

CCNY Undergraduate Student Government 160 Convent Avenue New York, NY 10031 Email: usg@gtest.ccny.cuny.edu

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Media Contact: Nelson Asemota, Vice President of Public Affairs

Email: nasemot000@citymail.cuny.edu

CCNY Undergraduate Student Government Calls for Further Action in response to COVID-19

As the elected body of student representatives, the Undergraduate Student Government's main priority is to advocate on behalf of the students and in their best interests. With that being said, first and foremost, we direct the entire student body to the following resources in order to obtain the most accurate and consistent information in regards to COVID-19, otherwise known as the Coronavirus: (New York State Department of Health, CUNY's Health and Wellness Services, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization). We also acknowledge President Vincent Boudreau's consistent communication with the campus as it is necessary during this time. You can read his official memo to the City College community here.

The Undergraduate Student Government appreciates the students who have voiced their concerns to us in regards to their health, safety, and frustration with the response from the administration. Over the last week, accounts of students no longer feeling comfortable enough to attend class, professors cancelling class, and unofficial reports of students potentially exhibiting symptoms, have all been brought to our attention. We bring this up not to cause hysteria, but to validate the concerns of the student body and their desire to continue their education at CCNY without jeopardizing their health or that of their loved ones. As the Undergraduate Student Government we are committed to hearing you out and bringing those concerns to the rest of the campus and university wide leadership. We salute the CUNY students who have already taken initiative in expressing their stance to Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodriguez here.

Furthermore, as members of the City University of New York, we are in a unique position given that the majority of our students commute across the city via the MTA, also coming from parts of Westchester, Long Island, and New Jersey. We are also cognizant of the socioeconomic status of many of our students and how that plays a part in terms of testing and treatment of those who may potentially encounter the Coronavirus.

We formally call on the administration to transition towards online classes immediately and take the necessary precautions to address this issue and ensure the safety of the students. This includes temporarily cancelling classes campus wide, as some professors have done so already. Especially given that multiple institutions in our immediate radius have already cancelled classes and moved towards online lectures, to protect the safety of their students including Columbia University, NYU, Fordham University, Yeshiva University, NYIT and several others. The campus leadership should keep in mind that although we do not want to overact we must be proactive, rather than retroactive. We are willing to work with the administration in any capacity in order to come up with a solution that prioritizes the student body's health and well-being. We value our education, but it should not come at the expense of our health.

Yours in Service,

Frantzy Luzincourt President Hannah Towfiek Executive Vice President