

To: The College Community

From: David Gómez, Ed.D. 
President

Date: July 6, 2020

Subject: Phase 4

As we move closer to the State's Phase 4 in the COVID-19 crisis, I have received a number of inquiries from faculty, students and staff regarding reopening plans for Hostos. I have also been told that there are concerns that nothing has been shared with any of the governance bodies and that there are fears that people will be directed to return to normal operations on twenty-four hours notice. I want to assure you that nothing can be further from the truth.

Chancellor Matos Rodríguez has stated to me privately, and has shared with the Council of Presidents publicly, that whenever the authorization is given to return to campus, he plans to proceed with the utmost caution and with the safety of the University community in mind. He has constituted a task force to review safety protocols and has asked each campus to provide their safety protocols for review. In addition, I have shared those safety protocols with both the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee and the PSC Chapter Chair for their feedback and guidance. We are revising our protocols based on that feedback and will revise our submission to the Central Office.

It is important to state clearly and unequivocally that, as of this date, there is no set date for the Phase 4 reopening of Hostos Community College specifically or the University in general. With the ever changing nature of the pandemic nationally, the Governor, the Mayor and our Chancellor have shown extreme restraint in how to move forward and have stated that simply because we can do something does not mean that we will or we should.

I believe that it is safe to say that the lessons from other states in moving too quickly to reopen have not been lost on our leadership. I also understand the anxiety people feel in this extraordinary time. We began to plan for the future the day after we were forced to cease on-campus activities. That planning has allowed us to acquire PPE's when they were in short supply and to be able to share our preparedness activities. I would urge everyone not to confuse preparation for implementation.

I share Chancellor Matos Rodríguez' view of deliberate and thoughtful movement as we transition from our current operational modality to what we all hope will be a resumption of normal activities. I am confident that we will do everything dictated by science and public health policy to ensure the safety of our community.