

Undergraduate Student Government

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Meeting 15

Meeting Date:	February 9, 2021	Meeting Time:	5:30PM - 6:42PM
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	Yam-Yu Li VP of Student Affairs
Irine Thomas Chair of Appeals i need sleep	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	Raphael Berdugo Representative Senator
[Late] Alex Cuanal Representative Senator	Erika Cumbe Representative Senator
[Absent] Zariana Gonzalez Representative Senator	Mayer Estinville Representative Senator
[Absent] Matthew Sanchez Representative Senator	

Passing of the Minutes

1. Motion to pass Senate Meeting #14 minutes. Motion passes, 14-0-2

Reports

1. Irine Thomas | Chair of Appeals

- a. Irine: We have one appeal today from the Debate Team. This is for their debate tournament which will happen throughout the semester and will be held on Discord. Their expected attendance is about 2-14 people. Currently in their budget, they have \$100 in refreshments, \$45 in supplies, \$0 in equipment, \$0 in contracts, and \$100 in miscellaneous. They have requested \$501 in miscellaneous and I feel comfortable giving them the full amount. We do have club representation today.
- b. Brian: The league that we're in is called the American Parliamentary Debate Association and they have a yearly \$100 fee per school. We also need to bring teams to each tournament as well, and each team of two has to pay \$15. We also have to bring a judge and if we're missing a judge, that's another \$10. All the information on how many people can compete in terms of teams and how many judges are needed is usually announced a week before the tournament happens. The schedule for tournaments is tentative. It might change or be cancelled, but we don't usually know in advance.

- c. Alison: To reiterate, you said there's a \$15 fee per team of 2?
- d. Brian: Yes, we have a school and a team fee.
- e. Alison: Is that different because now it's virtual? If we go back in person, will it be back to \$100?
- f. Brian: I'm not entirely sure. I know because it's virtual, the fee has been reduced.
 - i. Motion to allocate \$501 to the Debate Team
 - 1. Motion passes, 15-0-1

2. Nancy Sea | Treasurer

- a. Nancy: I want to give a quick recap of what we did with the budget during Fall 2020. Because the semester was online, there were a lot of restrictions on what we can and can't buy. The majority of our budget is left unused. Overall, we have \$470,374, which is divided into the programming and operating budget. Our expenses are hyperlinked there. For the programming budget, this is where major events on campus or small events like GIMs come from. The programs under it are listed as Community Development, Relations, Occupational, Intellectual, Emotional, Spiritual, Physical, and Social events and contests and co-sponsorships. We didn't use a lot of it but we had a chance to spend a small portion on the calculator purchases for the library. This was spearheaded by Taji. For Clifton Strengths, this was for OSL and came from the operating budget, but then moved to the programming budget due to restrictions, and the homecoming giveaways done by Steven and his committee. We used under 10% of our entire budget. The other part is the operating budget. We usually use this for senate refreshments, office equipment and supplies, and our stipends. We used about 12% of the operating budget. We allocated nothing towards equipment and from Occupational and Intellectual, we used about 5% of it. Towards social events, we used some for the calculator purchase and homecoming purchases. For co-sponsorships, Ally mentioned to me that clubs were only asking for co-sponsorship in the form of marketing so we didn't really use anything. If you have events that you want to incorporate into the usage of our budget, just send me an email and we can schedule a meeting to talk about it.

3. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: We kicked off welcome week with a bang, so shout out to Steven, Yam-Yu, and everyone who helped out and attended. I decided to postpone check-ins until next week to allocate more time for this week's club fair. Alongside Steven and his members, we met with Arthur Downing yesterday about some changes Baruch is going to be making. As a USG, I want to see a bigger push towards not just the tech fee committee form but also marketing posts for events and important initiatives. Even sharing them within our class groups would be super helpful. I will also be pushing the event calendar again so everyone is kept up to date towards upcoming events.

4. Christine Gajdos | Chair of Marketing

- a. Christine: Hey everyone, so I just wanted to talk to you guys about Instagram takeovers for the spring semester. I wanted to bring them back because it's a fun way for the student body to learn more about you guys than just reading your bio from senator Sunday. You can make these takeovers whatever you want but here are a few ideas my team and I came up with. Everyone loves a good vlog so throughout the day, showcase different activities within your life, even if it's just you showing up to zoom. In order to get everyone involved in your takeovers and not just skip through our stories (which I know no one ever does), ask the viewers questions like what they want to see you doing or do challenges. You can have them take polls or quizzes to find out more about you that you might not be able to showcase within

a normal video. If none of those interest you, in your takeover you can do a “get ready with me” type takeover or a mukbang. Overall, I just want you all to really just have fun with it and showcase yourselves in another light than just a USG member. Ideally, I’d like to start next week and depending on the amount of table members interested in doing it, there would be 1-2 takeovers per week. I’d really love it if everyone on the table could do it but if you don’t feel comfortable doing it I totally understand. So let me know if you’d be interested in doing a takeover and I’ll send out the official schedule of takeovers by the end of the week. If you tell me now you’re not interested and you change your mind, let me know as well.

- b. Alison: Can we see the marketing calendar?
- c. Christine: I’ll have the [IG takeover schedule](#) ready after senate.
- d. Richard: I think when we’re doing these IG takeovers, we need to be cautious about showing us going out and taking the right safety measures.
- e. Briana: Be mindful and conscious of what you say and do during the takeovers.
- f. Laiba: I like this idea. I think something we could also do is keeping each takeover as a highlight on our Instagram highlights for people to watch when they can. Gimme some food.
- g. Osvaldo: Maybe we could also have that respective person’s Senator Sunday be that week.
- h. Mayer: Another idea could be a “control my life/day” type thing as well.
- i. Genesis: Another good idea would be to team up with other table members for an IG live.
- j. Steven: Is there any particular order of who gets to go first for the takeovers?
- k. Christine: It will be a first come, first serve basis. If you know you can’t do a certain week, tell me.
- l. Lesli: Do you know when we’ll start the takeovers?
- m. Christine: After next week.

5. Yam-Yu Li | VP of Student Affairs

- a. Yam-Yu: We’re going to look through updates on the offices I’ve been working with. Before that, we did conclude Welcome Week. Thanks so much to Steven, my amazing vice chairs, and committee members. A lot of them are first-year students and they really put themselves out there to host these events, so I appreciate them for it. Moving forward, I hope we can continue broadcasting that kind of information. First up is the Counseling Center. They’ve been hosting weekly “Black mental health matters” support sessions as well as individual therapy sessions that are still available. Attendance has been fairly high online and demand for the Counseling Center, There may be times where students are unable to book appointments but they should still keep an eye out for last-minute slots. For students that are outside of New York State, they can partake in therapy sessions offered by the Counseling Center but when it comes to referrals to external sources, there may be issues due to licensing. However, there are alternatives for them. The Counseling Center has been in negotiations with an outside vendor called TalkSpace which also provides therapy services via texting. In terms of events there will be around 72 outreach events targeting around 1000 students and faculty members, It’ll focus more on specific groups, such as international students, women of color, honor students, first-year students, LGBTQ, and more. Help get the message out so that more people can benefit from this. For the health and wellness office, per my conversation with Alise, they hope to implement a live zoom office hour so students can come in and have someone to talk to. They’ll be continuing chair yoga meditation, programs on nutrition, a podcast, and potential interactive cooking lessons. Alise and I have been talking about organizing an event that explores topics such as reproductive and sexual health. It’s very important and even during lockdown, people are still sexually active so it would keep people informed about caring about their

bodies and taking care of themselves. It'll probably be held in the form of a trivia night to keep it fun but also educational, and last but not least LGBTQ+ targeted programs.

- b. Tony: Where can students go to schedule check up sessions with the Counseling Center?
- c. Tomasz: I found the link [right here to schedule sessions](#). I want a high five :*)
- d. Yam-Yu: Next is STARR. They're doing a diversity event and Dean King is going to speak as well as some corporate partners to speak on diversity and fostering inclusive and equitable environments and recruitment services. I learned that there are career dedicated services for people with disabilities. The office has iPads provided for students who have certain disabilities, such as having built in software for visually impaired students. For recent graduates, a semester after graduating, they can still receive full access to STARR Search and considered alumni. For career advisement, the previous \$20 costs have now been temporarily waived because of COVID-19. For the Study Abroad office, they're having a virtual fair this Thursday. Please help with marketing it because we worked really hard this year to build this relationship with them and study abroad has suffered due to COVID-19. They have new upcoming initiatives, such as spring fellowships for start-ups, and hiring intern coordinators. For SACC, the demand for tutors dropped during the Fall 2020 semester and they intend to expand their BAR program to maximize utilizing their tutors for the Spring 2021 semester. Details about the program are in the sheet. I'm switching over to bi-weekly events so there's more opportunity for other Senators to produce events. I'll be hosting a Resource Day next week in collaboration with Big Sibs All the information on the excel will be converted in the form of a powerpoint/PDF which will be distributed to students. Please do your best to help with marketing efforts so everybody knows what these services have to offer. Next event will be with the Counseling Center on March 5th from 4:00 to 5:00p.m. and it's going to be talking about isolation and connecting to oneself during a pandemic, and checking in with students. On April 8th from 4:00 to 5:00p.m., we will have an event focused on managing stress and time during a pandemic. The topic will also touch upon coping mechanisms and support for asking for help.
- e. Tony: It would also be interesting if we distributed a survey to the students asking what kind of job in the workforce they want to know the most about and have an event with Q&A with a representative from the job that student most interested and can ask questions like how their job is now during the pandemic.
- f. Tomasz: I wanted to mention that BCTC does iPad and chromebook loans for students and they also have a [virtual desktop](#) where you can login through your own device and you get full access to the resources available on the standard library computers.
- g. Steven: I will say to be aware of using the [computer lab simulation link](#) because since it's on a single server, it may be slower.
- h. Tomasz: I think it's also based on how far you are from the service. Someone who's abroad tried to use it and it was lagging heavily, but within New York, it works well.

6. Steven Le | VP of Campus Affairs

- a. Steven: My committee and I released a [tech fee committee form](#) and would appreciate everyone sharing it because it's very important that we hear the voices of our constituents and make sure that everyone knows that there is this opportunity. Soon, we'll try our best to make an infographic to explain what a tech fee budget planning document is so that students can have access to it and we show them some more transparency so they see where their money is being allocated to. The tech fee committee has new voting members, which are Yam-Yu, Briana, Erika, and Ka-Lye. The reason why I've chosen them and have proposed them to Arthur Downing is because they have worked very closely with me to make sure

technology facilities are being improved and proposing ideas. Be sure to go to them for any questions or ideas as well. My falsies are popping.

7. Osvaldo Garcia & Laiba Hussain | Chair of Philanthropy and Chair of Public Opinion

- a. Osvaldo: We're going to discuss the resolution to cut purchasing contracts with Corcraft, a company that uses prison labor to craft items for Baruch College and other CUNYs. We'll go line by line. We did add one last edit to it after talking with Andrea Gonzalez and the CUNY Abolition and Safety Organization.
- b. A RESOLUTION TO: CUT PURCHASING CONTRACTS WITH CORCRAFT
 1. THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF BARUCH COLLEGE ENACTS:
 2. WHEREAS, The City University of New York Board of Trustees announced they "stand united against racism and racial injustice" on 06/02/20; AND
 3. WHEREAS, "CUNY has over \$275,000 worth of investments in the private prison industry;" AND
 4. WHEREAS, the company Corcraft is publicly known to exploit the labor of incarcerated individuals through paying wages as low as \$0.16 and as high as \$0.65 an hour; AND
 5. WHEREAS, CUNY is supplied through this brand with school equipment such as "classroom desks, filing cabinets, waste bins, and locker;" AND
 6. WHEREAS, before the widespread pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, incarcerated people's physical well-being was already endangered due to the hazardous working conditions, prompting lawsuits in regards to labor related injuries; AND
 7. WHEREAS, proceeding the outbreak of COVID-19, individuals working within these prison facilities were further put at risk for either age related or medical complications; AND
 8. WHEREAS, according to the DOCCS (Department of Corrections and CommunitySupervision), "the number of incarcerated individuals who have contracted COVID-19 are 5287, and the death toll 31;" AND
 9. WHEREAS, "the five largest known clusters of the COVID-19 virus are inside correctional institutions, in which 56% of the US incarcerated population is African Americans and Hispanics," according to the NAACP; AND
 10. WHEREAS, The CUNY for Abolition and Safety organization has formulated a letter with the evidence provided, addressing the call for CUNY to cut ties with the company Corcraft; AND
 11. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Government of Baruch College stands with the CUNY for Abolition and Safety organization on this letter, as CUNY should take full action in severing all ties with Corcraft and atone to their claim of being an administration in favor of racial justice and human rights.
- c. Alison: Thanks for pushing this through. At the end, I think there's a typo in "resolved."
- d. Laiba: I wanted to give a big shoutout to everyone who agreed on the importance of this letter, to Richard for helping us out with the information and resources. I want to reiterate how important this resolution is for ensuring CUNY is held accountable for their actions.
- e. Erika: Just a small thing but maybe we should change "atone" to maintain, just because that word does have other meanings.
- f. Osvaldo: Afterwards, we're also going to work on a docuSign for anyone interested to sign off on this.
 - i. Motion to pass A Resolution To: Cut Purchasing Contracts with Corcraft.

1. Motion passes, 16-0-0

8. Alison Lee | Chair of Clubs and Orgs

- a. Alison: We have our second round of club fair this Thursday, from 12:30PM to 2:30PM and then from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. I will be sending out the club fair sheet afterwards. Come through if you can.
- b. Richard: Shoutout to those who were at last week's later session. It was really nice to get to have discussions with the students.
- c. Yam-Yu: There is a form limiter add-on to Google Forms, I can send instructions navigating that through email.

Unfinished Business

1. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: Last week, we talked about getting in contact with the interim Provost again regarding the Credit/No Credit policy. Last night, I received an email from him informing that they're in the process of forming a committee. For those who were interested in getting involved, I included you in the emails. Let me know if you like to be added into these discussions.
- b. Damali: I did get some more information from Dean King. I believe the direction they're trying to move in is to change the Baruch bylaws so that they have more flexibility to add Credit/No Credit as they need to so that they don't have to depend on CUNY to make a decision to override their current bylaws. I think Hunter and John Jay have changed their bylaws or had different bylaws that allowed them to make the changes independent of CUNY. Because CUNY waited so long last time they figured to make the change on the Baruch end so that way we have a little bit more control over what we're able to do. They haven't done it yet but that seems to be the direction that they're going in.
- c. Osvaldo: Will the changes be on a school-by-school basis, like it was last semester?
- d. Damali: I think that it was the committee is figuring out, like would it be a Baruch-wide thing or would each school change their bylaws. Also kudos to you guys, you made a huge difference last semester taking on CUNY and rocked it. I'm super super super proud of you for using your voice. You took what you saw in the world and applied it to your life in CUNY. Don't ever be afraid to speak up and own your voice or to be a nuisance and hold people accountable and to task. I'll take whatever hits I have to on my end, but don't ever be afraid to speak up.

New Business

1. Osvaldo Garcia | Chair of Philanthropy

- a. Osvaldo: There is going to be an open house for the Black and Latino Studies major on February 18th. Myself, Laiba, Taji, and Mariam will be there presenting. Definitely pop out and show your support and spread the word.

Adjournment

1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #15 at 6:42PM. Motion passes, 16-0-0