The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

There were present:

**Committee Members:**
- Hon. Benno Schmidt, Chair
- Hon. Wellington Chen
- Hon. Freida D. Foster (via videoconference)
- Hon. Joseph J. Lhota
- Hon. Kathleen Pesile

**University Staff:**
- Chancellor Matthew Goldstein
- Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost
  - Alexandra Logue
- Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer
  - Allan H. Dobrin
- Vice Chancellor Iris Weinshall
- Dean Michelle A. Anderson
- Senior University Director for Human Resources Management and Deputy to the Vice Chancellor
  - Raymond O’Brien

**Trustee Staff:**
- Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the Board Jay Hershenson
- Senior Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Frederick Schaffer
- Deputy to the Secretary Hourig Messerlian
- Mr. Anthony Vargas

Cal. No. DISPOSITION

The agenda items were considered in the following order:

I. ACTION ITEMS:

A. POLICY CALENDAR

1. **CUNY School of Law – Academic Standards Recommendations.** Chancellor Matthew Goldstein stated that on several occasions this Board has entertained changes to some of the academic standing policies at the Law School. The University is continuing its efforts in that regard, and the proposed resolution deals with academic standing and with the curriculum.

   Dean Michelle Anderson stated that the high bar pass rate for CUNY Law School was about three years ago when it hit 83 percent. This last year it dropped to 73 percent and this year it is at 67 percent. This is not an acceptable trajectory and interventions are needed to enhance the strength of the students and their ability to succeed on the bar exam. The measures put forward, which were overwhelmingly passed by the faculty, are necessary and appropriate to begin to address this problem. They are certainly not sufficient, and there are many other things that are happening at the Law School beyond the specific policies that are proposed here to the Board in terms of enhancing faculty teaching. These are necessary changes to the academic standing policies that need to be made. A number of students have petitioned this Board about the process, but the process was a careful and deliberative one at which as soon as we understood what our bar numbers were this year, we met with the faculty on a weekly basis for more than two hours deliberating about the data, what the data showed in terms of our bar pass numbers, what the predictors were for success on the bar, how individual students did, and how they did collectively depending on what courses they took.
Dean Anderson further stated that interviews were conducted with students who did not pass, and also students who did pass, about the contents of the bar and what strategies were successful and there were weekly meetings until November 30th. There were a total of four deliberative meetings on this question. The Academic Standing Committee also met repeatedly. It has substantial student representation on it in the form of the president and the vice president of the student body. They are the two student representatives at that meeting who voted for the changes that are proposed.

Dean Anderson noted that she made two presentations, first at a dean's forum where the entire student body comes to the auditorium and talks to the deans about current issues. The focus of that forum became the bar pass issue; and a week later, to the student government where the data related to the bar pass issue was presented and discussed, and the students’ input was sought about policy changes that would be appropriate in response to it. She further noted that she has received substantial email input from a number of students, both members of the student government and other students, as have other members of the School's administration. There has been an ongoing and vibrant dialogue with the students about this issue, and about how to solve this issue.

Dean Anderson explained that the recommended changes to the academic policy will strengthen the students' ability to pass the bar. Key among the changes is the first and that is changing the probation marker from 2.3 to 2.5 cumulative GPA. Based on ten years of experience with the bar exam there has been no graduate with a 2.6 GPA or below who has passed the bar on the first try. This policy is really targeted toward those students who are at serious academic risk and serious risk for failing the bar.

Dean Anderson added that there are other proposed changes: there is a fairly generous pass no credit course opportunity for students to take courses and this changes the minimum required in order to obtain a pass from a D to a C plus, so that students who take a pass fail course need to aim for a C plus or better; another change is that students be required to take a seventh semester if they fall into academic probation their sixth semester, their last semester of law school; another change would require all students to take four bar courses that are deemed bar electives by the faculty, which are highly interesting to students, and that students need to take in order to prepare for the bar.

Dean Anderson noted that this constellation of proposed changes will help strengthen numbers and will give the students more support as they proceed through their studies at the Law School, and it was very close to unanimously passed by the Academic Standing Committee, and then the full faculty where it passed 31 to 8 with 3 abstentions.

Following discussion the item was unanimously approved.

2. The City University of New York – Lease Agreement at 135 East 25th Street, New York, NY, on behalf of Baruch College.


Chancellor Goldstein stated that these two items were fairly routine lease renewals, that required the Board’s approval prior to their expiration.

Following discussion items I.A.2 and I.A.3 were unanimously approved.
4. **Honorary Degree – Doctor of Fine Arts to be Conferred to Heather Watts at the Hunter College Winter Commencement on 1/19/12.** Chancellor Goldstein stated that Heather Watts, who is an extraordinary ballet dancer with the New York City Ballet who was discovered by Balanchine and taught at Harvard, also teaches in the dance program at Hunter. He noted that this was an extraordinary recommendation from President Jennifer Raab and had his strenuous support.

Following discussion the item was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
The Executive Session was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

There were present:

**Committee Members:**
Hon. Benno Schmidt, Chair  
Hon. Wellington Chen  
Hon. Freida D. Foster (via videoconference)  
Hon. Joseph J. Lhota  
Hon. Kathleen Pesile

**University Staff:**
Chancellor Matthew Goldstein  
Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alexandra Logue  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Allan H. Dobrin  
Vice Chancellor Iris Weinshall  
Dean Michelle A. Anderson  
Senior University Director for Human Resources Management and Deputy to the Vice Chancellor Raymond O’Brien

**Trustee Staff:**
Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the Board Jay Hershenson  
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Mr. Anthony Vargas

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The Executive Committee discussed personnel matters. The Executive Session was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.
The public session of the Executive Committee was reconvened at 5:20 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS continued:

A. POLICY CALENDAR continued

5. Kingsborough Community College – Appointment of Interim President. Chairperson Benno Schmidt moved this resolution stating that it was “RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Steward Suss as Interim President of Kingsborough effective December 19, 2011 through March 9, 2012 at a compensation to be recommended by the Chancellor to the Board, subject to financial ability.”

Following discussion the item was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.