The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Una S. T-Clarke at 3:09 p.m.

The following people were present:

**Committee Members:**
- Hon. Una S. T-Clarke, Chair
- Hon. Ken Sunshine, Vice Chair
- Hon. Rita DiMartino
- Hon. Mayra Linares-Garcia
- Prof. Emily Tai, faculty member
- Prof. Hugo Fernandez, faculty alternate
- Mr. Donavan Borington, student member
- Mr. John Aderounmu, student alternate
- President Scott Evenbeck, COP Liaison

**University Staff:**
- Interim Vice Chancellor Christopher Rosa
- Associate General Counsel Abby Jennis
- Associate General Counsel Joan Margiotta

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

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

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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 JANUARY 9, 2017.** The minutes were approved as submitted upon motion made by Trustee Rita DiMartino and seconded by Committee Vice Chair Ken Sunshine.

B. **POLICY CALENDAR**

1. **Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy – Establishment of a College Association and Student Activity Fee.** Interim Vice Chancellor (IVC) Chris Rosa stated that the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy is proposing the establishment of a college association and a student activity fee. The fee is established for $41.45 each semester. The vote was 44 in favor, 14 opposed, with a 11.6 percent voter participation rate. This resolution also establishes a College Association at the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy.

   Doctoral student Katrina Mateo and masters student William Robinson both provided a brief statement about the importance and relevance of the fees to co-curricular programming at the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy.
In response to questions from Prof. Emily Tai on a) whether there is an advisory role for the faculty on this college association, and b) how would these faculty members be selected:

Associate Dean of Students Ashish Joshi stated that the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy has a faculty student council who are elected representatives who participate in the nomination process.

In response to another question from Prof. Tai on whether experiential learning will be supported beyond the college association:

Dean Ayman El-Mohandes stated that experiential learning forms part and parcel of the curriculum at the masters and doctoral level as indicated by the accreditation body, the Council for Education in Public Health, so a certain number of hours in field experience are part of the curriculum followed by a culminating experience where the incorporation of the skills gained during the entire curriculum as well as the field experience are incorporated into a final presentation.

Ms. Mateo added that as part of the student activity fee—through a survey that was administered to the school to gauge needs—one of the primary items was support to attend conferences. This is vital for graduate students—masters and doctoral—to showcase their work, knowing that they will have financial support to attend conferences, especially outside of the American Public Health Association (APHA) major conference. This new activity fee will support either registration for their conference or partially cover travel expenses. The college association will decide how to portion out the money that is collected.

Dean El-Mohandes noted that for clarification purposes, the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy supports any student that has authored a presentation at APHA. Last year, the School had twelve students—masters and doctoral—who presented at the national conference. He added that since the School's domain is very diverse, it was unable to support students at any of the other national conferences so the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy created a classification where it is responsible for APHA and if presentations are accepted elsewhere then the student activity fee will cover that as well.

Mr. Robinson noted that the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy would add to a much more robust experience, as well as networking opportunities, both for those who attend the conferences and then later become members of the alumni association so the School can grow and expand the networks.

In response to a question from Prof. Hugo Fernandez on what was used as the guiding principle to develop the sum:

Ms. Mateo stated that part of the research, before deciding on a dollar amount, was looking at student activity fees from other CUNY schools that are comparative in terms of graduate students and the size of the school. Also, part of the survey that was administered to the student body included an option to vote on different amounts. Based on the study, there was a very clear trend in terms of a lower number and a higher number, conditional on whether it would cover certain activities, so the School found a
happy medium to ensure that the student body was accepting of that. Furthermore, there was an internal vote within the School to vote on that amount.

Mr. Donovan Borington thanked Dean El-Mohandes for being very supportive throughout the process.

In response to a question from Mr. Borington on the selection process of the first officers who will run the association given that the election season has passed for students:

Ms. Mateo stated that the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy has been working in the last couple of weeks to ensure that there was an actual election that was held at the end of April, early May, which actually overlapped with finals and yet students ran for officer positions. Pending the approval, the School will start the groundwork this summer to figure out how the student activity fee will be portioned out, and how to process new clubs for the fall.

Moved by Trustee DiMartino and seconded by Prof. Emily Tai, and following discussion, this item was approved for submission to the Board.

2. New York City College of Technology – Student Activity Fee Increase. IVC Rosa stated that New York City College of Technology (NYCCT) proposes to increase the student activity fee to $5.50 for full-time students and $4.00 for part-time students. This increase will fund student government, clubs and student activities, and it represents the first increase since 1998. The vote was 420 students in favor and 258 students opposed, with 4.5 percent of NYCCT students voting.

President Russell Hotzler stated that this proposal is for a fairly modest increase given it is the first increase in nineteen years. It basically comes down to increased costs as the student government wants to maintain the ability of the clubs to provide appropriate events and activities for the student body.

In response to a question from Mr. Borington on whether he could be provided with a breakdown of what the new appropriations will go for each year:

President Hotzler stated that the $5.50 increase will be broken up into three categories: student government appropriations, clubs, and services provided to the students.

In response to another question from Mr. Borington on what are some of the reasons why the students did not turn out to support an increase or to vote in general, either opposed or in favor:

President Hotzler stated that the results are actually consistent with the average turnout that the college has seen every year for student elections. It is not particularly different from year to year. The college usually has about five percent of the students participating in the election process. Of course, this was done at the same time that they voted student officers.

Mr. Borington stated that given the turnout at the election, he would advise that if this resolution is approved that some type of communication be sent out to all the students to notify them of the changes in the student activity fee so that they are informed and have the ability to spread the word or contest their disagreement or agreement of the increase.
In response to a question from Prof. Fernandez to Mr. Borington on what on average is
the turnout for typical student elections:

Mr. Borington responded that it fluctuates but then when you look at the amount of
people that actually vote on said referendum, a four percent turnout of the total
population does not mean the whole four percent voted in favor, and that has usually
been the concern of the University Student Senate (USS) over the years. So it is
recommended that as long as every student at the campus knows about the change and
has the ability and the opportunity to voice their concerns it is acceptable. The USS
supports this increase as NYCCT followed the process. Now the next step is to let those
students who did not vote know that there will be a change.

President Hotzler noted that for clarification purposes, NYCCT has an active student
government who was very proactive in driving this initiative, recognizing that they needed
a little more support going forward.

Prof. Tai stated that looking at the various referenda that are part of this meeting and
viewing NYCCT’s low numbers, there are ways in which the faculty can support student
associations in eliciting greater levels of participation among students, particularly when
student activity fees go up. It is not a useful preparation for citizenship if the faculty is not
participating in those kinds of referendums.

IVC Rosa agreed with Prof. Tai’s great suggestion, and stated that the Central Office of
Student Affairs (OSA) is pleased to host the New Leadership Challenge this coming
Friday which is an opportunity for newly elected student leaders from across the
University to gather and do some developmental work at Brooklyn College. In terms of
framing the day, OSA will make it a point to emphasize Prof. Tai’s recommendation so
that the student leaders can be affirmed in that message.

Moved by Committee Chair Clarke and seconded by Trustee DiMartino, and following
discussion, this item was approved for submission to the Board.

3. John Jay College – Student Activity Fee Increase. IVC Rosa stated that this student
activity fee calls for a $30 increase for full-time undergraduate students, a $25 increase
for part-time undergraduate students, and a $20 increase for graduate students. The
increases propose to improve services across the board with several new earmarkings
designed to benefit students. The last increase at John Jay College was in 2013, and the
prior increase was twenty-five years before that. There was an eighteen percent voter
participation rate. The vote was 979 in favor and 942 opposed.

In response to a question from Mr. Borington as to the reasoning behind the new
allocation for the new areas of services:

Mr. Jahvar Duffus stated that students often have to work in addition to having to attend
classes so not many students stay on campus and actually engage in club activities or
participate in the other functions that the college has to offer, but that population is
increasing. Because of this increase, John Jay College is also requesting an increase for
the budget. The specific reason the referendum was to get a full-time nurse on campus.
Currently, the college has a part-time nurse, which does not work in case of
emergencies. John Jay College would also like to increase the accessibility for additional
programming. In addition, the LGBTQ unit would like to pay for a portion of the coordinator's salary.

In response to a follow-up question from Mr. Borington on whether a full-time nurse on campus or a coordinator for LGBTQ are essential for students at the college:

Mr. Roman Gressier stated that in many ways students are paying a lot of money to come to college, and they expect certain things as a result of that, for example, adequate access to internships and opportunities through career services as well as better access to academic advising. When this referendum was initiated, information gathering was one of the preliminary things done, to survey who needed money and where, so all of these earmarks were strictly created based on need as assessed by petitions.

Mr. Borington stated that therein lies one of CUNY’s most challenging issues in the University: that the student activity fee is now being used to pay for the daily needs of the students instead of it’s original propose - for students to have an experiential learning opportunity while they are attending a CUNY college. An exorbitant amount of $30 to fund a full-time nurse which the students need, to fund career services, and to fund academic departments so students have a quality education. He added that he is very concerned that this is the path that the University is going to follow as tuition rises.

In response to a question from Prof. Fernandez on what was the tenor of the election:

Mr. Gressier stated that the more informed students were about the services that they would receive from the increase, the more receptive they were. A lot of the votes against the proposal were based on lack of information or misinformation.

Prof. Fernandez stated that as per Mr. Borington’s statement, the Committee needs to look at the relationship between what is expected from the institution based on tuition payments compared to what the student activity fee pays for due to rising tuition and fees, as well as to discuss the Excelsior Scholarship which will only cover tuition. So there are a lot of concerns.

Mr. Borington noted that the previous increase to the student activity fee, again covered one of those essential costs that should have been covered within the college. Those drastic increases in the student activity fee, in addition to student tuition, is a lot. He added that he is concerned as a student representative in a contested election that there is no clear guidance as to the will of the students of John Jay College. In fact, as mentioned, those that voted against did not have the right information. Was that not the responsibility of those pushing the referendum to say, “Get the accurate information out so we can make a decision”? Mr. Borington stated that the USS commends and appreciates the work that has been done at John Jay College on behalf of the students. In fact, as mentioned, those that voted against did not have the right information. Was that not the responsibility of those pushing the referendum to say, “Get the accurate information out so we can make a decision”? Mr. Borington stated that the USS commends and appreciates the work that has been done at John Jay College on behalf of the students. This statement is not to undermine the college’s process, it is to ensure that what is being done is in support of, and in the best interests of the students, so that as they continue to walk through the doors of CUNY they are not hindered in any way by the type of services or programs that the campus offers.

John Jay College Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Sachs stated that he has never seen a group of students in his twenty-five years of service in higher education that pushed the information out in such a variety of different ways to provide the facts. The areas that are earmarked on this resolution represent ones that the
students clearly said was needed—that are essential to the growth of a diverse and active student population. These services will provide a very well-rounded experience for John Jay College students as well as allow them to succeed and to move on to other careers. This is a high number, and in many other institutions these are services that would be provided out of the general budget, but these are services that John Jay College students desperately need.

Prof. Fernandez noted that John Jay College is proposing to almost triple the student activity fee in the span of four years.

Mr. John Aderounmu stated that other senior colleges presented a similar referendum but they only increased their fee by nearly less than half of what this referendum is proposing.

Mr. Borington added that these issues were brought up in a couple of the USS forums that there is some need at John Jay College but he does not know if making it come from the student activity fee is the route to go.

Mr. Duffus stated that he does not think it comes down to the numbers, but rather the importance that the students get what they desire out of John Jay College.

Mr. Gressier added that John Jay College has been a senior college since the 1960s and still does not have a full-time nurse. Students need to be provided with the basic needs to have an enriching academic experience.

Mr. Borington stated that he agree with the basic needs the college should be providing but would like to disagree with its direction. As the student representative on this Committee and throughout this University he is committed to making sure that John Jay College has its essential needs, whether it comes from the state, city, federal government, or the Central Office. But again, the first thing the USS thinks about is access, and sometimes raising the fee can close the door to students who do not receive financial aid.

Mr. Aderounmu stated that looking at the numbers, 979 to 942, it shows that most of the students probably did not even know what they were voting for although the college pushed out the numbers and the facts.

Moved by Committee Chair Clarke and seconded by Trustee DiMartino, and following discussion, this item was approved for submission to the Board. Mr. Donavan Borington abstained.

4. Hunter College – Re-earmarking of Undergraduate Student Activity Fee. IVC Rosa stated that Hunter College is proposing no change in total fees but due to changes in their allocating bodies, the re-earmarking requires Board approval. There was a ten percent voter participation in terms of this resolution, 936 students voted in favor, 692 students opposed.

Hunter College Vice President for Student Affairs Eija Ayravainen stated that this proposal only requests changes in Hunter College’s earmarks that were initiated by Student Government President Matthew LoCastro. The college has not changed its
earmark in the last 20-30 years. As a result, this particular student government decided that they needed to take a fresh look at what has been earmarked in the past because the college has a new and population with different needs. Consequently, Hunter College has not changed the overall fee but has changed how the money is being distributed.

In response to a question from Mr. Bortington on how is the revenue used for the renovation of student space:

Hunter College Vice President for Student Affairs Ayravainen stated that the college has a building called Thomas Hunter Hall which is the original elementary and high school building, and every once in a while clubs need to have some renovations in the current space. They are all minor interior changes and for the past seventeen years President Jennifer Raab has generally paid for half of the renovations and the student government has kicked in the other half.

In response to a question from Mr. Bortington on whether the college has considered offering opportunities to students, who do not have access to childcare services at their campus because of overpopulation, the ability to access childcare services at Hunter College since the number of students who are parents has dwindled down:

Vice President Ayravainen stated that she is not sure if the federal funding that the college receives would give approval for that; however, Hunter College does have space in its childcare center for any of its students who do have children who are toilet trained.

IVC Rosa added that CUNY’s protocol states that students get first priority to childcare services at their home campus, then it is offered where there are waiting lists on other campuses, and at that point a campus has the option of extending the opportunity for faculty/staff childcare at prevailing market rates.

Mr. Bortington stated that before Hunter College divests in the program for childcare services they need to see if there is an opportunity to offer childcare services to sister colleges (Baruch College, John Jay College, Guttman Community College, BMCC, and City College) that are in the vicinity of Hunter College.

Committee Chair Clarke agreed that before returning the unspent federal money, Hunter College should conduct an outreach to the sister institutions.

IVC Rosa stated that he would like to echo Vice President Ayravainen’s comments that OSA is finding a dynamic that childcare centers are facing, where community options are expanding, and that is the marketplace for childcare services, particularly in Manhattan, where there are more options now. There is still a lot of unmet need, but there are other completion options, and OSA is considering them.

Vice President Ayravainen added that Hunter College now has pre-K classes but would like to note that some of the children that were going to childcare at the college, have chosen to go to pre-K classes in their own neighborhoods as it is more convenient for the parent.

Moved by Trustee DiMartino and seconded by Trustee Mayra Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, this item was approved for submission to the Board.
5. **York College – Student Activity Fee Increase.** IVC Rosa stated that York College is proposing an increase of $5 in the student activity fee for full-time and part-time students and summer activity fees. The last fee increase was in 2010, and the current vote was a close one, 89 in favor and 87 opposed, with a 2.6 percent voter participation rate. The referendum also received strong support from President Marcia Keizs.

President Keizs added that York College had the necessary petitions and an election that was certified by the Student Representative Council (SRC).

In response to a question from Mr. Borington on how many students voted in the general election:

Vice President for Student Development Vincent Banrey stated that 176 students voted in total for the election and the referendum, out of 6,700 matriculated students.

In response to a question from Committee Chair Clarke on whether notice went out ahead of time:

Vice President for Student Development Banrey stated that the notice went out beforehand and this particular election was uncontested so there were not a lot of students running; and the other factor was that the election was held right after spring break with students coming back that particular week. York College is looking into improving this by having the elections done prior to the spring break in the future.

York College student Rachelle Antoine added that with the help of student government, the members spoke to the student body about the referendum.

Mr. Borington stated that as mentioned with John Jay College, this is a pattern and it really concerns the USS that the colleges are reaching the ten percent threshold for petitions, meaning that the student body is willing to entertain the conversation but yet they will not come back out to take an action. There is no consensus.

In response to a question from Mr. Borington on whether this referendum is the will of the students:

President Keizs stated that this referendum was the will of those who voted; however, a majority of two is not a significant majority.

York College students Rachelle Antoine and Jerome Barrett both provided a brief statement on the importance of the needed student activity fee increase.

Mr. Borington added that what makes it easier to support, as opposed to John Jay College, is that it is a $5 increase, whereas John Jay College's was a $30 increase. He added that if he were to support this he would urge the elected student representatives at York College to recommunicate with all the students the change that is about to occur because they have the right to voice their concerns.

Trustee Linares-Garcia stated that this is reflective of how the election world works where unfortunately the majority of voters do not partake in the process. It is not just in schools but in the United States. It is unfortunate that there is not more student involvement at the schools. The lesson is that everyone needs to vote in order to have their voices heard.
Prof. Fernandez stated that in the future, the Committee needs to consider its minimum expectation and participation on the part of students voting, particularly when it comes to the Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

Committee Vice Chair Ken Sunshine stated that it is a rally cry for the activists, particularly talking to the students in all the campuses. There is no excuse not to vote. Everyone should be in the habit of voting.

Moved by Prof. Tai and seconded by Trustee DiMartino, and following discussion, this item was approved for submission to the Board.

6. School of Professional Studies – Establishment of a College Association. IVC Rosa stated that this proposal requests approval for the establishment of a college association for the School of Professional Studies (SPS). In June 2016, the Board established a student activity fee of $25 for SPS, and the college association would be the entity that would administer those fees.

SPS students Shakima Williams-Jones and Yvette Humphreys both provided a brief statement on what successes they envision for SPS through the college association.

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

7. The City University of New York – Increase in Payment of Stipends to Student Leaders. IVC Rosa stated that the Board policy that establishes the authority to issue stipends to student leaders requires that the maximum award of stipends be reviewed every two years and changes considered tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The last time that the ceiling came up for review was in 2015, and at that time there was a 0.7 percent increase in the CPI. In addition, the University at that time decided to take no action and to leave the maximum award levels as they were because it would have resulted in a negligible increase in the student stipend. Two years later, the University is asking the Committee to consider the relationship between the maximum award and CPI. There is a 3.7 percent increase in the CPI, between 2013 and 2017. In terms of the range of existing maximum stipends which are determined, the stipend levels are set at each campus, ranging from $183 for the year on the low end to $398 on the high end depending on the student leadership position. No campus is required to hit the ceiling. Any increases would require a vote on the local campus. This would increase the ceiling—the maximum stipend award that campuses could raise the student stipend for. This proposal was discussed at the monthly Chief Student Affairs Officer’s meeting where there was a very robust conversation and the Vice Presidents of Student Affairs supported the increase to the maximum award level. There was also a discussion at the USS Plenary Meeting in May and the USS also supported the increase. IVC Rosa added that he would again like to remind the Board that it is up to the individual campuses to set their stipend levels for elected leaders and none of them currently have hit the cap.

Moved by Trustee DiMartino and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia, and following discussion, this item was approved for submission to the Board.
II. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Brooklyn College – Graduate Student Activity Fee Referendum

IVC Rosa stated that this referendum would have involved a $1 increase in the graduate student activity fee to earmark funds for the Veteran Student Organization which is a very dynamic and robust organization at Brooklyn College. However, since only one percent of the graduate students voted and only 0.6 percent of all graduate students supported this increase, the referendum is not being supported by President Michelle Anderson. The college believes that other funds can support this very worthwhile organization and they intend to do that.

Brooklyn College Vice President of Student Affairs Ronald Jackson stated that last year Brooklyn College presented a referendum for the Veteran Student Organization (VSO) that did pass through the undergraduate students. The veterans actually have not even had a full year right now with their current referendum so the concern was that they really have not demonstrated if they actually need the additional money. Consequently, they started this past spring with half of the referendum. This upcoming year there will be a complete referendum and they will still have the opportunity to go to the graduate student organization to request grant funds as well. As a result, Brooklyn College advised VSO to use the year to gauge the monies that they currently have to determine if they actually do need additional funds, and if they decide to go with the referendum again they are going to have to get out there and push the graduate students to vote on it.

B. Report of Interim Vice Chancellor Christopher Rosa

IVC Rosa stated that on April 7th, more than 120 CUNY staff, faculty and administrators who helped to execute orientation or transition programs at CUNY campuses gathered at City College for the inaugural CUNY Orientation Institute. This day long program focused on the identification of best practices in new student orientation that have an impact on retention, academic momentum, student success, and campus community-building. Particular emphasis was placed upon the role of new student orientation and facilitating the seamless transition of transfer students—an underappreciated and under-attended group of CUNY students.

On April 28th, more than 100 faculty and academic advisors who are leaders in CUNY experiential learning gathered at Guttman Community College for the 2nd Annual Experiential Learning Conference. Among the themes for this year's conference were the implications of experiential learning as a priority within CUNY’s Strategic Framework and the role that academic advisement can play in linking students to experiential learning opportunities that build upon what they are learning in the classroom, and help to prepare them for the world of work. A very special thanks to President Scott Evenbeck for his staunch support in creating this opportunity and Laura Gambino, from his team, who was a stalwart in pulling this together. Thanks as well as to the rest of President Evenbeck’s remarkable team at Guttman Community College who helped the OSA team to build CUNY's capacity around experiential learning.

On Friday May 12th, the 24th annual Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Leadership Awards was held at The City College of New York. This ceremony is a CUNY tradition that recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in both academic and co-curricular activities. This year, in addition to honoring two Vice Chancellor Award recipients
selected by the Chief Student Affairs Officers from each campus, OSA also recognized students who have excelled within childcare, resident life, and women center communities; they received the Child Care Student Success Award, the Resident Assistant Leadership Award, and the Students in Service to Women Leadership Award.

On May 2nd, CUNY BMI held its 2nd Annual Spring Benefit fundraising event at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Hosted by “America’s Psychologist” and radio personality Dr. Jeffrey Gardere, and honoring Assemblymember Michael Blake, President Jeremy Travis, and BMI's corporate partners at Citibank, the Spring Benefit was a complete sellout, and exceeded its fundraising goal by earning more than $50,000 in support of key BMI student programs.

On May 18th, CUNYAC hosted the 31st Annual Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athletes Awards Dinner at Queens College. The gala ceremony inducted 138 scholar-athletes into the CUNYAC Honor Roll and celebrated 41 CUNY student athletes who were named Division III All Americans. Steven Cadogan of Kingsborough Community College, Lindsey Pero of Hunter College, Carmen Cavijo of Queensborough Community College, and Timothy Sweeney of the College of Staten Island were celebrated as CUNY Scholar Athletes of the Year. For the all-sport excellence of their athletic programs, Queensborough Community College and Hunter College were awarded the Commissioner’s Cup. Finally, Queens College graduating senior Madison Rowland became the first player in Women's College Basketball history—in any Division—to record more than 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds, 500 steals, and 400 assists. Rowland led the Queens College women to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Division II College Basketball Tournament. Furthermore, Kingsborough Community College's Men's and Women's Track and Field teams were crowned NJCAA 2017 National Champions. Clearly, it was a banner year for CUNY athletics.

On May 1st, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services had awarded grants to five CUNY colleges to support the development of campus community coalitions and foster community partnerships to help strengthen local prevention efforts, specifically focusing on students from ages 18 to 24. Baruch, City, John Jay, and Lehman Colleges, and the College of Staten Island each were awarded up to $125,000 annually for five years in support of these programs. These campus-based projects support Governor Cuomo's goal of promoting strategies that prevent underage drinking and equip students and their families with essential knowledge, while continuing to make state and city campuses safer as well as their surrounding communities.

In April, OSA was thrilled to learn that the FAR Fund for Autism Research had awarded CUNY an unprecedented 6th year of funding, at $100,000, to support model projects at six CUNY colleges that support the success of CUNY students on the autism spectrum. Students on the spectrum are, far and away, CUNY’s fastest growing student disability population, and this six-year investment by the FAR Fund has enabled CUNY to build its capacity to meet the multi-dimensional needs of neuro-diverse students at the University.

In May, OSA received an MOU from New York State Education Department Executive Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth Berlin proposing a 5-year, $4.9 million agreement through which CUNY would provide “supported higher education services” to CUNY students with disabilities who are particularly at-risk of being left out of the workforce. Such students include students with learning disabilities and the burgeoning population of students on the autism spectrum. The source of the funding is from the federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). The State Education Department (SED) proposed this partnership
based upon its validation of the efficacy of the CUNY LEADS program (on career readiness for students with disabilities) and Project REACH (building campuses' capacity to serve neuro-diverse students). The CUNY Disability Services Team has worked for a year with SED on this agreement, to design a new contractual services category – “Supported Higher Education Services” - for which these WIOA funds could be drawn down in support of the success for CUNY students.

Finally, on May 22nd, the USS completed the academic year with a robust agenda at its monthly Plenary meeting at Guttman Community College. This meeting was significant in that it closed an academic year during which the USS achieved quorum at every single one of its meetings—Plenary and Steering Committees. When considering the demands placed upon the USS leaders—school, work, family responsibilities, and the responsibilities of shared governance—this is truly a remarkable achievement, and it speaks to the selfless devotion of the USS to representing the interests of CUNY's more than half a million students. It also speaks to the outstanding leadership of the USS Chair and Trustee Chika Onyejiukwa, her Vice Chairs, and her remarkable staff, including Mr. Borington. Thank you to University Coordinator of Student Activities Charmaine Worthy, Professors Hugo Fernandez and Emily Tai, and Public Safety Officer Freddie Torres for their staunch support of the USS throughout the year and to President Evenbeck for allowing the USS to call Guttman Community College home every second Sunday.

Committee Chair Clarke moved to go into Executive Session at 4:40 p.m. This motion was seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia.

CONVENING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Committee Chair Clarke called for an Executive Session pursuant to Section 105, Article 7, of the Public Officers Law, for the consideration of a student disciplinary appeal. The Committee met in Executive Session from 4:42 p.m. to 5:52 p.m.

Interim General Counsel and Vice Chancellor Jane Sovern indicated that she would communicate the committee’s decision on the disciplinary appeal as appropriate.

The committee adjourned at 5:52 p.m. as moved by Committee Chair Clarke and seconded by Trustee Linares-Garcia.