

Report to the Baruch College General Faculty
Submitted by Arthur Downing
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Fall 2018

William and Anita Newman Library

Atrium Ceiling Repair – The central atrium space of the Library is scheduled to close in mid-October due to the scaffolding for the atrium ceiling glass replacement project. Services, including the reference desk, will be relocated temporarily. Please refer to the Library's web site and posted signs for details.

Donation of Sculpture – The current exhibition of the works of sculptor Charlie Kaplan in the Mishkin Gallery includes one piece that will be permanently installed in the Newman Library. The work, *Soaring*, will be placed on the second floor of the Library at the base of the spiral staircase after the scaffolding for the atrium ceiling project is removed.

New Digital Resources – Since the last General Faculty Meeting the Library has added the following digital collections:

- American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection: Series 1
- Global Commodities: Trade, Exploration & Cultural Exchange
- J. Walter Thompson: Advertising America
- Trade Catalogues and the American Home
- Life Magazine – Full Archive (1936 – 2000)
- Market Research and American Business, 1935-1965

Assistive Technology – In addition to providing an assistive technology room (345) where students with disabilities have access to technology devices, the Library now loans portable devices from the 2nd floor circulation desk for use in the Library. The items were selected in consultation with the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities and include handheld video magnifiers, talking graphing calculator, transmitter & receiver pair designed for hard of hearing individuals, noise cancellation headphones, refreshable Braille display, audiobook reader/player, adapted joystick and rollerball for those who cannot use a traditional mouse or trackpad, and several other specially-equipped laptops and devices.

High-Density Shelving – The Library is preparing the bid specifications for the purchase and installation of mobile high-density shelving for the 4th floor of the Library. The goal is to consolidate the circulating book collection on the 4th floor in order to make room for additional seating on the other floors.

Staff Vacancies – As a result of the budget reductions in July, the Library withdrew an advertised faculty position for a Scholarly Communication Librarian, cancelled a search for a circulation desk manager, and deactivated two other open positions. The vacancies are affecting our ability to support the College community.

Baruch Computing and Technology Center

Office 365 – On August 1st CUNY began providing all faculty and staff with access to the Microsoft Office 365 for Education suite, which includes OneDrive for Business, SharePoint, Yammer and Skype for Business. BCTC will be providing training sessions on how to use these tools later in the semester. In the meantime, faculty are encouraged to begin to use the 1TB of cloud storage that they have received with OneDrive. A. Downing is a member of the University's Cloud Policy Working Group that developed the use guidelines for Office 365 and is working on making additional cloud services available to the CUNY community.

WiFi for Field Building – The project to install new fiber in the 17 Lexington Avenue Building, along with new copper wiring on each floor to support WiFi coverage is again delayed due to problems with procurement. The College has had 3 failed rounds of bidding on the work. BCTC is working with the Purchasing Office to identify a path forward. In the meantime, we have installed access points on the 10th floor and parts of the 4th and 5th floors, including the large lecture halls. These areas were selected because they already have in place minimum requirements to support some level of WiFi service. The fifteen-year old network infrastructure in the building will not support much, which is why there is a half-million-dollar project to install new fiber and networking equipment. We are trying to test the limits of what we can provide in the interim with the legacy infrastructure. We are focusing on classrooms and teaching labs only. We also want to make sure that students and faculty do not mistake the interim service, which will not perform to the level of the rest of the campus, with the robust service that will be in place as a result of the project.

Staff Vacancies – BCTC had to deactivate four open staff positions as a result of the budget reductions in July. These vacancies are affecting the delivery of services.

Textbooks – Faculty who need assistance with entering textbook information in CUNYfirst may visit the helpdesk on the 6th floor of the Library and Technology Building. If there are entry problems related to a faculty member's CUNYfirst account, those can be addressed by the help desk staff.

Office of Institutional Research

In addition to responding to data requests the following projects are in process/recently completed:

- Designing a new fact book using R software - continuing
- Publishing House Common Data Set for rankings surveys - completed
- Learning Communities data for CUE Report
- Middle States Self-Study inventory of evidence gathering
- Generating data for Enrollment Management Key Performance Indicators - continuing
- Middle States AIU Report
- Center for Teaching and Learning online course information - completed
- Employee Engagement Committee work