

*[Emailed with high importance to President Karol Mason and Provost Yi Li at 3:15 pm, Friday, January 15, 2021 on behalf of the Executive Committee of the John Jay Chapter of the PSC from Co-Chairs John Pittman and Zabby Hovey, using EHovey@jjay.cuny.edu.]*

Dear Karol and Yi,

With confidence that the New Year finds you and yours well, we write out of concern for the coming semester.

The pandemic and repeated and ongoing lockdowns have had profound effects not only on CUNY faculty and staff but our student body as well. We urge the administration to consider, in making decisions on enrollments and class cancellations in the Spring '21 course offerings, the difficult straits that many of our students are facing. Many of our students are struggling financially, given the lockdown and closure of many area businesses and curtailing of job opportunities. Many are suffering emotionally with the loss of family members and other loved ones due to the pandemic, and many are dealing with their own medical and health-related conditions, as well. Finally, we have all witnessed the difficulties experienced by both students and many 'classroom instructors,' even, with the challenges presented by online instruction, be it 'asynchronous' or 'synchronous.'

Given these considerations, we call on the college leadership to help students pursue their courses of study successfully, without undue delay or impediment, by

- providing a robust set of course offerings in Spring 2021,
- relaxing course enrollment minimums,
- suspending some financial requirements on students attempting to register for courses,
- and anything else that would erase roadblocks as students advance toward their degrees in truly vexing circumstances.

Finally, in light of the allocations to CUNY colleges contained in the recent Pandemic Relief Act, we believe these measures are not only important for the health of the college community, but fiscally viable as well.

For the EC, John Jay Chapter, PSC

Zabby and John