The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jill O’Donnell-Tormey at 3:00 p.m.

The following people were present:

**Committee Members:**  
Hon. Jill O’Donnell-Tormey, Chair  
Hon. Charles A. Shorter, Vice Chair  
Hon. Henry T. Berger  

**Faculty Member:**  
Prof. Martin Burke, faculty representative  

**Student Member:**  
Mr. Farbod Moghadam, student representative  

**COP Liaison:**  
President William J. Fritz  

**Trustee Observer:**  
Hon. Haris Khan  

**Trustee Staff:**  
Deputy Secretary Anne Fenton  
Assistant Secretary Towanda Lewis  

**University Staff:**  
Interim Chancellor Vita C. Rabinowitz  
Deputy General Counsel Jane Sovern  

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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 14, 2019.** Moved by Prof. Martin Burke and seconded by Trustee Henry Berger, the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

**B. POLICY CALENDAR**

1. **Queens College - BFA in Photography and Imaging.** Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz stated that advances in technology have revolutionized photography and imaging. There are growing employment opportunities for people with photo editing and researching, commercial, industrial and scientific photography, 2D and 3D imaging and digital archiving. Queens College has a thriving Art Department with more than 500 majors including several strong programs in art, art history and media, but currently only offers photography as a concentration. This BFA in Photography and Imaging will compliment arts education at Queens College, and provide graduates with excellent professional skills at one-third the price of similar programs at private schools in NYC. Most of the courses in this proposed program already exist as part of other degrees and only one new faculty member will be hired to launch the program in addition to possibly five adjunct faculty. In addition, Queens College has been awarded a $500,000 capital improvement grant from the Queens Borough President and the New York City Council to fund laboratory renovations and equipment to support an enhanced photography curriculum.

   A discussion about the proposal followed, including academic excellence fees, articulation agreement, transferability of credits, and faculty funding.

   Moved by Trustee Berger and seconded by Prof. Burke, and following discussion, the item was unanimously approved for submission to the Board.
2. **Queens College - Closing of the Department of Student Personnel.** Interim Chancellor Rabinowitz stated that at Queens College, as elsewhere at CUNY, student services historically provided in academic department staffed by faculty are now offered via administrative divisions, staffed by full-time professionals year-round. This allows for more robust services for students, and greater flexibility in service delivery. The prior academic department structure had been retained for administrative purposes, but now is being dissolved, because there is only a single faculty member still remaining in the department. The remaining faculty member is being transferred to the Department of Education and Community Programs via a resolution by the Committee on Faculty, Staff and Administration, in tandem with this resolution to close the department. She further reiterated that the services the department provided are now and will continue to be provided through the Division of Student Affairs in a more robust and diversified manner.

Moved by Trustee Berger and seconded by Committee Vice Chair Charles Shorter, and following discussion, the item was unanimously approved for submission to the Board.

3. **New York City College of Technology - AS in Health Science.** Interim Chancellor Rabinowitz stated that New York City College of Technology currently offers more than a third of all CUNY undergraduate technology degrees. Many of those degrees sit at the intersection of health and technology, one of the most robust sectors in New York City’s economy. Presently, the college does not offer a coordinated academic experience in which students can explore tech and health-related interests. This flexible associate’s degree will expose students to a wide range of career opportunities as both the licensed professions in the allied health care sector as well as the managerial and technical arenas of running health care organizations, including Biomedical Information, Applied Chemistry, and Technology Teacher Education. This degree will also prepare them for transfer to a senior college. An articulation agreement already exists with SPS, one of CUNY’s fastest growing colleges and one that is also at the nexus of health and tech careers. The College expects that this flexible program will improve the retention rates of students interested in health and other STEM-related disciplines.

President Russell Hotzler provided additional information about the AS program in Health Science.

A discussion about the proposed program followed, including the degree selection, expenses, and articulation agreements.

Prof. Martin Burke praised the program proposal.

Moved by Committee Vice Chair Shorter and seconded by Trustee Berger, and following discussion, the item was unanimously approved for submission to the Board.

4. **Hunter College - BA in Arabic.** Interim Chancellor Rabinowitz stated that Arabic had been identified by the US State Department as a critical language for study in the US because of its growing relevance to American foreign policy, national security and commerce. There is currently no Arabic major in NYC—not at CUNY, not at any private college. Hunter College proposes to build upon its strong Arabic program and existing faculty expertise to build NYC’s only Arabic major. The Arabic major will provide language fluency and cultural competency to heritage- and non-heritage-Arabic-speaking students alike, offering a wide range of opportunities for employment and graduate study. Hunter
College has received expressions of support for the major in Arabic from within and beyond the College, and has provided examples of employment opportunities in this area. The College has long had one of the strongest language programs at CUNY, and currently has the largest and most comprehensive Arabic program at CUNY. Thus, the proposed major is right for Hunter College and provides a unique opportunity for CUNY students.

Moved by Committee Vice Chair Shorter and seconded by Trustee Berger, and following discussion, the item was unanimously approved for submission to the Board.

5. CUNY Office of Academic Affairs - Approval of the Academic Board Report. Interim Chancellor Rabinowitz stated that items in this report consist primarily of actions required to be forwarded to the New York State Education Department for review, as well as additions to the University’s general education program and local academic policies.

Prof. Burke inquired about where to find the detail Academic Board Report (ABR) during the transitional period thus the new processes. Interim Chancellor Rabinowitz responded that changes in policy have slightly out-paced the creation of a supporting infrastructure for the new practices; however, going forward, the detail report will be posted on the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) website prior to each Committee on Academic Policy, Programs and Research meeting. She further noted that no changes will occur with respect to the governance approvals and/or general oversight.

Committee Chair O'Donnell-Tormey concluded by stating the new practices are all an aim to being more transparent.

Moved by Committee Vice Chair Shorter and seconded by Trustee Berger, and following discussion, the item was unanimously approved for submission to the Board.

Mr. Farbod Moghadam moved to adjourned the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Henry Berger and the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.