



College of Staten Island

The City University of New York

2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314

www.csi.cuny.edu

**College Council Executive Committee
Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

May 6, 2020

Dear President Fritz and Provost Parrish:

At Monday's town hall (May, 4, 2020), hosted by the Faculty Senate and attended by 89 individuals, faculty and staff, and the HEO town hall hosted by the College Council, the attendees made their concerns quite clear:

there is wide-spread apprehension that your administration will end up making hasty and unwise decisions for currently there is no system in place that is both transparent and inclusive to plan for the future of the College.

People's concerns include, but are not limited to, the ongoing budget crisis, the teaching experience as we move forward, and the general operations and safety of the College. Non-teaching instructional staff are also concerned that problems in the remote work environment this semester have not yet been resolved. All want to be involved in preparedness planning as we move forward

As an example, at yesterday's meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, it was said, essentially, that: "it will be impossible to have in-person classes [at CSI] in the fall." And yet, we have not heard of or formulated any coherent strategy for preparing for this most-likely scenario. Later we learned that the Chancellor's office has already asked campuses to prepare for this scenario by submitting substantial change requests to MSCHE.

You both have the responsibility to create a framework for such planning that the campus community can support and trust.

The College Council Executive committee has lobbied for a task force, such as the RBAC, that was formed about a decade ago when the College faced significant budget pressures. We recommend, again, a task force be formed that represents a broad range of stakeholders, set at a reasonable size (around 20) to be effective and still inclusive, and given a specific charge that the College community can have access to and support. This is essential in order to be effective, transparent, and to allow the college community an interface to lobby. Such a committee does not preclude the necessary consultation with other governance committees, as that will still be an important aspect of the necessary consensus building around any proposals, all of which are likely to face significant opposition.



College of Staten Island

The City University of New York

2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314

www.csi.cuny.edu

**College Council Executive Committee
Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

As for the composition of such a committee, it would likely overlap significantly with the IPC and the College Council Budget Committee, but should include representation from other areas of the college, such as professional staff. We welcome the opportunity to suggest names.

Sincerely,

The following members of the Executive Committees of the College Council and Faculty Senate:

John Verzani,

Jane Marcus Delgado,

George Sanchez,

John Wing,

Francisco Soto,

Deborah DeSimone,

Deborah Franzblau,

Mary Murphy