

Undergraduate Student Government

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Meeting Date:	September 1, 2020	Meeting Time:	5:32PM - 8:38PM
Location:	Zoom Call	Note Taker:	Genesis Calle

Attendees:	
Tony Chen President	Briana Staten Executive Vice President
Chansocheata Sea Executive Treasurer	Genesis Calle Executive Secretary
Taji Sanders VP of Academic Affairs	Steven Le VP of Campus Affairs
Richard Reyes VP of Legislative Affairs	[Early Departure] Yam-Yu Li VP of Student Affairs
Irine Thomas Chair of Appeals	Kristina Khabarov Chair of Arts
Alison Lee Chair of Clubs and Orgs	Lesli Cuamani Chair of Finance
Cindy Chen Chair of Graphic Design	Christine Gajdos Chair of Marketing
Oswaldo Garcia Chair of Philanthropy	Laiba Hussain Chair of Public Opinion
Tomasz Horczak Representative Senator	[Early Departure] Raphael Berdugo Representative Senator
[Late] Alex Cuanal Representative Senator	Erika Cumbe Representative Senator
Zariana Gonzalez Representative Senator	[Absent] Minh Tran Representative Senator
[Late] Mayer Estinville Representative Senator	

Chair Nominations

1. Briana Staten | Executive Vice President

- a. Official nomination and voting for committee chairs
 - i. Lesli Cuamani, Chair of Finance, 15-0-1
 - ii. Cindy Chen, Chair of Graphics, 16-0-0

Mayer Estinville arrives at 5:33PM

Alex Cuanal arrives at 5:34PM

- iii. Christine Gajdos, Chair of Marketing, 18-0-0
- iv. Alison Lee, Chair of Clubs and Orgs, 18-0-0
- v. Irine Thomas, Chair of Appeals, 18-0-0
- vi. Oswaldo Garcia, Chair of Philanthropy, 17-0-1
- vii. Laiba Hussain, Chair of Public Opinion, 16-0-2

- b. Laiba: I understand that we didn't have a chair of public opinion last year. Because communication and engagement with students can be harder in a virtual setting, I would like to use this role to help increase that, gain more perspectives and feedback from students, and advocate for their opinions within USG.
 - i. Kristina Khabarov, Chair of Arts, 17-0-1

Reports

1. Lauren Farrugia | ISO representative

- a. Lauren: Hello everyone. I am an international student from Australia and the Chair of performing arts for ISO. I want to start off by reminding you of the USG constitution, and the purpose of the council being to represent, articulate, and pursue the interests of the student government. Firstly, I wanted to look at the ethnic diversity of the undergraduate students at Baruch. As you can see, 31.7% of our ethnic diversity is Asian, with the 2nd largest group being Hispanics, followed by Whites. I would have been considered a white student but I'm an international student and I say this because I'm not disagreeing with the fact that I'm white, but more so with that fact that I am not treated the same as an American citizen and at any given point the government can decide to send me home. The biggest statistic I want to bring to your attention is that 39% of our student population are actually first-generation students, and the number of international students we have is 2,200 out of 15,000 undergraduate students. Now if we compare these numbers with NYU's, their first-generation students make up 20%, and a majority of their ethnic diversity is White, 32.5%, followed by Asians, and a smaller percentage of Black students than Baruch. International students make up 24% of their population. With Columbia University, they have similar statistics with their White and Asian population, with international students making up 24% of it as well, and 20% first generation. I wanted to bring these statistics to you, as well as my research of the USG committees in other schools. NYU has a diversity, international affairs, and a global ambassador committee. Columbia has similar committees with different names. BMCC has 24,000 undergraduate students but only 900 international students, and even they have a committee for them as well. Our current USG has amazing committees but they only speak for us as if everyone is equal. Now if 2020 has told us anything, it's that we are not all equal and anything can happen at any given point, so it doesn't best reflect our diversity, like 39% of our population being first-generation students is incredible. My long term plan along with Farahn, the president of ISO, and Aliyah, who is the Chair of events for ISO, is to create 3 different committees; an international student affairs, first generation, and diversity committee. This is the bare minimum that we believe will help celebrate Baruch's diversity. Our immediate proposal is to create an international affairs ad-hoc committee, trial it for the Fall semester, and if it is a success, and we see that there is a need for it, I want to propose to make it an official committee within the USG constitution, and ideally, I would want to follow the same process with the first generation and diversity committee later on. Now, why is this so important? There are 2 reasons; there being a need for it in the past and being an immediate need for it currently. As you all know, ICE tried sending international students home, and ISO realized that the task force that was created earlier this year was making the decisions for us, but did not ask us for our opinions, even though they had over 40 people on the task force, representing SEEK and other offices, but there were no international student representatives. This was announced on a Monday, and the Thursday beforehand they announced in a meeting that they would take a vote the following Thursday to determine if we would go online or hybrid for the Fall semester and ISO spent all that time contacting people on the task force. We had the Welcome Center and our members help as much as they could, but at the end of the day, ISO is just a club while USG represents the voice of the students, and this is why we need a committee to have that representation. There have also been issues in the past where people have tried to get the International Student Services Center (ISSC) to be the voice of the students, a role that does not pertain to them. They didn't have the right answers and were scared of being sued or telling people the wrong thing so they stopped answering emails and people were left without that sense of support, so I believe in that respect, we need a section of USG to be the voice for these international students. We also have International Education week, whose whole week of planning seems to fall solely under ISO, meanwhile Black History Month and Women's History Month is run by a committee with USG funding. Every other school, NYU, Columbia, Fordham, they all have an "International Education" week, while having a smaller percentage of international students, that are run by their USGs. ISO and ISSC usually try to put it together and stretch

out our budgets to do so, but yet so many students don't even know this week exists. Now, why is it important for this present time? It would be really amazing to have this representation alongside this committee, especially for those international students who currently are doing their online semesters abroad and not in America due to the virus. I actually made a flier for a proposed event I have once we get the committee started to have more global conversations every couple of weeks talking about our cultures, our struggles due to COVID-19, and being able to converse, and this would be open to all students because it's all about educating and celebrating diversity. I know we have all these amazing club fairs and committees but I think if we had this committee for international students, it would make them feel like they're still connected to the Baruch community even if they aren't physically present. Hosting information sessions, "how-to" do your taxes for international students since they have different procedures, collaborating with clubs, having an international fashion show via zoom. These are just a few ideas for events I have. This committee could spearhead the "International Education" week as well, and can even take the lead in organizing the annual Winter Graduation celebration, which is traditionally hosted by both USG and ISO. I propose that we vote on creating an international student affairs committee.

- b. Damali: First off, your presentation was very impassioned, and I'm here for it. I do have some things I want to clarify. I sit on the presidential task force for diversity, as well as Rosa Kelly, the director of ISSC, so that international students are being represented. The decision for international students to go home had nothing to do with the diversity committee or anyone at Baruch; that is something that was mandated by the government and then taken back, and Baruch was trying to figure out what we could legally do, so it's a little inaccurate to say that the task force committee voted to send people home. We had very little decision-making involved in whether or not we would go hybrid or online. That decision was between the governor and CUNY. This is for everyone's clarification because I know how the rumor mills work and Baruch had very little to say about it. The only thing we were told was we were going to be online and we had to figure out how to make that work.
- c. Lauren: I'm sorry I got that wrong. The information we received was from reading the minutes from the task force's previous meeting.
- d. Damali: I just wanted to give some clarity just because I sit on the task force so I would have way more information than any of you. With international student education week, every year we try to get clubs involved because as you said the ISSC is not the voice of the students, but we do struggle. We have this money and we literally try to throw it at clubs and have a hard time getting them involved so if we could utilize USG to do so, that would be amazing. Maybe we're going about it the wrong way and there's a more effective way to get students involved because like you said there are international students in all clubs and there's an international aspect to the majority of our clubs just because of the demographic of our students so I would love to see how international life plays out in all of our club life because I think it's a huge part of who we are culturally and who we are as an institution so that would be wonderful. In terms of there's no staffing that has been added to the college because of all the budget constraints and we don't have a budget for CUNY, the ISSC are the only ones who've gotten another staff member so that's just some really good news for you guys to hear. In terms of what kind of support we can offer for international students, since a lot of your ideas were events, I'm curious as to what kind of resources and support outside of events do you think is important for international students that this ad hoc committee could work on because then it can just be under student services but I do think that there are other resources that international students need, whether it's more lawyer appointments for immigration or anything else you believe USG needs to advocate on their behalf.
- e. Lauren: I agree. I do know that even when it comes to health care services, it's very different for us and we could use more support for that. Even just having another sector in USG where they can turn to us for help would be very helpful. Getting more information on scholarships could be beneficial as well.
- f. Erika: I know you mentioned the heritage months before. Just to clarify, and I'm not sure if international student week is as well, maybe you could provide more light on this, but I know that OSL asks for

volunteers to participate in those committees so I'm not sure if international student week works the same or if they just work with ISO itself.

- g. Lauren: Thank you for bringing this up. When we start both the diversity and first generation committee, I would love for them to take on those heritage month committees. I didn't touch on them before because they weren't the focus for today, but it is something I would like to work on moving forward.
- h. Yam-Yu: I know you mentioned before the Welcome Center and ISO as means of support, have you considered consulting with the ISSC?
- i. Lauren: That's a great idea. The only thing, and this is why I think this committee is important, is because the ISSC isn't the voice of the students. Rosa is a great resource, but she's not their voice, nor is the Welcome Center; they're a part of admissions, which I work in as well. As Damali said, the ISSC is spread thin at the moment, and alleviating that pressure and having a committee that is more student based would be a lot more beneficial. I know the ISSC is focused right now on recruiting international students for next semester, but then what about those students who are currently enrolled at Baruch? This committee would be a great resource for them.
- j. Richard: I think your proposal is really great, and advocating for the international students and their resources is important. The only comment I would emphasize is to have extensive training for the people who are within this committee and giving out the resources. I think the most important thing is to be giving out the right information so that would be my only comment if this goes into effect to have a concrete training plan and be connected with the ISSC, who would give you the actual details, so that you are well equipped to give the information to the students to relieve that outflow.
- k. Lauren: Yes, that is so important, and also we will not be giving legal advice. It's just resources that are approved by Rosa and the ISSC. We have fliers and pamphlets to give out to students and answer questions, and I know Rosa does information sessions already, but little questions can sometimes go unresolved and this would be great to have that student voice in the government.
- l. Richard: Thank you for the clarification.
- m. Taji: This idea is really great. I love the fact you did the research. I do have a suggestion. I feel like 3 committees aren't really necessary, and maybe they can be put into 1 committee and within it you could have subcommittees because I feel like to have 3 separate committees would divide it too much and would be a lot of responsibility for a lot of people when it could be the same amount of people working on this. So maybe figuring out a name that combines all 3 would be good to have.
- n. Lauren: My only thing is each committee deals with different issues. We can't say that first gen students deal with international student issues. I understand what you're saying and we did a lot of brainstorming but there's underlying issues to consider and we wouldn't want to group all different walks of students and their different issues. It would be like trying to put student affairs and clubs and orgs together. There's no limit to how many committees we can have. If you have any suggestions for names, I'm here for it.
- o. Taji: I agree with that. There definitely isn't a limit but the concern really lies in the fact that certain positions don't really need a large committee. For example, my academic affairs committee only has 2 subcommittees so my concern is that there wouldn't be enough work that you can delegate to justify 3 committees. They may be different things but it can still be headed up by the same committee. I have a question for Damali; has there ever been a permanent committee that wasn't headed by a rep sen?
- p. Damali: Not usually because by the time it makes its way to the table, it gets run by a table member. When philanthropy first started it was not run by a rep sen, but then the second year it was run by a senator as an ad hoc committee. Just so you know I was considered an international and first-generation student because my parents did not go to college here and I'm Black so I fall under all 3 categories. When I think of an ad hoc committee, I think of it as either a temporary urgent need that needs to be dealt with or a need that we could explore to see if it calls for a permanent committee. My suggestions are that you work with Richard and Yam-Yu because when I think about these 3 demographics, there's some huge legislative issues that come up especially with the upcoming election and then this could also fall under student services as a

subcommittee and if there is a robust amount of work then you could think about becoming an ad hoc committee. I do think there are some pressing and urgent needs for international, black, and first-generation students that are very different so I definitely think you could work with Yam-Yu and Richard because those are the two pots that I think are the major focus. With a committee, especially because we're in a remote environment, I personally would like it to be less about events because right now from what I've seen our students are searching for resources to deal with life and life issues, from the basics of being able to take care of your legal situation, housing, staying in the country, family, so there are some very real pressing concerns that get in the way of a lot of these students in these different demographics being able to attend events. As USG and as the student activity fee is being looked at very closely, I hesitate to say let's do more events and want to say let's focus more on providing resources. Something for you guys to think about, and there's multiple ways you can do it. You can make it a temporary ad hoc committee and see how it goes, a subcommittee within these two committees that I suggested. There's no right or wrong way. USG can do things like finding another lawyer specifically for immigration, finding a tax service for international students, so there are a lot of things that can be done to address the issues that you're concerned with. It's just up to the table on what they're comfortable with.

- q. Briana: One idea that I had was, in terms of a name for the ad hoc committee, the "Diversity, Inclusivity, and International Student Affairs" ad hoc committee and then it can be branched out into the 3 separate things that were discussed. With that title, it's kind of broad but it would tackle the issues Lauren proposed.
- r. Lauren: That's a great name for it. It's doing what I think we need and that would work out. Are you proposing to start the ad hoc committee first?
- s. Briana: I am, and also opening it up for discussion, yes queen.
- t. Richard: I think it's a great idea to encompass it within one committee, and if there isn't necessary action within the first semester, in any case, you can back it up with student and legislative affairs.
- u. Taji: I'm reading what Laiba wrote in the chat: "I'm down to help in any way I can. I can definitely see this being related to Public Opinion in the sense that there may be various concerns and interests coming from international students, first gen, that need to be addressed within USG." I agree and a lot of our roles interconnect so you can definitely get help from us in different ways.
- v. Osvaldo: Thanks for the presentation Lauren. I see your point on wanting 3 different committees for the 3 separate issues but there are many committees in USG that do have subcommittees that delegate and have a different topic they focus on. I'll use Steven's campus affairs committee as an example. Within it, he has a homecoming committee but also his mentorship program. Those are 2 completely different topics but he's still able to create committees for them and delegate the proper resources to them and achieve those goals so I feel like you can still do the exact same thing with the diversity and inclusivity committee and create those subcommittees that you wanted and achieve your goals.
- w. Lauren: Thank you for that. The only reason why I wanted to have the 3 committees is because I didn't think I was fit enough to represent the first gen and diversity students. That's why I started with a bigger focus on international because as an international student, I can best represent it. I like your idea of having the other committees as subcommittees and going to them for additional help is amazing.
- x. Briana: Soft vote on creating the Diversity, Inclusivity, and International student affairs committee.
 - i. Majority for it.
- y. Erika: My only hesitation for this becoming an ad hoc committee is I feel that it can fit into the public opinion committee, which will be addressing the concerns of students and I think these can actually be subcommittees in all 3 proposed committees. I do agree that this is a need.
- z. Alex: I agree that this is a need and basically I just wanted to clarify because I think there's some overlap between what Erika and Taji said, how it can be a subcommittee because everything is intertwined but Lauren's point is basically that she feels there isn't a voice within the undergraduate student population and it needs to be brought up more since it's not already being represented as best as it should be. She wants it to be more of a student thing and even though it does sort of fit into public opinion, it would be completely

different from what she's attempting to create. What she's trying to do is for a whole different group of people. For me, being a Mexican immigrant who came here when I was 8 and being a first-generation and international student, I understand what she's saying and I have mentioned before that's actually why I wanted to be part of USG. I feel like it should be its own separate committee.

- aa. Lauren: I understand peoples' concerns about the overlap, but as you all said, that already exists in your committees. This is something specific to diversity, not necessarily public opinion which could be too broad. I think Alex said it right, and this is more than just taking surveys. We should be increasing our resources and it's going to make Baruch a better place and make those students feel heard and make our community a lot more inclusive.
- bb. Briana: This is something that has never been done before in USG and would be a great way to show the students and all different walks at Baruch that you have a place in USG; something to keep in mind.
- cc. Yam-Yu: So if we look into the constitution, it says that "the Vice-Presidential Senator of Student Affairs shall be the chief USG representative and advocate to all College departments and offices that provide services to students. The Vice-Presidential Senator shall be entitled to appoint an alternate and/or additional student representation during any meeting with any college department/office," so I want to further elaborate on that. These are great initiatives. I also fall under all 2 categories; I am first generation in my family and I am from Hong Kong. My initiative this year for student affairs, because of policies that prevent us to be on campus, is to reach out to all these resources and the student services, so I feel like in a sense both of us could essentially collaborate on events and co-host because what I'm doing right now is working with these offices and getting on phone calls with them to organize events to help students and get as many resources as possible and I feel like especially having an event with a live broadcast where students can ask your questions right on the spot would be great for both of us to work on together.
- dd. Lauren: Absolutely but then we also need to think about what happens in the future, and when we do get to go back on campus. Unfortunately online events are the only things we can do now, and I love that you're taking all of these initiatives, but if we look at the big picture, we can look at things we could do separately and that still make us worthy of being a committee in USG, and I look forward to work with all of you.
- ee. Tomasz: I like the idea of having more resources and events for international students. My question is more in terms of a budget, how much do you feel we would need to allocate in order to have these resources?
- ff. Lauren: That's a good question, and honestly resources like these won't cost money. I don't plan on spending any money for these online events and resources that are already free, because it's something crucial that students should have access to.
- gg. Tomasz: Adding onto that, you mentioned hosting events on how to do taxes. I know STARR has workshops for that already, so would you want to do another event like that under your committee or just point them into the directions of a resource that already exists?
- hh. Lauren: ISSC helps hosts these tax workshops because international students can't use turbo tax so we have our own presentations to use as well and I would just reach out to Rosa to see if she needs any help.
- ii. Tomasz: So you won't need any additional professional services for these events?
- jj. Lauren: Nope, just reaching out to Rosa and ISSC.
- kk. Laiba: Hey Lauren. I appreciate you coming to us today and I do think that the diversity and inclusivity issue needs to be addressed by USG. I understand that Erika and Irine brought up that it should be under public opinion and I am totally fine with spearheading this with you. I think it's something that is very much needed because it's not provided enough through USG currently, but after hearing you, I feel like if it is under public opinion it would seem like it wouldn't be as magnified as it should be. It would be like taking away from your initial thought. I in no way whatsoever want to do that because as you said it can be considered very broad. I think it would be great to see this as a separate committee itself with subcommittees under it. I understand that you didn't want to spearhead the first generation or diversity committee because you didn't feel you would be an accurate representation towards these students?

- ll. Lauren: It wasn't because of that. I was just thinking about the big picture and how other schools have these committees with less number of international students while we don't. Why should Baruch limit itself? I think this is too important for it not to be its own thing.
- mm. Laiba: How you would feel about the subcommittees? I understand you would want a first-generation student to represent the first generation committee and same with diversity?
- nn. Lauren: Yes, that's my plan. I would be overlooking the committee as a whole and do my research, as well as seeing what USG can do on its part to advocate for these students.
- oo. Laiba: If you do plan on admitting proper representation to spearhead those subcommittees, you can definitely admit vice chairs who best fit under the broader spectrum.
- pp. Steven: Hi Lauren, thank you so much for providing us with a really great and well-thought-out presentation. I do see your point where there is a need for such a committee. I want to give you my personal experience with starting a new program. I'm starting my own mentorship program and it is a very ambitious project that I'm taking on but I'm doing it in a way where we're not overwhelming ourselves and after hearing you speak, having a lot of subcommittees in one big committee might be overwhelming and way too ambitious. Because we're in a virtual setting, this can be the perfect time to do a test run. I do see where there could be some overlap with other committees, especially with Yam-Yu's and I see that she's responsible for providing the resources to our students. I do think that there is room for collaborations or to be part of her subcommittee and there you can execute any programs that you wish. I also think that maybe if you are thinking about officializing this committee, 3 subcommittees could be too much and instead having 3 vice-chairs within them and being in charge of different types of programs could be more efficient. Since this is the first time, I think it would be very smart to get the guidance of a VP, chair, or rep sen with creating new different programs. I think this is a great way to collaborate with the existing committees and in the future we can move forward with creating the committee as its own.
- qq. Lauren: I totally understand that, but at the same time, how do we know if it's going to be a success if we do not start it? We need to start it now. I understand doing this under someone else's guidance could work out, but I'm not doing this by myself. We already discussed working with other sectors. I came to Tony with this idea a few weeks ago, and within 2 weeks, I had already set up other meetings, created a presentation, fliers for potential events. I understand this is a big task, but I am not alone. I have 2 people on the call right now ready to give me their support and how are we going to know if this committee is good enough to stand by itself if we keep putting it under different people, so why are we limiting ourselves? We can try new things and this is the best setting to do it because being virtual will give me time to be able to do all these different things. I'd be happy to help Yam-Yu with resources for international students but we need something that's different.
- rr. Steven: I want to offer some clarification. I agree with you that this has to start from somewhere but I do think that starting it within a more stabilized setting would be the best because since we are virtual now, there's a lot of questions being asked on how will we engage with students, making sure they're receiving the resources properly, how do we effectively communicate and reach out. I agree with you that we should get started from somewhere but doing it as a trial run and under someone's guidance could be beneficial. There's also the question of how will we measure the success of the committee, similar to my mentorship program. Just something to take into consideration.
- ss. Briana: Something that Zariana said in the chat: " This is something that can be stable on its own, it's not like she's going to be working alone if this does go through, and there are people in USG who can assist her with this because this is what USG's all about: assisting and supporting people's initiatives and ideas" so definitely keep this in mind. She won't be alone, she'll have our support. (We love that, go off queen.)
- tt. Taji: I just wanted to summarize real quickly the 2 main points we've been talking about, whether it should be its own ad hoc committee or part of a subcommittee. The fact that you guys are saying this committee could be under multiple other subcommittees and she would have to go through all those people just goes to show that it makes sense for this to be its own separate committee. Yes, Yam-Yu provides resources, and

Laiba can provide student input, but that's not the only thing that she's going to be focusing on. Even if this does go through, this would only be an ad hoc committee, and active for one year so realistically even if things are a little rough at first, she can find ways to work on that and then next year if someone else decides they'd like to continue it, Lauren can help explain what went well and what could be improved. All ad hoc committees are rough in the beginning. For example I was vice chair of the Arts committee my first year and that's still an ad hoc committee and as time went on, it evolved through the initiatives that Joshua created, what Emmanuel accomplished, and what I'm sure Kristina (our arts queen) will focus on during her term. At first, certain things were rough but then it got better. We should allow her to have her own committee and focus on the initiatives she's looking to pursue instead of trying to work under 3, 4, or 5 different people. Like Yam-Yu already has a lot she's working on, and on top of that we want to give her another subcommittee to work on? To me, that doesn't make sense.

uu. Tony: Lauren contacted me with this initiative, and when she talked to me. I could tell that she did her research on the USG constitution, probably more than others. When I was hearing her plan, thinking from a student's perspective, when I was VP of Student Affairs last year, I did not have the time to think of so many other initiatives, and that's why this committee is such a great idea and would be a great resource for students who are in need of this, and a chance for USG to broaden our horizons as well.

vv. Briana: Lauren has the passion, she came prepared with all of the material. The name alone of this committee is going to draw so much attention to students. I think it's so impactful that she even had the courage to come and speak to USG about this and that just says a lot to her character and her dedication for this committee. Thank you Lauren again, and I applaud your courage.

ww. Lauren: I just want to say thank you all for your comments and feedback, and I really appreciate it.

xx. Motion to nominate the establishment of the Diversity, Inclusivity, and International Affairs ad hoc committee.

i. Motion passes, 11-7-0

yy. Motion to nominate Lauren Farrugia as Chair of the Diversity, Inclusivity, and International Affairs committee.

i. Motion passes, 17-1-0

zz. Motion to elect Lauren Farrugia as chair of the Diversity, Inclusivity, and International Affairs committee.

i. Motion passes, 17-0-1

aaa. Tony: I would suggest to continue speaking with Savanna moving forward.

2. Nick Caccese | Office of Communications, Marketing & Public Affairs at Baruch

a. Nick: Thanks everybody for letting me join in for a little bit and thanks to Tony for the back and forth emailing with me and helping me get on board with everybody here. I'm the manager of Multimedia Production for Baruch and I work out of the Office of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs (OCMTA) and wanted to talk to all of you about an initiative that we're starting this Fall. We've partnered in the past years with USG on multimedia efforts and storytelling efforts so I always consider USG to be a good partner for us in this capacity. What we want to do is something called "Voices of Baruch" to give a voice to the students of the Baruch community. We want to have more material that shares and showcases the voice of students and their perspectives. Sharing their opinions, pursuits, what they're doing for and outside Baruch and really just capturing the students' experience while they're here so I wanted to propose it to all of you because of course in this virtual environment we can't set up situations where we can go in and interview you on camera and so forth. A lot of what we're doing would be remote and everybody who wanted to contribute would film their own videos and then share it with us. Tony had asked me in our communications how many voices we're looking for. This is an ongoing effort, so as many of you who

want to contribute are welcome to do so and I could send an email tomorrow with further details, but really the video would just be 1 to 3 minutes of you sharing something about your experience as students, as members of USG, and so the topics are pretty wide. It's really just getting students to share their opinions about this remote environment that we're in, what they hope to get out of it to make student life better for the community. Things of that nature, so it's pretty much open to talking about anything.

- b. Cindy: Are there specific platforms you are going to be using to showcase these videos? (graphics queen)
- c. Nick: We use our Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, as well as our playlist on Youtube which gets a lot of traction and a great source to show everyone what our students and faculty are doing. Anything that we can collaborate and produce can of course be provided to you as well if you'd like to share it.
- d. Erika: When do you need these videos by?
- e. Nick: It's an ongoing effort that we'll be doing throughout the Fall semester and into Spring as well, really just to get as many voices on our platform as possible. We can spread them out, so there's no deadline.
- f. Tomasz: Do you want these videos to give off more professional vibes or us answering them normally?
- g. Nick: Just be yourself and be casual, if you'd like.
- h. Damali: Be your most appropriate USG self.
- i. Tomasz: That's a good way of putting it Damali
 - i. People participating in the video: Taji, Kristina, Steven, Laiba, Christine, Yam-Yu, Irine, Richard, Osvaldo, Mayer, Tomasz, Genesis, Lesli
- j. Briana: I can send out names and emails of everyone to Nick in a follow-up email with more information.
- k. Nick: Yes, thank you all. I know your fellow students and community will greatly benefit from it.

**** Recess starts at 7:30PM ****

**** Recess ends at 7:35PM ****

3. Steven Le | VP of Campus Affairs

- a. Steven: Hello everyone. I wanted to give an update on homecoming. Me and the homecoming committee are working very hard to try to finalize our events for the students and uplift the Bearcat spirit. Our event planning team led by Mariam is finalizing talks on ideas, such as a catwalk and fashion show, a game night including Escape the Room, and a potential cook-off. The design team led by Ka Lye is also working very hard to determine designs for our merchandise. Confirmed merchandise at the moment includes sweatshirts and hoodies. One question we have; is it possible to change the color of Bernie Bearcat and make it like purple-pink or neon theme, also fitting our 80s/90s cyberpunk theme. The marketing and communication team led by Erika is working on how to design different infographics, instagram filters, how to execute our raffles and giveaways and things of that nature. That's all I have to report on Homecoming.
- b. Briana: Are we allowed to change the color of Bernie?
- c. Damali: Yes you can.
- d. Cindy: Hi Steven, you said you're still in the process of finalizing events. I noticed that you had already submitted graphics requests for 4 events for homecoming. Do you still plan on doing them?
- e. Steven: At the time, some of the events weren't finalized because we wanted to get input from the committee and I submitted the form for these events to have them as mockups.
- f. Cindy: For the future, when it comes to any graphics request, if you guys want me to do something like a mockup or test, you should let me know beforehand instead of submitting an actual form just so I don't get confused with which actual events need graphics or not. It would make things easier for me.
- g. Steven: I apologize for the confusion.
- h. Cindy: It's fine, just something for everyone to keep in mind for next time.
- i. Steven: An update with the Big Sibs program. My vice-chairs and I are in the process of finalizing changes for the program that were proposed or things that have shifted since we have a lot of students who

expressed interest in participating in the program which is great. However, we are trying to modify this program for a few reasons. It is the first time we are trying to pursue a mentorship program and since it is an ambitious project we want to start out small to be able to manage everyone and because it's a test run for a potential program for Spring 2021 because our goal has shifted to wanting to better serve our transfer students. We have a lot of programs for freshmen at Baruch and we wanted to give the same love and appreciation to our transfer students and give them the tools for career and leadership success in the future. We are still going to take freshmen in as mentees but in limited numbers because we're trying to prioritize our transfer students. The different changes we're going to be making is designing specific curriculums for both freshmen and transfer students because the goals of both demographics are different. It seems like a lot of freshmen are more focused on creating connections and exploring Baruch's resources. Meanwhile, transfer students are more focused on career resources because their stay at Baruch could potentially be shorter than freshmen. Our enrollment and admission policies will now be altered. We will be accepting 10 freshmen and 15 transfer students, along with 25 mentors. The mentor vetting process will stay the same regarding GPA requirements, which is at least a 2.8 GPA. Since we're accepting 10 freshmen, we will need at least 10 mentors, and they can be either junior or seniors. Applications for both mentors and mentees are currently being designed. Master workshops will be tailored differently for freshmen and transfer students.

- j. Briana: Do you think we could open up master workshops for all, but market to its target audience?
- k. Steven: Sounds fine. The only issue is the master workshops will be made for either freshmen or transfer students, and so people can attend but topics being discussed may not necessarily be relevant for them.
- l. Osvaldo: How many transfer students applied to be in the mentorship program?
- m. Steven: We currently have 15 who expressed interest in being a mentee.
- n. Osvaldo: What kind of training will the mentors go through?
- o. Steven: We can have training before the start of the program. I want to elaborate again that since this is a test run, we do want to create room for trial and errors.
- p. Osvaldo: My only concern is the idea that these mentors could potentially take advantage of the mentees and to make sure they have the proper ethics and trained into knowing what to do in certain situations. I just wanted to know if any ethical or confidentiality training will be taking place.
- q. Steven: Thank you for that suggestion and I will definitely take it into consideration, it is a good idea.
- r. Tomasz: Are you taking these mentors and mentees from people who already filled out the application if they were interested or will you be doing another round?
- s. Steven: The forms that were sent out before were not applications. Just interest forms to see how many people were interested and if the program itself would be relevant enough to start. Those who filled out the interest forms will be getting priority when the applications come out.
- t. Richard: Is there going to be an interview process?
- u. Steven: With the time crunch we have now, and similar to Success Network, we will be pairing students up based on common interests and random pairing.
- v. Laiba: Are mentors going to have multiple mentees, or will this be more one-on-one?
- w. Steven: We are taking in 10 freshmen and 15 transfer students and having 25 mentors, so in total 50 people.
- x. Tomasz: Just a suggestion, wouldn't it be easier for each mentor to have 2 mentees, and that way it would be easier for you to manage 12 or 13 mentors versus 25?
- y. Steven: We want to give our mentees a more personalized and tailored connection. Sometimes mentors might have trouble scheduling meetings with multiple mentees, so our way would be easier.
- z. Tomasz: Okay, that makes sense.
- aa. Steven: My last point, and hopefully something to brighten up people's mood, is about a joint committee event that the Clubs and Orgs and Campus Affairs committees are putting together. Something for all of our students to come and destress and relax from the first two weeks of classes and assimilating into the virtual setting. The event is called, "Welcome to our Zoom Battle." We will have a check-in, icebreakers, and the 3 different virtual games, which are Bingo, Mafia, and Kahoot. We encourage all of our USG to

come and show your support. Our marketing and promotional materials have already been sent out to Christine. The post will most likely go out by tomorrow and the event will take place on September 10th at 6PM and will include a zoom link. A suggestion for the table; whenever we do have events or posts coming up, it's a good idea to react and share them to help increase our engagement and outreach with the students.

4. Yam-Yu Li | VP of Student Affairs

- a. Yam-Yu: Hi guys. As mentioned before, my team and I are working on collaborating and co-hosting with student offices and I do want to update you as to where we are. This is a link [to the Student Center Service sheet](#) to all the centers we've contacted and their respective point person. I had my vice chairs reach out to them via email and it shows if they replied or not and our scheduled calls with them. I reached out to the Study Abroad office and they agreed to co-host an event with us and it's still in talks because they want to get all the information out first before collaborating with USG. My vice chair Estephany will follow up with them during September and hopefully the event will be in mid-October. They have an event on September 10th already and I'm still waiting for a flyer from them. When reaching out, I first asked them if they already have events that they're working on and whether they were interested in having any co-host intentions with USG. The Study Abroad office wants us to help market their info session, which is RSVP-based. I recently also got off a call with the Health and Wellness center and PAWS with Elise and we discussed some of the initiatives that they have for the Fall as to services that they provide and how are they going to turn that into virtual events and we are waiting for a newsletter and see if we can also co-host some events. One thing I do want to ask the table is I also have meetings with STARR, the Writing Center, Transfer center, Bursar's office, and the Counseling Center. All these meetings are typically on Fridays so if you're interested in working on an event with them or want to learn more about the center and services that they provide, let me know so I can add you onto the call as well as any questions you might have for them. What we're trying to do is with co-hosting these events is to reel in as much information as we possibly can and explain to the student body what services are available especially during this time and kind of cater to their most basic needs, financial needs, and offer any mental health and wellness resources.
- b. Briana: I have a person from financial aid I can connect you with if needed.
- c. Osvaldo: I'm a little confused. Are we collaborating with these offices to only distribute information?
- d. Yam-Yu: In the past, Student Affairs was always associated with solely giveaways, and now that we've moved virtually, there's a lot of restrictions with that, and I want to stray away from that perception and have more events with the necessary information and resources being provided. For example, the HR department used to give out emergency kits to students and we want to help them out to see how they can still stay connected with the students and still benefit from their services.
- e. Osvaldo: Thank you for clarifying.
- f. Yam-Yu: I have a folder with the marketing materials for these different events from the centers and offices that I can share with you all offline. Second thing I want to talk about is Welcome Week, which was essentially our trial of events to get a sense of how they will be running now that we're virtual. They went very well. Our attendance was between 20 and 30 people. They were at weird times, with some students having classes in between, but overall it went pretty well. If any of you plan on doing more game night events, for some reason there's a misconception that winners are entitled to prizes. If this is not the case for your event, make sure to clarify this. Table members can participate but not win prizes or giveaways.
- g. Alson: When we market that meetings or events will be recorded, how does that work out?
- h. Damali: Why was it being recorded, to document the winners?
- i. Alison: We wanted to record parts of the event to make a post or video afterwards to show the students.
- j. Damali: I would put it on the flier or description that any type of recording is for marketing purposes only and that way they don't need to sign a consent form since they are consenting to it by participating.
- k. Tomasz: I was going to ask Damali about that but then she explained it, so all good.

Yam-Yu Li leaves at 8:03PM

5. Alison Lee | Chair of Clubs and Orgs

- a. Alison: First thing is that because bolt training is ending soon, we'll be reviewing the final version of the master list. I know we have a lot of different versions out there. It is the most up-to-date on MyBaruch but we're going to keep updating that. My vice chairs and I have also been working on a more detailed list which includes two point people from each club as well as their positions just to make it easier for all of us. I'm going to be sending a form out later, if you guys could please push it to your friends who are in clubs to fill it out, it would be great. Our September events list came out, and we got some pretty good feedback but I would also love to hear what you guys think because it was brought to my attention that there's a possibility that not all the club events are officially approved by OSL since it's not through MyBaruch. I felt like the main reason for creating the calendar wasn't specifically for that, but more just for students to have so they know of upcoming dates. Last thing is Club Fair day 2 was today and it was sadly not as great as day 1. A lot of our clubs were discouraged today because attendance wasn't so great, MyBaruch was lagging, and Wi-Fi issues but we did have some pretty good feedback, specifically from Lexington Music, Debate Team, She's the First, Japanese Anime Asylum, Our B.I.A.S. and AIESEC. Our highest amount of attendance was 25 today with an average of 15 and I know those numbers seem small but it was a win for our online club fair. We are also looking into possibly creating a second wave of club fair and if anyone has any ideas or feedback in general I would love to hear it.
- b. Briana: The club form was amazing. I sent it in the FYS chat so people could share it. Thank you again.
- c. Osvaldo: From what I've heard about club fair, people are saying that clubs are using the same systems with icebreakers and Kahoot, so maybe trying to meet with clubs and find ways to spice up their events to make them more interactive with the audience.
- d. Ally: That's a great idea. I think just for club fair, clubs are more interested in trying to get members excited for it and getting their information out, so that's why it's more structured for them, but we can come up with more ideas to see what they have for more events.
- e. Cindy: Are you still having issues with trolls or zoom bombers?
- f. Ally: Luckily today it was just a bad internet connection and MyBaruch issues.

6. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: Next week I'll be starting check-ins, and sending out a sign-up list tomorrow. Going to be doing it until the 3rd week of September. My weekly virtual office hours will be Mondays from 6-7PM.

Unfinished Business

1. Tony Chen | President

- a. Tony: I forgot who brought up the idea for a master list of USG contact information from past members during a past meeting, but there is already a Google sheet that has been shared to our table drive. I am still reaching out to people for their updated contact information, but it's there if you need it.

2. Taji Sanders | VP of Academic Affairs

- a. Taji: I just wanted to talk about zoom etiquette. There were a lot of statements and long paragraphs being sent into the chat before about the ad hoc committee, but if we're focusing on the conversation, they may get lost and be a little distracting. Obviously if you don't have a mic, type it into the chat, but I was still seeing people with mics send in statements, so I think it would be easier to just vocalize them.
- b. Ally: I think it's difficult to speak just because the conversation is happening online. We may try to keep it "one mic" but maybe people had something to say that was more relevant 3 people ago, and so that's why they type into the chat, but I'm not sure if there's a perfect solution for it.

- c. Genesis: Ally and Taji, I agree with both of your points. I know that things might be a little different with online meetings, but similar to how it would work in person, it would be preferred if anyone who sends messages in the chat could speak up on them as well. This is to avoid missing out on any good points being made, because of course that's a key point of our senate meetings; for anyone to speak up and raise their comments or concerns. I would not want to burden anyone with having to read others' messages out loud for them, and I get that some points might get a little lost once multiple people keep talking, but that's how it would also work in person; you hold onto your point and wait until it is your turn to speak.

New Business

1. Steven Le | VP of Campus Affairs

- a. Steven: Can we confirm if there is going to be a policy change for the online proctoring issue?
- b. Tony: I was talking to Damali and Savanna and there's no policy that permits professors to use these proctoring systems. It is not permitted, and I sent an email to the Provost about it. My recommendation is to report them to Dean King at Deanofstudents@baruch.cuny.edu.
- c. Damali: Make sure in your report to be very specific and forward all necessary information. Professors are not supposed to be recording you or doing anything that tracks you.
- d. Tomasz: [Link to provost message](#); It said if the professor decides to include in their syllabus a disclaimer about proctoring services, it can be discussed later but it doesn't give the full details.
- e. Raphael: In all of my econ and finances classes, all the professors have that stipulation in their syllabi that says should CUNY go ahead with Proctorio, they will opt in and choose to enact it. It seems like some professors want this and believe it's a good way to monitor testing. I do not agree with it.
- f. Tony: I am also taking names of professors from students and reporting them to the Dean.
- g. Lesli: I did have a professor using this system and because of it I dropped the class. I did email her personally about it, but I'm not sure if there's a way of how this is supposed to be implemented or if there's a way to ask to get the class back.
- h. Damali: I'm not too sure because that's a whole other issue, and I don't know what the registrar's office is doing about it. If any professors are mandating that you pay for the proctoring service, please report it.

2. Erika Cumbe | Representative Senator

- a. Erika: I just wanted more insight from Laiba on her plans for her committee.
- b. Laiba: Thanks Erika. As of right now from the information I've garnered on my own surrounding the role, I'm planning on doing surveys, but I do plan on extending that towards possibly creating an extension on the USG website for students to submit their concerns directly to us and for us to potentially review them each Senate meeting and see what we can do to solve them. I also do want to possibly create separate newsletters and use the emails that we currently have from the USG newsletter and separating them by year if possible. I'm still drafting out a plan and I do appreciate having the time to plan it out but that's just a little snippet of what I want to accomplish. I also want to review my plan with Kay Rivera before I actually go forth and present it with the table. I'd like to establish a direct point of contact because I understand we are USG and there are a lot of table members that students can come to for concerns, but there's not really a centralized point of contact. I hope that my public opinion committee can be the place where students' needs and concerns can go and we can all review it as a senate.
- c. Erika: Yeah that provides some clarity. The committee would be great and I can't wait to see how it develops and see it become a much bigger thing. If students are giving their statements, there may also have to be talks on the confidentiality behind them depending on their specific situation.
- d. Laiba: There is going to be some sort of specific ethics and confidentiality training with my committee, and I would like for people to apply and interview for it.
- e. Cindy: Was there a chair of public opinion in previous years?

Raphael Berdugo leaves at 8:30PM

- f. Briana: Yes, Kay Rivera held the position from 2018-2019. It's dependent on each year's USG.
- g. Tony: When it comes to ad hoc committees, if no one picks them up, they're absent but it does not have to be re-established, someone new would just have to take charge of it.
- h. Savanna: When Kayla was chair, she focused a lot on how the students were receiving USG and their reach and how can USG do better on campus, what are some programs and initiatives that students would like USG to focus on. Kayla did a lot of research on the areas that USG needed to improve on and what the students appreciated as well, from all the feedback she collected. She used both Qualtrics as Campus Labs. We pay for the service, and have a representative that reads over the questions that we may have and they just give us feedback so we make sure that we get the most honest response back so I'm willing to connect you guys with that person and so that if you want to do surveys, that is an option but I see Erika's comment about it being more of a public relations type of role and that plays a part in it but I think you guys have the freedom to make the role into what you want it to be. Just so you guys know how it was used in the past, it was more so as kind of a texting balance to see how the student body is receiving USG.
- i. Tony: I know that for most of you, it's your first time in USG. If you ever have any questions about your role or any initiatives you have in mind, feel free to reach out to E-board and OSL.

Adjournment

1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #1 at 8:38PM. 16-0-0