

BMCC Academic Senate Sub-Committee on Student Affairs
April 7, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Matthew Chan, Marva Craig, Erik Freas, Christine Jacknick, Laurie Lomask, Maureen Matarese, Mohamed Sofaini

1. Minutes from March 3rd meeting were approved. M. Chan will serve as secretary when C. Jacknick leaves to attend Curriculum Committee meeting.
2. Revised language for resolution on preferred gender and pronoun affirming language for syllabi and website
 - a. Ad hoc committee to be proposed at Academic Senate 4/28 (resolution below). We will nominate the following people: Benjamin Haas, Brian Kelley, Jen Longley, Agustin McCarthy, Jason Schneiderman, Yuliya Shneyderman
 - b. Brian Kelley brought to L. Lomask's attention that we might want to add language about locker rooms to the resolution. We will look into the implications before doing so.
3. NC/CR policy for Spring 2021: We will draft a resolution for a flexible grading policy for Spring 2021 (see below).
 - a. We will draft a separate resolution to extend Summer 2020 (see below).
4. Swap fees: L. Lomask reached out to Hugo Fernandez, Chair of Student Affairs at UFS, who confirmed that it is a university-wide fee. M. Craig reported that CUNY may be moving towards allowing a period of penalty-free swapping. She suggested we contact M. Alam to see if this is the case, and then we can decide next steps.
5. Language on syllabi regarding students needing accommodations. M. Craig stated that many new students with disability assume their high school IEP are automatically transferrable and accepted at BMCC. We need to inform students that they must contact Office of Accessibility early in the semester to obtain accommodations at BMCC.
6. Anti-racism efforts: M. Matarese suggested that we draft a resolution regarding anti-racism to follow up on SGA member Yama Faye's presentation at Senate. Ideas and next steps:
 - a. Find out the current anti-racism positions of every college of CUNY.
 - b. At BMCC, every semester or year, each academic department should announce their plans of anti-racism efforts and report what progress they have made.
 - c. Collaborate with other sub-committees (such as curriculum, instruction, academic freedom).
 - d. BMCC should have formal anti-racism statements, but we should ensure that BMCC can implement the ideals in these statements.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Jacknick

Resolutions for Academic Senate 4/28/21:

1. Whereas all CUNY students, faculty, and staff are entitled to select and be referred to according to their preferred name, title (e.g., Ms./Mrs./Mx./Mr.), and/or personal pronouns according to New York City law as well as CUNY policy,

Be it resolved that an ad hoc committee be formed to develop an LGBTQ+ resource page for students, and that this committee work with Public Affairs to create this website by November 1, 2021.

2. Whereas the extreme circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and primarily remote learning continue through the Spring 2021 semester,

And WHEREAS the difficulties students experience during COVID-19 Pandemic is not solely contingent on the infection rates in NYC, but rather include, though not limited to, economic hardship, increased family and home responsibilities, mental health crises, struggles with online learning, technological limitations and access, and elevated levels of uncertainty,

Be it resolved that the College extend the flexible grading policy from Fall 2020 into Spring 2021 as well.

3. Whereas the extreme circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and primarily remote learning were continuous through the Summer 2020 sessions,

And WHEREAS the difficulties students experience during COVID-19 Pandemic is not solely contingent on the infection rates in NYC, but rather include, though not limited to, economic hardship, increased family and home responsibilities, mental health crises, struggles with online learning, technological limitations and access, and elevated levels of uncertainty,

Be it resolved that the College retroactively extend the flexible grading policy from Fall 2020 into Summer 2021 as well.

Future Resolution for Fall 2021:

1. Needs more wording and input from Accessibility.

Students who need an academic accommodation in connection with a disability are required to initiate the request with BMCC's Office of Accessibility (OA) at the start of the semester or as soon as possible to coordinate accommodations. Office of Accessibility. www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility, Room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180, accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu.

Registration with the Office of Accessibility is required to officially disclose your disability status to the College and to determine your eligibility for appropriate reasonable accommodations. Professional staff will evaluate the accommodation request, review appropriate educational and medical documentation (including previous IEP and 504 documents), recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty.

2. Whereas all CUNY students, faculty, and staff are entitled to select and be referred to according to their preferred name, title (e.g., Ms./Mrs./Mx./Mr.), and/or personal pronouns according to New York City law as well as CUNY policy,

Be it resolved that we add the following language to college syllabus templates:

BMCC students, faculty, and staff are entitled to be referred to according to their preferred name, personal pronouns, and titles (e.g. Ms./Mrs./Mx./Mr.), and have the right to use the facilities (e.g. restrooms, locker rooms) of their choice consistent with their self-identification. To learn more about how to change your preferred name and gender identity at CUNY (including requesting a new ID card and/or email address), go here: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/lgbtq/>. To file a complaint, please contact the Office of Compliance and Diversity: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity/>.