

BMCC Academic Senate Sub-Committee on Student Affairs
Minutes of Meeting on December 2, 2020

Present: Mamadou Bah, Rahanna Belle-Jerome, Matthew Chan, Marva Craig, Erik Freas, John Huie (guest), Christine Jacknick, Laurie Lomask, Maureen Matarese, Darleny Suriel, Janice Zummo (guest)

1. Minutes from November 4th meeting were approved as amended.
2. Visit from Rahana Belle-Jerome, BMCC Panther Partners
 - a. There were 95 coaches (mentors) last semester, including 20 faculty. They are asking for additional faculty coaches. The commitment is to meet with students once per month (four mandatory meetings per semester). Faculty can be assigned just one student, but generally each coach as two.
 - b. Faculty are also encouraged to let their students know about the program. Recruitment happens during the first three weeks of the semester.
3. Visit from John Huie and Dean Zummo re: Connect2Success
 - a. *Letter of concern from Academic Freedom Committee*: L. Lomask shared a letter from the Academic Freedom Committee to J. Zummo about Starfish. M. Matarese suggested a joint meeting with Student Affairs and Academic Freedom Committees and J. Zummo. We also discussed the need for additional orientation to Starfish for faculty.
 - b. J. Huie reported on efforts to cut down on flags for advisors to allow them to target students who are most at-risk. During the first two weeks of the semester, flags will be set if there is no Blackboard activity for 4 days. Following that period, the flag will only be generated after 7 days of inactivity.
4. Feedback/comments on Know Your Rights: Housing Insecurity and Homelessness
 - a. Sharing resource sheet and YouTube video: We might be able to share this info on the ARC webpage. We would like to post a link to the information on the rotating banner on the BMCC homepage.
 - b. Suggestions from faculty include hiring a full-time housing specialist, re-opening computer labs for students, and negotiating hotel rooms for students.
5. Ongoing:
 - a. *“Teaching in Crisis” memo*: We will edit it down to one page using Google Docs and then distribute to Academic Senate departmental representatives to bring up at their last department meeting.
 - b. *Swap-fees charged to bursar*: L. Lomask had a meeting with Alam, and he noted that this is a CUNY Central policy, not a local BMCC policy. Fees are put in place by the Board of Trustees. If we put forward a resolution to University Faculty Senate, we should identify the committee of the Board that this should be directed towards.
 1. Resolution should be sent to BMCC Academic Senate to say “In instances where a student is misplaced and we change placement in CUNY First, swap fee should not be imposed.”
 2. If resolution addresses pushing back the deadline to allow students to change courses without penalty within the first week of the semester, we

need to address the financial impact. Does the swap fee money go to the college, the university, or the city?

3. If the resolution passes Academic Senate, we could reach out to Faculty Governance Leaders and student affairs committees at other CUNY community college academic senates to see if they want to bring it to their campus bodies. Then, with more support, we could bring the issue to University Faculty Senate.
 - c. *Review of student services*: There are 24 different student support groups. The question is how best to promote these services and streamline services for students.
6. Enrollment: How can we address the barriers to enrollment?
 - a. M. Bah reported that SGA is moving funds around to create an emergency fund for students, as well as a scholarship fund. M. Craig reported that \$28,000 was moved for these efforts.
 - b. C. Jacknick asked if we could be involved in advocacy efforts to our city, state, and federal government.