The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

There were present:

**Committee Members:**
Hon. Wellington Z. Chen, Chair
Hon. Rita DiMartino
Hon. Charles A. Shorter
Prof. Karen Kaplowitz, faculty member
President Russell K. Hotzler, COP liaison

**Ex-officio**
Hon. Philip A. Berry

**Trustee Staff:**
Deputy to the Secretary Hourig Messerlian
Ms. Doris Wang

**University Staff:**
Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Julia Wrigley

---

**Cal. No.**

**DISPOSITION**

The agenda items were considered and acted upon in the following order:

I. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2015.** The minutes were approved as submitted.

B. **POLICY CALENDAR**

1. **Borough of Manhattan Community College – A.A. in History, and A.S. in Gerontology.**
   Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Julia Wrigley stated that BMCC continues its effort to create new majors based upon existing tracks within their Liberal Arts degree program. The proposed action creates two stand-alone programs, the AA in History and the AS in Gerontology. Since all courses are already being offered, this does not entail new costs. The initiative will allow colleges to improve advisement in student tracking while offering students a variety of curricular options and prepare for transfer into a baccalaureate program. Articulation agreements with senior colleges have already been established for each of these proposed programs.

   In response to a question from Trustee Charles Shorter, Dr. Julia Wrigley stated that this proposed action is disaggregating this extremely large Liberal Arts degree into more discipline-defined degrees.

   In response to a question from Vice Chair Philip Berry, Dr. Wrigley stated that in essence students will take the same courses they would already have taken, but they will be defined as students in Gerontology and History so that it creates a sense of academic identity where they can bond with each other more. They can better look ahead to their ultimate transfer options. This Liberal Arts program at BMCC has had more than 8,000 students in it, and this is an attempt to give the students more of a distinctive experience.

   Prof. Karen Kaplowitz stated that there is a tremendous and growing need for people in this field, and this is a wonderful proposal.
Following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

2. City College – M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies. Dr. Julia Wrigley stated that City College's current BS in Physician Assistant is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. The published Standards of the Commission regarding eligibility for continued accreditation require programs accredited prior to 2013 that do not currently offer a graduate degree transition to offering such a degree. At this time over 90 percent of existing programs in the nation are already presented at the graduate level. Courses from the existing undergraduate program have been revised, and new courses have been added to warrant a higher credential.

Following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

3. New York City College of Technology – B.S. in Applied Chemistry. Dr. Wrigley stated that the proposed Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry is designed to adapt New York City College of Technology’s (NYCCT) chemistry program to meet the education requirements of 21st Century laboratory science careers. This program will create a direct path to employment in a broad range of laboratory settings in such areas as pharmaceuticals, personal care, biochemistry, regulatory affairs, materials, and environmental monitoring and remediation. The BS in Applied Chemistry will have the added benefit of attracting and retaining talented students pursuing an Associate of Science degree at the College.

Prof. Kaplowitz stated that this is a wonderful program; this will be the only undergraduate degree in applied chemistry at CUNY.

In response to a question from Trustee Shorter, Dr. Wrigley stated that NYCCT does not have a separate program for pharmaceutical studies; however, York College has a brand new pharmaceutical studies program.

Following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

4. Hunter College – B.A. in Early Childhood Education, Birth to 2nd Grade. Dr. Wrigley stated that the Hunter College School of Education proposes an undergraduate program in Early Childhood Education, Birth to 2nd Grade, in response to the Mayor’s initiative to expand full-day pre-kindergarten programs in neighborhoods throughout the city and state. With this initiative comes the need for highly qualified educators and early care providers. This program will fill that need by preparing graduates to become New York State certified teachers.

President Jennifer Raab stated that Hunter College is proud to be meeting this need on a statewide level. It is already being done in the College’s master’s program, working to increase the number of undergraduates in the education program. It is a great opportunity to meet both needs.

In response to a question from Trustee Shorter, Dr. Wrigley stated that Hunter College will not be the only school within CUNY to offer this degree. She added that there are predominantly graduate students at Hunter College versus many of the other programs, which have much larger undergraduate populations.

Following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.
5. John Jay College – Establishment of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. Wrigley stated that the purpose of the new department is providing an academic home to various interdisciplinary programs, and also the necessary organizational structure to facilitate interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching. The new department is intended to promote faculty collaboration, which will enhance instruction and curricular development, as well as provide for improved faculty scholarship, research and development.

In response to a question from Trustee Shorter, John Jay College Provost Jane Bowers stated that the faculty are coming together in this new department because the faculty pursue their scholarship through interdisciplinary inquiry rather than their narrow disciplinary approach. This department will give them a place to do that where they will be rewarded for that work, and they will be among like-colleagues. This department will also include, in addition to an interdisciplinary studies program, the gender studies major, a hub for interdisciplinary programs and inquiry at the College.

In response to another question from Trustee Shorter, John Jay College Provost Bowers stated that this faculty will in effect come up with ways in which the exchange or the integration of the various programs will happen.

Prof. Kaplowitz noted that there will be faculty from other disciplines that will teach in the department but these will be the core faculty members who are getting a home. They have been operating as an interdisciplinary program since the 1970s so this proposal will enable the faculty to vote on each other's reappointments and promotions. She added as with other disciplines the faculty will have governance rights for personnel actions.

In response to a question from Trustee Shorter, Dr. Wrigley stated that the faculty do not have governance rights for personnel actions across disciplines.

In response to another question from Trustee Shorter, John Jay College Provost Bowers stated that the faculty are engaged in regular assessments of learning outcomes of the curriculum they offer. They do it from their various departments as opposed to together in one department, offering a large percentage of general education routinely assessed courses at the College. The program of interdisciplinary studies has gone through an assessment as all programs do, giving them a standing in governance as a collective that they have not previously had.

Following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

6. Medgar Evers College – Establishment of the Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science; Establishment of the Department of Physics and Computer Science; and Closing of the Department of Physical, Environmental, and Computer Sciences. Dr. Wrigley stated that Medgar Evers College proposes to close the Department of Physical, Environmental, and Computer Science to establish two new departments in its place. The establishment of the Chemistry and Environmental Science Department and the Physics and Computer Science Department will foster new academic initiatives. It will also facilitate accreditation activities, which will be more disciplined-based and will improve the chances of receiving federal grant funds.

President Rudy Crew stated that Medgar Evers College would like to be more content-driven in both of these areas as it relates to these two newly created departments, giving the College an opportunity to value and go depth over breadth in terms of degree concentration, grant writing, grant opportunities, specialization of degree programs, and, most importantly, coursework related specifically to STEM disciplines.
Following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

7. **Brooklyn College – Closing of the SEEK Department.** Dr. Wrigley stated that in accordance with the board resolution, and in line with other senior colleges at CUNY, Brooklyn College has determined that to promote student success, SEEK students will be better served by a program that provides academic support services throughout the year. The SEEK department originally was an academic department offering remedial courses. However, its current function has shifted to academic advisement in counseling, tutoring, and student support services as well as a substantial summer experience. A program status is more appropriate and may make current services more feasible. The new program will report to the Office to the Associate Provost for Academic Programs.

Brooklyn College Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs William Tramontano stated that the closing of this department will serve the students better, providing counselors that will be available all year round, especially during the summer and winter sessions as opposed to faculty.

In response to a question from Committee Chair Wellington Chen, Brooklyn College Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Tramontano stated that this is not the first time that the University has closed a SEEK department at one of the CUNY institutions, in order to better serve SEEK students.

Following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

II. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A. **Report by Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Julia Wrigley**

Dr. Wrigley stated that this agenda shows the dynamic nature of the innovative CUNY curriculum, showing the efforts of the faculty to remain alert to the need for curricular change as CUNY evolves, and the ability and interest of administrators in helping make it happen.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.