

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
BMCC-CUNY ACADEMIC SENATE
END OF YEAR REPORT 2020-2021

Chair: Ben Powell

Representative to the Executive Committee: Ben Powell

Secretary: Orlando Justo

Membership: Orlando Justo, Jason Danison, Glenn Valoy, Sharon Brickman, Manita Pavel, Cheryl Comeau-Kirschner

This year the Admissions Committee primarily took up issues related to student retention and enrollment as it relates to overall admission rates at BMCC. The chair of the Admissions Committee served as a representative on the president's Rapid Response Enrollment Committee (RREC) that was formed in early fall 2020 to tackle issues affecting enrollment and admissions at BMCC primarily due to Covid-19. Additionally the Admissions Committee raised questions related to the process of coming back to campus post-pandemic and remote learning to gain a better understanding of who was making the decisions and for what purpose.

Each Academic Senate meeting the chair of the Admissions Committee reported out the events/findings of the RREC to the greater body. Generally speaking enrollment, admissions, and retention were down across the board for the academic year 2020/2021. The decline started before the pandemic but was exacerbated by the shift to remote learning in Spring 2020. The RREC tackled the issue of low admission and retention through various subcommittees with responsibilities such as streamlining the admissions process for students, restructuring the probation and appeals process, and restructuring the communications system/structure for both students and faculty regarding admissions and advisement.

Finally the committee held multiple discussions centered on the role of the Admissions Committee in the Academic Senate at large and how best to engage admissions related issues at BMCC for the greater body. The Admissions Committee sits at a strange place in the Academic Senate at large as so much of its purview falls under administration-run business at BMCC but we feel that interrogating the role of the committee is an important pursuit for the senate at large particularly in light of current enrollment, retention, and admissions projections.

(submitted by Ben Powell, May 2021)

