Dear BAC Colleagues,

From our conversations over the past few weeks, I know many of you may be feeling anxious about our ‘return to campus’ plans.

Part of this process has been asking questions such as:

- What does return to campus look like?
- Who will need to be regularly on campus?
- How will we determine who needs to work regularly on campus?
- When will we know the definitive plan for returning to campus?
- Will there be flexible options and schedules available?
- How will faculty and our staff interface with BAC students?
- Will we need some retraining to adjust to new routines?
- How will we accommodate caregiving needs of families?

These and many more questions are on my mind, and I am sure they are on yours too!

First, I want to clarify to each of you that any regularly scheduled return to campus will not take place prior to mid-August. Re-entering our Boston campus is going to involve extensive planning and conversations with you—the BAC’s faculty and staff community.

In the next two weeks we plan to engage in substantial dialog and planning around these questions and topics. These ‘BAC to Campus’ solutions and plans are being thoughtfully crafted and carefully customized to individual circumstances.

Fortunately, as our academic instruction will be online for summer and fall 2020, we have more degrees of freedom than other colleges that have chosen to hold in-person instruction.

My personal directive will always be to the safety and well-being of our community.

Please stay tuned for a detailed timeline of the planning process to be shared with you by early next week. Thank you for your patience as we navigate this new path we are travelling together!

Stay well,

Dr. Mahesh Daas, President
Congratualtions to Rosario Russell Giacoppo on his retirement! Russell was hired at the BAC on March 23, 1981 and saw the Facilities department grow from a team of two to present day with six team members, three owned locations, and two rental spaces. He has worked with 20 different Facilities co-workers, including his grandson from 2008-2009. Throughout all his time Russell maintained his unwavering motivation and generosity to assist BAC students with something as simple as borrowing a roll of tape to setting up Cascieri Hall for a student event. Thank you, Russell, for your amazing dedication to the BAC all these years!

Additional News + Resources:

BAC Faculty Profile
We are excited to recognize and get to know our faculty through profile Q&A’s. Click here to read more about Isra Banks.

Employee MBTA Update
We have finally received a refund for the April t-passes: The BAC will return the amounts that were taken out of your pay in March for the April t-passes. Look for the reimbursement in your check pay date July 2, 2020.
Check out this resource from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce outlining the reopening of Massachusetts.

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 Vaughn and Ellen Yee at least one day in advance. Thanks!

Paycom and Fall Classes
HR is working with Vic, Jade, Anna and Scott to finalize the streamlining of hiring employees for our wonderful adjuncts, student teachers, and assistant teachers etc. All hiring will run through Paycom. Ed Directors and Deans will enter PAF’s and Requisitions through Paycom and HR will issue the letters. Training for the Ed Directors and Deans will be happening over the next few weeks. We are very excited to automate this process!

You’ve Got Mail!
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!
Trump Administration Extends and Expands the Suspension of Certain Visas Through 2020

On June 22, 2020, President Trump issued a presidential proclamation establishing temporary entry bans of new H-1B, H-2B, L-1, and certain J-1 non-immigrants, as well as their spouses and dependents. The ban goes into effect June 24, 2020 and expires December 31, 2020. In addition, the proclamation extends the president’s April 22 proclamation banning certain immigrant entries through December 31, 2020.

The ban applies to foreign nationals who are not present in the U.S. when the proclamation takes effect and do not hold valid U.S. visas or travel documents. The proclamation will not apply to “any lawful permanent resident of the United States; any alien who is the spouse or child ... of a United States citizen; any individual seeking to enter the United States to provide temporary labor or services essential to the United States food supply chain; and any individual whose entry would be in the national interest as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees.”

Importantly for institutions of higher education, the J-1 ban only applies to interns, trainees, teachers, camp counselors, au pairs and summer work travel participants — other subcategories of the J-1 program such as college students, professors, and research scholars will not be impacted. Furthermore, the proclamation does not affect the optional practical training (OPT) program — suggestions that the Administration was contemplating including new constraints for OPT recipients had many higher education leaders worried about such an impact.

The order also instructs the Secretaries of Labor and Homeland Security to consider regulatory or other actions to ensure that the admission of an EB-2 or EB-3 immigrant visa or an H-1B non-immigrant visa does not put American workers at a disadvantage. These actions are intended to prioritize U.S. workers during the nation’s recovery from the COVID-19 economic fallout. According to the administration’s statement on the order, these upcoming reforms “will prioritize those workers who are offered the highest wage, ensuring that the highest-skilled applicants are admitted.”
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.

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 future guide? Let us know! Email library@the-bac.edu or check out http://the-bac.libguides.com/?b=g&d=a
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.

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