

**Meeting #6**

**Tuesday, October 13th, 2015**

**Start Time - 5:35 PM**

**End Time - 7:50 PM**

**Attendance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |
| Sau Fong Lin | Chair of Inter-Club Affairs | Ehtasham Bhatti | Representative Senator |
| 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 |

**Reports**

1. **Katie Black | NY Blood Center Representative (To thank USG, importance of donating, short video)** 
   1. It takes 2,000 pints of blood every single day for them to sure what is on hand to those patients who need it
   2. NY Blood Center is over 50 years ago and all the collection goes to baby, trauma patient, sickle cell anemia patients, car accidents. You don’t realize the importance of blood until someone in your family or friend is affected
   3. 2 opportunity over the next 2 days to give and recruit others to give
      1. **New York Blood Drive will on October 13th and 14th from 11AM-5PM in the MPR**
      2. Eat a full meal in the morning and stay hydrated before the donation
      3. Whole process takes about an hour to do paperwork and donating blood
      4. Minimum weight is 110 lbs
   4. Aubrey | Director of Student’s Health Wellness - Creating a Social Media Campaign, and ask students to take a picture with the poster board to share among friends and classmates on Facebook. Hoping to to break the record of amount of students to donation of 100 students per day.
   5. **Health Fair on Thursday during Club Hour in the 2nd Floor Lobby**
   6. Dr. Ron Jacob - Medical Director of SAMAR (Recruitment Center for Be The Match)
      1. Serve patients who need a hematopoietic stem cell transplant for leukemia, fatal blood disorders and other conditions requiring a cellular transplant for an improved life
      2. 500 people are diagnosed of leukemia each day
      3. Matching a patient is based on their ethnic background and their genetic
      4. 93% chance of finding a Caucasian match in the National Registry
      5. If you are a minority patient, your chance of finding a match is 50%
         1. A huge disparity in the registry
      6. The best match is the sibling but they only have 25% chance
      7. The chance of the donor to agree is only 50%
      8. Registration takes only 5 minutes and they will contact you if they find a patient that is a match
      9. You will come across someone, there will be someone you know that has blood cell cancer
      10. Blood donation and bone marrow donation is a way of saving a life and make a difference
2. **Guest Speakers | U.S.S.Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs Lucas Almonte (Rational Tuition Hikes) & CUNY Trustee Professor Terry Martell**
   1. **Lucas Almonte** - The Start of Tuition Hikes: NY SUNY 2020
      1. The law enacts a rational tuition plan that allow search SUNY and CUNY campus to raise tuition by $300 per year for 5 years beginning in Fall 2011 and the ending of Spring 2016 semester. Passed by the Legislature in June 2011, and signed into law by Gov. Cuomo in August 2012
      2. Maintenance of Effort - The 2011 law requires the state support for the senior colleges not be less than the amount provided the previous fiscal year. State is not required to provide extra funds or cover “fixed costs”(mandatory expenses such as health insurance and pensions, and contractually mandated annual incremental salary increases). Problem leads to budget cap which mean tuition hikes. For example, $51 million budget gap divided by 239,497 (Fall 2013 enrollment number) =$213 per student. Students will end up paying for the increasing fix cost/budget gap.
      3. FY16 is the first fiscal year, since FY04, in which the total State aid to CUNY is *lower than* Tuition Revenue. Spring 2015 is the end of current Rational Tuition Plan and also the major election in the NY.
      4. SUNY has already begun their support for the renewal of the rational tuition plan; SUNY Chancellor called for a renewal of the plan. 2014-2015 SUNY Student Assembly executive Cabinet supports renewal.
      5. Students are feeding the burden of tuition and the living cost in NYC is the highest expense other than tuition cost.
      6. USS of CUNY calls on the State Legislature to fund the increasing mandatory cost within CUNY as part of the maintenance of effort.
      7. We want the government to fully fund CUNY and not put the burden on the students
      8. Advocacy Action Plan
      9. An increase in tuition might cause a student to drop out and not able to graduate with a degree.
      10. Student voice and unity at CUNY - idea whenever the board vote everyone is affected. We stand as student government together and make a strong impact
      11. Nardine - What happen if MOE bill does not pass? What effect tuition hike beside operation?
      12. Lucas - If the MOE does not pass, CUNY will ask a bigger increase and we do not have a timeline of the meeting. We need to raise our voice so we can leverage our position further before any further discussion is made behind closed door.
      13. Nardine - What is the safety net or alternative?
      14. Lucas - We should get the state to fund the additional cost. We need transparency of the state government about why the need an increase or what the money is used for.
      15. Cherry - The reasoning against the plan is to urge the state to fund CUNY. If they decide not to sign the plan, would the state decide not to fund CUNY?
      16. Lucas - In the past, there is a guarantee that the tuition we pay CUNy goes to CUNY. We have no control what the State do with the money. There is a potential that the money we paid does not goes back toward students’ tuition. We have over half a million students in CUNY to vote against who should be in office.
   2. **Dr. Martell** 
      1. Baruch has a solid program and solid faculty and there is a crack in our program
      2. Why are there dead trees in the plaza? Because there is no money. As a faculty member and trustee, we got to protect the core value. The primary source of revenue is tuition and state other than receiving charity funding for alumni . We get 50-54% funding from state. TAP direct payment of student to universities is 64%. NY state is one the highest state funding in education compare to any other states. NY does better here than any other states. Quality of education and degree only goes to one place, which is to sustain better faculty and provide better resources to students. 80% of students who graduate from CUNY are not in debt. Top of the list as Best Bang in the Buck. A quality education that is affordable to majority. No one wants to pay more for something The something we pay for is extremely valuable. Education has it quality component to it. Hard to get, easy to lose. We can’t sustain with we the limited resources. He raised 30 million since he is here, and is still not enough. No tuition increase = zero growth. Quality of faculty is depend upon ranking and stories. You make an investment in human capital for today and tomorrow. Get USS to fight together to get the Rational Tuition Increase to pass and give us a better resources to keep the professors.
      3. We need to able to maintain the quality which is by money from state and tuition. Strong faculty = stronger reputation. Historically, that big tuition gap was used to backfill the deficit. Substitute the lack of state funding with the increase in tuition. The authority to increase tuition needs to be approved by the state. If we can get the bill sign, it will be a huge step forward.
      4. The cost of living is high in NYC, but those are separate issue.
      5. State has their own priority in distributing their budget and historically, 75% senior college’s budget comes from the state.
      6. Nardine - A portion of tuition goes to state and 80% goes to CUNY. Who regulate the allocation? Who is to said rational tuition hike and increase the the percentage they take?
      7. Revenue budget is based on tax and each CUNY is allocated with different budget.
      8. Annie - The reason to increase, is to maintain the great faculty here, what are you are not talking about if you are not talking the contract ?
      9. You need certain kind of invaluement to make it comfortable working environment. There was an associate professor here at Baruch that made $70K a year. Compare to living in NYC plus her student debt it was not enough to cover, so she decided to relocate to somewhere else. My concern is quality going forward.
      10. Art King - We don’t have the fund to keep the best faculty and provide the activity, service and program for all the students here. We lose staff to other institution. We depend fundly on the fund and we can’t keep them and preventing from going to other colleges.
      11. Annie - How do we ensure the increase goes toward the faculty or fixing the plaza? What the pass the solution, how do we keep state accountable or control the percentage they give back to us?
      12. You have to make a bet how this will affect you. Think about 10 years from now will it worth more or less. Sometime you need to have a little bit of faith that we are going to the right financial direction.
      13. Nardine - When did they got the preliminary draft for the rational tuition increase?
      14. They got the bill pass by the Senate and both houses. It has not gotten to the government yet, not sure about the process.
      15. It a share cost and share benefit for the State and Baruch.
      16. He won’t be able to solve every student's problem for students dropping out. There is 18,000 students here at Baruch and hundreds of thousands graduate every year. What is important ? The quality of the eduction
      17. Cherry - Is there a certain percentage of the rational tuition increase goes to TAP?
      18. $5135. if everything over then comes out of the tuition, the city pays and that goes for any tuition increase.
      19. Agata - If there is a tuition increase, would that mean there in increase in percentage of people who received TAP?
      20. They will not be a change in the percentage, but there might be some changes in the margin, but it might be not much since it is based on the amount of financial aid of students.
3. **Vice President of Legislative Affairs | Daniel Dornbaum**
   1. Committee Report
      1. Next Tuesday is the Town Hall. Would like to pass the resolution to either support tuition freeze or support tuition increase, for the next senate meeting. This will be a topic of discussion. It good to take a stand.
      2. Cherry - Speaking of lobbying, USS and Baruch favor rational increase, if we are changing position doesn’t that goes against we previously agre on? If we flip flop our decision, they might think we can’t make up our mind
      3. Annie - We are different administration this year, and we can’t speak what USS did last year with Albany. They understand USG are different year every year.
      4. Nardine - The number doesn’t really add up when talking about 60% paying TAP and Lucas will get back to us in email.
      5. Dan - if you have question can email Dr. Martell at terrence.martell@baruch.cuny.edu

**Unfinished Business**

* 1. **Candice Chatterpaul | Updates**
     1. Next Student Service Meeting is this Friday at 3PM
     2. **Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention is October 25th on Sunday at Battery Park at 8am**. Information is available on Baruch Feels, please share the event and there is a link that direct you to walk on behalf of the Baruch Team. Please support the cause, it a way to honor the lives that were lost here at Baruch
     3. Baruch Feel - we need 2o likes to reach 500!
  2. **Cherry Aung | Home Coming** 
     1. **Please change your cover photo on Facebook**
     2. 170 people are saying they are going on the Facebook event page
     3. Google form will be email to sign up to volunteer during the day or at night
     4. Everyone at the table should participate during the parade
  3. **Agata Poinatowski | Marketing & Promotion** 
     1. Please send all events, program, or opportunity to [event@usgbaruch.com](mailto:event@usgbaruch.com)
     2. What’s New - write 2 paragraphs about the topic given for each senate member
     3. Committee Meeting will be Monday @ 4PM
  4. **Dan | USG Report**
     1. Stay tune on Monday from 11AM -2PM on WBMB to talk about anything such as rational tutional increase, event, or facility.
     2. There is an interesting article in The Ticker about “Rational Tuition Increase”
  5. **Viral | Stress Relief**
     1. Next Monday, we will be giving out goodie bags to students

**New Business**

* 1. **Nicole Z | MPR Renovation**
     1. Sent out email to club leaders and senate to fill out an form.
     2. People will be
     3. Help lobby on Thursday
  2. Dan
     1. Monday November 2nd from 5-7:30PM, they want Baruch students as volunteer to run the event, “ As We are Outline” Disability portrait of the community. Come in with a Baruch T-shirts
  3. **Nardine | MVP Award of September 2015**
     1. Congratulation to ***Agata Poinatowski*** to be nominated as MVP of the month!
     2. Nomination is available for October; not only for Senate but for Board Member. Please fill out the Google Form to nominate a candidate
     3. **Don’t forget an award will be given out at the end of the year as well, so fill out the form!**
  4. **Dan | Town Hall** 
     1. It’s a way for student body to know what we are doing for the rest of year and also give them a chance to ask questions
     2. Short introduction of USG and talk about any upcoming plan. Very informal of getting students to know us. It will be broadcast on WBMB and hoping there will be a good news story on it
     3. Please don’t talk about stuff you don’t know during the Town Hall Session

**Adjournment**

* 1. Motions to adjourn Meeting #6 at 7:50 PM. Motion passes 16-0-1