

**Campus Life Committee of the Manhattan College Senate**  
**October 15, 2020**  
**Meeting Notes**

A meeting of the Campus Life Committee of the Manhattan College Senate was called on October 15, 2020 over Google Meet. Those in attendance were: Sonny Ago (Chair/Student Life), Fiona Delaney (Student Life) Peggy McKiernan (Library), Mamady Ballo (Student Representative), Zachary Olivan (Student Representative), Ashley Baptiste (Student Representative), Luis Garcia (Student Representative), Eunice Angela Nazar (Student Representative). Guests who attended were: Aaron Goodman (Assistant Dean of Students), Charles Clency (Director of Residence Life), Esmilda Abreu-Hornbostel (Associate Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students), Hayden Greene (Director of Multicultural Affairs), Jay Ahmed (Director of Fitness and Wellness), John Bennett (Executive Director of Student Engagement), Lois Harr (Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Director of Campus Ministry and Social Action), Marilyn Carter (Director of Commuter Services and Outreach), Marisa Passafiume (Assistant Vice President for Academic Success) Peter DeCaro (Director of Public Safety), Emily Anderson (Graduate Assistant for Commuter Services and Outreach).

The discussion included the following:

**1. Update on Campus/Student Engagement Efforts**

Students on the CLC commended the College's efforts to provide in-person opportunities (programs, events, etc.). Because of these efforts, students are able to feel engaged and a sense of community on campus despite the challenges of the pandemic. Many of the departments invited to the meeting highlighted their on-going, in-person initiatives and support services. Despite these offerings, however, students on the CLC were still concerned that some students expressed to them that they were unaware of these events, programs, and services. The CLC, along with invited guests, strategized better ways to advertise these events – specifically, an enhanced flier campaign, consolidated social media messaging, and even reaching out to students via text.

**Action Plan:** The Chair of the CLC will meet with the Social Media Return to Campus Committee to propose ideas. Another strategy is a proposed web article celebrating the efforts of Student Life and Academic Affairs to sustain a vibrant campus life. Included in this should be personal stories related to overcoming challenges related to the pandemic and providing students with information on the College's support services. The Chair of the CLC has already reached out to Marketing and Communication proposing a web article.

**2. Update of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts**

The Chair of the CLC provided an update on the recently established Manhattan College Diversity Council, specifically, the council's work to address campus climate

as it relates to diversity and inclusion. To create synergy between the Senate and the Diversity Council, the CLC discussed DEI concerns that the Chair of the CLC will bring to the Diversity Council Steering Committee. Some areas of concern are: feelings of isolation that students and employees encounter on campus (magnified by the current pandemic), the need to provide mentoring for students of color during their first year of college, and providing students of color – and, all students - with a “survival guide” to help them navigate, persist and succeed during their time at Manhattan College.

**Action Plan:**

The Commuter Student Town Hall on Tuesday, October 20 will address some of these concerns from a commuter student perspective. The Diversity Council will disseminate a campus climate survey to the Manhattan College community in the next few weeks to gather more data to support the Diversity Council’s Strategic Planning efforts. And, the Chair of the CLC will bring these concerns to the next Diversity Council Steering Committee meeting on October 21. It is also proposed that there needs to be a better awareness of the Diversity Council, its role, and areas of focus – as well as the College’s on-going efforts to support underrepresented students of color through such departments as Multicultural Affairs, Campus Ministry and Social Action, Center for Academic Success, Residence Life, Commuter Services and Outreach, Student Engagement, etc. The Chair of the CLC has reached out to Marketing & Communications to write a web article on the Diversity Council and the College’s DEI efforts.