is equally important to have the maximum opportunity for students to participate in on campus experiences whether daily or at least once during the semester. To help, CUNY has recently changed to definition of a hybrid course to include students coming to campus only for a final exam.

The 3rd quarter report for our budget was released on April 26, showing that the University is projected to end FY 2021 in a positive condition BUT with significant help of federal stimulus funds -- $150.4M.

With the exception of two (2) senior campuses, three (3) professional schools and Central Administration, all other campuses are projected to end the year in an operating deficit before applying Stimulus or CUTRA reserves. Overall, with a net operating deficit totaling $135.9M; CUNY is a system in distress. A total of $203.2M in combined Stimulus and CUTRA reserves are projected to help campuses end in a positive balance.

The 3rd Quarter Report shows minimal reductions in PS costs compared to last year which doesn’t truly reflect the savings we have achieved to date from the hiring freeze. Instead, we have an operating deficit of $11.6M, due to $10.1M in combined resource deductions and the fact that we continue to incur unfunded mandatory cost increases. Thus, we will have to rely on the use of $11.7M in stimulus funds and CUTRA resources to end in the black by less than 60k. This was the cost of protecting jobs as well as being more lenient with students who owed the college tuition.

Needless to say, I am concerned about the budget and how it will affect us 2-3 years from now. Our stimulus money will end by then and there is a projection, based on demographics, of a 15% drop in enrollment across the city starting in 2025. We have 2 to 3 years to address the fact that our payroll is higher than our base budget and our enrollment is down. We must either increase enrollment or continue to see efficiencies in our staffing.

On a more positive note, our capital funding continues to be healthy. From 2012 through 2021, CSI has received approximately $100M in Capital funding to address infrastructure problems and make campus improvements. Our critical maintenance money from CUNY has risen from $1M to over $5M a year and that will continue to next year.

Infrastructure improvements consist of: the reconstruction of the loop road; phase one of the building entry plaza upgrades; upgrades to cooling and heating components; roof replacements including the academic stair tower roofs; gutters, boiler safety valve replacements and underground piping replacement.

Campus improvements include: the build out of St. George and Building 2M which will house the Lucille and Jay Chaznoff School of Business; the 1R pool dehumidification system; the 6S chemical waste lab; soccer field bleachers; the 4N Makerspace.

New projects on the horizon include: the continuation of the entry plaza reconstruction; multi-phase sidewalk replacement project; redesign of the 1C dining hall and kitchen; Campus wide restroom reconstruction; skylight reconstruction with a replacement of the 6S skylight; 1P Media Screening room; Athletic Fields reconstruction starting with new track and inner field; Public Safety Security System phased project; academic stair tower interior reconstruction; replacement of boiler in 6S; and most recently discussed, Campus-wide fiber loop reconstruction.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank you for the work that has been done over the last year to help ensure our students received an outstanding education. I wish you all a safe and relaxing summer.

Sincerely, William J. Fritz President

VI. Reports from the Administration – No Report

VII. Reports of the Committees of the College Council

1. Committee on Organization: W Bell

Many committees still have openings for nominations, all faculty seats. 00.56.30

VIII. Student Government Report—Maxwell Velikodny

In the past academic year, student government has worked on the followings:

* Help implemented more lenient Academic requirements
* Flexible academic programs
* Transportation services
* Allocation of funding for students related to the Covid 19 pandemic

IX. Higher Education Officer Steering Committee Report – S. Shepardson

The HEO screening committee would meet on June 9th to review reclassification and consider merit increases.

Please submit the appropriate forms by June 4th.

HEOs would like to know what would be CUNY’s decisions on summer work schedule which had been a 4 day week starting at the last week of June in the past and if HEOs could use their leave time beyond August 31 because of the pandemic?

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – R. Wallace

$750,000 reimbursement from CARES money

$1.2 millions in cuts

Dorm operated at about half capacity, hoping for 100% in the Fall

Remember to put in the bookstore orders

XI. Old Business - *none*

XII. New Business – none

XIII. Adjournment – 3:35pm

Meeting recording can be accessed at:

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/U90VcHeWa-7TEzoJAfA44DdsQd5Rtxi8IEH1cWwOzkFXGuFxEkVS0PrzbTGSy55a.km2h8Whqzh0AruEA

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