

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON  
FISCAL AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

There were present:

**Committee Members:**

Hon. Joseph J. Lhota, Chair  
Hon. Peter S. Pantaleo, Vice Chair  
Hon. Barry F. Schwartz  
Hon. Terrence F. Martell, faculty member  
Ms. Mariam Jakhashvili, student alternate  
President Felix Matos Rodriguez, COP Liaison

**University Staff:**

Chancellor James B. Milliken  
Vice Chancellor Matthew Sapienza  
Senior Advisor Marc V. Shaw

**Ex-officio:**

Hon. Benno Schmidt

**Trustee Observer:**

Hon. Joseph K. Awadjie

**Observer:**

Prof. Kay Conway

**Trustee Staff:**

Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the  
Board Jay Hershenson  
General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor  
Frederick P. Schaffer  
Ms. Towanda Lewis  
Mr. Anthony Vargas

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**Cal. No.**

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**DISPOSITION**

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

**I. ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014.** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**B. POLICY CALENDAR**

1. Hunter College – Academic Excellence Fee in Master of Fine Arts Program in the School of Arts and Sciences. Committee Chair Joseph Lhota asked for the Committee's approval to adopt a schedule of academic excellence fees for students in the Master of Fine Arts program in the School of Arts and Sciences at Hunter College, effective with the Fall 2015 semester. The fee shall be \$40 per credit for all resident and non-resident full-time students, as well as for resident and non-resident part-time students. The Hunter College MFA program in Studio Art is one of the most highly selective programs in the nation. The challenges of keeping abreast of the rapid advancements in the technologies and offering focused training for students make it critical to have an academic excellence fee to reinvest in the program. The College will continue to administer financial aid to assist students with the completion of their studies, and to bear the basic operating cost of studio art facilities.

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In response to a question from University Student Senate Chair and Trustee Joseph Awadje, President Jennifer Raab stated that it is very clear that the students' preference would be not to have an additional fee, but there is a general understanding that this is a targeted fee for the program needs that are negotiated with the students and that there has been a full consultation about this extra marginal tuition, which included the entire art faculty. This matter was also brought to the Hunter College Senate, which represents both students and faculty. Subsequently there was a vote in favor of this academic excellence fee, which is one of many that the College has used to help support some of its most costly and excellent programs.

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

2. LaGuardia Community College – Purchase of New Chiller. Committee Chair Lhota asked for the Committee's approval to authorize the General Counsel to execute a contract on behalf of LaGuardia Community College to purchase and install a new chiller in Shenker Hall. Such purchase shall not exceed a total estimated cost of \$600,000 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The College will replace an obsolete and inoperable chiller with a new energy-efficient and environmentally friendly chiller. The College will not be able to maintain proper temperature and humidity in the building during cooling seasons without replacing the chiller.

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

3. Borough of Manhattan Community College – Purchase of Furniture. Committee Chair Lhota asked for the Committee's approval to authorize Borough of Manhattan Community College to issue purchase orders to Haworth Inc. against existing New York State Contract Number PC66270. Such purchases shall not exceed a total estimated cost of \$2.2 million. The College will use this contract for various relocation, renovation, and expansion projects at 199 Chambers Street, including projects in connection with damages sustained due to Hurricane Sandy.

In response to a question from University Faculty Senate Chair and Trustee Terrence Martell, Vice Chancellor Matthew Sapienza stated that this is an operating cost which is mostly for purchases and there is not any major repair work to the structure of the building—normally that falls under the threshold of capital-eligible.

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

4. Borough of Manhattan Community College – Purchase of Construction Services. Committee Chair Lhota asked for the Committee's approval to authorize Borough of Manhattan Community College to issue purchase orders to Construction Force Services, Inc. for the purchase of various building construction trade services against existing State of New York Contract No. PS65908. Such purchases shall not exceed a total estimated cost of \$1 million. The College will use this contract for building construction trade work to repair areas affected by Hurricane Sandy, furniture installation, and to install parts for sustainability and return on investment (ROI) projects at 199 Chambers Street.

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

The public meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.