Committee Chair Wellington Chen called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

The following people were present:

**Committee Members:**
- Hon. Wellington Z. Chen, Chair
- Hon. Jill O’Donnell-Tormey, Vice Chair
- Hon. Mayra Linares-Garcia
- Hon. Charles A. Shorter
- Prof. Karen Kaplowitz, faculty member
- Ms. Alyssa Desouza, student member (arrived @ 3:43 p.m.)
- President Russell K. Hotzler, COP Liaison

**University Staff:**
- Chancellor James B. Milliken
- Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Vita Rabinowitz
- Associate Planner Meghan Mulgrew

**Trustee Observer:**
- Hon. Chika Onyewuju

**Trustee Staff:**
- Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Secretary of the Board Gayle M. Horwitz
- Interim General Counsel and Vice Chancellor Jane Sovern
- Deputy to the Secretary Hourig Messerlian
- Ms. Towanda Lewis
- Mr. Anthony Vargas

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

I. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2017.** Moved by Committee Chair Chen and seconded by Prof. Karen Kaplowitz, the minutes were approved as submitted.

B. **POLICY CALENDAR**

1. **Brooklyn College – MM in Global and Contemporary Jazz.** Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost (EVC&UP) Vita Rabinowitz stated that the Master of Music in Global and Contemporary Jazz is the newest addition to Brooklyn College's already impressive array of professional graduate programs in music performance. It will address the growing field of jazz and world music. The goal of this program will be to offer advanced training in jazz performance, history, arranging/theory, pedagogy, technology, and music industry practice. The program's unique focus will be on the intersection of various forms of jazz originating in the United States with the music of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and southern Asia. The college has sufficient full-time faculty members to launch the program and additional expenses are minimal.

Trustee Charles Shorter stated that this is a fantastic program. He added that he recently came back from the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
conference where the subject of adjuncts versus tenure track was discussed. This program is a good example of that topic as the adjuncts make perfect sense.

EVC&UP Vita Rabinowitz stated that the music faculty at Brooklyn College is robust, and the program was designed both to take advantage of the array of existing faculty and to hire a rich vein of adjunct faculty who are performers and people from the industry. This is what will make the program unique because Brooklyn is becoming a hub of jazz music.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Mayra Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

2. Medgar Evers College – Establishment of the Department of Social Work. EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that the social work faculty at Medgar Evers College is currently housed in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The professional program in which these faculty teach, the BS in Social Work, is decidedly different from the liberal arts offerings of the department, and its curriculum is driven by professional accreditation requirements. The College has already approved two searches commencing in late summer 2017 for full-time social work faculty, bringing the total number of full-time faculty in the new department to five, which can support this growing degree program. The program director is expected to become the chair of the new department and the faculty already has their support staff, so there will be no additional cost to the college to establish this new department.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

3. Brooklyn College – Honorary Degree.
Bernard Sanders
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that Brooklyn College proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Senator Bernard Sanders, representing the State of Vermont. He is known worldwide for his campaign for the Democratic Party's 2016 U.S. presidential nomination. The longest-serving independent in U.S. congressional history, Senator Sanders served as a congressman for 16 years before he was elected to the Senate in 2006. During his outstanding career of public service, Senator Sanders has maintained an enduring commitment to progressive causes and justice for all. He has been an unwavering advocate of working- and middle-class Americans, spearheading legislation for veterans, and advancing the causes of civil, immigrant, women, disability, and LGBTQ rights as well as affordable higher education, environmental protection, and renewable energy.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

4. Hunter College – Honorary Degrees.
Arthur Elgort
Doctor of Fine Arts

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that Hunter College proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Arthur Elgort, Class of '64. He is known for his "snapshot style" which liberated models from the studio, mussed their hair, toned down their makeup, and let them fill the frame with movement and emotion. He inspired a generation of photographers, changing the industry and its portrayal of women. Over the years, Mr. Elgort's work has appeared in
Vogue, Glamour, and other top fashion magazines, and he shot ad campaigns for Chanel, Valentino, Yves Saint Laurent, and others. His work has been exhibited in permanent collections at London’s Victoria and Albert Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. In 2011, Mr. Elgort won the Council of Fashion Designers of America Board of Directors Award.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

Elena Kagan
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that Hunter College also proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan. She earned her JD from Harvard Law School, where she was a supervising editor of the Harvard Law Review. Her illustrious career spans private sector law practice and academia, as a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, and later as dean of Harvard Law School. Supreme Court Justice Kagan also clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall and served for four years in the Clinton Administration. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed her to be the first woman Solicitor General of the United States. Two months after the U.S. Senate confirmed her for that role, President Obama nominated her to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens on the Supreme Court.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Charles Shorter, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

5. CUNY School of Law – Honorary Degree.
Sherrilyn Ifill
Doctor of Laws

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that the CUNY School of Law proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Sherrilyn Ifill. She is the seventh President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the nation's premier civil rights legal organization. After graduating law school, Ms. Ifill served first as a fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union and then for five years as an Assistant Counsel in the Legal Defense Fund's (LDF) New York office, where she litigated voting rights cases in the South. In 1993, Ms. Ifill left LDF to join the faculty at the University of the Maryland School of Law. While at Maryland, she developed an Environmental Justice Clinic and co-founded one of the first legal clinics in the nation that focused on removing legal barriers to formerly incarcerated persons seeking to responsibly re-enter society.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Shorter, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

6. College of Staten Island – Honorary Degrees.
Margaret Ricciardi
Doctor of Fine Arts

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that the College of Staten Island (CSI) proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Margaret Ricciardi, who has long-standing ties with Staten Island and the CSI community as a resident, entrepreneur, student, artist, and benefactor. Ms. Ricciardi studied sculpture at CSI with many faculty members in the Department of Performing and Creative Arts who consider her a serious artist. Her venerable age of 103
notwithstanding, she continues to make art that challenges the viewer. Ms. Ricciardi had a
solo exhibit in the CSI Student Art Gallery and subsequently she has shown her work at
the Museo dell’Emigrante in Naples and the Snug Harbor Cultural Arts Center in Staten
Island.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee O’Donnell-Tormey, and following
discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

Andy Shih
Doctor of Science

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that CSI also proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Dr.
Andy Shih. He is the Senior Vice President for Public Health and Inclusion at Autism
Speaks, an autism advocacy organization in the United States that sponsors autism
research and conducts awareness and outreach activities aimed at families, governments,
and the public. Autism Speaks has been an important source of funding directed toward
the causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Ms. Alyssa Desouza, and following
discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

Deirdre DeAngelis
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that CSI proposes a third nominee for an Honorary Degree,
Principal Deirdre DeAngelis, who has led New Dorp High School since 1999. She has
been honored locally and by the State for her accomplishments, and is the longest serving
high school principal on Staten Island. The New York Daily News chose her as one of
eleven top educators in 2012 and honored her as a “Hometown Hero” in part for her
leadership during and following the crisis of Super Storm Sandy. Principal DeAngelis has
partnered with CSI and other schools to launch the 30,000 Degrees initiative to increase
the college-completing population on Staten Island. New Dorp High School has also
engaged with CSI School of Health Sciences for a current Healthy Neighborhood initiative,
one aspect of which will focus on the New Dorp community.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee O’Donnell-Tormey, and following
discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

Peter and Robin Jovanovich
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that CSI proposes to award a fourth Honorary Degree to
Peter and Robin Jovanovich. They have been uniquely supportive and generous friends of
the College. The Jovanovich's efforts over the last five years have resulted in over
$250,000 in Ellen Knowles Harcourt Scholarships awarded to Teacher Education Honors
Academy students and an ongoing annual commitment of $135,000. This scholarship
money guarantees that the recipients will graduate with no debt, which is critically
important for students who are committed to a career in teaching.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia, and following
discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.
In response to a question from Prof. Kaplowitz on whether Robin and Peter Jovanovich are receiving separate Honorary Degrees:

President William Fritz stated that it would be a shared degree. They feel that the recognition is deserved by their foundation, the Harcourt Foundation, so CSI is anticipating to hood both of them together simultaneously, so each will receive a hood but the College will give them a single degree with both of their names on it.

7. **CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy – Honorary Degree.**

   **Chirlane McCray**
   Doctor of Science

   EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy proposes to award an Honorary Degree to First Lady of New York City Chirlane McCray, who spearheads Thrive NYC, a broad public health initiative aimed at providing mental health and addiction services to all New Yorkers. Ms. McCray has been a friend to the School, and a supporter of several Thrive NYC-based collaborations with the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, *CUNY Center for Innovation in Mental Health*. She is an exemplar of the School's mission and vision, who has made a powerful difference in the lives of all New Yorkers.

   Trustee Linares-Garcia stated that this is a well-deserved program. Highlighting mental health is critical. It covers many different demographics and cultural lines. She added that Ms. McCray is also particularly involved in helping children become more successful.

   USS Chair and Trustee Onyejiukwa stated that she agrees with Trustee Linares-Garcia’s comments, and is currently working on a campaign with Thrive NYC to connect college students to mental health.

   Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Ms. Desouza, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

8. **Graduate School and University Center – Honorary Degrees.**

   **Vanita Gupta**
   Doctor of Humane Letters

   EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that the Graduate School and University Center (GSUC) proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Vanita Gupta, a prominent attorney, who was until recently the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and head of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, emerging as one of President Obama's prominent advocates for social justice. Ms. Gupta began her legal career at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and later worked for the ACLU. Throughout her career, she has won the support of liberal and conservative activists, as well as law enforcement leaders, for finding common ground on policing and criminal justice reform.

   Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

   **Wael Shawky**
   Doctor of Humane Letters

   EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that GSUC also proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Wael Shawky, one of the most celebrated artists of the Middle East, achieving
international acclaim for his films and performances that examine the role of historical narrative in the development of culture. Mr. Shawky is best known for his epic trilogy of films, The Cabaret Crusades. He was the recipient of the Ernst Schering Foundation Art Award in 2011, which included a solo exhibition at KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin. His work can be found in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Tate Collection in London. He earned his BFA from Alexandria University and an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Fine Arts.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Shorter, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

Lord Nicholas Stern
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that GSUC proposes to award a third Honorary Degree to Lord Nicholas Stern, the current Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he is also the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government and the Head of the India Observatory. In addition, since 2013, he has served as President of the British Academy, in 2014 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, and he is world-renowned for his research on the economics of global warming. In 2004, he was knighted for his work in economics. The recipient of numerous awards, Mr. Stern is the author of more than 15 books and 100 articles.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee O’Donnell-Tormey, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

Jose Antonio Vargas
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that John Jay College proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Jose Antonio Vargas. Mr. Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, a filmmaker, and an activist who is best known for his work in advocating for immigration reform. He has courageously, and at great personal risk, stepped forward to give voice to the millions of Americans who live on the margins of society as undocumented persons. In so doing, and through his work, he has been a shining example of strength, pride, and hope for a community in desperate need of all three.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Ms. Desouza, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

Mary Bonauto
Doctor of Law

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that John Jay College also proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Mary Bonauto. Over the last fifteen years, gay and lesbian Americans have fought and won many important legal victories toward full marriage and family equality. Every step of the way, Ms. Bonauto has led the charge. Through her tireless advocacy and unmatched skills in the courtroom, she has been the principle legal architect of marriage equality in the United States, and a hero to its millions of beneficiaries. Ms. Bonauto’s legal leadership of the marriage equality movement was made most apparent by her being chosen as lead counsel for the oral arguments in Obergfell v. Hodges. She
won that case on behalf of millions of Americans, and full marriage equality became the law of the land in the United States in 2015.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Shorter, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

11. Macaulay Honors College – Honorary Degree.
Garry Trudeau
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that Macaulay Honors College proposes to award an Honorary Degree to Gary Trudeau, the first comic strip artist ever to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning, and he has received many other prestigious prizes including the Mental Health Research Advocacy Award from the Yale School of Medicine. He has made significant contributions to enhancing critical thinking (often through humor), political analysis and social commentary, to exploring new uses for new media (specifically cartooning, but also television comedy and even 3d streaming animation), and to exploring issues of mental health, military service, and the lived experiences of people from diverse backgrounds. All these areas match very well with the principles that are at the center of the University's purpose and mission as well as those of Macaulay Honors College specifically.

In response to a question from Prof. Kaplowitz on whether the Macaulay Honors College has a faculty governance body:

Dean Mary Pearl stated that Macaulay Honors College has a College Council, and this proposed Honorary Degree was unanimously supported not only by the College Council, which consists of a body of all the people who teach the core curriculum. They elect a body of ten individuals and then five are appointed by the Dean and this group of fifteen constitutes the College Council. The Curriculum Committee of the College Council unanimously endorsed this proposal as well. Macaulay Honors College also invited the Scholars Council, which is the student government, to weigh in and they also unanimously support this recommendation.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee O'Donnell-Tormey, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

12. Graduate School and University Center – Honorary Degree.
Kareem Abdul Jabbar
Doctor of Humane Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that GSUC proposes to award another an Honorary Degree to Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who is considered by countless players, coaches, and fans to be the all-time greatest basketball star ever. Mr. Jabbar is a six-time NBA Most Valuable Player and a 19-time NBA All Star. In his 20 seasons in the NBA, where he played for the Milwaukee Bucks and the Los Angeles Lakers, he was a member of six NBA championship teams as a player and two as an assistant coach. In 1996, he was named one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA history. According to the NBA, his combined individual and team successes remain unparalleled. He is also an actor, author, and political columnist whose writing has appeared in the Washington Post, Esquire, and the Huffington Post. He has published more than ten books.
Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

13. City College – Honorary Degree.
David Diaz
Doctor of Letters

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that City College is pleased to nominate David Diaz, Class of 1965, for an Honorary Degree. Mr. Diaz has had an exemplary career in media, winning numerous awards and having the distinction of being the first Latino anchor for a major New York television news organization. In addition, he served the City College community as a Distinguished Lecturer in the departments of Political Science and Media and Communication Arts. He received his BA from City College and his Masters Degree in Journalism from Columbia University. Mr. Diaz then attended the CUNY Graduate Center, pursuing a doctorate in Political Science. Although he completed all of his coursework, he never finished his dissertation, choosing instead to enter a career in media. City College believes he deserves a belated honorary doctorate for his stellar career and dedication to both City College and the City of New York.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Ms. Desouza, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

In response to a question from Prof. Kaplowitz on whether honorary degree nominations are recommended by the appropriate faculty body:

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that it is certainly the practice of all the colleges to submit nominations to the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee.

Prof. Kaplowitz noted that she received an email prior to the meeting stating that the GSUC faculty had not considered these candidates. The faculty governance was doing an electronic vote and expected to approve them but did not know in time for the Committee on Academic Policy, Programs, and Research meeting.

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that these nominations are all supposed to go through governance. She added that electronic voting is unusual, and that different colleges have different procedures.

Prof. Kaplowitz stated that she just wanted to make sure that there is a protocol in place because there was a time when nominations did not go through faculty governance even though they were supposed to.

City College Interim Provost Mary Driscoll stated that the process at City College involves a committee of both faculty and administrators who do the initial vetting of the nominees. They are then recommended to the President, who then brings them as a matter of course to the Senate who also votes on them.

Director of Program Review, Articulation and Transfer Ekaterina Sukhanova stated that faculty governance is provided with an approval form but it does not always take the same shape because governance plans are different at each of the colleges. She added that the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) has not been informed of an electronic vote at GSUC in this case.
EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that she wants to apologize for these three late-breaking nominations. Obviously, OAA appreciates the prominence of these individuals, and in the case of very prominent people, it is sometimes difficult to work with their schedules and those processes are out of sync with Board schedules. She added that OAA does indeed no longer support walk-on items. This is unusual and the entire matter of Honorary Degrees is challenging because there are times when OAA simply does not have confirmation even though negotiations are underway so OAA will work on this process together with the Board. EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that she also wants to thank Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Secretary of the Board Gayle Horwitz.

10. The City University of New York – Approval of Start-Up New York Initiatives at Medgar Evers and York Colleges. EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that Medgar Evers College has four proposals to participate in the Start-Up New York initiatives. This program authorizes the creation of tax-free zones on eligible university campuses in New York State for new and expanding businesses. Under New York State law five CUNY campuses, which include Medgar Evers and York Colleges, have been designated by the Board to participate in Start-Up New York. CUNY campuses other than the five may apply to host tax-free zones in competition with other universities. Medgar Evers College has proposed four new companies: BlocPower, Derbywire, SelfiePay, and Tuki, to participate and these have each been authorized by the President of the Medgar Evers Council and the General Counsel to execute and submit all necessary documents to effectuate the participation of those four companies. The participation of the program shall be subject to all CUNY and New York State requirements. CUNY is delighted with Medgar Evers College’s entrepreneurship in attracting viable companies to this program. There is also a program, Pro Drones, through York College. In all cases, CUNY expects that faculty and students will benefit from these programs. She added that there will be student internship opportunities and faculty collaborative opportunities. In some cases, there will be curricular development and alignment. At times, these companies will also attract modest philanthropic support. In the case of York College’s program, a local employer will publish job opportunities with the College’s Career Services Office.

Associate Planner Meghan Mulgrew stated that each business goes through a committee at the college level that consists of faculty in the applicable areas of what the business' industry is. With approval from the college committee, it comes to a Central Office committee, consisting of a robust network of CUNY’s own entrepreneurial experts. As a result, all of these companies were approved by the Central Office committee, then approved by EVC&UP Rabinowitz and the college President.

EVC&UP Rabinowitz stated that the Office of Research, which includes commercialization entrepreneurship, is working with the Office of Facilities Planning, Construction and Management (OFPCM) to ensure that the programs have academic merit, and the University can accommodate the companies.

In response to a question from Committee Chair Chen on whether the five designated colleges have the same standard process:

Associate Planner Mulgrew stated that the process is standardized across the colleges.

In response to a question from EVC&UP Rabinowitz on what would the process look like if another CUNY college, excluding the five designated colleges, were to participate:

Associate Planner Mulgrew stated that the five designated colleges can contribute an unlimited amount of square footage into the program. Beyond that, any CUNY college
would have to compete as "a private college" for a maximum of 150,000 square feet of space per borough. They would develop a campus plan, very similar to the campus plans developed for the five approved colleges. Their campus plans would then be submitted to the Empire State Development (ESD) Corporation, which is the agency that administers this program, and their campus plan would be approved by the board of Start-Up New York. For the five designated colleges, their campus plans are approved directly by the Commissioner.

In response to a question from Trustee Shorter on whether job projections are cumulative or annual:

Associate Planner Mulgrew stated that the job projections are 5-year cumulative.

In response to another question from Trustee Shorter on whether Pro Drones would have a 5-year job projection of five people:

Associate Planner Mulgrew confirmed it did.

In response to a third question from Trustee Shorter on whether there is a website that the Trustees can access that would provide more background information on the businesses:

Associate Planner Mulgrew stated that there is not a website set up because some of the information is a bit sensitive but OFPCM will work on developing a process to make more information about the businesses available.

York College Dean of Arts and Sciences Donna Chirico stated that in New York State, there is a drone testing area between Rome and Syracuse. Pro Drones has been operating in that area with one of the SUNY colleges and now they want to bring that technology to CUNY. Basically they are trying to develop technology and patents to do photography work of surfaces with drones being sent out to map areas; so York College would be involved not only in the jobs, internships, and faculty work but with potential future patents.

Trustee Shorter stated that CUNY has been working with Start-Up New York since its inception and each of these businesses have a significant impact on outcomes with regard to the colleges, so it behooves the Trustees to know what these businesses are.

In response to a fourth question from Trustee Shorter on whether there is a monitoring process in place:

Associate Planner Mulgrew stated that CUNY had its first business officially approved earlier this year. So OFPCM actually has not had a very long track record in terms of working with approved businesses. The next steps, now that CUNY is getting a critical mass of businesses—OFPCM has two approved, two with ESD for approval, and now these five going to the Board for approval—is to come up with a mechanism by which to check that they are meeting the goals. OFPCM does require that all the reporting that is required to be submitted to the State on job creation, is also being submitted to both the college and Central Office, to ensure that the academic benefits are being met.

Medgar Evers College (MEC) Chief Operating Officer/Senior Vice President Jerald Posman stated that the MEC faculty has been heavily involved with the administration in terms of approving the programs. The reason the Start-Up New York initiative worked at MEC was because of its collaboration with the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The College, itself,
could not have done any of this with the Brooklyn Navy Yard because once a lease is signed, as per what Trustee Shorter said, fifty percent is a high number for success and these entrepreneur firms’ rates are much less. He added that the Brooklyn Navy Yard devoted 18,000 square feet of its space to MEC’s programs, which now number five to eight programs. One of the things that the faculty and the administration have requested is a reporting back to them. MEC will then report to the Central administration on the internships and collaborations.

Trustee Shorter stated that this information is very helpful and encouraging. He added that he would also like to encourage that the reporting process include not just the successes or failures with job creation but how the business itself is doing. A monitoring process for a program like this is critical to all concerned.

In response to a question from Committee Chair Chen to York College Dean of Arts and Sciences Chirico on who has the ownership of the patent:

York College Arts and Sciences Dean Chirico stated that this was the one sticking point that almost stopped York College from working with Pro Drones because CUNY has a policy about intellectual ownership and scholarship, and if they are done together it would be joint ownership because after all CUNY will be using their facilities and materials, but it will be a CUNY faculty/student recognition, if that is how it turns out. This is why the businesses are interested in being involved with the colleges. They are looking for individuals who are being innovative on the technology front. She added that both of the organizations that York College has already dealt with, had successes in Start-Up New York with other enterprises in the SUNY system.

In response to a question from Ms. Desouza on what are the academic benefits of this initiative:

MEC Chief Operating Officer/Senior Vice President Posman stated that at MEC, there are three to four academic benefits to having Start-Up New York initiatives. The three basic ones are one, internships that lead to jobs. The second is faculty collaboration because without it, these programs could not work. It might be a research collaboration where they do a paper, or consultancies that take place on both ends. Lastly, it is an infusion into the curriculum. If one goes to a place like the Brooklyn Navy Yard, there is something taking place out there that the students have to be aware of in the 21st Century workplace. The best thing for MEC would have been to place an office in the Brooklyn Navy Yard but the College is requiring that each one of these companies have a presence on campus, in terms of dealing with students and faculty. It might mean a lecture series, tutorials for students, or a certificate program.

York College Arts and Sciences Dean Chirico stated that York College houses the CUNY Aviation Institute, so for it not to get involved with the latest technology in drones would be like AT&T saying they are not going to adopt smartphones. This is cutting edge; it is popping up all over the place. It is taking the place of standard flight technology. She added that it is critical that the Aviation Institute students become aware of what drones are, how they work, and how they can contribute to the future of this industry.

In response to another question from Ms. Desouza about the process:

York College Arts and Sciences Dean Chirico stated that these are internships so they would have regular weekly meetings, just as is the case now for interns in the chemistry or biology labs. Students and faculty would be going to the site to work in both facilities at
York College, working together, being advised, and being mentored and guided. This is a regular faculty type relationship. This is why faculty have to be involved as well as students so there is a pipeline working towards an end result.

Associate Planner Mulgrew stated that in the contracts that CUNY has with these companies, OFPCM has specific requirements and they take many forms. For example, CUNY has one company that for over the term of ten years, every semester will come in and do a hardware demonstration in the appropriate class. OFPCM has relationships where the business is required to work with faculty for a minimum number of hours to develop either a course or a specific class in an applicable area. There have been situations where OFPCM has asked companies to develop their own continuing education class that CUNY could offer to the community. The way that the University has infused this into the curricula happens in many different ways, but the most important piece is that CUNY has specifics in a contract to ensure that the University is getting the full benefits that were promised in the beginning.

MEC Chief Operating Officer/Senior Vice President Posman stated that four of MEC’s eight companies have graduated from the NYU Incubator Lab. He added that MEC did its reference checking in terms of, as York College Arts and Sciences Dean Chirico said, if you are not going to come to this campus and you are not going to deal with faculty, it is not going to work. The company can get tax benefits but they have to be able to get involved with the faculty.

Trustee Linares-Garcia stated that she is really excited that CUNY is getting involved with Start-Up New York, and applauds all the hard work that has been done. There is no way that CUNY should not be getting a benefit and finding a way to make this connection. The cost of business in general is really high for people, so to have a startup and to have this type of support is really going to enable success, bringing synergies of what the school can bring as well as the entrepreneurs to the school.

Committee Chair Chen stated that this is truly a good public/private partnership.

Moved by Prof. Kaplowitz and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, the item was approved for submission to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.