2021 FAC Conference on
Student Success & Shared Governance:
New Futures for Higher Education Under Siege
Friday, April 16, 2021 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Virtual Conference via Zoom
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Sponsored by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents with the support of

Conference Schedule:
10:00 AM – 11:45 AM – Panel: Higher Education Under Siege
• Stephen Brier, Austerity Trends, The Graduate Center, CUNY
• Jennifer Mittelstadt, A New Deal for Higher Education, Rutgers University
• Sherry Wolf, Bargaining for the Common Good, AFT
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM – Lunch Break
12:15 PM – 2:00 PM – Panel: Reclaiming Shared Governance
• Stephen Adair, Former FAC Chair, CCSU Faculty
• Seth Freeman, VP for Faculty 4C’s, CCC Faculty
• Estela Lopez, Formerly Vice Chancellor CSU and Provost CSCU

PANELIST BIOS:

Stephen Brier is a social, labor, and education historian who teaches the history of public education in the PhD program in Urban Education and in the M.A. in Liberal Studies program at the CUNY Graduate Center. He helped launch and currently serves as lead historian and project director of the CUNY Digital History Archive. Brier has been an educational technologist for more than three decades, serving as the founder and first coordinator of the Interactive Technology and Pedagogy doctoral certificate program (2002-17) and co-creator of the Digital Humanities M.A. program at the Graduate Center. He helped launch the Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy in 2011 and served as a member of the journal’s editorial collective until 2017. Brier’s career at CUNY began in 1980 as founding executive director of CUNY’s American Social History Project (ASHP)/Center for Media and Learning/New Media Lab, which he led for 18 years. He was the executive producer/co-author/editor of the ASHP’s award-winning Who Built America? multimedia curriculum, which included books, videos, CD-ROMs and several websites, notably History Matters and the September 11 Digital Archive. Brier served for a decade beginning in 1999 as a senior administrator at the Graduate Center, including as Associate Provost and Vice President for Instructional Technology and Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies; he currently is the Graduate Center’s Senior Academic Technology Officer. Brier co-authored (with Michael Fabricant) Austerity Blues: Fighting for the Soul of Public Higher Education (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2016).
Jennifer Mittelstadt is Professor of History at Rutgers, where she studies the history of state and society in the 20th century United States. She is a member of RU-AAUP/AFT, co-founder of Scholars for a New Deal for Higher Education and sits on the Steering Committee of the AAUP/AFT national campaign for a New Deal for Higher Education.

Sherry Wolf is the senior organizer of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT, the union of faculty, grads, postdocs and EOF counselors. She is a lifelong socialist and organizer against racism, police violence and US imperialism and the author of Sexuality and Socialism: History, Politics and Theory of LGBT Liberation. Wolf became a full-time labor organizer in 2013 for the union representing nearly 9,000 scholars and researchers at Rutgers where she applies her experience as an organized socialist to help develop a fighting member-led union.

Becoming a socialist after the social and economic upheavals of the 70s and during the neoliberal assault of the 80s and decline of the US labor movement, compelled Wolf to read, debate and collaborate with a broad layer of leftists on domestic and global struggles justice. Wolf is a Marxist who believes the fight for human liberation relies on our capacity to build solidarity and organize the collective power of the multiracial, global working class.

Stephen Adair is a Professor of Sociology at CCSU where he teaches courses and conducts research in sociological theory and on the growing economic and social inequality in the U.S. and around the world. He served on the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents from 2012 to 2020. He was Chair or Vice Chair from 2012 to 2018 and served as a non-voting member of the BOR from 2013 to 2018. He has been a member of the CSU-AAUP Council since 2010 and is currently the Secretary of CSU-AAUP. Over the last few years, he has worked to build collaboration and solidarity across the higher education unions within the CSCU system, and serves as the principle liaison between CSU-AAUP and the fight by faculty and staff in the Community Colleges against the Board’s consolidation plan. He won CCSU’s excellence in teaching award in 2003 and the university’s Distinguished Service Award in 2015.
Seth Freeman is current Chair of the Business and Technology Department, Professor of Computer Information Systems, and Assessment Coordinator at Capital Community College. Professor Freeman has served in numerous roles since entering the community college system in 2002 including Adjunct Faculty, Assistant to the Academic Dean, FT Faculty, and Program Coordinator.

Professor Freeman has significant shared governance experience through serving on Capital’s College Senate since 2016, including Chairing the College Senate from 2017 to 2018. Professor Freeman is also a member of the Congress of CT Community Colleges (4Cs) Executive Board where he currently serves as Vice President of Faculty and member of the 4Cs Delegate Assembly where he has served on the Delegate Assembly since 2012.

Professor Freeman views shared governance and collective bargaining as exemplars for participatory decision-making and democracy in the workplace. He views shared governance and collective bargaining as the two primary mechanisms for staff and faculty to exercise power in the workplace and ensure that those closest in proximity to our students are empowered to make decisions that best serve our students. Professor Freeman understands the current merger of the CT community colleges as a sustained attack on shared governance and collective bargaining and actively works with and leads his peers to fight against this attack from CSCU administrators.

Prof. Freeman received his M.S. in Computer Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his B.A. in Computer Science from Clark University. Professor Freeman also teaches part-time at Eastern CT State University and University of Hartford.

Estela R. López recently retired from the CT State Colleges and Universities System where she served as the Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. She is the former Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs of the Connecticut State University System. She served in that capacity from 2002 to 2007.

From 1997 to 2002, Dr. López occupied the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northeastern Illinois University. Prior to joining NEIU, López served as a senior associate at the American Association for Higher Education and as a senior fellow at the American Council on Education while on a year long sabbatical.

From 1990 to 1995, López was vice president for academic affairs and planning at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico.

López earned a bachelor’s degree in Spanish literature at Queens College. She then attended Columbia University, where she earned both a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in Spanish literature.

She is the recipient of the Hispanic Caucus of AAHE Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award. She is also the recipient of the Illinois Latino Council in Higher Education Distinguished Service Award. In 2005 she was the recipient of the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund Award. The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission selected her as the Latina Citizen of the Year for 2006.
also received The Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association Achievement Award. She was selected as one of the 2017 Wonder Women by Malta House.

In 2015, she was reappointed as a board member of the Connecticut State Board of Education and is currently the vice chair of the board. In addition, she serves on the boards of United Way of Connecticut, Connecticut Health and Education Financial Authority, Bay Path University, and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.