

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

COLLEGE COUNCIL

Minutes

January 26th, 2022

Everyone attended except:

Fareedat Abubakar
Nana Wiafe Addae Owusu
Anthony Bishop
Arthur Cain
Ivanoba Castillo
Rayon Chan
Cheryl Christopher
Cheryl Comeau-Kirschner
Jason Danison
Yvonne Devers
Lisa Grace
Xinyu Ke
Cara Kronen
Deborah Lane
Liany Marcial Stronconi
Camerie Mazreku

Cathy Mbewe
Bianca Medina Maxil
Eugene Milman
Mahatapa Palit
Fred Peskoff
Benjamin Powell
Manny Romero
Lisa Rose
Janet Sarpong
Myat Theingi
Shauna-Kay Thomas
Emily Thomason
Anthony Watson
Don Wei
Igor Zaitsev
Janice Zummo

- I. President Munroe called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - A. The December 1st, 2021 College Council minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES
 - A. **The Campus life and Student Issues Committee**
The committee did not meet. They will continue to look into services that support student success.
 - B. **Technology Committee**
The committee did not meet.

Questions/Comments

- a. For Hi-Flex the committee met with the Instruction Committee and is currently collaborating with eLearning, CETLS, Instruction Committee and IRT.
- b. Are there computers with a camera for all faculty in offices? Yes, they are available. Request if needed.

B. Facilities and Security Committee

The committee discussed renovations to improve air distribution and classroom comfort. There are ongoing capital projects related to the replacement of the cooling tower on the main campus and the renovation of the library.

Questions/Comments

- a. The Harrison St entrance is available to those with mobility issues.
- b. Adjuncts only have two sick days. What is the protocol if they test positive? Human resources will answer.
- c. Are there medical grade masks for students? No. Only limited amounts of surgical masks are available.

C. Budget Committee

The committee has not met.

There are no major changes in our financial situation. A deficit of \$37-39 million dollars is projected. Enrollment reduction by 17% is the major factor contributing to the projected \$19 million shortfall of Tuitions revenue. Collection rates dropped by 2.5%, which is an equivalent of approximately \$4 million dollars. The college is expected to end the fiscal year with a positive balance due to the help of federal stimulus funds.

Per FTE funding from the State remains flat; there is a hope that New York City will reinstate the budget cuts to pre-pandemic level of funding, about \$67 million dollars, and continue to fund the collective bargaining. Overall, the financial situation remains very difficult. We need either more city funding or increased enrollment and improved retention.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report is provided below.

Questions/Comments

- a. Will there be a townhall on re-opening proceedings? It is being planned. We are waiting for more information. Presently the definition of fully vaccinated has not been updated. Boosters are not compulsory at this point.
- b. Why not keep distancing in classes? It is claimed that there are three feet between seats in our classes.

- c. Students that upload the vaccination records late will be charged late fees even if they were previously registered on-time? Yes.
- d. What happens to those that are asked to randomly test but already tested positive and are home? Is there an opt out? Yes, email HR or Health services.
- e. Will vaccines be made mandatory for staff? It is a labor management issue out of the College purview.
- f. Do we consider remote option in the beginning of the semester? No.
- g. Will office windows open? It is in the plans.
- h. Will faculty that tested positive be allowed to teach remotely if well enough? Currently the classes will be subbed. Exemptions will be considered case by case.
- i. How many students were academically dismissed from the college since the pandemic began? This is contributing to our enrollment crisis by dismissing students that were not ready to go online. No answer provided.
- j. Will the housing program rely on GPA? Are students part of the decision making? The criteria is not established. GPA will likely not be exclusive, but other criteria to encourage responsibility are being considered.
- k. The AcMo committee; is there any other way to get on it other than through the Chairs? It will be taken into consideration.
- l. The number of dismissals is available through the Registrar.
- m. Forty-two students in a class is not good for retention. It will be looked into.

V. President Munroe adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm.



President's Report College Council

January 26, 2022

Anthony E. Munroe
BMCC President

Enrollment Update

- **Spring 2022:** 14,458 [-11.3% from prior year] (with dropped students excluded) Seats offered: 63,191 - Total seats filled: 43,153
- **CUNY in The Heights:** 432 students - 34 sections - Seats offered: 955 - Seats filled: 450
- **Spring Express sessions:** 7W1: 273; 8W2: 367
- **Upcoming dates for vaccination upload for express sessions:** 7W1: January 28; 8W2: March 18

Campus Reopening Steering Committee – Update No. 11

The Committee met on January 18 to review ongoing operations and latest University Reopening Guidelines (Dated 1-10-22), that will inform the necessary updates to our Spring 2022 Plan.

Current Operations

- **Omicron Surge:** Dramatic increase in number of reported positive cases (See CUNY COVID-19 Safety Tracker).
- **Staffing Shortages:** Essential Team members (Public Safety and B&G) working extra hours to provide adequate coverage and avoid disruption to operations and services.
- **Vaccines and Booster:** Continuing to promote and facilitate access to both, working closely with NYC DOH.

Facility Upgrades

- ✓ Over 30,000 sqft of renovated instructional space to improve air distribution, lighting, technology and overall classroom comfort (Mostly at MC).
- ✓ 600 in-room UVC units installed in classrooms and other instructional spaces, with 300 more to go in areas of high occupancy and prolonged interaction.
- ✓ Continue to exceed current CDC and ASHRAE recommendations in regards to air filtration in all building HVAC systems (MERV 14 and 16). In addition to ongoing installation of UV lights in the Air Handling Units, to augment air disinfection and improve overall system performance.

Visit the Reimagining BMCC website for latest COVID updates and other valuable resources.



Spring 2022 Plan

- **Vaccinations and Boosters:** Students and Faculty will be required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 for any on-campus activity, including instruction. We await further info on the terms and timing of the faculty vaccine mandate.
- **Face Coverings:** NYS Universal indoor mask mandate will continue to be enforced on our campus.
- **Physical Distancing:** Will not be a required safety measure for classrooms and educational settings.
- **Isolation and Quarantine:** Aligning with latest CDC Guidelines and reducing the number of days required.
- **Contact Tracing:** BMCC will continue to aid and cooperate with NYS and City Health departments with contact tracing efforts, while maintaining confidentiality.
- **Testing:** CUNY has expanded testing accessibility to all CUNY community members and increased the random testing pool (20%). Weekly testing will continue for those unvaccinated or with exemption on vaccine mandate. Rapid tests will also be available on a limited basis.

Vaccination Deadlines

Vaccines are required for all students taking in-person and hybrid courses. Any enrolled student who has not uploaded proof of vaccination documents to CUNYfirst by **Jan. 18** were de-registered from those courses.

Drops due to lack of vaccination for Spring 2022 term: **833**

NOTE: If students subsequently upload proof, they may register for courses up to the end of the add/drop period on **Feb. 3**.

Instructions for Uploading COVID-19 Booster Verification

BMCC students, faculty and staff can now upload their verification for the COVID-19 booster on CUNYfirst. Steps are available in the **Reimagining BMCC website**.

In-Person Work

Starting on **Monday, February 28**, staff members will work **70%** of the time in person. Please start to make any needed preparations to be ready for this transition. *Let's bring back the vibrancy of BMCC!*

At BMCC we continue to remind and encourage everyone to **get vaccinated, get the booster and wear a mask** (preferably, a multi-layer, well-fitting mask with no gaps, that is comfortable, and that covers your nose and mouth) *properly*.

1. Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face. Gaps can let air with respiratory droplets leak in and out around the edges of the mask.
2. Use a mask with layers to keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out.
3. *Mandating masks—it's EVERYONE'S responsibility to keep our community in check!*

Mental Health

As we continue to monitor and navigate through this pandemic, remember to stay healthy by practicing positive self-care. BMCC students, faculty and staff can find a variety of resources and helpful information on the **Resilience, Health and Wellness website**.

Let's support each other in staying physically and mentally healthy!

Announcements

Trinity Wall Street Philanthropies, the Lower Manhattan parish that financially supports nonprofits and churches in New York City and around the world, is now funding an urgent need in its neighborhood: student housing. The church announced in December that it is granting **\$2 million** to provide housing for homeless and housing insecure students enrolled at BMCC.

AcMo 2.0 builds on the University's initiatives implemented in **AcMo 1.0**: accelerating student degree completion through co-requisite courses, completion of gateway courses and 30 credits by freshmen in their first academic year, reduction of D, F, W and INC grades, development and implementation of Degree Maps, etc. The main focus of AcMo 2.0 will be on academic advisement, transfer and completion of degree at both the associate and baccalaureate levels with each college having aspirational targets. **BMCC will be forming a core team of administrators, faculty and staff to oversee this initiative.**

THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?