

Undergraduate Student Government

Newman Vertical Campus 3-270
55 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10010

✉ info@usgbaruch.com

📷 @USGBARUCH



Meeting 13

Meeting Date:	December 8, 2020	Meeting Time:	5:31PM -7:07PM
Location:	Zoom Call	Note Taker:	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	Richard Reyes VP of Legislative Affairs
Steven Le VP of Campus Affairs	[Late] 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
Osvaldo Garcia Chair of Philanthropy	Laiba Hussain Chair of Public Opinion
[Absent] Tomasz Horczak Representative Senator	Raphael Berdugo Representative Senator
Alex Cuanal Representative Senator	Erika Cumbe Representative Senator
Zariana Gonzalez Representative Senator	Mayer Estinville Representative Senator
[Absent] Matthew Sanchez Representative Senator	

Passing of the Minutes

1. Motion to pass Senate Meeting #12 minutes. Motion passes, 16-0-0

Reports

1. Alison Lee | Chair of Clubs and Organizations

- a. Alison: We have 2 clubs looking to get chartered today. First up we have Books and Beyond.
- b. Parmjeet: Hello, I am the president. I'm very excited to be here with our chair of outreach Kamila to present our club. The purpose of this organization is to create a space that promotes the love of literature to connect readers and storytellers through different Works and genres. We hope to spread the love of reading and writing through our book discussion, creative writing, and other social events. We believe there's a sort of negative stereotype and stigma around literature where people tend to believe that reading is boring or writing is too much work and essentially we believe this stems from us as students who read 5 textbooks per semester and write 20 page papers. We hope to drive individuals away from this mindset and make reading and writing be seen as something to destress, relax, and connect with other readers and storytellers. Our club imitates the structure of a traditional book club but we add in this extra spice of our creating writing aspect where we believe that individuals can express themselves

through writing and discover this other side of writing where they can write whatever they wish what they find creative, and write it without being judged or getting a grade for it. Some of our goals is to read 2-3 books of any genre per semester and we would choose these books as a club and get on a variety of genres to create a creative space where individuals can intertwine their love for reading and writing and potentially explore their creative minds and we hope to inspire anyone who has a passion for reading and storytelling to join our organization whether they loved reading as a kid and disconnected with it.

- c. Kamila: We've had 3 general interest meetings. At our first event we introduced our team, our mission, and got to know our future members. Our second event was a game night co-sponsored with 3 other clubs. Our 3rd event was called "Sip and Create" and we split up into 2 groups where we had a prompt and wrote a short story with it to get in the holiday spirit.
- d. Parmjeet: As for attendance for our events, we had 16 people attend our first GIM. Our secretary sends out a survey after every event to people asking if they would want to join our messenger group chat or any feedback or comments. For our first event we got a lot of book recommendations and we added them to our list. For our second event, we had 12 members who attended and got positive comments and feedback on our books and the trivia and many people enjoyed it. For our third event, we also had 12 members who attended and enjoyed the short story activity a lot.
- e. Kamila: The majority of our marketing is through our social media on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. We post reminders on events and we're interacting with our members and students in general through story submissions and posting book recommendations. An idea we have for a future event is book discussions which would take place once a month at the end of the month to bring our members together to talk about the book within breakout room discussions.
- f. Parmjeet: Other future potential events we have include poetry nights for our creative writers. Another event is "BUJO and Chill" to talk about the importance and influence of journaling and try making bullet journal templates. Another one is a free write event to have this during stressful times like midterms and finals week where we can make a playlist and come together to free write. Some social events we hope to have in the future in person are painting sessions, scavenger hunts, and book drives. We also aim to have a movie night event. Our last event would be having a panel of speakers in the publishing industry and through this, we would hope to gain insight on how literature is produced and what careers are in the publishing industry. For general budgeting we hope to invest in food, prizes, and event supplies for future in person events. We also hope to invest in partnerships with small bookstores and publishing companies to connect and build relationships with them and get access to books and ebooks.
- g. Tony: I did creative writing and worked on my high school magazine reading and writing for yourself really makes a difference. I think having this club is really interesting and students will benefit from it.
- h. Cindy: I think this is a wonderful club and I'm surprised Baruch hasn't had one before because it allows people to come together as a community and spread their love for reading and writing.
- i. Irine: Have you tried reaching out to the Ticker or the English department?
- j. Parmjeet: We haven't contacted them yet but we are planning to do so soon.
- k. Briana: Another idea could be cosponsoring with the Writing Center for future events.
 - i. Motion to charter Books and Beyond
 - 1. Motion passes, 16-0-0
- l. Alison: Next up we have Consult your Community (CYC).
- m. Marvin: I am the president of our chapter and a senior majoring in CIS. I go by He/Him/They. Jerry is the vice president studying finance.
- n. Brian: Hey guys. I go by He/Him. I'm a junior majoring in economics and I'm the secretary.

- o. Shirley: I am junior majoring in accounting. I go by She/Her and I'm the treasurer.
- p. Alex: I go by He/Him. I'm majoring in statistics and the engagement director for CYC.
- q. Marvin: Consult Your Community is a national nonprofit organization that provides for one of consulting services to small businesses. It was founded in UC Berkeley back in 2013 and has grown to have different chapters across the country. We have over 400 active volunteer consultants which are made up of college students. Our mission on a national level is through semester-long consulting projects, we want to mobilize college students to leverage education, digital fluency, mentorship network, and knowledge as customers to empower small business owners and drive change in their communities. The map shows different parts of the country where our chapters are located and where we've been able to work with small businesses. On the right side you can see that we work with different types of clients, from restaurants to retail. We have over 25 university chapters across the nation. We are a diverse group of students working for the same goals. Our chapter was founded in Fall of 2019 by Radhika Kalani, Connor Mullan, Jerry Wang, and myself, because we noticed Baruch didn't have a consulting community and we value the impact that CYC was able to have on small businesses and wanted to be able to work with them and help them out while also giving an opportunity for our members to utilize their knowledge and apply that in the real world and learn about different industries and career paths they can pursue with a focus on consulting. Our core values are community, authenticity, and excellence, and are embedded in different parts of our organization. 29% of our current members are seniors, 39% are juniors, 14% are sophomores, and 18% are first-years. We skew heavily more towards upperclassmen because a lot of students don't learn about consulting until their later years and it's another reason why we believe CYC Baruch is so important because we want to increase the conversations about consulting so more students learn about the industry early on. Our major distribution is predominantly finance and accounting. The reason being is because a lot of students who major in those areas tend to go into consulting but as you can see 25% of our members are not majoring in those majors. Eventually we do want to have students from across the 3 different schools and in doing so we believe it will help increase the experiences and values the people bring to our organization which are going to improve the quality of our engagement and the recommendations that we provide.
- r. Brian: CYC Baruch has hosted a total of 4 events. Our social events consist of GIMs. We have about an average of 30 people in attendance and this helps to inform them who we are as an organization as well as inform our attendees about the recruitment timeline we have, our engagement and what we do. For professional events, we have an average of 35 people in attendance and this helps bring awareness to consulting and open opportunities. We've cosponsored with organizations like DSP and AKPSI for a consulting panel. We also had a "Land an Internship" event. We want to have future events based on case studies and consulting topics. To join CYC Baruch, you must fill out our application process and complete an interview. We are able to help our members experience consulting in a way that no other organization has as well as give them a competitive advantage as for their resumes and things to talk about during interviews. We host a bunch of internal events like game nights to foster community.
- s. Alex: We have 4 ways of helping out our small businesses, done through national databases, machine configuration, local outreach, and cold outreach efforts. We created a customer loyalty program for a barber shop and macro research for a construction company. This is more of a symbiotic relationship between the client and CYC where students have the opportunity to work within the industry and do real valuable business work while the client gets valuable recommendations to help their businesses.
- t. Shirley: We are looking for students who are well rounded analysts. The characteristics we look for are teamwork, communications, involvement, initiative, and independence. Our recruiting timeline starting

from the beginning of the semester will be marketing applications. We have open for a couple weeks for students to apply and afterwards we have the two weeks of interviews. Once we get our results we have a week training with presentation skills, how to interview, how to present ourselves in a way to help the client, and excel. Once their training is over we have engagement for a semester. We tend to repeat this recruiting timeline every semester so this is how we essentially get our new members. As far future plans CYC Baruch for next semester will most likely require \$700 for planned courses. We do plan to have 2 GIMs as well. We do plan to co-sponsor with other organizations. We also want to have a mentorship program to have an event to bring all the mentors and mentees together.

- u. Marvin: Our long-term goal is to make Baruch a target for consulting firms. We hope to create a community and eventually build connections with consulting firms so they can start recruiting students. We want to continue expanding our presence and our club diversity. We plan on working with STARR and other professional organizations for networking events. We want to continue having interview workshops and our mentorship program for freshmen and sophomores who don't yet feel like they are equipped and prepared to jump into an engagement.
- v. Tony: Thanks Marvin for presenting and I've heard you and Radhika talk about the club for a very long time and all the passion you have for it, so congratulations.
- w. Cindy: Do you guys have any other success stories working with small clients during COVID?
- x. Brian: Due to our nondisclosure agreements, we can't give out a lot of details. One example though is we worked with a record label company who were struggling during COVID and we recommended helpful things they could implement in their business strategy.
- y. Mayer: I think this club is really amazing. A question I had was for incoming freshmen, will they still be expected to interview to join the club?
- z. Marvin: Yes, it's a requirement for the club.
- aa. Alex: The way that the interview works, it's not so any freshmen have a disadvantage to upperclassmen. We evaluate people on an absolute scale and give them every resource to succeed.
- bb. Lesli: Great and informational presentation. One thing I should mention is the budget cap for new clubs is \$500 but moving forward, we can work things out with the treasurer.
 - i. Motion to charter Consult Your Community Baruch.
 - 1. Motion passes, 16-0-0

*** Recess starts at 6:21PM ***

*** Recess ends at 6:24PM ***

2. Joel De La Cruz | USS Delegate

- a. Joel: In the latest elections last week, I was elected a member of the steering committee. At the November meeting we were able to start to take steps to send our Credit/No Credit resolution to the CUNY Faculty Senate and they're taking a look at it and Board of Trustees and have discussions with the Chancellor and Provost and fortunately the Provost released in the email yesterday verifying that CUNY will be continuing the Credit/No Credit policy for the Fall 2020 semester. The only difference is that this time it is not a blanket policy. Last time it was automatically implemented on all CUNY campuses but this time CUNY campuses are offered 3 choices on how they would like to implement their grading policy. All the USGs and the SGAs of various campuses are negotiating at their home campuses with their presidents and the Provost to secure the best possible grading policy that they can achieve. I plan on bringing several resolutions to the USS and ones related to fiscal affairs.

- b. Briana: Do you have an idea of what the resolutions will be?

*** Yam-Yu Li arrives at 6:33PM ***

- c. Joel: I'll make sure to update you on future resolutions depending on ongoing discussions. I also want to thank Cindy Chen for helping me with graphics she made for my campaign.

3. Raphael Berdugo and Yudi Wexler | Rep Sen and USS Alt Delegate

- a. Yudi: Thank you for giving us this time. As Raphael will describe, Jews are too often victims of hate crimes and hate rhetoric on college campuses. Just a few weeks ago, a student run paper at Binghamton University responded to a Jewish student's article in which he mentioned attending a Jewish summer camp, for which he received a response that read, "those Jewish camps helped with the concentration." This is just one example of the multitude of incidents that happen every year at schools across the country. For those of you interested in learning more, I recommend checking out the instagram page, @jewishoncampus, which posts personal accounts from students across campuses nationwide. What Raphael and I are asking for is that you as a senate stand with the Jewish community. We ask that you pledge your commitment to keep Baruch College a safe space for Jews and call upon our institution to pledge the same. Thank you.
- b. Raphael: In the past few years over 40 universities across the nation have adopted legislation to protect the rights of their Jewish student population and in recent months other CUNYs have done the same and we want to be leading in that department. We're a school with a Jewish name, with a large Jewish population, and I myself have been a victim of various levels of anti-Jewish rhetoric going from elementary to middle School to high school, all the way up through college. Some of it's very little, very passive, very overt, and so Yudi and I together, along building off of the resolutions drafted by other schools in the city, put together this resolution that we hope the USG table members will pass and move it along to the school itself.
- c. Resolution for the Adoption of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

1. WHEREAS, Baruch College aims to create and sustain a community that embraces diversity in all its forms, challenges preconceptions and supports the understanding of systemic structures of power and injustice; thus, we are inclusive, welcoming and empowering to all members of Baruch College;
2. WHEREAS, Baruch College is a top 3 American college for ethnic diversity (Under Sources, Citation 1) and an institution that supports the rights and safety of all of its students, including Jewish students;
3. WHEREAS, Jewish undergraduate students are subjected to discrimination and harassment in person (Under Sources, Citation 2), in the classroom (Under Sources, Citation 3), and on social media (Under Sources, Citation 4), to the detriment of their personal educational experiences and the broader Baruch College community culture;
4. WHEREAS, antisemitism is a prejudiced attack on the Jewish people's ethnic, national, religious, and cultural identity. With over 3,000 antisemitic attacks nationally since 2015 at colleges and universities, including but not limited to Nazi salutes, antisemitic graffiti, and battery.
5. WHEREAS, according to the the most recent FBI report, almost sixty percent of religiously motivated hate crimes were committed against Jews, totaling over 900 attacks against Jews.
6. WHEREAS, the NYPD has reported a 19% increase in hate crimes- fueled by a drastic rise in antisemitic attacks (Under Sources, Citation 5)

7. WHEREAS, over the course of one week almost a year ago today, there were eight attacks committed on Jews within NYC, along with a mass-stabbing in a rabbi's home in upstate NY (Under Sources, Citation 5).

8. NOTING THAT, There have been a number of antisemitic incidents at CUNY in recent years. These incidents include: (The City College of New York-2018) Swastikas and the words "White Power" were written on the "Hillel" sign posted on the door of the shared Hillel and Chabad office on campus. (Medgar Evars- 2015) A Jewish student was assaulted, punched in the head, face, and stomach, and told "I don't like white and Jewish boys, leave the school you Jew". (Queens College- 2019/2020) Swastikas were found in Queens College restrooms. (CUNY LAW-2020) A Jewish student dropped out after antisemitic attacks and bullying, as well as a lack of recourse from school administration.

9. FURTHER NOTING, that in August, 2020 there was significant spike in attacks on Jews at college campuses, including, University of Southern California (USC) Student government VP resigned after antisemitic bullying. The Chabad house at University of Delaware was the victim of an arson attack. Brandeis University, founded by Jews when we were not allowed into colleges and currently approximately 33% Jewish, was the victim of a bomb threat. Chabad at the University of Oregon was the victim of two arson attacks.

10. WHEREAS, The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition and examples of antisemitism, adopted by 19 countries, is utilized by all U.S. administrative agencies investigating antisemitism, as well as the Department of State and the Department of Education - Office of Civil Rights. This definition has been adopted by the USG at City College, CUNY, USG at Pace University, USG at Silicon Valley University and many other colleges across the country, as well as all of the colleges and universities in the United Kingdom.

11. EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO NOTE, that this document and policy do not take away the rights of students to criticize Israeli policy. Criticism of Israeli policy is valid and necessary when Israel's right to exist is not called into question. Therefore be it

12. RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Government of Baruch College adopts the IHRA definition and examples of antisemitism, and let it be

13. FURTHER RESOLVED, recommends that Undergraduate Student Government recommend that Baruch College adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in its governing documents and its guidance for any relevant policies. Let it be

14. FINALLY RESOLVED, that it be recommended that Baruch College include in any anti-discrimination or bias training for administrators, faculty, and students, an understanding of antisemitism based on the IHRA definition.

d. Richard: This is a great resolution, good job to you both. I wanted to send over the template that I created so we can have a cohesive template for resolutions moving forward.

e. Raphael: Perfect, thank you so much, Richard.

f. Erika: The resolution is great and very well written. Just a quick thing that I think needs to be clarified is that when you speak of Brandeis University, it's going into first person. Should it be, "when the Jewish community were not allowed?"

g. Raphael: Yes, good catch with that. Thank you.

i. Motion to adopt the Resolution for the Adoption of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

1. Motion passes, 17-0-0

Unfinished Business

1. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: Question for OSJ; do you have any updates regarding the email we sent out yesterday to the President and Provost regarding the Credit/No Credit policy?
- b. Damali: I haven't heard anything on my end but if I find out anything i'll text you and Tony tomorrow.

New Business

1. Tony Chen | President

- a. Tony: We are officially almost at the end of the Fall 2020 semester. I just want to share my appreciation for all the hard work the table has done and put into making the Baruch community feel like a welcoming and supportive community for students. In the beginning of the semester, people doubted that we could do much in a virtual setting. We started off real good with the launch of the survival guide and the many online events we've held. This semester was definitely tough for a lot of us and we've all faced some sort of pressure to get work done but I hope you all know you can always contribute any part of yourselves into the work that you put into. Eboard and I are proud of everyone and I'm looking forward to what's to come for the Spring semester.
- b. Briana: Just to echo that, thanks everyone for such a great semester. Take this winter break to refresh and reset and prepare for even greater events to come next semester.

2. Alison Lee | Chair of Clubs and Organizations

- a. Alison: We sent out a final push for the Credit/No Credit resolution. The link that we sent out is for the email template. But I have been getting some feedback that it isn't working for some students because they either don't have Macs or aren't using Chrome. Should we try to push out the link again via a QR code?
- b. Briana: What I have realized is that from a computer, it doesn't pop open automatically. But from your phone, it does and the link goes through once you click "allow." If we aren't able to get an alternative link, we can clarify to students to have them use their phones for this.
- c. Steven: Non-mac users can still open the link, but they have to use Chrome or need to be signed into a gmail account. For some reason, it's easier to open up on iPhones than on androids. What we're asking for is could we create a simple link so regardless of what device you're using, the link will go through and open up for all. If we have a refined link, could we make another post?
- d. Christine: This is the best option that we have with the link. I've tried multiple other alternatives and they won't even open on iPhones. I don't know why it's showing an issue for Androids, but this is the most general one that we can use that is supposed to pop up for everything. I can try to look into other options but at least from everything else that I've seen this is legitimately the only one that's working, especially with the high volume of people since we have at least like 10,000 clicks from the last day. I can try it but I can't guarantee that it will work.
- e. Laiba: If it's easier for the students that are struggling, maybe we could have a copy and paste document in our linktree so students can use that.
- f. Alison: Just adding onto that, maybe we could put that document into a QR code and advertise that to students as well as another alternative.
- g. Richard: I would steer against making a complete post because I know that some people might be getting annoyed by too many posts, so perhaps a story would help out.
- h. Osvaldo: Maybe we could add it on as an Instagram story highlight so it stays on our page.

- i. Irine: Do you have an idea about when we might hear about the Credit/No Credit Policy?
- j. Tony: By this Friday, the President and Provost will reach their decision.

3. Yam-Yu Li | VP of Student Affairs

- a. Yam-Yu: I just came back from our last event of the semester, the virtual Health fair. PAWS and the Office of Health and Wellness collaborated with us, and I think there may be a recording of the event so definitely reach out to them if you're interested.

Adjournment

- 1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #13 at 7:07 PM. Motion passes, 17-0-0