**Minutes for the 142nd Meeting of the Faculty Senate**

**for Thursday, September 17, 2020 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm held virtually.**

**Attendance:**George Sanchez Mark White, Susan Imberman, Angelo Bongiorno, *,* Maryann Feola*,* Catherine Lavender*,* Katie Cumiskey, Michael Parrish, Jason Bishop, Sarah Zelikovitz, Christine Flynn,Saulnier, Francisco Soto, Bill Fritz, Cindy Wong, Lee Papa, Deborah De Simone, Deborah Franzblau, Jane Marcus-Delgado*,* John Verzani*,* Sarolta Takacs, Alfred Levine, Mark Feuer, John Wing, Simone Wegge, Marcus Tye, Jonathan Peters, Gerry Milligan, Carles Solà Belda, Comfort Asanbe, Alan Benimoff, Cynthia Chris, Thomas Tellefsen, Lucas Marchante-Aragón, Vandana Chaudhry, Alyson Bardsley, Sylvia Kahan, Alan Zimmerman, John Lawrence, Chang-Hui Shen, Natalie Fiscetti, Siona Wilson, Yumei Huo,*,* Ellen Goldner, Michael Paris, Jonathan Cope, Carlo Lancelloti, Micheal Cavagnero, Gene Fellner, Susuan Holak, Wima Jones, John Arena, Andrew Colbeck,,.,

**Guests**:Susan Massara, Leonardo Pign..,Marrianne Weil, Patricia Khan, Cheryl Adolph, Charles Gomes, Beth Livensprerger, Intissar Hasan, Amy Stempler, ,Kerri Gerson, Beth Livensper, Jasmine Cardo.., Jennifer Durando, Ali Elkomy, Christina Hage, Sharon Christian, Miguel A. Aragon, Mel Pipe, Terri Sangiorgio, Rob Wallace, Tara Mostrorilli, Sus Phone, Linda John, Veronica DiMeglio, Koby Kohulan, Spozmi Nouri, Florinda Mattia, Christina Tortora, Peter Simpson, Ken Wolpin., Amila Goonaw.., Patti Gross, Andrew Lambert, Kenneth Gold, 16465354826, 13472915727, Jennifer Borrero Danielle Dimitrov, Ralf Peetz, Alberto Ballesteros*,* Zaghloul Ahmed, Drew, Emmanuel Esperance, Warrick Bell, Jessica Collura, *,* Hernan Gree*),* Hope Berte*,* Mary Murphy, Jessica Stein *,* Juline Robinson*,* Suzy Shepardson *,*  Asher Abraham,*,* Shawn Abraham

1. Approval of the proposed agenda

*Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate on May 21, 2020. *Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*
2. Executive Committee Report: Appendix A.
3. Election: Member–at-Large Position for the remainder of AY 20-21

Jonathan Peters - nominated

Susan Imberman – nominated and elected

1. Provost’s Report : Appendix B

Question: What is the date by which the air quality issues in the buildings will be fully addressed?

Answer: The date is unknown as it is dependent upon three variables: (1) the availability of the materials, (2) person power to make the necessary changes, and (3) the budget to buy those materials. We are focusing on 6S, 5N, and 5S. Right now the only building we have open is 6S. By spring semester, we hope that the air quality issues will be addressed. We also have to wait for CUNY to allow us to move form Phase I to Phase II.

Question: (1) How will we intervene to make sure that there is some accountability *for instruction* this semester (2) What structures has your office put in place to make sure these issues surrounding the problems with synchronous and asynchronous teaching do not happen again in January? These issues will affect retention.

Answer: We are following up with every complaint we get and we are doing the best we can.

Comment: If this is the best we can do, this is a concern because chairs are confused about how to list courses for spring. We need to address this as a campus wide issue – because some of our Freshman will not make it to the second semester. Campus – not just case by case.

Question: The class size issue is vital – how can the faculty and administration work together to create a healthy way to consider issues and to deal with this? We need a reasonable workable way to address budget and academic concerns about class size with on-line teaching. We need a system of how we are going to get to a good conclusion.

Question – students are complaining about not being able to get the books from the bookstore. This is an issue because some of them will lose their Financial Aid and all of them lose out on their education. Books are at the core of what we do. Can you insure that this issue is addressed before Winter and Spring semesters begin?

Answer: That’s not acceptable. Please forward the emails to me. Rob Wallace also asked for the emails to be forwarded.

Comment: Can there be a central email that comes from the Administration to suggest that students with the problems at the bookstore be told to email Rob Wallace

Question: At the last FS meeting, this body passed three resolutions from the Research Committee. What is the Administration doing or not doing in response to those three resolutions?

Answer: We are complaining data and will have them to share with you when ready. In regard to representation on P&B, I suggest you put a chair on the research committee.

Comment: The governance plan does not allow for just putting a chair on the Research Committee

Response: we are not planning to open P&B to outside guests at this time.

1. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate
   1. Admissions Committee – none
   2. Curricular Committees –
      1. General Education Committee –
      2. Graduate Studies Committee –
      3. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee –

**Curriculum Consent Agenda**

Tabled items from May 21, 2020

AIII. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

AIII.2 PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: INTERNATIONAL STUDIES BA AND MHC INTERNATIONAL STUDIES BA

AIV. NEW COURSES

AIV.1 DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS: ART/PHO 390 SENIOR PROJECT IN ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

New Items from September 17, 2020

AIV. NEW COURSES:

AIV. 1 DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE: GEG/INT/POL 3XX THE ISRAEL PALESTINE CONFLICT

AV. CHANGE IN EXISTING COURSES

AV.1 DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS: ART 125 PORTRAIT DRAWING

AV.2 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS: ECO 326 INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS

AV.3 DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS AND PROGRAM IN AMERICAN STUDIES: ISTING COURSE: AMS/DAN 150 DANCE HISTORY: TWENTIETH CENTURY SURVEY

***Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.***

* 1. Course and Standing –has met and adjudicated cases throughout the summer
  2. Library Committee– none
  3. Academic Research Committee - none
  4. Academic Facilities Committee– none
  5. Academic Freedom Committee– none
  6. Academic Technology committee– none
  7. Faculty Personnel Policy Committee – Report of May stands. Looking for feedback on the Joint Appointment Proposal since April 2019 for feedback. In early 2020 submitted a proposal to General Chairs for feedback regarding distance learning for feedback, but the events of the spring interrupted that progress. We have not yet met this year but hope to be invited to join in conversations regarding course caps, instructional modes, and other issues.

1. University Faculty Senate Report – none
2. Old Business

Joint Appointments Proposal

1. New Business

IX. Adjournment. *Motion made, seconded, and passed.*

**Appendix A**

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report

September 17, 2020

The Executive Committee welcomes back all of our members and the CSI community. We met several times throughout the summer, and we were pleased to host several very well-attended Town Hall meetings. I participated on the College’s Re-Entry committee since the spring, and was glad to see that the Administration took our suggestion to make faculty members co-chairs of all of the group’s subcommittees. We still feel that there have been some significant shortcomings in the Administration’s communications procedures with the campus community, and we are working to assert a greater level of shared governance in decision-making in CSI’s academic affairs.

On September 10, the FS Executive Committee met with the Provost and the Deans. We were pleased to learn that CSI’s enrollment was up 1% this fall, which exceeded the College’s predictions in that area. We expressed great concern about budgetary issues, especially in ways that they have had an impact on faculty, staff and students. At this point we understand that part time faculty and staff are being paid on a month-to-month basis, a situation that is untenable for faculty teaching this semester.

We urge the Administration to reinstate the meetings of the Re-Entry Committee, which have not taken place since the beginning of the semester. We are especially concerned about the spring semester, and would very much like to see an organized timeline, strategy, and communications plan as soon as possible. We need clarity in the financial situation, in the college’s vision for the coming year and the post-COVID environment. We need clarity also on issues of class size and the impact of online teaching on faculty members’ professional development – with added burdens of teaching, inability to carry out our research, and the potential repercussions on not only promotions, reappointments, and tenure, but also on the quality of faculty life at CSI. I am deeply concerned about the college’s feeble response to the social and racial events of this summer and fall. I hope can come together to address these concerns with a more rigorous and proactive agenda.

We wish everyone a productive and enjoyable semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Marcus-Delgado, Chair

**Appendix B**

Provost’s Report

September 17, 2020

Colleagues:

Welcome to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2020-2021 Academic year. As President Fritz noted in his remarks, this was not the semester any of us would have planned for a year ago, and we remain under the specter of the Coronavirus pandemic that has disrupted most aspects of our normal academic lives. I would like to offer my appreciation for the creativity, dedication, flexibility, and perseverance that you have all exhibited during our move to distance education.

We entered the fall semester with a continued high degree of uncertainty about the immediate future. As recently as two weeks before the semester started, Enrollment Management was predicting we would see enrollment down at least 5% relative to last fall’s numbers. With the confirmation of the message we had been delivering over the summer that we were almost entirely online for the fall semester, enrollment spiked in the days just before and at the beginning of the semester, and we are currently about 1% over the number of students we enrolled last fall. This created a lot of work for chairs, faculty, Deans, and their staff as well as for advisors and the registrar during that period, and their heroic efforts resulted in almost all of the last-minute enrollees getting full schedules.

We will be holding a virtual commencement in late October-Early November. I am thrilled that Patricia Smith, newly appointed Distinguished Professor in English, will be the faculty speaker, and will be introduced by Senate Chair Jane Marcus Delgado. We will also be awarding an Honorary Doctorate to Bernard Carabello.

As the president noted, we are planning for a Spring Semester that is much like the current semester. We should have a budget by then, which will allow for more strategic enrollment and curricular planning. We also should have many of the air quality issues currently present in our academic buildings addressed. Nonetheless, we, and all of CUNY, want to err on the side of caution for safety of our faculty, staff, and students, which is why we currently anticipate remaining in a primarily distance education/telecommuting mode for the next semester.

Our Middle States Steering Committee has been working hard over the summer in designing our self-study and staffing the working groups. On October 1, we will be hosting a second visit from our Middle States Liaison Idna Corbett. This will include an open session, and details of that meeting will be distributed once it is scheduled.

One of the most challenging aspects of the campus closure has been its impact on faculty and student research. The Research Reopening Committee, chaired by Dean Michael Cavagnero, has spent countless hours developing a research re-entry plan, and working with individual researchers on site safety plans for their labs. Currently we have 16 Site Safety Plans approved for researchers and labs. The biggest issue we are facing is how to help researchers in other buildings resume their research. Hope and I will be working wither team and the faculty and staff in 6S to do what we can to make it possible for some of those research teams to resume their work in that building until the building housing their lab/office is verified as safe to open

In the meantime, our faculty continue to receive both grants and awards for their research and scholarship:

-• Tobias Schaefer from the Math Department had his project, Sharp Large Deviation Estimates of Fluctuations in Stochastic Hydrodynamic Systems, funded by the National Science Foundation.

• Kristen Gillespie-Lynch​ in Psychology received funding from NSF for her project – Promoting Engagement in Informal STEM Learning as a Path to Employment for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

• Sarah Berger, also in psychology, also funded by NSF for their project:  The Role of Sleep in Infant Motor Problem Solving,

• Maria Knikou from Physical Therapy received an NIH grant to support her research project: ‘Priming with High-Frequency Trans-spinal Stimulation to Augment Locomotor Training Benefits in Spinal Cord Injury.'  Hers is the largest research grant that has been awarded to date to a CSI faculty member.

Several faculty members achieved recognition for their scholarly efforts:

• Alexander Zevin from History was selected to receive one of the five Henry Wasser Awards presented for outstanding Assistant Professors in CUNY for 2020

• Greg Seals from Education was a recipient of the John Dewey Society Outstanding Achievement Award for his book: Teachable Moments and the Science of Education.

• In Media Culture, Associate Professor Raquel Gates is the recipient of one of this year's Academic of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Academy Film Scholar awards, for her book in progress Hollywood Style and the Invention of Blackness.

I am well aware of the impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on research and scholarship efforts at CSI, and I will be meeting with the CSI Research Committee to discuss these factors and to chart a research agenda for the college within the health and budgetary constraints we have and will continue to face in the coming months.

In a broader context, we will be holding conversations over the academic year to determine how CSI can continue to thrive and excel in the post-pandemic world. Starting with discussions with the Institutional Planning Committee, we will look at how CSI can build on its existing strengths and capitalize on new opportunities as we continue to serve Staten Island, New York, and the world. President Fritz and I will also resume our meetings with small groups of faculty, and we also anticipate establishing some topical working groups. In the meantime, Thanks to all of you for your fortitude and dedication during this unprecedented period of crisis and change.