The meeting was called to order at 4:54 p.m.

There were present:

**Committee Members:**
- Hon. Wellington Z. Chen, Chair
- Hon. Rita DiMartino
- Hon. Jill O'Donnell-Tormey
- Hon. Charles A. Shorter
- Prof. Karen Kaplowitz, faculty member
- Ms. Chikaodila Onyejiuka, student member
- President Russell K. Hotzler, COP liaison

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

**University Staff:**
- Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost
- Vita Rabinowitz
- Vice Chancellor Gillian Small

**Trustee Staff:**
- General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor
  - Frederick P. Schaffer
- Deputy to the Secretary Hourig Messerlian
- Ms. Doris Wang

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

### I. ACTION ITEMS:


The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### B. POLICY CALENDAR

1. **Hostos Community College – A.S. in Food Studies.** Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Vita Rabinowitz stated that with the generous support of the Tisch Illumination Fund, which amounted to more than $150,000 over a three-year period, Hostos Community College has not only developed this proposal for an A.S. in Food Studies, but the money also provides funding for a service learning component, internship opportunities, and rich student engagement activities related to the proposed degree. This smart, interdisciplinary program will introduce students to public policy issues such as food and security, nutritional education, and healthy food access. The curriculum and the experiential opportunities afforded students enrolled in this program will well prepare them for transfer to a senior college as well as to careers in food policy related fields.

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

2. **Hunter College – M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis.** Dr. Vita Rabinowitz stated that there have been important changes in the educational requirements for professionals working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders. In January of 2014, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed a bill to establish state licensure for providers of applied behavioral analysis. Not only did this ensure a level of quality and oversight, but it also enabled
practitioners to receive insurance reimbursement. So Hunter College is building on an already superb existing master's program through their school of education. Individuals completing this program will have the necessary academic preparation for a state license to work with this growing population.

President Jennifer Raab stated that not only do Hunter College’s education degree students get a joint master’s degree but many of the students in social work and public health were previously getting a certificate in this program that did not allow them to be licensed. The new master's program will ensure the double master's, yet it will also prepare the students to be able to go towards a licensure. It will increase the number of practitioners in this field of ABA.

3. Hunter College – Creation of the Department of Dance. Dr. Rabinowitz stated that Hunter College's venerable dance program recently moved to establish new degree programs in dance, always with the hope and expectation that it would become CUNY's first freestanding department of dance. This proposal achieves that dream. The creation of this department, as well as new graduate programs in CUNY's first Master of Fine Arts in Dance, will be established along with the department. The creation of the department is a serious investment in the physical plans used by the dance programs as the College recently searched successfully for a nationally recognized leader in dance education to serve as the founding department chair.

In response to a question from Trustee Charles Shorter, Dr. Rabinowitz stated that Dr. Elizabeth Cooper will serve as the founding department chair of dance at Hunter College.

President Raab stated that the formation of this department started about four years ago, the first master’s in dance education for public schools K-12 teachers. In addition, the College is in a highly recognized partnership with Lincoln Center to train their teaching artists as teachers. She added that Hunter College has raised a couple of million dollars to support this creation, and expects to be able to attract more private support.

Following discussion, items I.B.2 and I.B.3 were approved for submission to the Board.

4. Bronx Community College – A.A. in English. Dr. Rabinowitz stated that Bronx Community College (BCC) has always offered a wide range of courses in writing and literature. This initiative seeks to afford students interested in studying literature to self-identify early in their BCC careers and take advantage of faculty and advisors who can help them achieve their academic goals and prepare them to transfer to a senior college upon graduation. An articulation agreement has already been signed with John Jay College, and others are in development.

5. Bronx Community College – A.S. in Exercise Science and Kinesiology. Dr. Rabinowitz stated that this program will offer students with the necessary foundational coursework for senior college majors and careers in the health sciences or related fields. It will also provide students with the coursework necessary to be certified as a personal fitness trainer. An articulation agreement has been established with Lehman College, and others will be pursued.

Following discussion, items I.B.4 and I.B.5 were approved for submission to the Board.

6. Lehman College – B.S. in Public Health. Dr. Rabinowitz stated that this undergraduate program in public health will provide students with an excellent foundation for entry-level employment in public health as well as graduate education in the field. The program views the field of public health from the perspective of the social and behavioral sciences,
epidemiology, environmental health, health communication, and healthcare systems policy. It builds on Lehman College’s strong traditions in global health and in geographic information systems.

President Ricardo R. Fernández stated that this program is significant for Lehman College as it is already part of the master’s program in the School of Public Health. He added that this program is a way of building a pipeline into the largest industry in the Bronx.

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

7. John Jay College – Rescission of Honorary Degree. President Jeremy Travis asked for the Committee’s approval of an unusual and, indeed, unprecedented action, which is to rescind an honorary degree previously awarded by John Jay College, in the case of Mr. William Cosby. The College recommended to the Board, on the recommendation of its faculty senate in 1995, that Mr. Cosby be awarded an honorary doctorate, at the time, in recognition of his reputation as an entertainer, a popular individual in society and culture, and in view of his contributions and his interest in education. The College now knows, however, that there are a number of instances that have come to public attention of women who have claimed that he took advantage of their relationship often aided, according to them, by various substances added to drinks to weaken their resistance, and taking sexual advantage of them.

There is no policy at the University for what is now being recommended as this is an unusual circumstance. CUNY would not be alone in withdrawing a previously awarded doctorate, nor would it be alone among the universities in the country in withdrawing other honorary acknowledgements that have been afforded to him in the past. Other universities including Spelman College, the university that was attended by Mrs. Cosby, has taken the unusual step of returning a significant amount of money that was awarded to them by Mr. Cosby. Others have taken away from him positions of chairing fundraising campaigns. It is acknowledged that some universities take a different position, which is that honorary degrees, once awarded, can never be rescinded. John Jay College strongly urges that this University take a different view.

Prof. Karen Kaplowitz added that in addition to the College having an unusual but wonderful mission of justice, social justice, and criminal justice, sixty percent of the student population are women. So in support of and in allegiance with the women who were so brave as to come forward under oath, and whose lives have now been ruined, John Jay College would like to acknowledge its stand on issues of violence against women, rape, and injustice.

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

II. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Report by Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Vita Rabinowitz

Dr. Rabinowitz stated that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees voted to approve Chancellor Milliken’s final recommendations of the allocation of $20,000,000 of performance funding for the 24 institutions of CUNY. The University is delighted with the Executive Committee’s expeditious action.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.