

BMCC Academic Senate Sub-Committee on Student Affairs
March 3, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Matthew Chan, Marva Craig, Erik Freas, Deborah Harte (guest), Christine Jacknick, Laurie Lomask, Maureen Matarese, Mohamed Sofaini

1. Minutes from February 3rd meeting were approved.
2. Welcome new member, M. Sofaini
 - a. New student representative – we will hear from Sarah Salm soon.
3. The committee reflected on the Staying Active in Online Classes panel held on 3/3.
4. L. Lomask presented revised language for resolution on preferred gender and pronoun affirming language for syllabi and website following her discussions with Odelia Levy. The committee discussed the use of legal language as a barrier to student understanding. L. Lomask will create a Google document with both versions to share with the committee, and committee members should add comments and/or make edits by Sunday.
5. NC/CR policy for Spring 2021: M. Matarese is contacting a colleague at Brooklyn College to share data on how student performance is impacted when they choose CR with a low grade (e.g., a D). We will draft a resolution at our next meeting, to have in reserve should CUNY allow a flexible grading policy for spring.
 - a. Summer 2020: The committee will draft a resolution at our next meeting to extend the flexible grading policy to Summer 2020.
6. D. Harte of the Advocacy and Resource Center visited to report on how we can support the work of ARC. She reported on tax preparation resources available to students and staff. She reminded us that any CUNY student can access food pantries at any CUNY campus. Hot meals are also being provided on Thursdays.
 - a. M. Matarese asked about turnaround time on student requests. The ARC staff try to get back to students within 24 hours; as an example, 100 requests were in the mailbox today.
 - b. C. Jacknick asked about emergency fund requests that come into ARC. Students who have received funds before and have reached a threshold of \$1,500 for Petri and \$600 for BMCC emergency funds. When new streams of funding come in, ARC will reevaluate student requests; however, this year thus far, funding streams have slowed down. They are now prioritizing students who have never received funding.
 - c. C. Jacknick asked how decisions are communicated to students. D. Harte reported that ARC staff call first, and then try to remind students of other outside resources. Students can reach back out to the office or to D. Harte directly to follow up on their requests if they have not heard back.
7. Ongoing:
 - a. Reviewing language sent to students when splitting class sections. C. Jacknick noted that the language does not cover situations when departments request students to move from one section to another to balance enrollment. M. Craig will follow up with the Registrar to draft language that reflects this other scenario.

- b. Swap-fees charged to bursar. L. Lomask reported that she spoke with Hugo Fernandez at LGCCC, UFS Executive Committee Liaison for Student Affairs, who will investigate further to determine where swap fees originated. We will determine a plan of action once we gather more information.
- c. Review of student services – we will discuss this more at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Jacknick

Resolution proposed to Academic Senate:

Whereas all CUNY students have the right to be referred to according to their designated name and/or personal pronouns according to New York City law as well as CUNY policy,

Be it resolved that a landing page explaining how to change gender and preferred name at BMCC be created by Public Affairs,

and be it also resolved that we add the following language to college syllabus templates:

BMCC students have the right to be referred to according to their designated name and/or personal pronouns and have the right to use the restroom of their choice according to their identification. For information on how to change your gender and preferred name at CUNY, go here: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/lgbtq/>