

President Michelle J. Anderson,

While this response acknowledges the collective work that came about while putting together our list of demands, we, the students, feel quite dismissed. As you know, a year ago we had a meeting where your presence was requested four months prior and you still did not stay to hear us out. Hence, we expect a lot more from you this time around. We are demanding more from you, and this response—ironically—seems to mirror what many would call a "cop-out."

While you may "agree" with many of the points and "the spirit" in our letters, it seems like you do not agree with immediate action. We know "real change" is "necessary and possible." We have seen how you can create real change in the revamping of the long-abandoned Food Pantry at the beginnings of the ongoing global pandemic. You must mirror these actions with the call to immediately resolve issues of anti-Blackness, racism, xenophobia, and sexism on campus.

It's time that we begin by addressing the main issue on our campus: our President does not advocate for the people she serves.

Unlike the faculty and staff beautifully did in their letter, we refuse to explain every term or demand we bring forth, as it provides quick and easy ways to part from the main topics we wish to discuss. In addition, we believe someone who holds a J.D. from Yale Law School is well-versed with the language we make use of. You know racism, anti-Blackness and more goes on in Brooklyn College. Your commitment must transcend white papers and emails—you must do more immediately.

Your respect for "the desire to turn long-held concerns into actionable policies and outcomes" only comes as a result to maintain a progressive image within the campus community and those looking into it. As our letter states, since 2018 we have been talking about anti-Blackness, racism, xenophobia and sexism on campus, and your "respect" was absent back then. It pleases us to see that you respect us now.

The solutions presented in your reply only respond to the demands of the Faculty. Even more, it only responds to issues that you yourself mention were brought up in February of this year. In the same way, we can begin by filling the long-overdue tenure-track faculty lines that the Africana Studies Department and the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department have been requesting for more than seven years. Additionally, we would like to see a detailed plan that provides the adjacent Flatbush and Midwood communities access to the school and its services. Moreover, the Center for Black Studies AND the Center for Latino Studies should have a working budget and a detailed reopening plan to begin their functions come the Fall 2020 Semester. Given that you and the rest of your administrative team have had multiple meetings over the years to hear from us directly, we believe these are issues you can also take immediate action upon.

In regards to setting up a meeting to discuss the remaining demands and issues, we will only join a meeting space that is controlled by students and faculty—not any person from your administrative team. We would be tasked with setting up the Zoom call, and allowing everybody to speak. This meeting should also have a minimum of time of one hour and a half (90 mins). We

suggest the date of Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00PM for an initial meeting. Later, a follow up meeting will be scheduled no later than July 28th at the same time.

Given that this is a community issue, we are inviting elected officials and media to witness the change that we are bringing upon Brooklyn College. In addition, an invite will go out to CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos Rodríguez, and any other member of the CUNY-wide community that we believe is an agent of change.

We are not here to negotiate our realities, we are here to change them.

Sinceramente,

The Brooklyn College Student Body
via The Puerto Rican Alliance