

Undergraduate Student Government

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Meeting 16

Meeting Date:	February 16, 2021	Meeting Time:	5:30PM - 6:17PM
Location:	Zoom Call	Note Taker:	Genesis Calle

Attendees:	
[Absent] 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	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
[Late] Alex Cuanal Representative Senator	Erika Cumbe Representative Senator
Zariana Gonzalez Representative Senator	[Late] Mayer Estinville Representative Senator
Matthew Sanchez Representative Senator	

Passing of the Minutes

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

Reports

1. Irine Thomas | Chair of Appeals

- a. Irine: We have one appeal today from VSA. It is for their event, "Paris By Night" and it will be held on Thursday, April 8th from 8 to 10 PM on zoom, with an expected attendance of about 120 to 150 people. Currently in their budget, they have \$1,400 in refreshments, \$250 in supplies, \$40 in equipment, \$3,000 in contracts, and \$400 in miscellaneous. They have requested \$2,000 for contracts for their performances that will be happening during the event. I believe there is club representation here to speak more about it.
- b. Jeannie: I'm the president of VSA. Paris by Night is usually one of our larger performance events where we really try to emulate the show from Vietnam where they invite all these great performers and make it enticing for the study body. We did have a good amount in contracts already, and tried to reach out to these performers. It was really difficult for them to negotiate with us as well but we have 3 performers. The first one is Jej and he requested \$500. Another performer we negotiated down to \$1,500. Our last performer that we're appealing for is Jason Chen, a big social media influencer on Tik Tok, Instagram,

and Youtube. We initially talked him down from \$5000 to \$3000 because it is going to be an online performance of only 15 minutes and it would be harder for us to go for any higher.

- c. Laiba: Is attendance reflective of your attendance for zoom events or from last year's Paris at Night?
- d. Jeannie: This is based on zoom attendance, and we base this off on the big numbers we've seen that other clubs get at large scale events, like UCLA.
- e. Tomasz: About Jason Chen, are there any other possibilities of getting another performer that would be lower. I understand that he's popular, but I still think his final pricing range is a ridiculous amount.
- f. Jeannie: Yeah, I get that. In total we reached out to 20 performers and we negotiated with those who responded back. Some were asking for \$10,000 which we felt was too high.
- g. Tomasz: Oh so he is the lowest amount then, got it.
 - i. Motion to allocate \$2000 in contracts for VSA's Paris by Night Event
 - 1. Motion passes, 15-0-2

2. Richard Reyes | VP of Legislative Affairs

- a. Richard: My first initiative for the semester is basically a legislative affairs newsletter, not through email but via our social media platforms. I think in this online environment it's the perfect moment for advocacy, learning, and to discuss a variety of topics and issues. Something of course non-partisan, we don't want to create issues within our student body, but also make sure that we're having a discussion on this. I'm hoping to launch this in March within my committee, I sent out an initial Google form that will serve as a master list of topics and the students within my committee have really been engaged with it. I'll be working with them and spearheading this but it's just a way for all of us to go for our interests and topics and be as engaged as possible.
- b. Briana: In terms of graphics, did you put in requests for any of these upcoming events?
- c. Richard: I was going to see if I could give it a shot myself. I already sent requests to Cindy for my other events. My second initiative is a small business spotlight. COVID-19 has really affected our society in a variety of ways and we've been struggling in one way or another. I'm spearheading this spotlight to advocate for family-owned restaurants and businesses in our communities from all 5 boroughs and locally here around Baruch. I'm collaborating with Laiba on this to create a survey for students to submit any business within their community that they would like to give us a spotlight on. Of course this is not an endorsement. We as USG and Baruch are not endorsing these businesses per se. It's more so showing a spotlight on them during these hard times. I think as an institution and an entity within Baruch we should really be doing our part of being a part of our external world outside of Baruch. I'm looking to start these in March, more specifically on Saturday's. Laiba brought up a really great point of trying to create a partnership with these restaurants and possibly doing Baruch-only discounts at these locations. Something to unite us all in and show how we're really uplifting each other.
- d. Laiba: Another thing we talked about is getting more table members involved in this initiative. After releasing the form, we want to create an excel sheet with a bunch of contact information and reach out to these businesses in order to collaborate with them. If we do get a large influx of responses, we are going to need some help. We were thinking about having a sort of hotline to do this, with help from the table.
- e. Briana: That's great. I'm going to take a soft vote for those who would be able to assist with this.
- f. Tomasz: To clarify, when you mention small businesses, are they only going to be ones around Baruch or anywhere else around New York, or in the multi universe?
- g. Richard: Basically anybody. We live and engage with these businesses and we could focus on one borough each week to help spotlight these small businesses and show them our support.

- h. Tomasz: That's a good answer. Also, in terms of spotlighting, a suggestion I have would be to tag them in stories so it's the best way to repost them.
- i. Irine: It's not only going to be restaurants right, but a variety of small businesses?
- j. Richard: Yeah, within the survey, you can put down any small business that comes to mind.
- k. Alison: I'm not sure if you thought about this idea, because I know clubs like VSA and UCLA they do have promo codes, but it's usually on a smaller scale, just for their club members. Would it be easier to add some guidelines for the promo codes, like you can only get 15% as long as you repost them?
- l. Richard: I think that's a good idea, and it would help a lot with the engagement. When we do reach out to them, we'll ask if they would like to team up with a promo code, but respect whatever choice they make, and whatever benefits them financially as well. Another event I have planned towards mid-April will be focused on New York City local politics and gearing for the mayoral primaries and the mayoral race and speaking about the new implemented system of ranked-choice voting that was implemented in New York. Steven and I are collaborating on this and making sure we have great ideas. My vice chairs are excited for this. I had a meeting with Ozzy and Professor Freidman from the Baruch Climate Scholars discussing a potential Baruch climate change panel that I might want to pursue, focusing on the intersectionalities of climate within our different industries. I have a mentor who used to work for the World Meteorological Organization who's a dean at Oklahoma University so she would be a really great guest speaker. Her main focus was on accessibility to data. As a first-world country we have a great privilege in being able to access such climate change data whereas other countries don't.

3. Steven Le | VP of Campus Affairs

- a. Steven: Hi everyone, here are some updates regarding the activities the Tech Fee Committee has achieved over the past week. Last Monday, the campus affairs vice chairs and tech fee committee members met with Dr. Downing to evaluate and discuss the different goals we hope to achieve this semester. The goal is to make and propose as much technological improvement during this time of virtual learning. We hope that upon returning, students will come to a campus where the school's technology is either newly improved, polished, or installed. One goal of Dr. Downing's is to install new switches so that we can have fast and improve wifi connections, which will benefit both the faculty and the students. Some of the equipment that the campus affairs and tech fee committee proposed are new 3D printers, with intentions to install them on the 6th-floor of the library, electronic charging kiosks, which enables students to charge their phones, tablets, or other electronics in a safe locker, new laptops, and new portable wifi hotspot. The status for these proposals are, we got an "okay" from Dr. Downing for the 3D printers and the charging kiosk. The only issue is finding a vendor registered or licensed under New York State that's CUNY approved. Dr. Downing was also onboard with getting new Windows laptops. However, Dell has to negotiate with CUNY for their newer laptop model to be on a list that CUNY typically approves. More information will be given soon. Regarding the additional portable wifi hotspot, if the waiting list continues to grow, he will take further action to make sure it will become accessible. Just a disclaimer, a meeting with Dr. Downing will be necessary in order to understand the timeline of when these pieces of equipment can either be bought or installed. Even if these proposals have been approved by Dr. Downing, some of these types of equipment can take a semester or more to get. On a different note, the Tech Fee Proposal form will be updated to fill out the form more comfortably for students and faculties. Thank you to Richard for this suggestion. The new update to the form will allow students to now rate their experience of using the school's technology on a scale between 1-5. This will enable the Campus Affairs and the Tech Fee Committee to evaluate their

students' concerns better. Some of the campus Affairs vice chairs will be collaborating with Laiba to make an updated new form. We are expecting this form to come out either next Thursday or March 1. While the new form is being updated, we hope to get some table volunteers to make a video expressing the importance of this form before its release. That does not mean that the current form that we have now should not be promoted. Any promotion of the current Tech Fee Proposal form will be much appreciated. So I ask everyone to please share it among your group chats and social media to spread the current form like wildfire. Yam-Yu has put together a great event this Thursday on resources here at Baruch so any form of USG support would be much appreciated.

- b. Briana: I'm going to do a soft vote for those who would like to be part of the video for the tech committee. I will also like to remind everyone to fill out the form.
- c. Irine: Just a suggestion, I know reposting the tech fee form is good, but I also think posting a screen recording of the actual form would be helpful as well. At first, I didn't know how much information would be needed for the form, so it would help out other students who might get confused.
- d. Steven: Thanks for the idea.
- e. Briana: Steven, how long would you want the video to be?
- f. Steven: Somewhere between 30 to 45 seconds.

4. Erika Cumbe | Representative Senator

- a. Erika: When I ran as rep sen, an initiative I had in mind was "USG Takes Care" which would've been geared towards volunteer opportunities since campus. However, with the shift to online, I had to transition and think about it in a different way. Alongside Richard, we're planning on hosting an immigration resources event, breaking down the process of DACA applicants and DACA students in CUNY. I've gotten some resources from offices as well. It's going to be on March 18th. If anyone has any ideas of anything that you think would be great to be highlighted, send us a quick message or email. We're also reaching out to clubs and offices if they'd like to help co-market and spread the word. If you have any clubs in mind, definitely reach out to us.
- b. Savanna: Did you want to connect with Rebecca, the immigration lawyer that we have for students?
- c. Erika: Yeah, I've been sending out emails within the last week and reaching out to a few offices. I've reached out to CUNY Citizenship Now, and they sent me back details of an information session and connected me with someone in STARR. We can talk offline to get the lawyer's email.
- d. Osvaldo: To add on, adding immigration resources, maybe it would be good to add a segment on internship or job opportunities for undocumented students because I know that's a struggle, especially when it comes to matters concerning stipends.
- e. Richard: That's a really great suggestion. I've been communicating with someone from academic advisement who works hand in hand with undocumented immigrant students in finding them financial resources and internships. We're also reaching out to people who are open about their status and would like to speak on their experiences. If you know anybody who would also like to speak about their experiences, of course with their consent, I think it would be really great to have for our event.
- f. Briana: In the past, Lesli and I worked as college coaches and we assisted students with the DREAM application, so if you need someone to help you out with that, I can gladly help.
- g. Erika: Sounds good, thank you all for your suggestions. It's a topic that's dear to my heart.
- h. Briana: Do you know what time you want to do the event, as in for club hours or at night?
- i. Erika: Richard and I discussed having it during club hours, so more students could be in attendance in case others have work later that day.

- j. Briana: I think it would also be a good idea to record parts of the event and the resources that are being shared, so we could highlight it on the USG social media and website.

Unfinished Business

1. Laiba Hussain | Chair of Public Opinion

- a. Laiba: The BLS committee is hosting an open house this Thursday where we talk about the ad hoc major coming up next year. It will be from 1:00 to 2:00p.m. Also, the Corcraft resolution has been shared on our social media, so please share it around.

2. Yam-Yu Li | VP of Student Affairs

- a. Yam-Yu: This Thursday, we'll be having at our event the "Bearcat Resource Farming Guide: The Definitive Quarantine Edition." I will be converting the powerpoint into a PDF and sharing it with the students and on our social media platforms. I sent this presentation via email to the 10 departments and 8 of them responded saying they're excited about it. Please come through if you can, and share it with your friends.
- b. Briana: You should send this to Joy and Michael from FYS so they can send it out as well.
- c. Yam-Yu: Absolutely, would you mind forwarding me the email.
- d. Briana: Yeah, of course.
- e. Savanna: When you send the email, I would also suggest sending them out to the transfer students. We had a lot of them transfer in this semester so it would be great for them, too.

3. Osvaldo Garcia | Chair of Philanthropy

- a. Osvaldo: This is more old business from last semester, but I did a holiday card initiative within my committee to send our virtual cards to elderly care homes. I just wanted to thank Kristina, our chair of arts, for collaborating with me on the design of these cards. Her and her committee did a great job, and the nursing home representatives let us know how much they enjoyed it.

New Business

1. Yam-Yu Li | VP of Student Affairs

- a. Yam-Yu: I got this email this morning and forwarded it to the senate. It's a flyer for the "Student Empowerment Day" next Thursday, February 25th at 11:30 a.m. There's an RSVP link to it, and the event will focus on rallying support and funds for students with disabilities in colleges.

2. Richard Reyes | VP of Legislative Affairs

- a. Richard: I was speaking with my committee member, Thalia, about how Credit/No Credit is going. She proposed a great idea of USG hosting a quorum with the Provost and other faculty members so we can put a face to the name and speak our truth, in a professional manner. I know their last email said "we'll get back to you" but in my mind that's always said and I feel we should have something on the forefront of being able to just speak our minds and voice our concerns.
- b. Briana: We could also invite them for senate as another type of open forum, but if that doesn't work for them, then we can organize another time to do so.

Adjournment

1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #16 at 6:17 PM. Motion passes, 18-0-0