

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
BMCC-CUNY ACADEMIC SENATE
END OF YEAR REPORT 2019-2020

Chair: Ben Powell

Representative to the Executive Committee: Rebecca Smart

Secretary: Scott Tulloch

Membership: Orlando Justo, Ali Syed, Jason Danison

The admissions committee was charged with examining the new remediation policy implemented by CUNY and its impact on admissions and enrollment at BMCC.

Impact of Remediation Policy:

In early September Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Cruz forwarded a memo to all CUNY chief academic officers containing a policy brief with details for the implementation of a new CUNY-wide remediation policy effective Spring 2020. See attached. Needless to say the new policy caused an immense amount of change to existing remediation protocols at BMCC but the new policy also created a series of bureaucratic complications stemming from the implementation timeline CUNY was requesting. The admissions committee set forth to measure the impact on BMCC using a few methods.

Primarily, the committee spoke with representatives from the Office of Admissions and held an informal question and answer session. In December Rick Henson from Admissions met with our committee and we had a wide-ranging discussion on the immediate and future impact of the policy on BMCC students, staff, and faculty.

Main takeaways from meeting:

-As of December 1st the primary bottleneck for enrolling students into appropriate remedial classes was reprogramming class designations in Degree Works within the timeframe laid down by CUNY Central. 900 courses needed to be loaded into Degree Works. Academic Advisement were the only ones with the ability to do so and the turnaround to get ready for Spring registration was extremely fast.

-222 “triple proficient” students out of almost 2200 were able to register for Spring while the remaining 2000 who needed remediation had to wait for classes to be updated in Degree Works

-Admissions is relatively certain that the new remediation index is placing students correctly in the appropriate proficiency category and that because the index is measuring student need

differently more students are able to register needing little or no remediation which translates into more students getting through their coursework at BMCC faster.

-From Admissions perspective there are relatively few pain points at BMCC in getting students through the system and quickly registered for appropriate classes. CUNY recognizes that BMCC is ahead of the curve in terms of anticipating issues and alerting other colleges/CUNY Central.

-There are still issues with foreign transcripts and students graduating from high school without a diploma. These students are not able to be indexed properly and as of the meeting in December CUNY did not have a plan to fix the issue.

*****IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY*****

One of the most important groups of students that need to be analyzed are the students who were in remedial classes and are now being placed in full credit bearing classes to determine how successful the new remediation policy is.

Other Business:

In the spring the committee mostly dealt with the impact of the remediation policy on enrollment. There were a wide variety of factors impacting 5% enrollment decline for Spring 2020:

Significant admission/registration backlog as a result of implementation of CUNY Central's proficiency index.

1. Average enrollment time increased from 8 minutes to 25 minutes. Big increase in labor of admissions officers.
2. Algorithm glitches – proficiency index could not place students that had earned a GED without a GPA. This glitch left 300-500 students unable to complete the admissions process.

The campus internet delivery system failure also directly impacted enrollment for Spring 2020. The failure began on or around December 8. Most official correspondence for the students was not delivered, including messages related to admissions and registration. The extent this has directly impacted enrollment is unknown. Campus delivery system deemed to be fully functional at some point in February.

There were also lapses in remediation reports from CUNY Central used to place students into appropriate classes. Reports are now being issued on a weekly basis, up from every three weeks.

Admissions officers indicate weekly remediation reports are not frequent enough and further delay admissions.

Before the campus went to a distance learning model due to the COVID-19 outbreak the committee was in the process of drafting a statement to CUNY on the impact of the implementation of the new remediation policy on BMCC in conjunction with other CUNY community colleges but that project was tabled as the scope of the COVID-19 crisis widened.

(submitted by Ben Powell May 2020)