

Report to the Baruch College General Faculty
Submitted by Arthur Downing
Vice President for Information Services and Dean of the Library
Spring 2022

William and Anita Newman Library

Staff Appointments – The Library has filled three staff vacancies: Resource Sharing Specialist, which includes responsibility for interlibrary loan services (Wilton Yeung), Serials Specialist (Floencia Diaz), and Course Reserves Specialist (Jaclyn Cafarella).

New Digital Resources –

- Digital Theater+ - Provides streaming video of plays and productions, theory and criticism, and resources for practice and practitioners. Covers a broad range of theatrical practices, with access to more than 600 classical and contemporary performances. Also includes essays, practical guides, documentaries and lectures, and access to practitioner resources, such as interviews with cast and creatives.
- CalcBench – A financial data platform designed for detailed fundamental research. The data include every number from the financials and footnotes of every 10-K and 10-Q, and Earnings Release for 12,000 public companies, plus, proxy statements, 8-Ks, and SEC comment letters.

Workshops – The Library continues its partnership with the Subotnick Financial Services Center to offer workshops to students remotely. Also, beginner and advanced level training is provided for Zotero, an open-source bibliographic citation management tool. Details are provided on the Library's web site: <https://library.baruch.cuny.edu/students/library-instruction/workshops/>.

High-Density Shelving – The DASNY project to replace the stationary shelving on the fourth floor with mobile high-density shelving is completed. The project yielded two new spaces for student seating. The Library will begin to shift books from the fifth floor to the fourth floor so that the shelving on the fifth floor can be removed to make space for additional student seating.

Credit Courses – Library faculty are teaching 5 class sections in spring 2022, including courses toward a Minor in Information Studies: Principles of Information Retrieval (3020), Economics of Information (3032), Information and Society (3040), and Advanced Topics in Information Studies (4900).

Baruch Computing and Technology Center

Faculty/Staff Email – The University is systematically moving the campuses from their various on-premises faculty/staff email systems to Microsoft 365 (M365), which is hosted in the cloud. Our students have been using Microsoft email for years. Only a few months ago the University acquired the level of Microsoft license that allows us to expand M365 email to faculty and staff. Baruch is next in the queue after successful implementations at Lehman and Queens. The use of M365 email will greatly improve the performance that users experience. **No email addresses will change.** What will change is

the location of the email server from the one we currently use in BCTC to servers hosted by Microsoft. That will require users who read mail from their personal devices to enter in the new server address, but there will be time leading up to the cutover to do this. Users will continue to have access to the email messages that are currently in all their Outlook folders, including sent messages and attachments. A series of communications with full details regarding the process will be sent to faculty and staff soon.

Classroom Upgrades – Replacement computers for the lecterns are on order and some projectors have arrived. The new computers will deliver a much faster startup time. In addition to the general upgrade of classroom equipment, we continue to work toward the goal of 28 classrooms equipped to support HyFlex instruction. At this time two classrooms have been completed and are being tested by faculty in the HyFlex pilot program. Those rooms will serve as prototypes for the subsequent rooms that are planned for summer 2022.

Network Upgrade – The College is undertaking an end-to-end upgrade of the campus network. New equipment is on order, including all new WiFi access points, although there are very long lead times for delivery. We are also re-cabling the buildings for better performance and to support future growth. The cabling contractors have completed half of the Field Building and should be done in April. Users will not notice the improvement until the cabling is completed, equipment installed, and the new fiber that was brought into the building is in use. At that point we will begin to work on the remaining buildings.

Office Desktop Computers – As faculty office desktops reach end of life, we will be replacing them with high-end laptops with the option of a docking station and large desktop monitor. Faculty will be able to use the laptop in the office, at home, and connected to a lectern in the classroom. The first wave of equipment is on order and should arrive in time for deployment in the fall.

Staff Recruitment – BCTC has hired a full-time Learning Management System Assistant, Jessica Lauria, to provide Blackboard support with Kevin Wolff. We are currently interviewing for three full-time media technicians, who will assist faculty in the use of classroom technology.

Office of Institutional Research

Office of Institutional Research (OIR) – Report by John Choonoo, Director

This spring term there has been a change in the Office to which Institutional Research reports. Beginning February 28th, The Office of Institutional Research transitioned to Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Institutional Effectiveness (OAAIE) under the direction of Dr. John Osae-Kwapong, Associate Provost for Assessment, Accreditation & Institutional Effectiveness. The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) will support the Associate Provost in the areas of assessment, accreditation and institutional effectiveness by providing data and analysis to inform operations, decision-making, and policy development College-Wide. Please copy Dr. Osae-Kwapong on all correspondence to the Office of Institutional Research. Over the next several weeks OIR will working with Dr. Osae-Kwapong in planning the goals and objectives for OIR. I would like to thank Dr. Arthur Downing for his leadership

and the support that he provided to OIR over the past several years. The Office made great strides in efficiency, and accuracy in reporting data and analytics to the Baruch Community. One area of his support was in the development of a new dashboard system using Tableau which we hope will make Institutional data much more accessible and user friendly than in the past.

This Spring OIR also lost our Associate Director, Andrew Wallace, who was selected by Hunter College to direct their Office of Institutional Research. During his tenure at Baruch, using R software, Andrew created a new Fact Sheet and Fact Book and translated them into a set of Tableau Dashboards. We are very grateful for the work that Andrew undertook in OIR and we wish him all the best in his new role as Director of Institutional Research at Hunter College. In this transitional phase, we would like to request that the Baruch Community bear with us as we adjust and adapt to our changing and challenging circumstances over the next few months.