

## Undergraduate Student Government

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### Meeting 14

Meeting Date:	February 2, 2021	Meeting Time:	5:31PM - 6:19PM
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
[Absent] Steven Le   VP of Campus Affairs	[Absent] 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
Tomasz Horczak   Representative Senator	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

1. Motion to pass Senate Meeting #13 minutes. Motion passes, 15-0-0

### Reports

#### 1. Irine Thomas | Chair of Appeals

- a. Irine: We have one appeal today from FES. They're planning an event for Friday, April 16th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. Their program is "Investment Banking Simulation" and it will be held over Zoom. They are expecting to have 10 people in attendance. Currently in their budget, they have \$1,177 in refreshments, \$50 supplies, \$0 in equipment, \$28 in contracts, and \$132 in miscellaneous. They have requested \$722 in contracts for their simulation, and I'm willing to allocate them the full amount.
- b. Briana: For any club representation, you will have 5 minutes to present.
- c. Julia: I'm the treasurer of FES. Here at FES, we have 3 main programs, which include a mentorship program, financial analyst program, and our investment banking program. These programs run once a semester so we thought that in order to keep our club engaged during this virtual time, we could run an investment banking simulation. I did this simulation when I was invited to a forte conference so I suggested it to the president of our club and she thought it was a great idea. The stimulation will be for

the 10 analysts that are in our investment banking program. We are in contact with the CEO of the company that hosts these programs. He's actually a Baruch alum and the stimulation normally costs \$750, but we tried to move around funds as best as we could accommodating it with the 10% rule. We have \$28 in contracts and we're requesting for the remaining \$722.

- d. Matthew: The only question I have is this for only the 10 students for the program or the whole club?
- e. Julia: Only for the 10 students accepted into the program after the interview process.
- f. Richard: I've met the founder, Jason, who told me the whole story of the start up and it's a really great investment for Baruch students in the long run.
- g. Osvaldo: What would the \$722 be used for again?
- h. Julia: The entire cost of the simulation is originally \$1000, but we were able to get it lowered to \$750 through a "first-use" discount.
  - i. Motion to allocate \$722 to FES for their event, "Investment Banking Simulation."
    - 1. Motion passes, 14-1-2
- i. Irine: This next thing isn't an appeal, but I would like to have a discussion about it. The Debate Team has been in talks with me asking about an appeal for a tournament they plan on attending. There's an annual fee of \$100 for the league they want to join and for the tournament, the cost is \$125 per team of 2 members. In the past, they have had issues with getting a budget and they're a relatively new club that were approved last year. Last year, it was considered a field trip type of event where the majority of Baruch students would not have been able to attend but this time it's online through Discord so students can be viewers but would not be able to participate in it. I wanted to bring it to the table for any questions before I bring them onto the table for a more official stance on it at a future senate meeting.
- j. Osvaldo: In terms of the annual fee, it would be how much per member?
- k. Irine: It would be \$125 per team of 2 members, and they have 14 members. They don't know how many people will be attending. A lot of the tournaments that've been happening have either been cancelled or push backed. There have also been some free tournaments they've been able to attend as well. The fees are constantly fluctuating so they don't know exactly how much they will need. The fee goes towards paying for the judges and the actual event. They would only know the exact cost a week in advance.
- l. Osvaldo: I think we would have to see what their regular attendance and club membership is, in case it's low, or they're aren't as many active members.
- m. Irine: They have 14 members and it's a new club, so they're still trying to grow in numbers.
- n. Richard: You addressed it in terms of how reputable and organized this event is. You brought up many points that may be questionable, such as it being on Discord and paying \$125 for a judge for it, and the events being cancelled and the uncertainty of the fees. If they have a good club participation, I think I'd be for it to make sure that clubs are well received and fruitful in their endeavors.
- o. Irine: The teams they're competing against are big schools, like Columbia, Harvard. It's a very reputable league and tournament they'll be competing in. I am more than willing to give them the funds for it. They just had so many obstacles thrown at them and not taking sides but it's also not their fault that they don't know in advance about the rates and stuff.
- p. Richard: Yes, I understand.
- q. Damali: A question for clarification: there is an annual fee and a per competition fee?
- r. Irine: Yes, they're planning on joining a league whose annual fee is \$100, then \$125 per tournament.
- s. Damali: Just so you all have a little bit of background history about the Debate Club. They were an on campus club prior and the trouble that USG ran into was that all their competitions were considered to be an "off-campus conference" and I don't know if that's the right way to classify it but that's how it was

classified and they felt that because only 2 or 3 students could go, they had a cap I think of \$200 per student, and that didn't come anywhere to meeting the cost of the Debate Club needs needed. With the Roller Hockey team, USG paid their annual fee because they couldn't be a roller hockey team if they weren't part of a league. I think that's probably a little bit more comparable to the Debate Club because they have to be part of this league to have someone to debate. Otherwise they're just in a room practicing debating and it doesn't go anywhere. You guys may need to think about how you handle them this semester and how you would advise other USG moving forward to handle the Debate Club because they're like the Roller Hockey team. They're a bit of an outlier and don't fall under conferences. They need to be part of a league to even be a functioning organization but the general student can't participate in a debate because you have to practice and train. Roller Hockey seems to be the most comparable match but they may have to be one that you make an exception for or make an exception for clubs that don't have to belong to leagues. You don't have to decide tonight but this is probably going to be a bigger question that comes up down the line and if they apply for a budget next year, these are the things that you will have to take into account.

## 2. Laiba Hussain | Chair of Public Opinion

- a. Laiba: Earlier today, it was brought to my attention by a member of the CUNY Abolition and Safety Organization, Andrea Gonzalez, that there's currently a letter circulating around numerous clubs and organizations across CUNY calling for CUNY to cut ties with the company, Corcraft. For those of you who are unaware, Corcraft is a company that openly benefits from the prison industrial complex, and it's a service that's actually been utilized by CUNY. The prison industrial complex has been known to openly exploit workers for years through either under paying them for their labor, or not paying them at all in order for these private prisons and businesses to take a huge surplus or chunk of profit through the exploitation. I'm going to read out [the letter](#) so everyone can get an overview on what was written and know exactly what we could be signing off on. It's been really disheartening to see CUNY continuing to pursue a relationship with Corcraft despite it being publicly known that they do benefit from the prison industrial complex. I think as a USG it's extremely important that we sign off on this letter to show our disagreement and we should possibly post a resolution on our platforms elaborating on the situation as well as showing support for the letter. As of now, BSU and LASO have signed off on the letter. If we as a USG would do so, I believe it would have a lot more traction amongst students.
- b. Damali: Were you able to fact-check the letter to make sure it's 100% accurate? To make sure if there is something that is factually incorrect, they can edit it and correct it before you sign your names on it.
- c. Laiba: I didn't personally fact-check it because I received it around 2:00PM today, but we can most definitely do so before we sign on it.
- d. Damali: Yeah I would just encourage that, moving forward, you always do that.
- e. Richard: After we fact-check everything, I think we as a USG should sign on to this letter because if we don't we're kind of complicit in this movement, in terms of the private prison system and something that we should not be engaging with. CUNY prides itself of being a unit of social mobility for marginalized communities, but it incorporates this aspect in which they're using a private prison complex that is largely made up of marginalized communities that have been attacked as a source of production for themselves. In addition, I would really love to shout out our USS reps, Joel and Alfonso. You may recall they did a presentation a few weeks back during the fall semester in which they detailed everything about this and the resolution that was being created and so props to them for being part of this movement to denounce CUNY involvement with this organization.

- f. Osvaldo: I agree that we should do this after fact checking and pursuing a resolution afterwards.
- g. Briana: The fact checking will take some time to be completed,
- h. Laiba: We can soft vote it for now, and then pass it to a vote once the fact check goes through.
- i. Briana: That's perfect.
- j. Mayer: To clarify, is this soft vote for us being in favor of it today or in general?
- k. Briana: In general. Let's cry in the club.
  - i. Soft vote: All in favor.
- l. Briana: Is there anyone who would like to take lead in fact checking? Okay, I see Osvaldo and Laiba raised their hands, perfect.
- m. Damali: If for some reason the letter is inaccurate, that does not preclude you from doing a resolution so you can still take action on it and eat ice cream.

### 3. Tony Chen | President

- a. Tony: Hi everyone, welcome back. I am bringing up the club fair for this Spring. USG is signed up for all 4 sessions, which is on Thursday, February 4th and February 11th, with sessions available from 12:30PM to 2:30PM and 6:00PM to 8:00PM. We will give a brief introduction in the beginning and potentially break out VPs and Chairs into breakout rooms to answer questions.
- b. Briana: I will also like people to put their availability in the doc for the club fair. Even if you can only attend for 10 minutes, it would be nice to see you there.
- c. Genesis: In terms of hosting, we're mainly just there to have a discussion with the students and answer their questions. The flow of our USG virtual club room is pretty chill, no exact structure to it.
- d. Tony: Like Genesis said, it's going to be similar to in person where people ask you questions.

### 4. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: I'm super excited to be back for the Spring semester and that we're all back together. Over break I've been brainstorming a few ideas for the Spring and I want to ask everyone to look over the goals they set at the beginning of the year and see how far you've progressed because next week I'm going to be starting check-ins again. We're going to revisit your goals and event ideas. I've been putting a mental calendar together in my head of a few of your events ideas that I would love to see everyone work on. We want to get everyone more involved this semester. Last semester was a lot, being our first full semester online so now that we kind of got used to it, we can pivot to making great and creative events.
- b. Genesis: In terms of events, there is no pressure for you to host one by yourself. You can definitely reach out to your fellow table members to team up for an event. We can all help each other by showing our support, reposting on social media, and attending them.
- c. Richard: Is Eboard hosting another get together event?
- d. Briana: I would be down for it. Tom, you down for another "making friends" event?
- e. Tomasz: Yeah sure, why not.

## Unfinished Business

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### 1. Richard Reyes | VP of Legislative Affairs

- a. Richard: What up? I know there's been questions about the Albany trip. I haven't received any new updates from Eric Lugo, but from my research, I don't believe it's happening, which is unfortunate but I do believe it's for the best given the pandemic we're in. I know we were

mobilizing students to get the Credit/No Credit policy approved, and I'm encouraging Eboard to get the movement going on that for this semester. I'm more than happy to help out with that to get a conversation going to get actions accountable, and not just baseless promises.

- b. Briana: I agree, especially given that it's the start of the semester. I'm interested in being a part of the committee, alongside other students, to go over statements they had told us back in the Fall and hold them accountable for their words. I'm going to start forming this email, too. Would you be interested in Richard?
- c. Richard: Of course, you already know. Also, if you haven't already, I think it's really worth the time to check out the video on the renovations done at the 17 Lex building. I know Eboard and Dakshatha took part in the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

## New Business

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### 1. Genesis Calle | Executive Secretary

- a. Genesis: Welcome back to another semester everyone. I wanted to quickly go over housekeeping rules again. As we mentioned last semester, we highly encourage that you have your cameras on during senate. We understand that there are circumstances that might not always allow you to do so and that's completely fine. But having your camera on ensures that you're being the most present in the meeting and giving those who speak your full attention and respect. As far as the minutes go, I do my best to send them every Friday so that you have enough time to read through them and take out any easter eggs. Please make sure you're doing so, and if you are unable to do so or are absent from senate, then you must abstain from passing the minutes.

### 2. Richard Reyes | VP of Legislative Affairs

- a. Richard: Congratulations to Yam-Yu and Steven for Welcome Week, and the events they hosted during Winter break as well.
- b. Steven: Make sure to check out the next 2 Welcome Week events as well, and go to the club fair.
- c. Alison: If you could circulate the club fair form to students, which thank you to Laiba for creating it, it would help them have a better understanding of what clubs they can join.
- d. Briana: You should think about sending it to Joy so she could circulate it amongst the FYS classes.

## Adjournment

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1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #14 at 6:19PM. Motion passes, 17-0-0