

BMCC Academic Senate Sub-Committee on Student Affairs  
Meeting on November 4, 2020  
Minutes

Present: Mamadou Bah, Matthew Chan, Marva Craig, Erik Freas, Christine Jacknick, Laurie Lomask, Catarina Mata (guest), Maureen Matarese

1. Minutes from September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting approved.
2. Welcome to our new SGA reps, Mamadou Bah and Darleny Suriel.
3. **Starfish:** The committee discussed experiences with Starfish from faculty and student perspectives. M. Bah made the point that if faculty are not invested in using the software, students will not be either. We may want to send a survey to students to see how they are using it. If possible, it would be helpful to get this information before the super-user meeting for Navigate in January 2021. L. Lomask will contact John Huie about this.
4. **November 10<sup>th</sup> Zoom info session, Know Your Rights: Housing Insecurity and Homelessness.** Details are settled. L. Lomask met with invited speakers. A notice was sent to students, but faculty are urged to distribute the information to students. L. Lomask will ask Manny Romero to post the info to the website and the BMCC social media accounts. Representatives will be coming from the Counseling Center. M. Matarese suggested we invite Martha Kenton from DHS. L. Lomask will invite President Munroe to the event, potentially to make opening remarks.
5. **C. Shults and C. Mata report on programs for students on probation:** C. Mata reported on a pilot program (Ready-Steady-Go) to identify students at risk of going on probation based on their incoming grades. They identified criteria (including students not already placed in a program, but when they tried to recruit, they were told by administration that there were already programs in place.

M. Bah noted that the three biggest supports needed by students are mentoring, advising, and tutoring. C. Mata noted that there may be some CLTs who could assist with tutoring.

C. Shults said that the proliferation of programs (without an inventory) is one of the issues. Students with CAA (college academic average) of >70 and Black and Hispanic male students are more likely to go on probation. At Promise is a program that started in Fall 2019, and 5000 students were reached, encouraged to join sports?. With the >70 group, there was not a significant difference between them and students with 75+ CAA. We need to create high-touch points that create a sense of belonging in the first 6-8 weeks – intentionally-designed community intervention to create a sense of support. BLA is a program that lends itself to that because of the connections between faculty and staff. It would be ideal to bring representatives from all these different programs in to one group to help identify best practices; this could be approached through Student Affairs, Strategic Planning, the President's Research Advisory, etc.

C. Shults suggested a default for opting out of services rather than opting in would be the best approach. C. Mata asked if there is adequate staff to provide this; Dean Shults said no.

L. Lomask prompted the committee to brainstorm about how to inventory the programs. There is a [Student Support Program brochure](#) available on the BMCC website, and M. Craig will provide an internal list her office has been compiling as well.

6. **Updating “Teaching in Crisis” memo:** L. Lomask will email this document to the committee for feedback on revising it. M. Matarese suggested we aim for a one-page bullet list handout; she also suggested getting feedback from Jen Longley and Neda Hajizadeh. She also noted that we should emphasize that these suggestions should be in place at all times – they should inform our teaching always.
7. **Swap-fees charged by bursar:** L. Lomask reported that we received some feedback about common misplacements. M. Matarese proposed that we draft a resolution pushing back the penalty-free add/drop period through the first week of class. L. Lomask will contact M. Alam and someone with knowledge of the budget to determine how many students are affected by this, as well as what the financial impact would be on the college if this fee were not applied. We will ask for historical data to determine how student swapping was affected by the fee.
8. The committee will offer some kind of recognition for Yulia Meltreger (Financial Aid/Panther Station) for her work above and beyond the call of duty in spring 2020. L. Lomask will inquire further about what form of recognition might be most useful to her.
9. Future:
  - a. Panther Partners recruiting starting in spring 2021
  - b. On campus BLM events
  - c. New support for students?
  - d. Starfish wishlist

The meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Jacknick