Dear BAC faculty and staff,

On Wednesday, June 3, I announced the BAC’s plans for fall semester 2020. This announcement was reinforced in our Monday, June 15, student e-newsletter. In order to ensure we are all speaking ‘in one voice’ to our students, I wanted to share this information to you today. I ask you to please read this information carefully—let me know if you have questions.

As you are aware, our decision to continue with remote learning in the fall was made with the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff as our top priority. And, as we continue through the summer, and the warm weather, we must not forget that we are still in the middle of a pandemic—a public health crisis, which will continue through the fall and into the winter months.

With no vaccine currently available, our best options are mitigating the risks by following the CDC, state, and local guidelines for social distancing. These safety guidelines include avoiding large gatherings, wearing masks, testing and contact tracing, and thinking inclusively about the most vulnerable people among us. We also need to consider the risks posed by public transportation as well as limitations imposed by elevators and vertical circulation, caregiving requirements of students or employees, and also preparing for potential spikes and restrictions on physical movements in the fall.

For students enrolled in our online programs: Faculty are hard at work developing content rich programming for the BAC’s fully online intensive. Online intensives, which were first piloted by the BAC last year, were a huge success and we’re excited to show our students all we have learned. Otherwise, programs continue without disruptions as usual. In addition, our students will now have additional resources available online.

For students enrolled in our onsite programs: The BAC education has two components: course work in the academic setting and practice hours in a work setting. In fall 2020, ALL primary academic instruction, student services, and lab resources will be delivered online. Students are advised to coordinate with their practice employer about the work-from-home or in-person options made available by each firm. We know that most, if not all the firms, are preferring work-from-home option for their employees.

The BAC will provide curated and optional access to the library or fabrication facilities in a phased manner synchronized with Governor Baker’s reopening plan. Curated access means access by appointment only. Students will not be required to use the facilities to accomplish coursework.

International students: May continue to take their coursework online—regardless of their physical location. With potential changes to Curricular/Optional Practical Training, travel restrictions, lack of alternative funding sources, and
challenges to maintaining visa status, add layers of complexity for them.

Finally, if students have unmet financial needs, the most important thing they can do is to contact us immediately so we can explore all options and avenues of obtaining financial aid.

Remember, continuation and completion of students’ degree programs will place them in a stronger position for success. We encourage all of our BAC students to #StayTheCourse!

We are here to help each one of our BAC students to succeed. So, want to know how to assist them during these challenging times. #WeAreInThisTogether!

Sincerely,
Dr. Mahesh Daas, President

A big shout-out to Deirdre Higgins and Wendi Sachs in Human Resources Development for your hard work and dedication to each BAC community member, especially during these challenging times! We also want to recognize our Finance Team of Lauren Berk and Katherine Tejada. They have transitioned seamlessly and are always willing to help with questions. THANK YOU!

Additional News + Resources:

**BAC Talks**
We are thrilled BAC Talks was such a success! You may now view on our website. Please [click here](#) to watch!

**Access to Campus Instructions**
If you need access to campus during this time, please email Patti Vague and Ellen Yee at least one day in advance. Thanks!
BAC Faculty Profile
We are excited to begin a new way to recognize and get to know our faculty with Q&A’s. Click here to read more about Isra Banks!

Marketing & Communications Requests
We appreciate you keeping the Marketing & Communications team updated on any news, updates, events, or important information! Please note that Ashley Abon is on vacation June 15-23 and you may reach out to nancy.finn@the-bac.edu if you need immediate assistance! In addition, we ask that you please be mindful of deadlines and give the MarComm team a minimum of 3-5 days to complete any requests. Thank you!

Reopening Massachusetts
Check out this resource from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce outlining the reopening of Massachusetts.

MBTA Passes
The BAC will be suspending the option to purchase MBTA passes through bi-weekly payroll deduction until we are back to business as usual. If you are interested in purchasing a pass at that time, please contact Wendi Sachs directly.
Vacation Policy Focus Groups
We are asking you to participate in an open forum to discuss the details of updated vacation policy. We will be holding open focus groups for 10 employees at one time. If you have not signed up, there is still time on the following dates:

June 18, 2020
10:30am– 11:30am

June 19, 2020
10:30am– 11:30am
2:00pm– 3:00pm

These meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams and are limited to 10 employees in each focus group. Please email Deirdre to let her know what dates and times work best for you and she will send you the teams invite.

Delta Dental Updates
Because provider offices have been closed except for emergencies, many members have not been able to get the preventive care they need.

To help encourage members to receive preventive care, we are launching a new program for our fully insured groups. Every member who gets a preventive cleaning between June 1 and August 31 will receive an electronic toothbrush.

Enhancing Benefits, Supporting Members
To further remove barriers to care, we are adjusting time limits on benefits to allow members to get preventive care and other services for most of our fully insured clients who have not already made these changes. We will be changing frequency limits for things like oral exams, teeth cleaning, x-rays and fluoride from every 6 months to twice per year to allow members to catch up with their care.

We hope you have received your BAC Flag in the mail! If you haven't, please reach out to Trevor or Nancy and we will re-send one to you. Please decorate your flag and keep it so we can post them up when we are BAC on Campus!

Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People’s Republic of China
President Trump signed a Presidential Proclamation on May 29 that may affect certain nationals from the People’s Republic of China (PRC) seeking entry to the US in F or J visa status to pursue graduate study or research at U.S. institutions. The proclamation does NOT apply to students seeking to pursue undergraduate study.

It is not yet known exactly who will be affected, or how the State Department intends to implement the proclamation, but the BAC is closely tracking this situation and will post updates to our community as more details become available.

The proclamation, effective June 1, 2020, suspends entry to the US of individuals affiliated with an entity that “implements or supports” the PRC’s “military-civil fusion strategy.”

Currently, the proclamation does NOT apply to individuals inside the U.S. pursuing study in F status.

The proclamation does not apply to U.S. Citizens, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card holders), the spouse of a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident, and other special categories as listed in the proclamation.

BAC is working closely with peer institutions, higher education associations, and other partners on this issue. We understand the distress that these changes in U.S. immigration regulations create as you pursue your degree program at the BAC. We will provide more clarity as definitive information is issued by the relevant government agencies.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Resources
Click here to review some of the resources available to you through our EAP!

The BAC Library has created and updated several topical research guides to assist the BAC Community!

Architecture, Race and Culture
This guide explores the legacy of racism, social movements and civil rights as they manifest in the built environment, at the intersection of housing, transit, density, urban development, decay and discrimination.

LGBTQ Architecture
This guide explores LGBTQ issues within the design world. Perfect for Pride month.

Digitized BAC Thesis Documents
Due to the current pandemic and the subsequent BAC closure, the BAC library staff have been undergoing digitization efforts in order to make the BAC thesis documents available online. This guide is intended for the BAC community to access the most up-to-date thesis documents that are currently accessible online. Thesis listed here are all commend winners.

But that's not it! We have even more guides that can help with your research. Got a recommendation for a
We are excited to present the work of the BAC 2020 degree recipients from undergraduate and graduate programs. Click here to see our Digital Graduation Exhibit!

Stay updated with the BAC's COVID-19 Webpage
As always, please visit our COVID-19 page for the latest information. If you have questions, please direct them to emergencymanagement@the-bac.edu. You can also follow us on Twitter @TheBACBoston for up-to-date and relevant information.

The Boston Architectural College
320 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115

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