

## Undergraduate Student Government

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### Meeting 11

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	November 17, 2020	<b>Meeting Time:</b>	5:30PM - 7:47PM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Call	<b>Note Taker:</b>	Genesis Calle

Attendees:	
Tony Chen   President	Briana Staten   Executive Vice President
Nancy Sea   Executive Treasurer	Genesis Calle   Executive Secretary
Taji Sanders   VP of Academic Affairs	[Absent] Richard Reyes   VP of Legislative Affairs
Steven Le   VP of Campus Affairs	Yam-Yu Li   VP of Student Affairs
[Absent] 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
Osvaldo Garcia   Chair of Philanthropy	Laiba Hussain   Chair of Public Opinion
Tomasz Horczak   Representative Senator	[Absent] Raphael Berdugo   Representative Senator
Alex Cuanal   Representative Senator	Erika Cumbe   Representative Senator
Zariana Gonzalez   Representative Senator	Mayer Estinville   Representative Senator
Matthew Sanchez   Representative Senator	

### Passing of the Minutes

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1. Motion to pass Senate Meeting #10 minutes. Motion passes, 16-0-0

### Reports

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1. Alison Lee | Chair of Clubs and Organizations
  - a. Alison: Hello everyone. I had my first charter meeting with the Bearcat Sports Business Club. Their president and vice president are here to speak more about it.
  - b. John: Nice to meet you all. We are very excited to present to you the Bearcat Sports Business Club. The origin story is that Luke and I were in a COVID-19 fundraiser called "Making Lemonade Fund" which helped raise \$120,000 for COVID relief back in March with some friends from school and a bunch of students in that initiative had their own sports business clubs. Penn State's sports club Michigan Sports Business Club, and other schools were there and they would talk about the connections they had made through these clubs. Luke and I realized that we wanted to make this club as an opportunity for all those students who want to get their foot in the door within the sports business world here at Baruch. In terms of the events we've done, they involve hosting Q&A sessions with athletes and professionals within the industry, from the marketing, media, and management sectors, to come and share their experience and

advice. They were well received by our members and I think it speaks for itself that even within a virtual environment, we've been able to host events that students and even some faculty members have appreciated and enjoyed. Some other events we've been able to attend are external sport business conferences. Michigan Sports Business Conference (MSBC) hosted an event back in October, where I was presented an award from the club as well. Through that initiative, we were able to get multiple Baruch students and members to attend and connect with athletes and professionals from different sectors. The owner of Pepsi was there, Baron Davis, Dole Simmons, and people in the sports journalism world as well. Our long term goal is to get that momentum to have more guests and people come speak at our events, but for now, it's been great to join these conferences to plan what we could do in the future. Penn State will have their sports business conference in March, and others coming soon. We have our physical experiences as well, and while these aren't possible in the short term, we hope that in the near future they will be available, such as a Madison Square Garden Tour, Sports Career Education day, sports games and events. These are events that aren't strictly focused on the business aspects of sports but more so the creative and interactive aspect. Our vision for the club this semester is to register as an official club. For next semester, we want to continue collaborating with other clubs and if we could hold our own virtual conference, that would be great. We've put in a lot of time and effort and have grown to about 30-40 members. This club is not only centered around athletes, most of our members aren't, but we have partnered with Kerry Thomas from the athletics department to help spread the word of our club within the athletes they have on their team rosters. Within the coming semester, we really see ourselves growing that way and hosting more events. Next year, we want to be able to put BSBC into motion for the 2020-2021 year however that may be, whether virtually or in person. Beyond that, we have first years and sophomores in the club that we know will be more than capable of taking the club to new limits in the future. If all we do is have this club for only 2 years, it really does it no justice. The main point that Luke and I envisioned is that this is something that in 5 years, we can look back at and say "we're happy we were able to do this, let's go speak at our old club again or get our friends involved" and use our wisdom to help it continue growing. We had 4 main flagship meetings this semester. We had Brandon Steiner, the CEO of Steiner Sports, and Darren Haynes, one of the most recognizable faces in Sports College Journalism, come to speak and answer some questions. Our last meeting we had was "The Great Debates" which we partnered with ASEDOM with, and we had debate questions for people to discuss in breakout rooms. It took us an hour to get through only 2 of the 10 questions we had made, so it was great to see everyone so deep and interested in the conversation in a meeting without a guest.

- c. Tony: I think it's amazing how involved you are in bringing awareness to the sport business aspect here at Baruch, so very well done presentation.
- d. Erika: I really enjoyed the presentation and I think sports business is something we don't see a lot of here at Baruch but it is a topic students are interested in.
- e. Mayer: Same sentiment. I like the fact that you have taken so much initiative already. One question, you mentioned you wanted to host your own conference soon. Are these conferences school specific or in different regions with different schools participating?
- f. John: There really is no sport conference event here in New York City, which we would love to be a part of. I know Penn State and MSBC have their own conferences which are open to all, but if we don't have the numbers to oversee the production within the next 2 years, we've been in talking with the President of the Penn State Sport Business club to get advice. If it can't happen for us in the short term, we'd be more than happy to partner up with NYU, Columbia, and other clubs to help organize it.
- g. Briana: Do you know if any other CUNYS also have their own sport business clubs?

- h. John: We conducted a quick search, and didn't find any that were established yet, but that is a good idea and something for us to look into further for the future to join with these clubs.
- i. Mayer: Moving forward, is this a specific budget the club would need in order to host events?
- j. John: We haven't really done the math for that because in a virtual model, there is no exact budget needed. If we do come back in person, which is the goal for the near future and what we would like for the best networking experience, we can look into specifics then in terms of costs for getting guest speakers, refreshments, or other expenses.
  - i. Motion to charter Bearcat Sports Business Club.
    - 1. Motion passes, 14-0-2

## 2. Osvaldo Garcia | Chair of Philanthropy

- a. Osvaldo: One last update on Charity Week. It ended last Friday, and we raised over \$21,000 so I want to thank everyone who contributed, joined our events, helped out and shared them. Next, I wanted to talk about the BLS committee. I went to a meeting last Friday to talk about the BLS major and some of the tasks that come with it. I found out that Baruch is searching for a new Provost and President Wu had sent out an email to all students, faculty, and staff on November 11th informing them about it because he wants our input to help guide his decision making process. I think it's really important for us to listen in on those meetings, to fill out and share the surveys to as many students as possible because choosing a Provost who will be able to speak out for our interests in needs, especially for those students within the next 5 to 10 years, is extremely important. There is another meeting on November 23rd at 1:30pm. I believe that as USG, we should try to spread awareness about the survey and any news pertaining to the Provost so students know their input and voice is wanted. During the meeting, there was a majority of faculty representation there, so not as many student representatives which is pretty concerning since the Provost does deal with internal academic affairs which ultimately affects students the most. I hope everyone can make it to the future meetings.
- b. Laiba: There were people on the committee that were organizing the search for the Provost, with the help of faculty and some students. Me and Ozzy wanted to give that student perspective, as well as USG representation, in that meeting and did talk about having a Provost that was open to the idea of having a campus that specializes in diversity and equity, not just within our community in our education system as well with the help of our BLS major to ensure Baruch is a more "climate issued aware" college and aware of the different issues our diverse students are facing. We also wanted to get an update on the Credit/No Credit policy since the Provost does handle that but as of now there was no information.
- c. Osvaldo: I think what's concerning that we should also talk about is the way Baruch is shifting from getting their funding more from tuition than from the city or the state, which is what the staff were saying. That is why we might see an influx of more students than Baruch can handle. Apparently, Baruch can only handle between 14,000 to 15,000 students and, meanwhile we have more than 19,000 students currently. There's also the idea that we might continue this virtual setting next year as well.
- d. Briana: Can you repeat again when the next 2 meetings regarding the Provost hearing are?
- e. Tony: There's one on November 23rd from 1:30PM to 2:30 PM, and another one on November 30th, same time. If you're having trouble with the link, it was also sent out to your Baruch mails as well. Make sure to have any questions you have ready for the meeting, and fact check as well beforehand.
- f. Osvaldo: If more of us continue to go to these meetings, fill out, and share out these surveys, they're more likely to take that into consideration, especially if students are saying very similar things.

- g. Damali: I want to make sure that everyone is clear as to what the Provost actually does. The Provost is the Chief Academic Officer, while the President is the Chief Administrator Officer. They work hand in hand but the President should not do anything academically related unless the Provost has had some input or is the chief administrator behind it. It is important for you to understand that if you want representation of your faculty members to look like you, a more equally gender based faculty in different schools, or concerned about which faculty members get tenure or speak to you in the classroom, the Provost is the one who oversees all of it. They oversee the majors, and not just who is teaching you. It is super important that you let your voice be heard, period. Both in the short and long term, but you are the ones who are the recipient of you, the Provost chooses to be on campus, the policies that are put into place, so it is very important for you to participate in this if you can. If you're in a meeting and you don't understand what's being said, ask questions because I will guarantee the staff and faculty in there are not holding back. Don't think that you need to come in there with a certain level of expertise. Spread the word and share it with other students and let them know the important role of the Provost.
- h. Laiba: In regards to how the Provost works hand in hand with credit/no credit, I know we sent the resolution out to both the President and Provost. Because there's no confirmed Provost, would the President be making that decision alone or will they have to wait until there is a new Provost?
- i. Damali: I don't think both parties need to be present, but it's extra work for the President because then he has to confirm with deans of other schools. That's the Provost's job since they know the ins and outs of it and how the policy affects students. Remember that President Wu was not here last semester when it was implemented. It will take him more time and work to ensure its impact will be beneficial for all students.

### 3. Steven Le | VP of Campus Affairs

- a. Steven: An update on the Big Sibs Program. It will now be executed and planned by both the Student Affairs and Campus Affairs committees. Yam-Yu and her committee have done a great job connecting students with helpful resources so it makes the communication with these offices much easier and will allow the program to run smoothly. It will be executed as a beta trial, so a USG experiment to measure the needs of both first year and transfer students. We'll use the information and feedback to potentially create and officialize a program that we hope future USGs can benefit from using. The program will launch next week, November 24th. The event page is up, feel free to share it. The program will be extended into the winter semester to allow more time for mentors and mentees to get to know each other, just in case some do have winter classes. An official document will be shared later this week with tentative dates of events and master workshops for the program. There will still be a mentor/mentee aspect. We are now willing to reopen the form to any new students who wish to participate.
- b. Tony: I believe in a previous senate you wanted the USG members to meet with the mentors and mentees. Do you have an alternative date set in mind for that?
- c. Steven: Next week's event is more of an info session, but table members are welcome to come and share their experiences with the students.
- d. Briana: Would you consider including incoming first year and transfer students for the spring as well?
- e. Steven: For now, I would like to focus on current students, only because it might be more difficult.
- f. Kristina: What time are these info sessions?
- g. Steven: Next week's will be on November 24th from 6:00PM-7:00PM.

### Unfinished Business

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## 1. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: After talking with Damali and Savanna, I asked for an update on the credit/no credit policy. I learned that Hunter College's policy is not an official credit/no credit policy. They used similar wording but it's actually just a withdrawal policy similar to how Baruch has.
- b. Damali: There was some confusion about whether it was a school or CUNY policy. The way it was explained to me was they just shifted the deadlines for their already existing policies but they used the credit/no credit language. It is not the same CUNY credit/no credit policy that was implemented CUNY wide last Spring. From what we've been told, it has to be CUNY wide for the credit/no credit policy to go through. I know you might be frustrated because we haven't gotten an answer yet, but there's a lot of different elements that go into this, which is why it would be simpler with a Provost because all the Provosts of the schools talk to each other. That was the last I had heard and once I get more information, I'll let you know.
- c. Alison: Is it possible for us to put out a statement about it to update students as well who don't attend our senate meetings?
- d. Damali: The only update I would put is that there is no update because I think the more information that is put out and is uncertain and unclear, the more confusing it might get. I would just put out something that states that USG is still working on this and waiting for answers from the administration and we do understand they have concerns.
- e. Tomas: This policy that Hunter has is being considered or is it already implemented?
- f. Damali: Hunter just pushed back their deadlines as a part of their withdrawal policy.
- g. Laiba: On the statement, we could also add that there is no current Provost and I'm pretty sure a large portion of the student body isn't aware of that so this would help to clarify some things for them as to why the credit/no credit policy hasn't gone through yet.
- h. Damali: Yeah, if you don't mind, I would like to take a look at the language of this statement beforehand just to make sure it's accurate. You guys have had a rough semester and I don't want to confuse any more students or make it harder for anyone else. I'm sorry it's so rough y'all. I just don't want us to be another source of misinformation for students.
- i. Yam-Yu: This is probably the first time a few of us learned what the Provost does, so putting out a statement would help increase the transparency between USG and the students.
- j. Christine: Talking from my side within my role, we have gotten a lot of messages from students with some backlash of us not having an answer. At least personally from my interactions with the students, if we say that we don't have an answer, it might do more harm than good or have them think we're being quiet about it. I think we should push the Provost thing so as to not confuse students even more, and just take that into account.
- k. Kristina: Since the other schools aren't doing credit/no credit, what is the likelihood that Baruch ends up doing the same thing and ends up extending the drop dates?
- l. Damali: Baruch has already extended the withdrawal date to the last day of classes. I have no idea if certain classes have the power to declare themselves credit/no credit.
- m. Briana: In the past, some classes were able to issue credit/no credit with just specific guidelines. Is it likely that they would just bring this policy back instead?
- n. Damali: I'm not included in these conversations so I have no definite answer. There's so many factors because what might be good for Zicklin might not be good for Weissman so they need to

consider that if they want this to be a Baruch policy. Christine, what would happen if you guys posted something about the Provost search and information on its role?

- o. Christine: Yeah, I think having a graphic explaining all that would be more helpful, and not just making it centered around credit/no credit since we don't have any more information on it, as well as promoting the meetings for the search for the Provost.
- p. Tony: I know our ticker representative Emanuela writes about what our senate meetings every week. Are you planning on including any updates of credit/no credit in your article?
- q. Emanuela: I can definitely include that in my article and the lack of update.

## 2. Tomas Horczak | Representative Senator

- a. Tomasz: The Computer Science survey is open until November 18th at 5:00. Complete it and share it please so we can get as many responses as possible. Our event, "Making Friends in COVID" is this Thursday at 6:00P.M so come through if you can.

## Executive Session

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- 1. Motion to enter into an Executive Session passes at 6:45PM.

## New Business

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### 1. Genesis Calle | Executive Secretary

- a. Genesis: For those who signed up to submit a video for the Winter Graduation celebration, I have already contacted you with the necessary guidelines and prompts for the video. It will be due Monday, November 30th. Please submit them to me via messenger or email. There's no dress code required but wearing USG merch is encouraged. Horizontal videos please. If anyone else would like to submit a video, let me know.

### 2. Yam-Yu Li | VP of Student Affairs

- a. Yam-Yu: This Friday, my vice chairs will be running our "Tea Time with Student Affairs" Event at 5:00P.M. After that, we will do a USG alumni night on December 4th, and our final event for the semester will be the virtual health fair with PAWS on December 8th, and we will be hosting a coloring distress session for it.
- b. Tony: Who's coming to the USG alumni night, in terms of alumni?
- c. Yam-Yu: We have Dakshatha, Andrea, Nicole, and Annmarie confirmed.
- d. Erika: Yammy, my professor, Ben Guttman, was also a former USG president. I could send you his email and see if he would be interested in coming.

### 2. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: Before we end, we are going to be cancelling next week's senate meeting. For this to go into effect, we would need a motion from the table.
  - i. Motion to cancel USG Senate Meeting for November 24th.
    - 1. Motion passes, 16-0-0

## Adjournment

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1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #10 at 7:47 PM. Motion passes, 16-0-0