

**Meeting #7**

**Tuesday, October 20th, 2015**

**Start Time - 5:31 PM**

**End Time - 6:24PM**

**Attendance**

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| Annie Sourbis | President | Candice Chatterpaul | VP of Student Affairs |
| Nardine Salama | Executive VP | Nicole Zelenko | VP of Campus Affairs |
| Isabel Zhao | Treasurer | Andrew Armoogan | Representative Senator |
| Katy Yu | Executive Secretary | Alvin Daniel | Representative Senator (Late) |
| Sau Fong Lin | Chair of Inter-Club Affairs | Ehtasham Bhatti | Representative Senator (Late) |
| Salma Mohamed | Chair of Finance | Joanne Beloy | Representative Senator |
| Agata Poinatowski | Chair of PR | Larry Biscette | Representative Senator |
| Ben Chatham | Chair of Appeals | Laura Martinez | Representative Senator |
| Selina Lee | Chair of Marketing | Rebecca Clabby | Representative Senator |
| Cherry Aung | VP of Academic Affairs | Sean Liu | Representative Senator |
| Daniel Dornbaum | VP of Legislative Affairs | Viral Shah | Representative Senator (Late) |

**Passing of the Minutes**

1. **Minutes of Meeting #5 & #6**
   1. Motion passes 14-2-0

**Reports**

1. **Executive Vice President | Nardine Salama** 
   1. **Baruch Bash**
      1. Committee meeting next Friday to come up with idea for vendors, DJs, themes, etc.
   2. **Concert with Hunter**
      * 1. Look up vendors that holds over 2,000 people
        2. Deadline is next Friday to meet with Chika, President of USG from Hunter College
        3. Concert will be held in May
2. **Vice President of Academic Affairs | Cherry Aung** 
   1. Homecoming
      1. Homecoming is this Thursday and we will need more volunteers for different shifts
      2. Lots of giveaways will be handed out to the crowd
      3. During club hours, the event will start off with a club parade and a pep rally in the plaza. Each club has a chance to introduce themselves on stage. Then, we will have competition between athletic teams and 3 performances. It will be cohosted by a comedian and Gabby. Night time fall festival in the multipurpose room, we will have alcoholic drinks for those 21+, pies, hot chocolate, food, square dancing instruction, and pumpkin decorating. We will also have an outdoor movie (Hocus Pocus) in the plaza from 7-9 PM
3. **Representative Senator | Andrew Armoogan** 
   1. **Student Feedback**
      1. Suggestion Boxes will be distributed throughout the campus and please tell students about it and get the word out
4. **Vice President of Legislative Affairs | Daniel Dornbaum**
   1. **Tuition Freeze Resolution & Tuition Increase Resolution** 
      1. We are voting on resolutions to either support the tuition freeze or tuition increase
      2. UFS support rational tuition increase; no other CUNY Colleges are against it
      3. *What is the time span?* 
         1. Dan - There is not rational tuition increase program timeline now. We are trying to predict what the legislature will do in the future so we are prepared. The 5-year program is not up yet. We do not know whether or not the new program will be 5 years or 10 years now because there is nothing specific the legislature or the board of trustees has publicly stated.
         2. Nardine - USS is trying to pass the resolution at all campuses to show agreement between all colleges and students in CUNY which makes their fight for a tuition freeze more unified. Even though we don’t know what best alternative is, that is where we are now.
      4. *Why don't we allow students to vote on the resolution? The bill will affect students 5-10 years from now, and some of you will be graduating.* 
         1. Dan - As much as I agree with that and I wish we could hold a vote, if we organize an entire school wide vote for every issue, then what is the point of us as a senate being here? Each of us are elected by the students to represent them. Each senator represent 1,000 students, while VPs and e-board represent all students. If every single thing that comes to the table were put to a student vote, then the student body would be voting on something new every week. It is our job to know what our constitutents want and vote with that in mind.
         2. Narine - The reality is not every student is aware of the situation. USG has presented them with multiple opportunities like surveys and the town hall meeting to come out and voice their concerns. But, it’s a two ways street. We can’t keep providing information and not get anything back. It is their job to make it their problem. USG is always open for students to voice their concerns and for students to listen to what we do, but the reality is it not a feasible idea to make every student to vote.
      5. *Annie - For those that are undecided, what is holding you back?* 
         1. Agata - I understand both sides of the situation, but I feel like each side is fighting for different things. One is fight for students, and one is fighting for the education. My concern is how do we know the tuition increase will go toward improving the quality of the education. However as a student, if we can increase the tuition, I probably won’t even be here. But if a student has Harvard on their resume, they get hired right away. If Baruch has a higher level of education, hopefully, it would be a good idea. But I don’t know which side is better.
         2. Dan - Both sides have the same goal. Neither want Baruch to crumble or CUNY to crumble to the ground. They want CUNY to remain an excellent university. What they are advocating for, are different means to get to the same end. One is pushing your state officials and putting burden on the state and the other is putting burden on the students. USS doesn’t want to see professors leave or not be able to get decent pay. They want funding to come from the state.
      6. Alvin - You can see inflation for the past few years, and tuition is increasing everywhere. In reality, students are not voting when they should so their voices are not heard. There are a lot of students that can’t afford tuition. When it comes to this vote, we should protect the everyday student and put pressure on the state to uphold the higher education in NYC
      7. Nardine- Either way you are taking a risk because you don’t know what the future is going to hold. Part of sitting here on the senate table is evaluating what is the best and taking into consideration that students our age do not vote. Having tuition increases will force them to care and it will mobilize more students to speak to the legislature and vote. It’s not okay to have Laissez faire approach to politics because that is how it’s always been but that is not necessary true.
      8. Cherry - I agree the underlying mission of both sides. The reason I support the rational increase plan is because there are too many variables and to many factors that rely on “what if”. I rather have a program in place that protects students as supposed to leaving a decision up to unknown variables.
      9. Ehtasham – If you give a mouse a cookie, he’s going to ask for a glass of milk. If we agree with the politicians for tuition to raised $300 every fiscal year, they might increase it to $500 in the next cycle. In the short term, there is one way but the more logical way is to keep it as low as we can. So, I support the tuition freeze.
      10. Pablo - I agree with increasing the tuition but we should ask for more funding. The better solution is to comprise. If they want to do an increase we should make a long-term binding contract with them. If we have something that makes them morally obligated to do so. Either way it’s a lose, lose situation.
      11. Dan - We are not lawmakers in this role; we are acting as an advisory board. We advise the state. We are not in position to bind them legally or to negotiate beyond giving our advice and stating our opinions.
      12. Motion to adopt the resolution to support the continuation of the rational tuition increase program. Motion is seconded; motion fails 2-14-2
      13. **Motion to adopt the resolution to support USS and a tuition freeze. Motion is seconded; motion passes 13-2-3**
   2. **USG Report**
      1. Monday from 11-12 during the report, our listeners dropped due to midterms week, but we did have few callers which was neat. Tuition increases will be a discussion in the future, if you have any questions, please let us know.

**Unfinished Business**

* 1. **Candice | Volunteer Event**
     1. Out of Darkness Walk is October 25th this Sunday, and the link is on Baruch Feels. We need to make another marketing push, since we are co-sponsoring this event. It a good way to unify as a school. Also, Baruch Feels got 500 likes over the weekend!
  2. **Nicole | MPR Survey**
     1. Deadline was last week, please fill out the survey to give me more ideas about the changes you want in the MPR
     2. Nicole –We visited 6 different campuses in a week for ideas. Thank you and your team!
     3. Annie - this is a huge project if you can honestly support the survey. Please just research and send her pictures or ideas
  3. **Dan | Updates**
     1. Found a curb cut in the plaza that was all messed up and called 311. They got back to me me and hopefully the will repave it. If you see anything in the plaza, because it is not Baruch property (it is the city’s), call 311. If you have any problems there I will be happy to navigate 311 for you.
     2. Talked to Tom after the Town Hall, he is into doing more, maybe not in the Bearcat Lounge. Maybe on the radio with a couple of senators and faculty or administrators. I will keep you in loop for more Town Hall related items.
  4. **Cherry | Homecoming**
     1. T-shirts will be given out if you volunteer!

**Adjournment**

* 1. Motion to adjourn meeting #7 at 6:24PM. Motion passes 14-4-0