Borough of Manhattan Community College has many strengths, such as a diverse student body and a myriad of extracurricular activities. However, BMCC’s potential is not being realized in a number of ways.

The communication between a large number of clubs, students, and Student Government is very poor. Many clubs do not get their budget approved for activities, there is a strain on the relationship between SGA and the BMCC student populous, and the way information is communicated throughout the school has not been openly stated for all to see. With my elected office, I plan on implementing a centralized, unified system to bridge the gap between students and the Student Government. I would like to develop sub-committees amongst Senators to monitor and track all club requests so that there is not a delay between budget request submission and approval. The clubs will be organized by their category and monitored by one of three Senators. Secondly, there is a level of professionalism and discipline that I plan on having every officer execute while representing SGA when interacting with college staff and students. We are there to represent the student’s concerns and as a team I plan on preserving SGA’s professional appearance. Lastly, Student Government has three TV’s, social media, and telephones to provide students with information. I would like to nominate one other senator and develop a Public Relations Committee to strictly promote all vital information and keep students informed of all campus activities.

There are many open faced problems that befall a school or a Student Government Association which I would like to tackle and resolve but I feel these concerns are approachable and can be situated. If selected as the President of SGA, I will change the students experience and improve the relations between SGA and the students, with the support of the all other members elected into office.
My name is Mariami Maisashvili and I am a sophomore with the major of Business Administration. As an energetic, motivated, and active student, with proven organizational and communication skills, I decided to take on more responsibilities and run as the Vice President. Having carefully reviewed the duties of the role, I’m confident that my enthusiasm, commitment, and determination, as well as my interpersonal and leadership skills will make me a great Vice President for our student body.

Based on my experience at BMCC, I realized that not many students are involved in extracurricular activities, and that’s one of the main reasons I decided to become a Vice President, to be able, with the support of my teammates, to motivate and encourage students to participate in different clubs and join as many on campus events as they can. As a student myself, I have joined variety of clubs, workshops and programs, and I have also done many volunteering services in P.L.U.S. program, which helped me to meet new people with different culture and different way of thinking.

As a Vice President, my goal for BMCC students is to create the proper environment for both, our academic and professional advancement and development. This position will give me an opportunity to use my hard work and dedication to do something I enjoy doing, which is helping our students in need of anything and becoming the voice for our students. As the Vice President, I want to give students the opportunity to be engaged in activities, whether it is joining a club, programs, or events at BMCC. I believe that students who are more engaged on campus activities are more likely to be successful academically.
Aristotle had once said, “The community comes first before the individual does.” This to me renders to be true, and carries such importance. I am Terrin Phillips, I am much more than an individual. I hold a 3.72 GPA, I am a historian officer in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor society, I was President of the Veterans Club who helped to raise over $20,000 for the toys for Tots toy drive, and I was also a soldier in the United States Army and had served 12 months in Afghanistan from 2011-2012. I know what hard work should be like, and I know what integrity looks like. I understand what the words “loyalty” and “honor” truly mean. I served this country with valor and I hope to serve the community of BMCC with the same passion. I hope to be Vice President of SGA to empower the students on greatness and to help serve those in need of a voice who may not be able to speak for themselves.

My greatest thanks and sincerity,
Being an active student at Borough of Manhattan Community College has helped me gain a lot of experience and many skills that I know will help me to be a great Treasurer. I’ve worked with many different organizations on campus that involve different kinds of students, therefore, I am confident that I will make decisions that will benefit the entire student body rather than just a section of it.

I currently hold a position on the executive board of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa here at BMCC. I began as a member in the spring of 2015, by the fall of 2015 I was elected Officer of Communications, and for the spring of 2016 I was elected to be on the executive board. I’ve gained many skills due to my involvement in Phi Theta Kappa such as organization, time management, and leadership. My position consists of sending out weekly emails to all of the members informing them on what has and is to come for our chapter. Also I create agendas for the meetings as well as lead the discussion.

Another organization that I have been a part of on campus that has helped me gain skills is the Peer Mentoring Program. Being a mentor to four low academic standing students has taught me much about the need of students and how to keep them focused on the right track for success.

I hope with my experience and involvement you will see that I am a perfect candidate for the position as Treasurer of the Student Government Association here at BMCC. I am confident that with my contribution to the committee I will help guide the school and its students on the right path.
My name is Ha Tran, a sophomore studying Communication Studies, and I am running for the Secretary position of SGA. I am confident that I have the ambitious, commitment and leadership ability for this role. I enjoy being challenged and always seek out opportunities to grow as an individual and as a professional. I believe that student government can be fun, engaging, and influential on campus.

As Secretary, I would like to enrich the communication between the student body, staff, faculty and administration, which I think is lacking. My priority is to work on making BMCC an engaging, informed and developing campus where everyone can collaborate easily. My mission is also to be a representative for SGA at meetings of outside agencies. So not only making a change for BMCC to be a better community, I will be working on building a good image of our school for everyone to see. Besides, as an Asian international student, I wish to be a connection between SGA and of Asian and international students at BMCC, I believe this is a factor that makes SGA more diverse.

I can assure you that I will commit my energy to trying to strengthen the roots BMCC has established. I am always open to feedback because I hope to represent your needs and make your experience here at BMCC be the most fulfilling that it can be, both academically and socially. Thank you very much!
I am writing to you to announce my candidacy for the 2016-2017 Student Government Elections. My name is Deborah Aderounmu, currently a Student Representative of the Student Government Association of Borough of Manhattan Community College. For the fall 2015 semester, I also served as Vice President of the Remedial Fundamental and was a member of the PLUS Leadership Program of the college.

So far the experience has been incredible - from the vast knowledge that I have garnered to the educational as well as fun school activities. Nevertheless, there is still more that can be done in the school to improve it.

Firstly, the fact that very little of the population of Borough of Manhattan Community College is aware of the Student Government Association and the services they can provide is quite disappointing. As most BMCC students come to school with the intent of returning home or going to work right after, they are unaware of the opportunities available to them. This is something that can be developed and as a Senator, I would try my best to improve this because these experiences are usually once in a lifetime; without them, students may never know who they might meet to aid in having a successful future.

Subsequently, providing the bridge between students and the administration in BMCC would be a top priority if elected as Senator. The administration is here to help, and as an advocate of the student body, I would ensure that the voices of the students are heard by them.

Finally, any ideas or plans that students may have that will improve student life on campus will be gladly taken. I want to be the change YOU, the students want to see.
As Mahatma Gandhi once said “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” My name is Nur Ahamed and I am applying for a candidacy in this year’s Student Government Association as a Senator. Our desire for change is not going to become reality, unless we strive hard towards it and attain a greatness. A greatness where not only you would benefit from the positive outcome, but a whole variety of people will benefit as well. When I first came to BMCC I wanted to have the college experience with more community, but as we all know most colleges in the NYC area are commuter colleges; making it hard to have a true college experience.

BMCC has many strengths, such as a diverse student body and a myriad of extracurricular activities. However, BMCC’s potential is not being realized in a number of ways. The coordination between the multitudes of clubs and students needs to be more organized. I want to make events where students can come network and become aware of what BMCC has to offer, bridging the gap between the Students’ Government and the Student body. Clubs must take a larger role in student life at BMCC. I intend to help clubs get the outreach which is direly needed. Furthermore, I will ensure that incentives such as free metro cards, free meal tickets, and opportunities to cheaper textbooks are available at these events, making your college experience a better one.

I want to bring not only change, but a change that we can believe in! I implore you all to put your faith in me and elect me as your Student Government Association’s senator, so the dream of community can come to reality. My name is Nur which means light and I want to bring sunshine to BMCC!
My name is Daryl Burke and I want to be your Senator of the Student Government Association. If you elect me as your Senator, I promise to fulfill my duties as an SGA member and ensure your time at BMCC will be a great one. As Senator not only will I reach out to you on a professional level but also on a personal level because I love nothing more than to connect with my fellow students. The first thing I would do as your Senator is to maintain the SGA budget, so we can raise the fund for new clubs/organizations and raise the funds for current clubs/organizations as well. I want to add more club hours, so everyone gets the opportunity to join one, but at the same time would not interfere with class hours because your education is your top priority. I also want to encourage students to get involved in school programs.

I am a part of the Student P.L.U.S. program for the Office of Student Activities and we do voluntary work on and off campus. We help by feeding the homeless, tutoring elementary school children, clean public parks around the city, and help our fellow students. I am promoting the Student P.L.U.S. program because nothing is more important than helping others in need and volunteering not only make you a better person, but also a strong leader. I want to be your voice and whatever problems you have; I want you to come to me. I will be with you every step of the way and not allow you to walk this path alone. We are the future and in order to have a bright one; we must tackle through tough obstacles and it starts here at BMCC.
I'm in school because I love learning and I want to enhance my academic skills to better my chances and improve my quality of life. Therefore, it's a great opportunity to be able to participate in the process of growing in what happens every second of every semester here and we should give back to our community, because if we take we should be grateful and compensate in one way or another. So as part of learning experience, I believe it's not enough to just attend classes and leave. I think we have to participate in different activities available in school. Also we need to have a voice in decision takings in school, and I don't believe in waiting for someone else to do anything for me. That's the main reason of my interest in running for student government election.

Plus, with all respect to faculty and every single employee that is working here in BMCC for us, I think there are many issues that you can't feel the importance unless you are dealing daily with it. That's another reason. I feel the responsibility to be that voice between the students and to be able to talk and discuss the issues. Also, students need to know more about the hard work and effort that is required to run this huge school and I want to be the school employee's voice between the students as well. I have some experiences as a senator from another school (Somaye College) school, and I think that is an important quality to have for this position, because I'm willing to put the time and work with the knowledge of what I'm running for. I also have different successful experiences as a manager and also as a team member, and I believe these qualities will come handy in a senator position. On the other hand, I'm a people person and from my perspective it is a must for a candidate to be able to make good connections and communications. To sum up, my purpose and prior experience will enhance my job if elected as Senator here and I want to be a very productive BMCC's family member and I hope I get a chance to do that.
At the age of 14 I assumed a leadership role for my family due to the absence of my father. While my mother was working to provide for her child, the responsibility to care for and guide my younger siblings fell on me. Therefore, I developed leadership skills at a young age. To me the Borough of Manhattan Community college is a family, and I care about the success of my fellow students. For that reason, I want to apply for the position of Senator in the Student Government Association to help make this school a better place for the current and future students. I tend to make this happen by putting into practice the leadership skill, I have developed while growing up.

If elected to the office of Senator my first goal is to make sure that all students are treated equally regardless of their nationality, gender and race. Second, I will insist that respect is given to students, as well as staff and faculty. I would move to negotiate a discount for books for the students who meet the standard GPA requirement. Another objective I hope to achieve is to have college food service offer more selection of meals at an affordable price. In addition, BMCC needs more than one reflection room because we have a student body with different religious beliefs, and I will advocate for all of them. For those clubs that organize events for the growth of students, they should have extended funds to cover all expenses. In order to serve this large population of students we need more computer labs, and also to have labs divided for those who need to focus on their school assignments.

I have been in a student at BMCC for 2 years, what I have mentioned are the some of the complaints I hear from students as well as witnessed myself. If I am elected as a Senator of the SGA, fixing these problems will be my priority because I do not want to leave BMCC the way I found it.
My name is Quincy Doccy and I am a freshman student in my second semester here at BMCC. I am running for a Senator position in the Student Government Association election. The reason I decided to run for this position is because as a student I experience what is happening around campus and know I can contribute my knowledge and expertise by taking action and improving the current conditions.

One of the major problems that I currently notice is that most students are not aware about the SGA. During my time getting over 200 students to sign for me to represent them as a candidate, I had to explain over and over about the SGA and what it’s about. And of course, I ran into students that were completely not interested. I believe the reason why students are not aware of the SGA is because there is no strategy in place to effectively get the attention of the students at BMCC, therefore making them uninterested.

I attended the American Student Government Association conference last month in New Jersey, and know that I can apply the tactics and strategies that I have learned to fix these problems. One thing to remember is this is a community college, a lot of students don’t have time and go straight to work or home when their classes are done. We must have a solution in place where these students can benefit and gain interest to get involved in different activities on campus.

My main goal is to get students involved and aware of the SGA by implementing several programs that will benefit students and grasp their attention. I believe that the student activity fee that every student pays must benefit the students. I have spoken to a number of students who have handed me their concerns and support my plans. When I do get elected, some of the plans are: discounts for students at the cafeteria and various restaurants around campus on special days; free coffee or cappuccino for students four times a month; ticket giveaways on campus and more.
CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR (15 seats)

Kaoutar Elharchaoui

A.P.O.G.E.E.
Advocating Power of Greater Educators Efficiently

My name is Kaoutar Elharchaoui. I am writing to you to announce my candidacy for the office of Senator. I am a Science major and this is my third semester in BMCC, it’s been going great so far I’m going to graduate with a high GPA in fall 2016 and go to NYU. I am interested in this position because being involved in decision and policy making is important to me. I understand the role of a leader and policy making, thanks to my membership in the Student P.L.U.S. leadership program. Moreover, I’m a Peer Mentor and this has taught me good communication skills, the ability to listen, understand, question, and clarify better. So far the experience has been incredible from the vast knowledge that I have garnered to the educational as well as fun school activities. Nevertheless, there is still more that can be done in the school to improve it.

The Student Government Association is the most effective group on the campus however very little of the population of Borough of Manhattan Community College are aware of the Student Government Association and the services they have to offer. Many do not consider the SGA to be helpful or even an organization, so they do not involve themselves in its affairs. However, the SGA is here to represent us as an entire undergraduate student body. I will do my best to change this poor impression and make the SGA something which everyone can recognize and respect.

My primary motive is to act as a bridge between the students and administration. In other words, if you have any issues or ideas, please pursue the relationship between the SGA and the student, and I would be delighted to share your concerns.
Mohamed Kone
A.P.O.G.E.E.

Advocating Power of Greater Educators Efficiently

“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.” (Malala Yousafzai).

My name is Mohamed Kone, I find it hard to see my fellow students who go through the school without allowing the school to go through them. I have taken it upon myself to ask most BMCC students about the Co-Curricular Transcript and 90 percent of the time, I find out that they have never even heard of it. A greater percentage of students only concentrate on their academics and hence never even take a minute to find out about the programs, resources and opportunities that the school has to offer. I agree a hundred percent that students need to prioritize their education, but I equally believe that networking which is cultivated and nurtured by getting involved in the school, will also open several doors of opportunity to many students after graduating.

As a Senator, I will make it my personal responsibility to increase the awareness of the CCT by letting students know how they will benefit from participating in college activities and how to record all their hours of service on their CCT. I will also share with them the numerous ways they can utilize the CCT such as scholarship applications, job interviews, college application, etc. I strongly believe that if they know exactly what they will be getting from it that will ignite their interest.
My name is Michelle Murillo, I’m a proud student at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) and my major is Science. Life is full of challenges and struggles and my personality is the kind that will take on challenges and turn problems into solutions. In my studying of Political Science and Sociology, I have become more aware of urbanization and global issues. I have joined the Urban Male Leadership Academy (UMLA) at BMCC during my first semester of college and now I am the first female president. Since then I have been able to interact with people from both inside and outside of my community. My involvement in this program has given me the opportunity to fully express and share my feelings, thoughts and experiences with others. Not only that, but it has also taught me how to avoid all types of stereotypes associated with other individuals. As a result, I have acquired cultural competency which facilitates my day-to-day operations that includes working with people regardless of their race, background, religion, and sexual orientation. Thus my experiences and skills make me the ideal candidate for a Senator.

If selected, I intend to use my knowledge as the first female president of UMLA to expand the variety of programs the school has to offer. There is a main goal I am striving to achieve, which is to provide students with their proper daily needs. As a student at BMCC, I can relate to the daily activities that my fellow students have to go through. By being the voice and representing the student body here at BMCC will really give me the opportunity to be heard as a whole. Giving the school’s clubs all of their needs in a timely and orderly fashion will be my priority as a Senator. I want to ensure that all officers are responsible with the money and make sure the officers are doing their job. Along with this I plan to work with the administration to try and implement a tuition decrease. To become a Senator there are a lot of responsibilities because the whole school depends on a system to balance out and help them. I am willing to do anything in order to give students the proper necessities to get through the semester and graduate. Even though it takes a process to get what is needed to be done, I am an optimist, who believes that nothing is impossible if a group of people who are willing to support each other to uplift the masses. I personally believe that the current officers can do more for the community. If I am selected as Senator my vision is to give students more scholarship awareness on campus, I am sticking with my goals and want to make sure I will succeed with that because many students will be able to sustain themselves much better.
First, I would like to thank you, personally for taking your time to read my letter. In previous letters addressed to the student body, other candidates may attempt to answer “What I would do for the student body?” I would like to answer that question in terms of professionalism, yet humanistic.

I have an extensive experience in being a member as well as serving as President of the International Students Club. This has helped me obtain a variety of social engagement, and also assisted me in having knowledge of SGA’s structured affairs such as the Student Government Association’s budget, and club chartering rules.

One aspect that needs structure is the academic life. BMCC advertises “Start Here, Go Anywhere”, which indeed is true as long as services are provided to our students. Therefore, as a person who desires not to just do well in her college career, but I also want others to reach their full potential as well. Moreover, my goal is to have the SGA engage the student body by encouraging graduation.

As a Senator, I would like to help increase the population of students who are graduating as well as motivating themselves to get a higher education. I hope to achieve many ways in helping student body overall, as a mother myself, I tend to go above and beyond in helping individuals. My experiences have made me well adapt to individuals who are being judged as statistics. I want to help young women who are questioning themselves and achieving their educational goals. Being a mom makes me qualified to understand their academic struggle, their wants and needs as well. I hope to be their voice, I hope to achieve a relationship with each and every mom letting them know that they are not alone in their struggle. With making such achievements, I can provide the information BMCC has provided such as programs being offered to help me in my struggling times. Growing up in circumstances, which I have overcome as well shows my dedication. The college motto has also led me to believe that I started here and I can end up anywhere I desire. I desire to be a great attorney one day. Every day that I overcome my struggles with the help of BMCC brings me closer to my dream, which I believe is possible.

In conclusion, as a Senator my first priority is the student body including all their needs and interests. My job is to serve you, the students, individually and as a whole. My goal in running for senator is to remain honest throughout the campaign. I want to achieve trust within the student body because without them I have no knowledge of what they are facing. In every field especially in professional aspect it is best to remain honest and true to others, while not losing yourself in why you started what you hope to accomplish. I am not here to make promises to students, I am here to try to achieve everything possible in my ability to better serve the student body as a whole. I am committed to being part of a government that assists the students. I have a desire to help people, and better other’s lives. My life goal is designed to improve human life and my goal for SGA is to improve student life. In addition, I would like to thank you for considering me.
Fiona Stone

A.P.O.G.E.E.

Advocating Power of Greater Educators Efficiently

My name is Fiona Stone and I am a sophomore running for a Senator position in student government. I am a native New Yorker, who spent almost a decade as a paralegal at a law firm in NYC’s financial district advocating for our residents.

Last fall, I founded the BMCC Xtreme Sports Club to fill the void of extracurricular activities. Being club president for two semesters has given me insight to administrative processes integral to running an effective student government. I aspire to streamline these processes to aid club chartering and SGA funds allocation. As a studio art major, one of my aspirations is to spearhead an articulation agreement between BMCC and local art supply houses which would allow students to purchase supplies with funds such as bookstore credit.

In my free time, I am a member of an off-campus roller derby league. We are a non-profit entity which gives back to the community by providing charitable fundraisers and participating in community events such as parades. Creating ways to bring people together and building a sense of community is a goal of mine. Finding your own voice in the world after high school can be hard and in a college of 27,000 students, being heard can seem impossible. Student government grants the opportunity to speak up and be heard by your peers, I strive to be someone you can talk to. Maya Angelou’s famous words “Never make someone a priority that considers you only an option” have stuck with me since childhood; if I am elected to represent you, I promise to make students’ issues my priority and help them take advantage of all of the options at their disposal.
My name is Favour Uzoukwu a liberal art major student of Borough of Manhattan Community College. I began my first semester at Bmcc in the fall of 2014. I am currently a peer mentor here at Bmcc and also at M.E.C.A, a dean’s list student and also a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society with a grade point average of 3.769. Although the fall semester of 2016 would be my fifth semester, I intend to pursue a career in Nursing here at BMCC while doing that, I also wanted to be a part of something bigger, to be an advocate for students, so I decided to run for the office of Senator in the Student Government Association which aims to make the stay of every student here at BMCC as unique as possible which is the same mindset that made me become a mentor.

We all have that one quote that keeps us focused. For me, it is “Your success is only as good as your hardwork”. Education is something that I consider vital to human existence because it broadens our thoughts and mindset. Therefore, I take my education and that of my fellow students extremely important and am committed to going past the barriers and things that might hinder the success of each student. Also to bring forth the issues that might not be known to the administration of Borough of Manhattan Community College which the students have relayed to me. I hope I am given the opportunity to serve my fellow students.
It is a distinct honor and privilege to be considered by you as one of your fifteen Senators for the Student Government Association (SGA) of Borough of Manhattan Community College. I am proud to have been effective in soliciting the maximum signatures allowed on the page, which is a testament to your faith and belief in my ability to do a great job of representing you in the SGA. I will continue this all during my campaign and if elected, while I am in office serving you. My thoughts will always remain on what is most important for you, not for me. My outmost responsibility is you and your needs and concerns; what affects you therefore affects me and so we are intertwined as in no other example of public office. I am a student as well. Let me introduce myself properly so as to illuminate my qualifications and why I would be beneficial to you. I am a bit older and therefore wiser than I was years before. I have spent the majority of my adult life in the Army and have a great sense of commitment and duty, as well as loyalty and drive, qualities that I find lacking in today’s world. I have a special skill set that allows me to look further down the road, not to mention my exceptional organizational skills, that I learned will traveling the world, in different ways and reasons. I have learned very important traits with this: how to plan properly and execute directives, how to combine logistics and planning to complete a successful mission.

Most of my real world experience comes during wartime when stress, danger, and lack of sleep all play a role in your ability to function at full speed. I have the ability to find the best person for the task, if it is not myself, to complete whatever mission is set before me. I also have worked primarily in austere environment and I am used to hardship, actions that are essential. I have the unique ability to not only handle crises but to excel during them, and I work well under pressure, which is what a Senator must display on a daily and active basis. After my time in the Army, I joined the corporate world with the Bank of New York, the oldest and therefore most experienced bank in America. I was essentially a fireman; whatever problem or crisis arose at the Bank, they called me. I was on the travel team that defined the corporate security department and I was also tasked with the physical security of the lobby at 101 Barclay Street. This is the tip of the spear when it comes to crisis management and I was an enforcer of all regulations. Essentially, whenever anything bad happened, I would be called to fix it. In addition to those duties, I was also a Business Intelligence Analysis as well. In plain terms, I gather information and with my mind piece together current world events and decipher how it will affect the Bank globally, this is a skill set that not many people have.

My platform is simple. I am a Combat Veteran and will do all I can to assist and help Military Veterans. Any student is welcome and I will give my entire attention and focus to whomever may need me. I will work tirelessly to get any student the help they deserve and require. My commitment is steadfast and my sense of duty is unbreakable. The work ethic and core values that I learned in the Army has served me well in civilian life. I plan to continue that battle here in the next arena and to serve all of you, my classmates. My heart is open to you as well as my door. I will always be available and will hear each and every concern, complaint, and correction. I am here for you and will always be. Thank you