

2024 BMCC STUDENT ELECTIONS VOTER GUIDE

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Osairoh Eghiyo-Esere

Slate Empathia



My name is Osairoh Eghiyo-Esere, and I am a data science student currently serving as a Senator in the Student Government Association (SGA). It is with great privilege that I announce my candidacy for president of the Student Government Association (SGA) for the 2024-2025 academic session.

The journalist, Roger Ebert, once said, "I believe empathy is the most essential quality of civilization." I sincerely believe every student here at BMCC deserves to be represented and have something here for them in and outside the classroom, regardless of their race, sex, major, age, or physical ability. How can we accomplish this? Empathy. My tenure as president of the student government association is to be deeply rooted in Empathy and inclusion, as without those, we can accomplish nothing. I will briefly discuss some of my primary objectives. I intend to enhance the first-year experience at BMCC as this is crucial to how far a student ultimately goes. I plan to work closely with campus administrators to expand orientation programs, ensuring that new students receive detailed information about campus resources and services. Additionally, I aim to establish mentorship programs, pairing first-year students with experienced peers who can provide guidance and support throughout their transition to college life. By promoting a welcoming and inclusive campus environment, we will empower first-year students to thrive academically and socially from their very first day at BMCC.

I also plan to ensure our school's gym, library, and other vital resources are available for evening students by extending their operating hours. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by our evening students, I will work closely with the administration to adjust schedules, ensuring all students have equal access to these facilities as we all pay the same fees. This initiative aims to create a more inclusive, supportive learning environment for everyone, regardless of their schedules.

Now, regarding club operations. I intend for the club formation process to be easy but thorough. This will lead to more clubs, which will give students more activities to choose from and, in turn, ensure that no student is left out during campus extracurricular activities.

Now that the clubs have been formed, what's next? It's time to distribute funds. My vision for funds distribution is to implement a more balanced system that considers club size, range of impact, and demonstrated need. This will ensure that all clubs have the resources they need to thrive, and every club will be included in this vision.

Lastly, every BMCC student deserves to know how funds are allocated to their activities. My approach to managing the SGA budget will be rooted in transparency, accountability, and strategic investments in initiatives, events, and programs that directly benefit the students of BMCC.

In conclusion, effective representation requires constant communication with the student body and total inclusion, irrespective of who they are. I plan to increase SGA's presence on social media, host regular town hall meetings, and establish a clear, open line of communication through which students can express their concerns, ideas, and aspirations, which is essential in shaping our collective future.

I ask for your support and your vote to be in a position to create not just a community but a family where we make sure everyone's voice is heard and everyone's needs are catered for. Together, we can make BMCC home to all, irrespective of their sex, race, age, and physical ability. Remember, empathy is understanding that no person's needs are too small that they should be ignored, as it might just be a significant paragraph in their story.

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CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Jerome Gayman

Independent Candidate



My name is Jerome Gayman and I am a freshman majoring in Video Arts and Technology. I am running for BMCC Student President, I have over 15 years of experience in leadership positions. I feel student government is collaborative with no one person being more important than anyone, and my goal is to have a working relationship with faculty to tackle some of what I observe to be the biggest issues at school. #1 College tuition, I will work diligently with the administration to come up with real solutions to finding out how to achieve free tuition for Students attending BMCC. In order to be eligible for the career of your dreams you need proper training, and if we remove the component of paying for school we can help bolster BMCC's Student body.

From my experiences, one of the main reason people drop out are due to financial reason. So if we can combat the element of paying for school with free tuition, we can do our part in creating a society of critical thinkers. #2 Scholarships, since enrolling in BMCC I have done my diligence in leaving no rock unturned when it comes to looking for scholarships. I would like to increase the budget for the SGA Scholarship as well as the BMCC scholarship, out in two, and ASAP. Providing these programs with more money to give away is important because everyone isn't eligible for financial aid and this is a really good workaround. #3 I believe we need to make college "College again". I would work hard with BMCC & the other CUNYs to create a City-wide Homecoming of some sorts where we champion the students and their decision to pursue higher education. I feel the student activity component of college is widely ignored. I was raised in the South and events like "Homecoming" and "Spring Fling" created community and pride in self as well as school spirit. I'm inspired to inspire, I want to give every BMCC student the gift of knowledge and passion. With the help of the administration and Student , we can leave CUNY BMCC better than how we found it.

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CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Julio Sacalxot

Slate Empathia



As a first-generation Hispanic student and older sibling, I want the opportunity to represent not only my voice but everyone, because at the end of the day, BMCC isn't just made up of me, but rather all of us no matter how different we are. As a current Senator of the Student Government Association (SGA), I've realized what the SGA is and what the SGA does for the Student body. From my perspective, I plan to make the SGA the boiling pot of BMCC. The lack of recognition from students towards SGA shows how many students don't know the SGA exists. Why does it matter? Well, the SGAs' purpose is to represent the Student body in both aspirations and voice, create a line of communication between students, faculty, and administration, and uplift various perspectives and experiences.

Regarding the SGA budget, I want to make sure that all funds are distributed to clubs based on the number of participants and the time clubs have been established at BMCC, another thing would be to invest our budget towards events that target all students no matter the culture, age, and time. Going back to my plan for the 2024 - 2025 term I want to make SGA the boiling pot to BMCC in the aspect where students come to look for resources, help, and a safe place in which they feel welcomed. How will I achieve this, well one of the things I would like to do is have SGA be more involved in the orientation, where students take a tour around campus and get their ID, well I want to have SGA be in charge of the tours so we can show students where the different departments are located and emphasize the different resources that are available to them, another thing would be to inform them about the different sports that are available. Taking all of this into account, these are just some of the things I would like to do for the student body, because at the end of the day we're students who are striving to success. I'm a BMCC student and I'm here to represent you. Start Here, Go Anywhere!!!

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CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

Irvin Severino

Slate Empathia



With my passion in finance, I plan to run for the role of Treasurer. The approaches I take and values I hold when allocating any form of budget are held dear. As a Treasurer I plan to employ a long-term mindset that will show current and future SGA's how to most effectively work and facilitate the SGA budget. Highly disciplined excel modeling skills as well as fundamental analysis is what I believe the SGA budget is lacking. I plan to not only spearhead this, but allow all SGA members to know exactly how all the excel calculations are made through the excel functions in process. I plan to give a crash course and ignite a mini accountant in my SGA colleagues, this will provide clarity within all of SGA as to how money is being managed. While my primary goal is to create efficiency via more excel and then teach my colleagues how it works, I do not plan to merely bookeep the funds that SGA distributes. When my analysis on clubs, SGA hosted events, or simple office items leads me to heightened conviction, I plan to act decisively and take big swings as to how to maximize the SGA budget. This data driven approach is what will modernize the SGA budget and create a more efficient SGA budget for both the present and future.

I feel as though there is an unspoken rule that many leaders forget. This unspoken rule is one that is practiced in almost every professional conversation within student government, but the rule is never acknowledged. This unspoken rule is what I believe from experience to be the universal starting point as to what a true leader is. While performing this rule from instinct is one thing, consciously knowing one is practicing this is what I believe separates someone who can talk in front of a mic, to someone who can influence people in front of a mic.

"Strong opinions, loosely held" is what I have learned to be what separates good leaders from great ones. A leader is picked and trusted amongst the people that they represent. This ultimately means that the leader must be fully confident in their decision making, in other words the leader must have a strong opinion, but a strong opinion does not mean it's the right one to take. At the end of the day a leader is never perfect, only the best leaders understand this within themselves. Only the best leaders will reach out to their constituents, colleagues, even family members in order to understand what the leader cannot know on his or her own. The ability to have a strong opinion held loosely, is the ultimate way of showing selflessness and maturity within leadership. This achieves a stronger bond within colleagues because it allows the leader to create what is then called a tried and true team. This also achieves a stronger bond within the people that are being represented because they understand their views are being valued.

When reading far enough in this essay, you have probably made an opinion about me. Whether you find me an excellent candidate or a horrible one is your view and no one else's. You deserve to have your opinion from the way I have written this paper and the tone I express. My final question to you is "are you willing to take your strong opinion on me and hold it loosely?"

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CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

Kiana Khodadad

Slate Empathia



My name is Kiana Khodadad and I am running for secretary of the student government association for the 2024-25 academic year. I am pursuing this position because I strongly believe that I embody BMCC's motto of "start here, go anywhere." I am passionate about increasing student engagement within academic and extracurricular pursuits, and fostering an inclusive environment that encourages equity and equal opportunity for everyone, regardless of identity or circumstance.

Above all, I believe that the SGA budget should be managed responsibly and openly. In my capacity as secretary, I will ensure that every dollar is used wisely and effectively, placing particular emphasis on programs that assist all students. In order to ensure accountability, I will place a high priority on financial transparency by providing regular updates on budget allocation and expenditure.

Regarding club chartering rules, I advocate for a fair and accessible process that encourages student involvement and a wide variety of interests. I will work diligently to integrate an effective club charting process, making it easier for students to establish and maintain clubs that reflect their passions and identities. Additionally, I will strive to create opportunities for collaboration and networking among clubs, fostering a sense of community and support.

When it comes to fund distribution for clubs, my goal is to implement a plan that prioritizes student needs and promotes equal opportunity. I will advocate for a fair allocation of funds, taking into account factors such as club size, activity level, and impact on the student body. Furthermore, I will consistently seek input from club leaders and members to ensure that the SGA's decisions align with their goals and objectives.

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 SGA term, my primary goals include increasing student engagement within academic and extracurricular activities, promoting diversity and inclusion, and advocating for the needs and concerns of all students. I will work tirelessly to represent the voices of the student body and enact positive change that benefits our entire community.

In terms of communication and representation, I will be accessible, approachable, and responsive to the needs of my fellow students. I will actively seek out feedback and input through regular meetings and forums, ensuring that every student has a voice in the decision-making process.

In conclusion, I am deeply committed to serving as your Secretary, and I hope to make meaningful contributions to BMCC's community. With your support, I am confident that together we can cultivate a vibrant and inclusive environment for all.

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CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR (15 seats)

Niloy Ahmmed

Slate Empathia



I am writing to you today with great excitement and a profound sense of duty as I present my vision for the upcoming term as a candidate for Senator within the Student Government Association (SGA) at BMCC. It is my fervent belief that by working together, we can create a campus environment that truly reflects the values and aspirations of each and every student.

Central to my platform is the steadfast commitment to responsible stewardship of the SGA budget. I pledge to oversee its management with the utmost care and transparency, ensuring that every dollar is allocated judiciously to support the diverse array of programs and initiatives that enrich our student experience.

In addressing club chartering rules, I advocate for a framework that strikes a balance between structure and flexibility. By providing clear guidelines while also embracing the unique needs and interests of our student organizations, we can foster an inclusive and dynamic campus community where every voice is valued.

As we consider the distribution of funds for clubs, I propose a fair and equitable system that prioritizes impact, innovation, and student engagement. By establishing transparent criteria and processes, we can ensure that funding decisions are made with integrity and accountability.

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 SGA term, my primary goal is to enhance the overall student experience at BMCC. This encompasses initiatives to promote mental health and well-being, expand access to academic resources, and foster a culture of diversity and inclusion that celebrates the rich tapestry of our student body.

Effective communication and representation are essential pillars of my leadership approach. I am committed to serving as a tireless advocate for your concerns and interests, and will strive to maintain open lines of communication through regular meetings, forums, and digital platforms.

In closing, I humbly ask for your trust and support as we embark on this journey together. With your help, I am confident that we can build a stronger, more vibrant BMCC community that empowers and uplifts every student.

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CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR (15 seats)

Zexi Chen

Slate Empathia



As the 30th of March marks a pivotal moment in our collective journey, I extend my sincerest greetings to you all. Today, I stand before you, aspiring to be your senator, specifically advocating for the International Student Area at BMCC. My ambition is rooted in a deeply personal experience—as a freshman who once navigated the complexities of adapting to America, I understand the challenges and the profound sense of longing for a piece of home.

My goal is ambitious yet simple: to bridge the gap between international students and the broader BMCC community. I believe that every student, regardless of their origin, deserves a sense of belonging, an opportunity to share their unique stories, and a platform to connect with others. To achieve this, I propose focusing our budget on events and activities that not only celebrate our diverse cultures but also foster a sense of unity and understanding among us all.

Imagine cultural festivals that showcase our traditions, language exchange programs that break down barriers, and social gatherings that create lasting friendships. These initiatives are more than just events; they are stepping stones towards creating a more inclusive and welcoming community for international students.

Your support in this election will not just be a vote for me; it will be a vote for every international student looking for a sense of belonging, a vote for diversity, and a vote for a BMCC that is truly home to everyone.

Together, let's make BMCC a beacon of inclusion and unity.

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CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR (15 seats)

Benazir Farooqui **Slate Empathia**



As a proud member of the BMCC student body, I am writing to express my sincere interest in running for the position of senator in the upcoming student government elections. As an international student pursuing engineering science at BMCC, I have found immense fulfillment in being part of our vibrant and tightly-knit community. The warm and inclusive environment has truly enriched my collegiate experience, igniting within me a strong desire to actively contribute to its ongoing vibrancy.

My journey as a college assistant in the Student Affairs Office has been instrumental in shaping my aspirations for this role. Working closely with students in the office, I've had the privilege of addressing their concerns and assisting them in navigating through various challenges. This experience has granted me valuable insights into the needs and issues faced by our student body. Moreover, it has equipped me with the knowledge of the proper channels to effectively resolve problems and engage with higher authorities. Having served as a bridge between students and administrative resources, I understand the importance of effective communication and collaboration.

My experience has honed my ability to listen attentively, empathize with diverse perspectives, and advocate for equitable solutions. As a Senator, I am committed to leveraging this experience to amplify the voices of students and enact positive change within our community. One of my core objectives as a senator would be to champion the interests of international students. Drawing from my own experiences, I recognize the challenges and disparities they face, particularly in accessing resources and support services. I believe in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported. By leveraging my experience and passion, I aspire to contribute to the establishment of robust support systems and resources tailored to the unique needs of international students.

In essence, my candidacy for Senator is rooted in my dedication to serving and representing the interests of our diverse student community. Through proactive advocacy and collaborative initiatives, I aim to contribute towards building a stronger and more cohesive campus community at BMCC. Thank you for considering me for this vital role.

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===== **CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR (15 seats)** =====

Fanta Kante

Slate Empathia

I'm excited to announce my candidacy for the Student Government Association (SGA) for the upcoming academic year. My goal is simple: to ensure that every student's voice is not only heard but actively listened to and acted upon.

To achieve this, I plan to implement various initiatives aimed at engaging and communicating with the student body. Regular open forums, town hall meetings and online platforms will be established to provide you with opportunities to express your concerns, share your ideas, and actively participate in shaping the direction of our campus community.

As we look ahead to the 2024-2025 term, my focus will be on three main goals:

Advocacy: I will tirelessly advocate for the needs and rights of every student on campus. Mental health support, campus safety, diversity, equity and sustainability initiatives will be at the forefront of my agenda. Your well-being and academic success are my top priorities.

Inclusivity: Diversity is our strength, and inclusivity is our responsibility. I am committed to creating a campus environment where every student feels valued and respected. By organizing cultural events, facilitating dialogue on social justice issues, and expanding resources for underrepresented groups, I aim to foster a sense of belonging for all.

Community Building: A strong sense of community is essential for a thriving campus. I will work to bring students together through various events and activities that promote unity, collaboration, and school spirit. Whether it's through intramural sports tournaments, volunteering opportunities, or collaborative projects, I believe in the power of building meaningful connections among students.

Your support and involvement are crucial in making these goals a reality. Together, let's make our voices heard and create positive change on our campus.

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===== **CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR (15 seats)** =====

Matthew Konyukhov

Slate Empathia

I, Matthew Konyukhov, am seeking your support to serve as your senator for the 2024-2025 SGA term. With your trust, I aim to fortify the Student Government Association's bond with you, fostering a cohesive relationship and better understanding of your needs. Together, we'll develop and implement necessary changes for a better BMCC.

I recognize that many students are unaware of the SGA's purpose. Thus, organizing frequent events and extracurricular activities to inform and engage students about SGA's role is essential. This engagement will not only educate but also build a sense of community among us, ensuring that your voices are heard and valued.

Collaborating with fellow student government members, I'll emphasize how our service can enhance your college experience. By defining what is acceptable and aligning activities with your interests, we'll ensure that every endeavor serves the simple aim of improving your personal and academic journey.

Additionally, I am committed to transparently managing the SGA budget, establishing fair club chartering rules, and implementing an equitable fund distribution plan for clubs. These measures will ensure that every student organization receives the support it deserves, contributing to a vibrant campus life.

Your trust in me is the driving force for positive change and effective representation. Together, let's empower students to shape the future of BMCC, where integrity, sincerity, and respected student leaders ensure that your voices are heard and your needs are met. Thank you for entrusting me with this opportunity to be your advocate.

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===== **CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR (15 seats)** =====

Alexis Ramirez

Slate Empathia

I was voted in as an SGA Senator in March of 2024 and within that small amount of time, I have gotten to know so many beautiful, bright, and energetic faces that I am so lucky to call my friends. For I consider every one of you a friend, a peer, and a companion. We are in this together, we fight the same fight and I pledge to never give up. Thank you for everything you guys have taught me.

Gandhi once said "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. This holds true in my psychology. For in my psychology extending an olive branch or a helping hand to our fellow brethren is a testament to our humanity. In the face of grief, grievance, and despair will we turn a blind eye or will we extend our hand to uplift and empower? I choose the latter. For this core principle has remained my ethos. To serve in a position of public trust means to uplift and empower. I intend to use my voice to empower. I intend to choreograph my every decision in a way that uplifts. I use my experience as a queer Latino who has proven himself in the face of challenge, adversity, and in leadership all to uplift the school community I call family. I want to be a senator because I want to strengthen the drive of this ambitious community of diverse and unique voices. I want to be a part of the motivation and drive that led us to establish a wise yet familiar aphorism "Start Here, Go Anywhere." I, Alexis Ramirez do solemnly swear to uplift my school community and be a voice for all in the name of this school community that I so dearly love. I pledge to reciprocate the pure and genuine endearment BMCC has shown me and to always defend its sigil for the dreams and aspirations of all. May you the BMCC student body continue to be a bright light.