



**President's Report
College Council**

November 25, 2020

Anthony E. Munroe, BMCC President

BMCC and COVID-19

Recently, the BMCC Campus Reopening Committee, Coronavirus Liaisons and Senior Administration have determined that in response to the growing, 3.9 percent rate of positive COVID-19 cases in New York City, a two-week pause will be placed on Stages 3 and 4 of the Reopening and Operations plan.

This will reduce the number of people requiring access to BMCC buildings by about 300 requests per day, and lessen the level of exposure to current occupants of those buildings.

These adjustments will not impact ongoing, on-site delivery of instruction, and urgent faculty requests for building access that is critical to the remote learning function will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

BMCC and COVID-19

At this point, Spring 2021 will be primarily virtual/online with limited, select in-person/hybrid courses.

Visit the **COVID Dashboard** for BMCC to learn about self-reported cases and data on services provided to the campus community.

Visit the Reimagining BMCC website (purple button on the BMCC Home Page) to learn more about updates and services.



Understanding Challenges Facing Students

BMCC students are consistently among the most economically disadvantaged in the country. More than 70% of our students come from families making \$30,000 or less per year which has led to the following results highlighted in the Hope Center's #RealCollege survey:

- **Approximately 50% were housing insecure**
- **Approximately 50% were food insecure**
- **Approximately 20% experienced homelessness**
- **Seventy percent experienced some combination of the three**



Understanding Challenges Facing Students

BMCC was awarded \$250,000 from the Petrie Foundation that will provide tuition waivers for the winter session. These class tuition waivers will help reduce student debt and accelerate their progress to graduation.

Addressing Students Financial Issues

While resources are limited, we have focused on reducing the financial burden to our students. In October, the College finished disbursing \$13.2 million dollars of CARES Act funding earmarked for direct financial support to students. Despite the CARES Act funding, however, many students still need additional help.



Addressing Students Financial Issues

Intense efforts are underway to assist the thousands of students with balances and financial holds. Many of these students are in good academic standing and are well on their way to graduation. We are going to release the holds for some students. For the remaining students we will continue to look at each student's financial situation and map out a plan that will allow them to continue.

Addressing Financial Holds is a Complex Problem

Addressing financial holds and helping our students get and stay enrolled are among our top priorities. While we are working to help as many students enroll as possible, we have to consider the following to ensure that we are not causing unintentional harm:

1. **Student balances must be submitted for collection after BMCC works for one year to get the balance paid**
2. **The higher the student balance, the more likely their balances will be submitted for collection**
3. **When a student ends up in collections, their credit scores are negatively impacted**
4. **A student cannot transfer to another CUNY college or obtain copies of documents if they maintain a balance**

Increasing the balance threshold for registration would enable more students to enroll, however, we are currently projecting a \$20Mil budget deficit and our revenue collections are lower than last year by \$12Mil which precludes us from simply forgiving outstanding balances.

Rapid Response Enrollment Management Task Force

The Rapid Response Enrollment Management Task Force continues to focus on how to assist students with the many challenges they are facing. Subcommittee members will present updates on their work.

Ensuring the Adequacy of Courses to Students

Co-chairs: Eda Henao, Vincent Cheng and Carei Thomas

Cabinet Sponsor: Erwin Wong

Members: Sangeeta Bishop, Allan Felix, Felecia Harrelson,
Joel Hernandez, Meghan Shukla, Zhanna Yablokova

Initiative 1: The College will pilot a 8-week late start session in spring 2021 term. The term will be scheduled to start the week of March 14th. Students will be able to enroll in up to 9 credits/hours in this term.

Initiative 2: Selected academic departments have been contacted to develop their course offerings for this 8-week term.

Evaluating the Appeals and Financial Aid Processes

Co-chairs: Mohammad K. Alam and Ben Powell

Cabinet Sponsor: Diane Walleser

Members: Jim Blake, Cynthia Wiseman, Julie Waldner,
Albina Khasidova, Andrew Smallwood

Initiative 1: Probation Revision Recommendations

Initiative 2: Dependent on revised/renewed Orientation/FYE

Enhancing Access and Student Experience

Co-chairs: Mahatapa Palit and Lisa Kasper

Cabinet Sponsor: Diane Walleser

Members: Allana Burke, Joe Ginese, Richard Henson, Tanoai Williams,
Roderick Shane Snipes, Saniye D. Gokcora

Initiative 1: Re-engage fall 2020 non-enrollers (new and continuing) for spring 2021. 2,000 new students from fall have agreed to defer to spring via our deferral campaign.

- 2,700 continuing students who did not enroll in Fall are being targeted to rejoin in Spring through an email campaign.

Initiative 2: Implement and reinforce mandatory GPS orientation as a prerequisite to academic advisement.

- Online GPS Orientation via Blackboard will familiarize our students with BMCC opportunities and policies, while also better preparing them for the advising process and emphasizing how to succeed in online learning (resilience, time management, organization skills, etc.).

Improving Communications to Faculty, Staff, and Students

Co-chairs: Michelle Ronda, Sanjay Ramdath and Ben Powell
Cabinet Sponsor: Marva Craig

Members: Sharlene Gomez, Rosslynn Pieters, Kathleen Brandt,
Jeremy Chin, Kinya Marshall, Niala Seetahal, Kenny Urraca

Initiative 1: Examining issues related to current communications via email especially to students

Initiative 2: Developing revised messages and approaches to messaging especially to students

Enabling Student Success

Co-chairs: Joel Barker and Sara Crosby

Cabinet Sponsors: Michael Hutmaker, Janice Zummo

Members: Allana Burke, Robin Isserles, Lalitha Jayant, Anita Tarnai, Kristin Bennet, Gia Blackwell, Leticia Dinkins, Luis Messon, Tiffany James

Initiative 1: Virtual classroom visits from Learning Resource Center tutor

- 26 faculty have signed up so far; 15 class visits will be complete by 11/25
- Faculty can sign up for a tutor visit here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3oly85a>

Initiative 2: INC workshops for students with Spring/Summer INC grades

- Ran two workshops as pilots on 11/18-19 with Learning Academy students
- Workshops be offered beyond BLA in December

Self-care and the Holidays

Thanksgiving week is upon us, in a year that has presented many unforeseen challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the uncovering of racial injustice and tense political shift of our country.

Though we may not be gathering with our loved ones, we can still give thanks to those who have helped us get through this unprecedented year.

- **Buildings and Grounds staff**
- **Public Safety**
- **Departmental chairs and faculty**
- **BMCC staff**
- **Alumni and donors**

Self-care and the Holidays

This time of year also means moving quickly towards our final academic push — projects, papers, exams and end-of-calendar-year tasks, which can cause stress and anxiety. Add the weight of the pandemic — isolation, illness, loss of jobs and income — and it becomes even **more important for us to look out for one another.**

The Resilience, Health and Wellness website was created to help you find resources on self-care (emotional, physical and financial). BMCC Community members (students, faculty and staff) can also find assistance through NYCWell, where you can talk, text and chat 24/7.

Visit: <https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us/en/>



Throughout this holiday season, remember that we are one institution, united in our diversity, our academic excellence, our outstanding community and our pride as **BMCC Panthers!**

Express your appreciation to those who have helped you — it's the small things that sometimes have the greatest impact.

