Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report

April 23, 2020

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee submits this report in the midst of CSI’s campus shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a very difficult time for the College, as it is everywhere, and we begin by acknowledging the tremendous achievements of our faculty, staff and administration during this crisis. The College community has demonstrated a degree of solidarity, adaptability, compassion and intellectual creativity that few would have imagined would be necessary at the beginning of the semester. Above all, our thoughts are with the many members of the CSI community whose lives have been adversely affected by COVID-19.

We report that the CSI administration has consulted with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee since the onset of this crisis. Jane Marcus-Delgado has been participating in the Coronavirus Steering Committee, which has met regularly since mid-March. On April 3, the Executive Committee met with President Fritz, Provost Parrish and the Deans to voice some of the concerns raised by the faculty regarding academic and logistical policies and procedures.

The Executive Committee has also been included in an ongoing basis in discussions of such issues as student evaluations, grading policies and the selection of this year’s honorary degree recipient.

We recognize that many of the academic and logistical decisions this semester have been made by CUNY central and that this has been an unprecedented emergency situation. The faculty and staff have had to adapt quickly and flexibly to new modalities of work. The College has made a significant effort to supply us with training, software and hardware needed for our work, within the confines of limited resources. At the same time, offices across campus have provided support to the community with outstanding dedication and professionalism.

The COVID-19 crisis has catalyzed certain concerns and exacerbated others. For example, issues surrounding Pass/Fail or C/NC options, implications for reappointment, promotion and tenure, and training and assessment for online and hybrid teaching are all matters needing attention. The ongoing budget crisis, significantly aggravated by the pandemic, may have far-reaching repercussions. The College must address the deterioration of funding and support for faculty research, a fundamental component of academia.

At this meeting, we are uncertain of many aspects of College life in the coming months. We are confident, however, that the resiliency and dedication of our community will not waver. Open lines of communication are critical to our success, and we hope you will call upon us to respond to your concerns. We wish you good health and safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Marcus-Delgado

Chair