

Minutes for the 147th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

for Thursday, March 18, 2021 from 3:30 to 4:20 pm held virtually.

Attendance: Jonathan Peters, Chang-Hui Shen, Angelo Bongiorno, Yumei Huo, Rachel Grant, Simone Wegge, Gene Fellner, Neo Antoniadis, 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.

Guests: A. Iyckam, 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, Beth Livensperger

- I. Approval the agenda.
Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of February 18, 2021.
Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee Report: Appendix A
- IV. Provost's Report : Appendix B

Question: Does the Faculty senate vote on Honorary Degree Recipients?

Provost: Typically, yes, the Faculty Senate does vote but we did not have the chance to vote on

the nominees this year because the committee met after the last Faculty Senate meeting but he honorees had to be submitted before this meeting, which is why the Executive Committee was consulted.

Motion made: the Faculty Senate endorse and applaud this year's honorary degree recipients: Virginia Ellen and Lucille & Jay Chazanoff.

Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Comment: Discussion ensued regarding the wisdom of seeking philanthropic dollars to fund the college in times of austerity

Question: Regarding the flex classrooms, are the rooms already outfitted in the library being considered?

Provost: That's a great point. That may be possible. We are waiting to hear if the CDC moves to 3 feet for social distancing – that will be a game changer.

Question: Given that the CDC just announced 3 feet if there are dividers, the questions becomes, will we have the ability to make changes accordingly or do you think that what we have now is what we're stuck with for Fall?

Provost: We do have flexibility! We need to address how we might be at 50% capacity. When we talk about 25% that's 3,000 people on campus a one day. That is the portion of the overall campus community that can be on campus on any one day. Honestly, 25% that way is not all that different than the typical moment – there probably aren't that many more than 3000 people on campus at any one time. But we are going to adjust. The problem of having to approve and pre-approve everyone coming to campus is one of our biggest problems. By the time we get to 25% that will be unworkable. Some SUNY Campuses have become open campuses – we cannot do that unless CUNY allows it. We need the capability and flexibility to allow students who want to come back to campus and faculty who want to come back to campus to do so safely. We also have to respect those who cannot be vaccinated and those who do not feel comfortable returning at this point.

Question: This is about airflow and circulation – is the problem of window not opening on campus being studied and being taken into consideration?

Provost: Yes they have been looking at this and opening the windows is actually counterproductive to having fresh air exchange through the regular air handlers.

Comment: I just want to comment on how the inclusion of the faculty in these discussions is critically important and that you will impress this upon the President, as chief academic officer, how this body feels about the governance plan and urge him to withdraw it.

- a. Admissions Committee – none
- b. Curricular Committees –
 - i. General Education Committee –
 - ii. Graduate Studies Committee –
 - iii. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee –

Consent Agenda for March 18, 2021

AV. NEW COURSES:

AV.1 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE: CSC
237/LING 437

AV. CHANGE IN EXISTING COURSES

AV.1 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH: ENL 305 CRITICAL APPROACHES TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
AV.2 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH: ENL 349 ENGLISH AND COMMONWEALTH FICTION SINCE WORLD WAR II
AV.3 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH: LING 402 SPEECH SCIENCE
AV.4 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH: LING 450 AUDIOLOGY
AV.5 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH/WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES: ENL/LNG 396 STUDIES IN GLOBAL LITERATURE I
AV.6 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH/WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES: ENL/LNG 397 STUDIES IN GLOBAL LITERATURE II

Consent agenda was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

- c. Course & Standing – Appendix C: Proposals for revised scale of Pass/Fail grading option & Freshman Forgiveness Policy
Proposals moved, seconded, and approved with one negative vote
 - d. Library Committee – none
 - e. Academic Research Committee – Appendix D
 - f. Academic Facilities Committee– none
 - g. Academic Freedom Committee– none
 - h. Academic Technology committee– none
 - i. Faculty Personnel Policy Committee – none
- VI. University Faculty Senate Report – none
- VII. Old Business- none due to time
- VIII. New Business-
- IX. Adjournment. *Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 4:33 pm.*

APPENDIX A

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report

March 18, 2021

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report

I am pleased to submit this report on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. I would like to begin by acknowledging the losses to our community that have resulted from the COVID pandemic. At the same time, I would like to express our gratitude and admiration for the faculty, staff members and students who have demonstrated compassion, creativity, and perseverance and pulled together as a community in confronting this unprecedented situation.

I would like to also recognize that we are meeting during Women's History month. While we move ahead with our work, it is critically important that we re-double our efforts to strive for gender equity in academia and in all areas of our society.

The Executive Committee met with Provost Parrish, the Associate Provost and the Deans on March 9. Two urgent items were discussed: plans for re-entry and fall semester teaching modalities, and President Fritz's proposed governance plan.

The Provost indicated that CSI will probably be in phase three of its Re-Entry Plan, which would allow for approximately 25 percent of our students to be on campus at any one time. We discussed the possible repercussions of that option, including reduced class sizes and considerations of which classes required in-person instruction vs. those that could remain remote. It has been suggested that most classes be listed as hybrid for the fall, which would allow for the greatest amount of flexibility in terms of teaching modalities. We also talked about the increasing rates of vaccination, and the possibility that a greater number of students and faculty could meet in person – depending on the situation in the upcoming months.

The main topic of discussion was President Fritz's March 3 proposed governance plan, which would radically restructure CSI's shared governance. The plan would eliminate the College Council, the Faculty Senate, and reshape or eliminate a number of governance entities. We expressed our objection to the plan both for its process and its content. We expressed our dismay that the President had announced the plan without consulting with any of the established channels of shared governance (such as the Bylaws committee). We also objected to the replacement of faculty as committee chairs with the president himself, a move that we find to be undemocratic and against the spirit of shared governance.

We further discussed the timing of the proposal, especially in light of the ongoing Middle States process. We agreed that a priority for the college will be to improve its record of assessment, an area of concern for Middle States. The Provost and the Executive Committee also briefly talked about the December Vote of No Confidence. We all agreed that efforts have been made to improve communications with the Provost, and committed ourselves to working together going forward.

I would like to end by saying, on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, that we strongly urge President Fritz to withdraw his March 3, 2021 governance plan and to initiate a reform process through established governance channels which encourages participation and input from all instructional staff. To date, there have been 13 statements, declarations or resolutions by departments and committees that express dissent against the governance plan. These documents represent a broad cross-section of the CSI community, and we urge you to read them. The groups are as follows: Math Department, Chemistry Department, Course and Standing Committee, the library, the English Department, The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Department of Educational Studies, the Department of Media Culture, the Department of Performing and Creative Arts, the Council of Chairs, the Research Committee, Biology Department and the History Department. We are grateful for the solidarity shown by our fellow faculty, staff and students in articulating this response.

As we move into a brighter season, we wish everyone a Happy Passover, Easter and any other holidays you might be celebrating. We wish you a restful spring break and may you all be safe and healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Marcus-Delgado

Chair

APPENDIX B

Provost's Report

March 18, 2021

Governance. I appreciate the thoughtful and respectful discussion that has come forth surrounding the proposed new Governance Plan, and I am glad that there will have the opportunity for further discussions with multiple stakeholder groups over the coming weeks.

Re-Entry. As more people become vaccinated and states continue to relax restrictions, we are continuing to develop what the fall semester will look like. Right now our re-entry plan allows for 25% of our campus population to be on campus at any time once we are in phase 3 of the plan, but we are modifying our document to determine how we can extend access to a greater number of students, faculty, and staff as conditions improve. The committee, mostly through the smaller subcommittees, will work during the rest of the semester to determine how we can provide an on-campus experience for the greatest number of our students while maintaining a safe environment for our entire campus community. We are looking at modifying up to 40 of our teaching spaces to hyflex classrooms that will allow students to participate in courses in person and remotely. Hope Berte, Katie Cumiskey and I are also working on plans to open the St. George campus in the near future for both instruction and quiet study spaces for students.

Honorary Degrees. The call for nominees for awardees of honorary degrees this year yielded a rich and diverse pool of applicants. The nominating committee, which this year comprised Margaret Berci, Nan Sussman, Probal Bannerjee, and George Vachadze, forwarded several names for consideration, and this year we have sent three names to the Board for consideration. Virginia Allen has a rich history in nursing on Staten Island, often specializing in treating those with tuberculosis. Her many connections to CSI include working with TB patients at Willowbrook School and receiving an Associate Degree in Nursing from CSI. She is the last surviving member of the Black Angels, a group of 300 black nurses who treated tuberculosis victims at Staten Island's SeaView Hospital when others would not. Ms. Allen also worked in labor relations for AFLCIO Local 1199, and has served on a wide variety of boards on Staten Island and at CSI, and received many honors. Including the William A. Morris Humanitarian Award, the Hope Community Staten Island Service Award, and the Staten Island Advance Women of Achievement Award. Thanks to James Kaser for nominating Ms. Allen.

Lucille and Jay Chazanoff are well known to the campus for their long record of service to the institution that started their academic careers as well as being the place where they met and started their 50 year romance. The Chazanoffs have both been extremely active in service to Staten Island, and very generous in their philanthropy. At CSI, they established an Endowed scholarship fund for CSI business students, and more recently provided the transformative \$7.5 M gift that named the Lucille and Jay Chazanoff School of Business. Lucille Chazanoff passed away last year, so her degree will be awarded posthumously. Thanks to Tom Tellefsen, Simone Wegge and the entire faculty of the Chazanoff school for their nomination.

There were several other outstanding nominations for honorary degrees that we will hold in reserve for future consideration.

Diversity Council. The last year has seen an unprecedented and horrific uptick in violence against people of color, particularly blacks and Asians, and the COACHE and Rankin Campus Climate Surveys have clearly indicated that our campus has not provided the safe, equitable, and welcoming environment we must have for our diverse community of faculty, staff, and students. I would like to thank those who have participated in the 21 Day Equity Challenge and the rich discussions that have taken place during each of the meetings. Distinguished Professor Tyehimba Jess, Cathy Ferrara, Interim Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator Cathy Ferrara and I comprise the steering committee for the newly reconstituted Diversity Council, which will have its first meeting after spring break. Our initial intent is to review all of the action items recommended from these previous studies and the previous Diversity Strategic Plan and to prioritize which ones will have the most immediate positive impact on conditions on campus.

APPENDIX C

Course & Standing

March 18, 2021

Proposal to revise scale of Pass/Fail grading option (for eligible courses)

Source of the Proposal	Course and Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate
Level of degree	Associate and Baccalaureate
Consultations	Academic Affairs, Curriculum Coordinator, Registrar’s Office
Date Effective	Fall 2021

<p>Current policy</p>	<p>Undergraduate matriculated students of the College of Staten Island have the option to elect a Pass/Fail grade with the following restrictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students may not elect the pass/fail option for any courses satisfying general education, pre-major, major, minor, or certification requirements. 2. Academic departments may exclude additional courses and may prohibit pass/fail courses from being used as prerequisites for degree requirements. 3. Courses taken on permit at other institutions and independent study courses may not be taken on a pass/fail basis. <p>Credit Maximum: The student may not elect more than eight credits (8) total as Pass/Fail. The total number of P grades on a transcript may not exceed 90 credits. This includes all credits transferred from other institutions.</p> <p>Grading and Grade Point Average: For courses taken as Pass/Fail, letter grades “A through C” are converted to P; letter grades of D and F are converted to F. A pass “P” grade is not counted in the student’s grade point average. A fail “F” grade is counted in the student’s grade point average.</p> <p>Prerequisite Academic Standing: A student must be matriculated, with sophomore, junior, or senior standing. Transfer students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits at the College of Staten Island. To elect this option, the student must have a GPA greater than or equal to 2.25.</p> <p>Deadlines: Students must elect the Pass/Fail option each semester by the start of the tenth week of classes (the 60% completion point of that semester, with the specific date to be posted in the academic calendar). Students may not elect the pass/fail option retroactively. Once the election of pass/fail has been made, the student may no longer choose to receive a letter grade other than P/F for the course.</p>
<p>Rationale for change</p>	<p>Under the current Pass/Fail grading policy, students who earn the letter grade of A through C are converted to P, while letter grades of D and F are converted to F. This is inconsistent with the grading policy for all other courses, as published in the grading table, under which a grade of D is considered passing and students receive credit for completing the course.</p>
<p>Assessment plans</p>	<p>The Course and Standing Committee can request data from the Registrar’s Office regarding the number of students who selected the Pass/Fail option, courses for which the option was exercised, and additional academic profile information of the students (majors, GPA, year in college, etc.) for each semester.</p>

Expected impacts on enrollment	No student enrollment impacts are anticipated.
Expected impacts on classwork/registration	Since the only courses eligible for Pass/Fail grading are those taken as electives, there is no anticipated impact on classwork and/or course registration.
Revision to policy (From→To)	<p>Grading and Grade Point Average: For courses taken as Pass/Fail, letter grades “A through C” are converted to P; letter grades of D and F are converted to F. A pass “P” grade is not counted in the student’s grade point average. A fail “F” grade is counted in the student’s grade point average.</p> <p>Grading and Grade Point Average: For courses taken as Pass/Fail, letter grades “A through D” are converted to P; letter grades of F remain as F. A pass “P” grade is not counted in the student’s grade point average. A fail “F” grade is counted in the student’s grade point average.</p>

Proposal for establishment of a freshman forgiveness policy

Source of the Proposal	The Course and Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate
Level of degree	Associate and Baccalaureate
Consultations	Academic Affairs, Curriculum Coordinator, Registrar’s Office
Date Effective	Fall 2021
Proposal	The College of Staten Island implements an official freshman forgiveness policy for currently-enrolled undergraduate students, upon completion of their first term of matriculation.
Rationale for change	There is no formal freshman forgiveness policy for first-year undergraduate students to proactively address and remedy the academic challenges that they face during the transition to college, or that result from situations occurring outside of the classroom. Implementation of a forgiveness policy, with established deadlines for opting in, would allow time for students to receive appropriate guidance from advisors, faculty, and other College personnel and make an informed decision about their next steps. It would also allow the College to engage in specific outreach to such students and

	assist them with accessing the necessary resources to improve their academic performance and decrease the odds of them being academically dismissed at the end of their first year of college.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that students who find themselves in academic difficulty during their first term of matriculation receive all necessary information regarding the academic and financial aid implications of the decision; • Provide a formal structure for students to exercise this option; • Allow for the College to conduct proactive outreach to students during the academic alert period and after completion of their first term of matriculation; • Decrease the number of freshman students who are placed on academic probation at the end of their first term of attendance (thereby decreasing the number of freshman students who either stop out or are dismissed at the conclusion of their first year of attendance).
Assessment plans	Based on the submission of an official request to utilize freshman forgiveness, the College would be able to collect numerical and academic data on the actual number of students who utilize the policy. The College would also be able to compare the first-year dismissal rates for students prior to and post-implementation, to assess its impact on retention.
Expected impacts on enrollment	There may be a positive impact on enrollment, specifically for retaining students from their freshman to sophomore year, since the College will have a more definitive pool of students to follow up with and target outreach toward.
Expected impacts on classwork/registration	Given that first-term students would typically have to repeat any courses for which they received a letter grade of F, there is currently no expectation of a positive or negative impact on classwork or course registration.
Proposed policy	<p>Upon completion of their first term of matriculation, first-term freshman students* may request that <u>all</u> earned F grades for credit-bearing classes, regardless of program or department offering them, be removed from GPA calculations for that semester. Any F grades which the student requests forgiveness of will be reflected as NC on the academic transcript, and the NC will have no impact on the student's GPA.</p> <p>For a course to be eligible for forgiveness, the student must remain in the class for the entire term and a grade of F must be earned.</p> <p>The forgiveness request must be made immediately upon completion of the first term of matriculation (but no later than January 1 for fall-term entrants and June 1 for spring-term entrants), and is not retroactive.</p> <p>Students may ask for one or more earned F grades to be forgiven, up to the entire amount of credits being taken in their first term of matriculation. Grades of WU and/or D are not eligible for forgiveness.</p>

	*First-term students are identified in CUNYfirst with the program code FRSH.
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Appendix D
Research Committee Report
March 18, 2021

Report by the Research Committee to the 147th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Since at least 2019, our committee has been expressing concern to this body about the drastic breakdowns in shared governance that have been taking place at CSI. We have done this because these breakdowns have tangible consequences that fall within our domain: execution of the research component of the College's mission. The Research Committee therefore wishes to express its extreme alarm at recent actions taken by the President to replace CSI's Governance Plan with one that includes abolishing the very body that all of us are attending right now.

To remind this body, during the last twelve years, the Research Committee has pursued several avenues to strengthen and support the research reputation of the College. Among other things, the Committee has: advocated for more campus-internal fellowship support; advocated for more research release time for faculty; advised on research-related workload policy; advised on the College's role in the CUNY Graduate Center consortium; mediated grant-related disputes between faculty and administration; worked collaboratively with administration to ensure that travel funds from PSC-CUNY make it to faculty; and it has held writing workshops to help faculty prepare grant applications and strong research publication records.

However, over the last five to six years, the Research Committee has been heavily preoccupied with mitigating the effects of consistently declining support for research, as well as respect for researchers. In addition to repeated cuts to campus fellowships, elimination of merit-based awards of research release time, and reductions to workload credit to faculty who mentor doctoral students, we have also seen funds inappropriately reallocated from the budgets of grants awarded to faculty. Much of the time, our attempts to advise administration on these matters — which the College's current Governance Plan requires us to do — have been met with indifference and dismissal. Indifference and dismissal are not words usually associated with collegiality.

Although imperfect, we think that the College's current Governance Plan could be described as a success story in shared governance. The proposal put forward by the President would undo much of this success. As you all know, the Research Committee has often taken positions that are critical of leadership in Academic Affairs. We were therefore particularly alarmed to see that the President wishes to replace the composition of our committee with one that would be much, much less likely to engage in such criticism. Indeed, the President's proposed plan weakens the positive, creative mission of our committee in a number of ways. For one thing, our current Governance Plan states that the Research Committee is charged with "recommending directions for research development" and "advising the administration on encouraging and expanding research opportunities." In the

President's proposed plan, the Research Committee will be charged with things like "creating a culture of compliance." We find the spirit of the President's desired change here particularly ominous.

There are other aspects of the President's proposal that the Research Committee takes issue with. However, we think any additional discussion about the content of the proposal should take place within the context of normal, good-faith shared governance procedures. We therefore look forward to the President and the Provost reaching out to our committee for consultation on the proposal's research-related aspects, so that our committee can perform the duties that the current Governance Plan assigns to us.

Submitted to the Faculty Senate on March 18th, 2021, by the Research Committee