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

Date: Thursday, March 18, 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 Flyn 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, Beth Livensperger.

**Guests**: A. leykam, Alan Hoffner, Alberto Sanchez, Alexander Scott, Ali Elkomy, Aliza Martini, Amila Goonawardena, Amy Stempler, Anat Niv-Solomon, Angela Cartmell​, Barbara Cohen, Cary Karacas, Caterina Scarimbolo, Celeste Del Maestro, Chris Conidis, Christina Boyle, Christina Hagedorn​, Christine Cohen, Christine Myers, 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, Hernan Green, Holly Block, Intissar Hasan, Isabel Rechberg, Ivan Scott Lee, James Hamilton, Jay Arena​, Jeff Vilkov, Jenn Pizzuto, Jennifer Durando, Joanne LaPilusa, Jonelle Knox, Joyce Taylor, Karen Contreras, Karen Contreras, Katrina Fama, Kenneth Wolpin​,​ Kerri Gerson, Koby Kohulan, Leonardo Pignataro​,  Linda Conte, Lucy Lombardo, Lynne Lacomis, Maria Levine, Mark Lewental, Matthew Ganz, Maureen Garvey, Maurya Wickstrom, McKala Neese, michael anderson, Michael Chiacchiero, Michael Lederhandler, Michele Callahan,  Michele Karpeles, Michelle Borowski, Mike Cavagnero, Nada Michael, natalie fischetti, Nina Del Gatto​, Nina Long, Nina Morgenlander, Orit D. Gruber, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Ralf Peetz, Rob Wallace, Roberta Klibaner, Shannon Cammarano, Sharon Christian, Spozmi Nouri, Stefanie Gardiner, Stephanie Gonzalez Allen, Stephen Ferst, Susan Massara, Susan Mee Crimmins, Sylvia Kahan, Tara Mastrorilli, Terri sangiorgio, Tom Lauria, Veronica Dimeglio, Wilma Jones.

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 Chairperson’s report, March 18, 2021

The period since Feburary 18, 2021 and now has been a busy one for the College Council Executive Committee.

## March 2, 2021

On March 2nd, President Fritz sent an email “CSI Governance” to the college community with a proposed wholesale replacement for the College’s governance plan. In his email he cited:

To that end, I am proposing a new and more refined governance plan.

The proposed plan provides opportunity for broad participation. It is intended to be flexible and dynamic, give voices to the unheard, and enable CSI to respond to rapidly changing internal and external opportunities and challenges. In addition, it promotes four key elements; trust, respect, collegiality and accountability.

Within two days, a substantial number of individuals had requested a special session of the College Council. The governance plan allows for a petitioning of a special session with a purpose, in this instance more the 20 members asked to have a session to discuss this proposed wholesale replacement.

## March 9, 2021

The College Council Executive Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting with the President, the Provost and the President’s Chief of Staff.

The first 25 minutes of the meeting covered a review of the budget and the status of repopening plans. The budget committee had a more detailed discussion on the former. As for reopening, we heard that

* the college has a plan for 25% reopening in fall (measured somehow); other CUNY units have different plans, as they have different circumstances;
* the impact of widepsread vaccination has not entered into the plans
* for faculty eager to return to their offices to get back to work, we are currently under the cap on persons per day, and so there is some room to entertain requests.

The conversation then turned to the proposed wholesale replacement plan. The defense made by the president was similar what he has expressed elswhere. The many points raised by the College Council Executive Committee similar to those expressed elsewhere. Despite the stated desire to hear new voices through this new plan, there was no indication that familar voices were to be listened to.

## March 11, 2021

The special session of the College Council was held from 2:30 - 4:15.

There were 279 unique zoom participants.

A link to the zoom meeting in whole has been shared. A 20-minute version, nuetrally edited by Susan Imberman, is available and is linked to from <https://csi-covid19.github.io/CCFS/Mar21Meeting>.

Two powerpoint presentations were reviewed. They can be seen at the same website.

Then a long discussion ensued. Though many different points were raised, a strong consensus was shown at the end.

In a straw poll held at 4:15:

Motion: We ask the President to withdraw his proposal and engage in collaborative work through the existing governance plan, working with the Bylaws Committee to recommend and discuss changes that he would like to see in the Governance Plan.

At the time of the poll **fewer than 5%** of the remaining participants (~190) raised their hands to vote “no” or “abstain”.

Though I try to remain neutral here as chair, I will repeat a request I made at the March 9th meeting:

The president should just drop this proposal altogether

As a followup to the meeting, a compilation of statements made by various campus constituencies has been compled at <https://csi-covid19.github.io/CCFS/Mar-SpecialMeeting/>. As of writing there are 13.

IV. Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – G. Sanchez, delivered at the end of the meeting, please see below.

V. President Report: W. Fritz

# President’s Report:

<https://www.csi.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/presidentsoffice/newsletter/College_Council_March_18_2021.pdf>

Good afternoon. To start, I want to state that I am personally horrified and saddened about the rise of hate crimes being perpetrated against those of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in this country. I am specifically appalled at the events that unfolded in Atlanta over the past few days. We must fight against such hate and speak out against any verbal, violent, or other forms of attack against others. We must be united in our fight to end all forms of racial injustice. We must embrace our diversity and strive to be more inclusive and welcoming for all. I know you will all stand with me in this mission.

In that spirit, we have been engaging in open and honest dialogue on this campus to further our goals of becoming a more welcoming and inclusive campus. The 21-Day Equity Habit Building Challenge is in its fourth and final week, with our wrap up session scheduled for Monday, and there has been some really great dialogue and sharing of stories, thoughts, and experiences that I have found incredibly moving. I encourage others to join us tomorrow if you have the opportunity.

In addition, the Provost will be announcing the formation of our Diversity Council. It is my understanding that he is planning the first meeting shortly but he will speak to that in his remarks. There is much work to be done, and I look forward to more good changes ahead of us.

March is Women’s History Month, an annual celebration of the achievements and vital contributions women have made throughout our history, which continue to have such profound impact in our modern world. If you have a chance to attend, the Library is a hosting a virtual event on March 23 entitled, A Centennial Legacy: Voting Rights in View of the 19th Amendment, during which guest speaker, Gabriella Leone, of the Staten Island Museum, will reflect about the women’s suffrage movement on Staten Island. You can register for this event on our website.

I want to thank everyone for the discussions that are taking place on campus concerning the proposed new governance plan. I truly appreciate those who have reached out to me and asked for more time to meet and engage in more detailed, collegial, and productive discussions in order to help make the proposed plan the best for the College.

am inviting thoughtful and collegial conversation. The document, as is, is a framework. It is a living document. I sincerely hope you provide your thoughts and suggestions to help improve upon what is there and ensure that all ideas, concerns, and suggestions are heard and considered. The principle behind the proposal is to have an understanding of shared governance, to recognize the separate and unique roles and responsibilities of faculty, staff, and administration, and to push decision making to a lower level. This plan requires and demands civility, respect, and inclusion. Please be sure to visit the Teams site to review the proposed plan, make suggestions, sign up for the town hall, submit a question, or reach out to me via email.

The date for the town hall will be announced in the near future and the referendum will be scheduled for an appropriate time thereafter. I look forward to continuing to engage in thoughtful and productive discussions of this important proposal.

The Re-Entry Committee, led by VP Hope Berte and Provost Michael Parrish, will continue meeting and discussing reopening while they work on updating our re-entry plan. While we have not yet received our stimulus funding, we are focusing on submitting a plan to CUNY to obtain the funding to move forward with our plan for OIT to purchase and test equipment to help prepare classrooms for hybrid courses, and for facilities to purchase the supplies needed to open more buildings and classrooms in a safe manner for the Fall. As I have announced before, we want to have as many people on campus in the fall as is safe. For now, that means Phase 3 of our re-entry plan with about 25% of the campus community being able to be on campus each day. This number is a result of state guidelines and the physical layout of our campus. The number is different for each CUNY campus. We can only consider going above 25% if the state were to change the rules: social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing.

I am sure everyone is aware that our budget has been a roller coaster ride this year. We finally have an approved budget with only 3 months left to go. As a reminder, we are dealing with multiple challenges:

• A flat budget from previous years that is equivalent to a 3% cut due to rising mandatory costs

• In fact, while we have generated significant salary savings due to the hiring freeze, these have barely covered the mandatory costs

• No tuition increase this year

• A cut from the state of 20% that then became 5% which will continue at least through next year. Some mitigating factors make it more like 2% but it is a significant cut just the same.

• We are also dealing with a structural deficit that has, in part, resulted from historic under collection. The great news is that due to the hard work of our bursar, starting about two years ago our collections started to rise, narrowing the gap between us and other senior campuses. Then COVID hit and we made the decision not to pursue collections as aggressively. That made our rates fall but it was the right thing to do. Hopefully some of our stimulus money will help with some of the shortfalls

• There is a lot of stimulus money earmarked for CSI that is still in play – money from both the CARES Act and the CRRSAA Act. However, this is one-time money, it will have to cover at least two fiscal years, we don’t yet know all of the rules for how it can be spent, and we do not have access to most of it

• We estimate full utilization of remaining balances on CARES and MSI funding plus access to at least some of the second round of stimulus funds (CRRSAA) will be required to end the year with a small positive balance and aid in our campus re-opening plans for the fall semester

• Overall, we project reduced spending by approximately $4.1M or 3.7% compared to last year. This reduction in spending has reduced the need to rely on a greater use of CRRSAA funds to balance our budget, and instead using it for re-opening plans. I know the lack of hiring has been difficult for people, and I appreciate the work that has been done to help get us through this year without filling positions, but it has definitely put us in a better position to grow as a college as we come out of this pandemic

The bottom line for all of this is we still have a little less than a $-3M shortfall that we need to close. We are hoping that the stimulus money will be enough but have been told that there will be CUNY campuses whose deficits may well exceed what is available this year.

Thank you.

William J. Fritz

President

VI. Reports from the Administration – No Report

VII. Reports of the Committees of the College Council

a. Committee on Organization – W. Bell, No report

b. By-Law Committee - J. Verzani

- Proposed changed to the bylaw were sent to the President on Nov 26, 2019.

- The President has approved those changes, the process took about one year.

- The committee had planned to hold a referendum on those changes this semester.

- One year is the time it typically take to make amendments to the bylaws

c. Administrative Review Committee (AREC) – D. Hill, No Report

d. Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) – W. Fritz, No Report

e. Budget Committee – J. Verzani

# Budget Committee

The budet committee met on March 16, 2021. We discussed many important things. The following is an attempt to capture the conversation, but the numbers were jotted down. Corrections are welcome.

* CUNY’s BOT will be voting soon on a budget for the current fiscal year. The resolution includes:
* FY2020 adjustments to our base budget of 1.7M (enrollment related); and a state cut of 1.7M (~ 2%, not the feared 20%).
* a financial plan submitted by 3/31
* For the latter, we reviewed several dollar numbers that comprise a plan including:
* Reductions of about 2M in (FT) Personnel due to the hiring freeze (no detailed headcount was known, but will be known in May)
* plans for paying the 2% contractual raises by the close of this fiscal year
* reduction in temporary personnel including adjuncts. (Some saving in non-reappointments; some savings in adjunct costs, though not as large as targeted).
* reduction in OTPS expenses including suspension of several key contracts (transportation, some maintenance, and water cooler)
* We discussed the CARES money, the second half is listed in resources (~3M) but not yet released; the MSI monies, the second and third federal monies not listed in resources (I might have the MSI detail incorrect).

(Not part of this year’s plan is the ~16M that will be available through CRRSSA (sp?) and the ~22.5M + 2.5M through the new federal act.)

All told, the net is a -2.6M balance for the financial plan.

* The meeting followed with a conversation of many suggestions by committee members Professor Milligan and Professor Cumiskey.
* Many issues on re-entry were discussed as they related to budget

f. Facilities Committee – J. Peters, No Report

VIII. Student Government Report—Maxwell Velikodny

* The student Government is holding elections for student leaders
* The Student Government has approved the Graduate Assistant Funds. Students with a minimum 3.0 GPA can apply for up to $750 for assistance for fees related to graduate school applications and preparations.
* Request for an in-person graduation ceremony
* Below is the Resolution that the Student Government wants the body to vote on
* 
* A vote was taken with 14 Nos, out of a body of 74
* [This vote was not conducted with correct procedures. Therefore no vote was taken; a straw poll was conducted with 14 Nos, with 149 participants at the Zoom meeting]

IX. Higher Education Officer Steering Committee Report – M. Murphy

**HEO Steering Committee Report**

HEOs have many concerns about the new governance proposal. We appreciate the President's decision to postpone the Town Hall and Referendum especially given our remote work status and the need for adequate time to discuss the proposal with the full HEO group.

The HEO Steering Committee is holding a Discussion Forum on Friday, March 19th at 11am. The agenda will include an overview of the proposal and how it differs from the current plan, followed by an open discussion.

We have also requested a meeting with the President and Provost in the coming weeks to continue our dialogue about issues of concern to us including the new governance proposal.

IV. Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Report – G. Sanchez

* In Response to the allegations made by the President about instability and bullying among faculty and staff
* Working on grievance issues, there have been a lot of that’s gone beyond faculty and staff, and had to be directed to the administration, they are confidential
* There was a Vote of No Confidence.
* The current governance is in place

X. Auxiliary Services Corporation Report – R. Wallace, no report

XI. Old Business - *none*

XII. New Business – Please refer to Student Government Report

XIII. Adjournment – 3:35pm

Meeting recording can be accessed at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rjdQ0L1L0-5PIFj-r3UB2UTB6xlQjCqtHgk\_lOpoQyxMaEFn8CNDCo\_qSLPgUVmG.\_4NHt6J9ie-n\_I67 Passcode: \*e8GfH&h

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Wong, Secretary for the College Council