

Report to the Baruch College Faculty
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BUDGET AND PLANNING

Financial Picture: Baruch continues to maintain a stable overall financial position and a balanced tax-levy operating budget. Maintaining this stability requires full funding for contractual salary increases, and CUNY has again secured the required State funding for this year's increases. Beyond collective-bargaining support, growth in Baruch's operating allocation is modest. The College received a \$5.5 million increase recognizing tuition and fee growth, but that increase is partially offset by a \$2.9 million reduction associated with a University-wide State funding shortfall of \$28 million for fringe-benefit cost increases and a \$230,000 reduction in State operating support tied to student FTEs. After these and other allocation changes, Baruch received a net increase of \$2.3 million in restricted and unrestricted tax-levy funds. Of that amount, \$826,000 represents new unrestricted tax-levy funding. This is also the second year of Baruch's phased implementation of Activity-Based Budgeting (ABB). With 20 percent of the historic school base now flowing through the model, changes in school allocations in FY27 are being driven less by overall resource growth and more by the increased share of funding allocated through ABB and changes in school activity.

Activity-Based Budgeting Strategic Fund

This winter, the College will issue the ABB Strategic Fund Call for Proposals for the 2027–28 academic and fiscal year. The Strategic Fund is designed to support initiatives that advance Baruch's Strategic Plan while strengthening transparency and long-term financial sustainability. The fund supports two categories of proposals: One-Time Strategic Funding, for discrete projects that do not create ongoing financial commitments, and Bridge Funding, which provides temporary support for initiatives expected to become financially sustainable over time, for example through enrollment growth or other revenue streams. Collaborative proposals spanning multiple schools or administrative units are strongly encouraged. Information about last year's selected initiatives is available in Baruch's May 20, 2026 announcement, Campus Announcement: Activity-Based Budgeting Strategic Fund: Selected Initiatives and Next Steps, located in the Resources section of the Activity-Based Budgeting site on BaruchHub.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Property Management: The College is in the final stages of the 2026 physical inventory process. Your cooperation and support have been instrumental in helping us make significant progress toward completing this annual requirement. The Property Management team will continue reaching out to the remaining departments to schedule inventory appointments. If you or your department liaison has been contacted, please respond to requests from the Property Coordinator regarding equipment verification and other inventorial assets. Faculty are also reminded to notify Property Management when College-owned equipment is relocated, transferred, replaced, retired, lost, or otherwise disposed of. Maintaining accurate inventory records helps safeguard College resources and supports compliance with University and State requirements. Thank you to everyone who has already participated in this year's inventory process. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support as we work to complete the re-inventory

Procurement, Accounts Payable, and CUNYBuy: If your department anticipates making purchases this fiscal year, please submit requisitions through CUNYBuy as early as possible. Certain procurements require significant lead time for review, sourcing, contracting, and approval. Early planning helps avoid delays and ensures that goods and services are available when needed to support teaching, research, and academic programming. Once goods or services have been received, departments should promptly complete the receipt process in CUNYBuy and work with Accounts Payable to help ensure timely vendor payment. Faculty planning purchases, conferences, travel, events, or other department-supported activities are encouraged to begin required approval and procurement processes early and work with their department administrator or Business Process Liaison when questions arise. Purchasing and Accounts Payable activities for Tax-Levy and Non-Tax-Levy Business Units take place in CUNYBuy, the University's procure-to-pay system. Creators and Department Approvers have access to create and approve requisitions. New employees seeking access as a Creator or Department Approver must complete the Procurement Access Request form and the required online CUNYBuy training in Brightspace before CUNY will authorize access. Existing users are encouraged to periodically review the online training materials. Training materials, guides, and other resources are available on BaruchHub to assist faculty and staff with procurement, travel, and financial processes. Faculty who need additional assistance should consult their department administrator or Business Process Liaison.

Accounting: The Accounting offices have successfully completed the Related Entity, Tax-Levy and Non-Tax Levy financial close of FY26. Reporting for BAR55 programs for FY26 is now available in CUNYFirst. Each division's or school's business process liaison has access to run several key financial reports and distribute information.

CAMPUS FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Baruch is advancing more than 33 active capital projects representing over \$200 million in campus investment. Together, these projects are creating new student spaces, improving academic and administrative facilities, modernizing critical infrastructure, strengthening life-safety systems, and preparing the campus for future needs. Since the previous report, projects have continued to advance through construction, design, bidding, and regulatory review.

Currently Under Construction

Baruch One Stop Shop (BOSS), Welcome Center, and Student Lounge: Construction continues at the Newman Vertical Campus, with completion anticipated in March 2027. The project will establish a new Welcome Center, Student Lounge, and permanent home for the Baruch One Stop Shop (BOSS). The redesigned space will include seating for more than 180 students, and the naming and signage plan has been finalized and incorporated into the design. The physical project is advancing alongside Baruch's Next Level Student Success initiative, which is reimagining BOSS as a central starting point for student questions.

NVC Pool Renovation: The renovation of the pool at the Newman Vertical Campus is continuing with replacement of failed pool tile identified through a comprehensive assessment. Waterproofing has been completed, and tile installation is scheduled to begin in mid-October. Completion is anticipated by the end of December 2026, after which the pool is expected to reopen with the required repairs addressed.

Fire Alarm System Upgrade, NVC: Modernization of the fire alarm system at 55 Lexington Avenue is nearing completion. Remaining work includes repairs to related mechanical equipment, final testing, and inspections. The project is part of the College's continuing investment in campus life-safety infrastructure.

HVAC Replacement at Newman Hall: The HVAC replacement project was completed earlier this summer. After an electrical issue caused the new unit to shut down, CUNY authorized additional upgrades to portions of the building's electrical distribution system and rewiring of the unit. Although the schedule for the corrective work has not yet been finalized, the building continues to operate on the backup unit while the long-term corrective work advances.

Local Law 11 Projects: Baruch continues to advance required façade inspection and repair work intended to maintain public safety and the long-term integrity of campus buildings. **Newman Vertical Campus:** Additional sidewalk shedding will be installed along the plaza side in response to newly identified façade conditions. The overall project is awaiting Department of Buildings approval. **Information and Technology Building:** A contractor has been selected, and the College is awaiting the construction schedule. **17 Lexington Avenue:** Sidewalk shedding has been installed in the alleyway. Project commencement will follow completion of the Department of Environmental Protection review. **Newman Hall:** The project has advanced to bidding, with bids due in mid-October and an award anticipated by mid-November. Completion is expected in late spring 2027.

NVC Emergency Ceiling Repairs: After identifying issues involving two ceiling systems within the Newman Vertical Campus during the latter part of the spring semester, the College worked with CUNY and DASNY to implement safety measures, complete a professional engineering assessment, and carry out necessary initial and priority repairs. Evaluation of the remaining ceiling systems is continuing, with the next repairs scheduled in the escalator area during winter break.

Aaronson Student Center Plumbing: Repairs to the failing drain line have been completed. When a separate water leak was discovered in the first-floor lobby during the latter stages of construction, the Facilities team coordinated with the United States Postal Service to identify and address the source. Repairs to the affected space have now been completed, and the site reopened in early October.

In Design or Planning: Future Phases

17 Lexington Avenue, Phase 2A: Design has advanced for the next phase of improvements at 17 Lexington Avenue. The project will transform unfinished areas created when the mezzanine between the sixth and seventh floors was leveled during Phase 2 into new Student Life spaces responding to demonstrated demand for both individual and group study environments. The sixth floor is being designed primarily for collaborative and flexible uses, while the seventh floor will primarily provide focused study environments, including spaces that can accommodate online classes. The design is being refined to address acoustics, durability, maintenance, wayfinding, technology needs, and an appropriate balance between quiet and collaborative uses. To align the project with available resources, the work will proceed in phases. The first phase will develop Floors 6 and 7 while providing utility infrastructure needed for the future renovation of Floors 15 and 16 as research laboratories, including new and redundant cooling towers serving the building's

HVAC system. This approach allows the College to advance needed student space while establishing infrastructure for future academic and research facilities.

Newman Library Modernization: Design for the Newman Library Modernization project on Floors 2 and 4 has been completed, and the project is scheduled to be advertised for bid in early October. Construction is fully funded. The College is continuing to pursue the remaining funding needed for furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

Elevator Modernization Projects: Planning continues for comprehensive elevator modernization at the Newman Vertical Campus, with design supported by CUNY funding. At 17 Lexington Avenue, condition assessments and planning are informing future modernization work. Preventive maintenance and inspections continue across campus as these longer-term investments advance.

South Campus Heating System Replacement: The replacement of two aging steam boilers serving 17 Lexington Avenue, Newman Hall, and the Administration Building has advanced to bidding. A bid opening is anticipated by the end of October, after which construction will proceed. The work is expected to take approximately 12 to 18 months and will strengthen the long-term reliability of the South Campus heating system.

ITB Data Center Cooling Upgrades: Design has been completed for critical cooling improvements supporting campus technology infrastructure. The project will advance to bidding upon receipt of FDNY approval.

Campus-Wide Building Automation System: Design is nearing completion for a campus-wide modernization of the controls used to monitor and operate heating, cooling, and other mechanical systems. Complete design drawings are anticipated by the end of November, with bidding to follow. To align construction with available funding, the project will proceed in two phases. The South Campus will receive first priority, followed by the North Campus once additional funding is secured. When implemented, the system will strengthen energy efficiency, monitoring capabilities, and operational reliability and will be coordinated with the South Campus Heating System Replacement and North Campus Plumbing and Mechanical Upgrades projects.

North Campus Plumbing and Mechanical Upgrades: Design has been completed for a major project supporting long-term mechanical infrastructure resilience and campus energy planning. Current estimates exceed the anticipated budget by approximately \$2.25 million, and CUNY is actively reviewing FY27 funding options to address the difference. Construction remains anticipated to begin in 2027.

Annex Building Interior Improvements: The Annex lease extension provides a tenant improvement allowance of up to \$300,000. The College is prioritizing improvements that will deliver the greatest benefit within the available funding, including restroom fixtures, flooring, lighting, and repainting.

Newman Hall Reconfiguration: A feasibility study has been completed to identify opportunities to improve the use, capacity, and security of Newman Hall. At Baruch's request, CUNY has authorized continued architectural and real-estate planning to translate the study's findings into specific options that address space needs within the building.

Campus Facilities Master Plan: Baruch's Campus Facilities and Space Utilization Master Plan is nearing completion, marking a transition from broad community engagement and analysis to a long-range vision for the campus. Over the past 18 months, Baruch and CUNY leadership have worked with faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders to develop a roadmap that addresses pressing physical and operational challenges while supporting improved learning, campus cohesion, scholarship, and administrative operations. On October 15, the College hosted a community open house to preview the Plan's guiding principles, strategies, recommendations, and proposed physical changes. The Plan reflects extensive community participation and feedback and will guide campus planning, capital investments, and space-utilization decisions over the next decade. The final report will follow the open house.

Internal Operational Improvements: While advancing the College's major capital program, the Facilities team continues to make improvements to the day-to-day campus environment. Over the summer, the team completed deep cleaning and power washing of restrooms, common areas, and student spaces; painting in multiple locations; and several internal renovation projects. The team also implemented remote temperature and humidity monitoring as an interim measure while the campus-wide Building Automation System advances. In addition, the College is preparing to launch a third-shift custodial team once new staff members are onboarded, expanding capacity to maintain campus spaces.

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES (OHR)

2026–27 Annual Mandatory Compliance Training: All full- and part-time employees must complete their assigned annual workplace compliance training. Active employees are automatically enrolled and may access their courses through their [CUNY Brightspace accounts](#) using their CUNYfirst credentials. New hires can access assigned courses on the next business day after becoming active. Courses appear on the My Courses page, with step-by-step instructions available through the Announcements sidebar. Required trainings include ESPARC, Workplace Violence Prevention, Cybersecurity Awareness, and Gender-Based Violence Training for HR professionals and employees who supervise one or more direct reports. Beginning this academic year, all employees must also complete Understanding Title VI, which will become available in late fall. Full-time employees must complete all assigned training by Friday, May 28, 2027. Part-time employees, including adjuncts, must complete training by May 28, 2027, or by the end of their semester employment, whichever comes first. Employees who become inactive in CUNYfirst will no longer have access. Questions may be directed to Baruch's Compliance Training Administrators, Maximillian Ng or Mike Harrington.

Voluntary Emergency Evacuation Assistance Planning Form: Faculty and staff who may want assistance during an emergency evacuation may complete the voluntary [Emergency Evacuation Assistance Planning Form](#). The form supports advance planning for individuals who may need assistance because of mobility, visual, hearing, communication, temporary, or other functional needs. Completing the form, or choosing not to complete it, will not affect employment status, evaluations, or working conditions. Submitted information will be used only for emergency preparedness and response planning and shared only with designated personnel responsible for emergency planning and public safety. Questions may be directed to Michael Harrington, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources.

Open Enrollment and Benefits Outreach: The Office of Human Resources recently hosted the 2026 Benefits & Wellness Fair, *The Heartbeat of Baruch*, on October 14. This year's event focused on heart health, prevention, wellness, and employee benefits awareness. Faculty and staff had the opportunity to participate in health screenings, connect with benefits providers and retirement specialists, receive flu vaccinations, and learn more about available health and wellness resources. Employees should also be aware of several upcoming benefits deadlines. The annual Open Enrollment/Transfer Period runs from November 1 through November 30, 2026, providing employees an opportunity to review and update healthcare benefit elections for 2027. Employees who are satisfied with their current elections are not required to take any action. In addition, the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Open Enrollment Period runs from October 1 through November 13, 2026, for coverage effective January 1, 2027. The FSA program allows employees to set aside pre-tax dollars for eligible healthcare and dependent care expenses. For additional information regarding benefits, open enrollment, or FSA participation, employees are encouraged to consult Human Resources and the Central Benefits website.

CUNYWork Update: CUNYWork, the University's new Workday-based HR and finance system, is now expected to launch in late 2027. The revised schedule provides additional time for testing, training, and campus readiness before the transition. Baruch will play an active role in this work as one of the campuses participating in the next major round of end-to-end testing beginning in February 2027. Over the coming months, the College will identify and prepare testers, review business-process scenarios, and participate in Workday learning and readiness activities. More information will be shared with the campus community as the project progresses.