The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m.

There were present:

**Committee Members:**
- Hon. Valerie L. Beal, Chair
- Hon. Rita DiMartino, Vice Chair
- Hon. Judah Gribetz
- Prof. Kathleen Barker, faculty member
- Mr. Alberto Rivera, student member
- President Marcia Keizs, COP member

**Trustee Observer:**
- Hon. Terrence Martell

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

**University Staff:**
- Chancellor James B. Milliken
- Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Allan H. Dobrin
- Vice Chancellor Gloriana Waters

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Committee Chair Valerie Beal noted that there will be an added item at the end of this revised agenda.

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

1. **ACTION ITEMS:**
   
   **A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016.** The minutes were approved as submitted.

   **B. POLICY CALENDAR**

   4. **Naming of The Peggy Dance Studio at Hunter College.** President Raab asked the Committee to approve the naming of one of Hunter College’s large dance studios in the Thomas Hunter Hall—the Gothic Building—to be named The Peggy, in tribute to Peggy Tirschwell. She recently celebrated 51 years of service at CUNY, including 14 years at Hunter College where she has been an Assistant Provost and had a variety of responsibilities in the Provost’s Office. Although Ms. Tirschwell retired a few years ago, she continues to work on a part-time basis and one of her most recent activities has been to help Hunter College create the first free-standing dance department at The City University of New York. In her honor and service at CUNY, her brother made a gift to the College, naming the large dance studio after her. To date, the College has received a half a million dollars.

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

   1. **Amendment to the Governance Plan of The City College of New York.** Provost Maurizio Trevisan asked the Committee to adopt the proposed amendment to the Governance Plan of City College. Currently, the senators are elected on an “at-large” basis within each division of the school, which can result in individual departments not having direct representation in the Faculty Senate. If representatives instead were elected by each academic department, each department would have representation in the Faculty Senate.
In response to a question from Trustee Judah Gribetz, Committee Chair Beal stated that this method is not consistent across the campuses; different colleges use different methods. This method is unique to City College.

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

2. Naming of the Samuel H. Gottlieb ’40 and Bernice Gottlieb Room at Brooklyn College. President Karen Gould asked the Committee to approve the naming of the Samuel H. Gottlieb ’40 and Bernice Gottlieb Room” in the Library at Brooklyn College. Mr. Samuel Gottlieb had a distinguished career as a lawyer but also earned most of his money on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. He had very few people with whom he was engaged with at the end of his life and decided to essentially give most of his estate to Brooklyn College—$1.5 million dollars—and $50,000 as well for the library because he had determined that his great education at Brooklyn College served him very well and that the library was at the center of academic life. The wonderful thing about this gift is that there are very few constraints in terms of how the College uses it for library needs. Brooklyn College is very pleased with the gift.

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

3. Naming of the Dr. Barry Blechman ’63 Seminar Room at Queens College. Interim Vice President Laurie Dorf asked the Committee to approve the naming of the Dr. Barry Blechman ’63 Seminar Room, located in Room 202, in Powdermarker Hall at Queens College as it has had a wonderful relationship with Dr. Barry Blechman who for many years has supported the Political Science department and the College’s model UN program. He recently pledged $100,000, and the gift will support the future development of the next set of political leaders. The model UN program has been very successful and competitive and students travel all over the country, including Canada to compete. Dr. Blechman has been a key leader in national security for more than 50 years, both publicly and privately, and in recognition of this gift and other gifts from him the College is requesting the naming of this room.

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

5. Amendment of the University Conflict of Interest Policy Regarding Faculty Assignment of Textbooks. Vice Chancellor Gloriana Waters asked the Committee to adopt the amendment to the Conflict of Interest Policy that has been approved by the University Faculty Senate (UFS) and the Office of General Counsel. It addresses the conflict that arises when professors who author textbooks or other educational materials require their own students to purchase those materials. Universities around the country deal with this conflict of interest in varying ways. Up until now, CUNY did not have a uniform policy on this issue and there have been a number of requests for the University to create one. In Section 5.1 of the proposed amendment, CUNY officially recognizes that academic freedom includes the right of faculty to choose the materials they assign to their students and that conflict of interest in this area should be avoided. To resolve the conflict of interest problem, the amendment recommends, in Section 5.2, that when a faculty member assigns his or her own materials for purchase, the faculty member should direct the revenue received therefrom to a program, for the use by or support of students at the college at which the faculty member teaches, including student scholarships or emergency funds. Section 5.3 addresses courses with multiple sections, only some of which are taught by the faculty author. In that situation, the decision regarding whether the faculty member’s textbook should be assigned to all sections must be made by an official group of faculty from the department and not by any single faculty member, including the chair. Furthermore, the faculty author may not participate in the
decision but may keep the revenue from the sale of the textbook to all students in the course, including those students in the faculty member’s own sections.

Prof. Kathleen Barker stated that UFS thanks General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor Frederick Schaffer for his assistance in developing and refining this policy for faculty.

Mr. Alberto Rivera stated that as a student representative of the University Student Senate, he appreciates the fair and thorough efforts made to amend this policy.

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

6. Changes to the Investment Options under the University’s Optional Retirement Plan and Tax Deferred Annuity Plan. Committee Chair Beal asked the Committee to approve the changes to the investment options under the University’s Optional Retirement and Tax Deferred Annuity Plans. Copies of the Executive Summary and other materials in support of this action are on the table for review. UFS Chair and Trustee Terrence Martell and she co-chaired the Pension Advisory Task Force, which was convened to review the University’s Optional Retirement Plan and Tax Deferred Annuity Plan, looking at the myriad investment opportunities that CUNY offers to see if they are consistent with current best practices in the market, and also review the associated fees charged to participants. The Task Force engaged an excellent consultant, Cammack Retirement Group, that has done extensive work with a number of universities around the country, to assist CUNY in this very detailed work. Among the actions previously considered and approved by this Committee and the Board of Trustees are the adoption of an Investment Policy Statement, adoption of a revised ORP Plan Document, establishment of Revenue Credit Accounts, and most recently, the designation of TIAA as sole recordkeeper for the Plans. The Task Force is now pleased to bring a resolution to streamline the investment options available to participants, from more than two hundred down to an array of 39 best-class across all major asset classes. The intent is to minimize “paralysis by analysis” for Plan participants, while allowing them to construct a diversified portfolio for their retirement and keeping fees at a minimum. She added that she would like to note that as a result of the work of the Pension Advisory Task Force, administrative fees charged to Plan participants have already been reduced by approximately $1.6 million a year.

Committee Chair Beal stated that she would like to give a resounding thank you to the staff of Vice Chancellor Waters, in particular University Retirement Plan Asset Officer Andrea Yenco. She has brought an enormous resource of talent that has enabled CUNY to move forward.

UFS Chair and Trustee Martell stated that he would like to second Committee Chair Beal’s comments about the great support that the Task Force received. He added that the whole program was revised in 18 months—an excellent piece of work.

Committee Chair Beal stated that this has been a wonderful effort and it represents how CUNY as a whole works very efficiently to maximize its productivity on behalf of the students, faculty and administration.

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

7. [ADDED ITEM] Reappointment of a Sitting Commissioner of The City University of New York Civil Service Commission. Vice Chancellor Waters stated that this resolution is in regards to the reappointment of Elaine S. Reiss to CUNY’s Civil Service Commission. The CUNY Civil Service Commission was established in 1988 to oversee all civil service operations for the
University and to administer provisions in the New York State Education Law as well as CUNY rules and regulations regarding civil service. The Commission enforces the rules covering classification of CUNY civil service and acts as the guardian of the merit system for classified staff. In addition, the Commission is responsible for hearing cases of individuals in managerial titles as that group of employees is not represented by a union. Such cases may include examination complaints, concerns about work conditions and/or disciplinary issues. The Commission is made up of three members appointed by the Chancellor with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees, each of whom serve for a term of six years. The current members of the Commission are Marilyn J. Flood, who is the Chair, Tilden J. LeMelle and Elaine S. Reiss. The resolution being presented today authorizes the Chancellor to reappoint Ms. Reiss, whose current term expires on May 31, 2016, for an additional six-year term from June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2022. Ms. Reiss is well qualified for the position. She serves on the faculty at Brooklyn Law School, and has also served as Acting Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel for the Department of Employment for the City of New York.

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

II. INFORMATION ITEMS:

Reappointment with Early Tenure pursuant to §6.2.b.(2) of the Bylaws.

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Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 P.M.