

## Undergraduate Student Government

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### Meeting 21

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	March 23, 2021	<b>Meeting Time:</b>	5:30PM - 8:07PM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Call	<b>Note Taker:</b>	Genesis Calle

Attendees:	
Tony Chen   President	Briana Staten   Executive Vice President
[Absent] Nancy Sea   Executive Treasurer	Genesis Calle   Executive Secretary
Taji Sanders   VP of Academic Affairs	Richard Reyes   VP of Legislative Affairs
[Vacant] 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
Oswaldo Garcia   Chair of Philanthropy	Laiba Hussain   Chair of Public Opinion
Tomasz Horczak   Representative Senator	[Late] Raphael Berdugo   Representative Senator
Alex Cuanal   Representative Senator	[Early Departure] Erika Cumbe   Representative Senator
Zariana Gonzalez   Representative Senator	Mayer Estinville   Representative Senator
[Late] Matthew Sanchez   Representative Senator	

### Passing of the Minutes

1. Motion to pass Senate Meeting #20 minutes. Motion passes, 15-0-1

### Reports

#### 1. Elections

- a. Viewing of the video submissions. Topics discussed include: “In a short 2-3 minute video please tell us a little bit about yourself, who you are, why you'd like to be VP Campus Affairs, A fun fact about yourself, in this virtual environment what are some things USG has done well, and what can we improve upon? If elected into the position of VP of Campus Affairs what is one facilities related issue you would like to work on/improve on? What leadership experience would you bring to USG?
  - i. Nisha: My name is Nisha Bhatia. I am a sophomore studying business management and I am applying to be VP of Campus Affairs. A fun fact about myself is I like asking random strangers in New York for help and as random as it sounds, I think New Yorkers are always on autopilot to get from Point A to Point B, so it's really nice to settle down, ask a question and start a conversation, to see people's quirks and how they respond. I would like to be VP of Campus Affairs because I am very passionate about everything Baruch has to offer in terms of resources

and events, and I love experiencing what I can get my hands on. I'm a very curious and creative person and I know when I first entered Baruch, I got to experience firsthand a large scale of amazing events and I got the help that I needed to adjust to college life so I feel equipped enough to confidently say that I can help USG further strengthen their platform for students and just make a really desirable campus life. In this virtual environment some of the things USG has done well, in my opinion, is maintaining the level of interactions and collaborations during events. The way that I can recognize this is that when I go to different events for different clubs I notice that sometimes one thing they do struggle with is keeping the energy alive and the excitement up and going and whenever I attend USG events, I have that same satisfactory feeling, with people having their cameras on and their energies always up and it just those simple things that make my experience a whole lot better. If I were to be elected, one thing that I would implement is more audience involvement in events such as more thought-provoking activities or questions for guest speakers. Just something that really brings people together, for example instead of spending a lot of the budget on large amounts of raffle tickets, we can get activities that bring people together, like talent show equipment. Just things that make people feel like they're getting more involved because I know that when I got really involved with different events, it was mainly with different activities and that made me feel more inclined in wanting to go to the next event. In terms of leadership experience, some positions I've held are P.A.W.S. and FYS mentor for T.E.A.M. Baruch, and last semester I was the Mentorship Manager and Social Media Manager for Women in Business. Thank you.

- ii. Julia: My name is Julia DiMarcello. I am a sophomore majoring in Marketing with a minor in communications and graphics. If my face or name looks familiar to you, it's because I'm currently in USG as a board member for the Student Center. I'm also a peer mentor in T.E.A.M. Baruch and a member of the Bearcat Sports Business Club, a student athlete. Outside of Baruch, I have an internship with "Made by Tony," a small clothing brand based in lower Manhattan, and I also have a part time job with all of this going on. The reason that I'm running for VP of Campus Affairs is, despite only having 2 or 3 months left for the semester, I want to use this opportunity to be another student voice inside of USG. I think that it's important to be a student voice because there's some students who don't have that voice and they have things they need to say and it's our duty and our drive to make sure those voices are known. One voice I can speak upon is that of a close friend of mine and this actually ties into what I think we need to improve upon inside of the Campus Affairs committee. In her journalism class she had to purchase a Canon camera to go take pictures for projects and she couldn't rent one from the school because they didn't have the one she was supposed to get or there were none left so she had to pay out of pocket for a camera, and that's an initiative that we can improve on. I want to be able to advocate for technology more. We know that next semester will be a blend of in person or online. Whatever the case, we need to make sure that more technology is available for students. We need to do more with that budget because I just saw first-hand my friend had to pay out of pocket for a camera for a journalism class, and she's only taking 1 or 2 journalism classes, and that shouldn't be something that keeps happening. I was actually part of the Campus Affairs committee during my first year, that's where my love for USG began, then I ran for Student Center board and here I am today making a video for all of you about how I would love to be a part of the Campus Affairs committee as the vice president. I think USG did an amazing job this semester making sure events were crystal clear for students. Everything was labeled and

amazingly done on Instagram. I think something to work on within USG is more club collaborative events. As a part of a new club, I feel it would be nice for USG to reach out to smaller clubs more and it would be a great thing to continue doing. Thank you all for watching this video. I wish you all the best. Please be well and I hope I am considered. Have a great day.

- iii. Richard: My name is Richard Gakshteyn, and I am a junior majoring in Finance, minoring in Mathematics and Communications. I am an extremely caring and hardworking individual who cares deeply for people and I love Baruch, which is why I am running for the VP of Campus Affairs. I want to be VP of Campus Affairs because I love the school, the students, the faculty and I see immense potential for change and improvement. My number one priority will be to ensure the safety of everyone when physically being on campus and the way I want to accomplish this is by working very closely with OSL and campus facilities by, let's say, putting social distancing stickers, mask policies, refilling the hand sanitizer pumps, temperature checks and maybe even a COVID testing center. I have a special place in my heart for small businesses. I love them, and my mother used to have a small business as well, and so I applaud the table for letting the small business campaign go through. I love it, thank you so much. In terms of what we can improve on, I think we should have a permanent, strong, and stable online presence. What I mean by this is if we have to go back to online learning, and in doing so, making sure it would be just as effective as if we were reaching out to students in person. In terms of my leadership experience, I was the vice chair for Robert Da Rita, the VP of Campus Affairs last year. As a vice chair, I was able to lead my own sustainability committee that consisted of 20 to 30 members. We hosted a huge event where we gave away 500 reasonable straws after asking students questions about the Earth and how to be more Earth friendly and it really has taught me the importance of teamwork and why it is crucial and it was basically a crash course of team work for me as well. I am also a part of T.E.A.M. Baruch, serving as a Success Network and First Year Seminar Peer Mentor, and an Orientation Leader. As an Orientation Leader, I learned of the importance of communication, both virtual and in person and I'm so happy I had those opportunities to practice those skills. Fun fact about me is I have been to 22 different countries, and traveling there has allowed me to learn more about different cultures and the importance of diversity, and I've even seen the great effects it has on a team so that is something I would love to bring to the table. Thank you for looking at my application and I hope to hear back soon.
- iv. Erika: My name is Erika and I'm a junior majoring in Finance with a double minor in Marketing and English. I was Steven Le's vice chair of campus affairs and I'm currently a representative senator. I am in quite a few organizations at Baruch, such as ALPFA, Ecuadorian Club, Mexiculture, T.E.A.M. Baruch and the Peer Mentor manager for Success Network. I believe there must be so much more work done on the facilities side to adhere to a safer term for students and faculty alike if CUNY plans on returning to an in-person semester for the Fall as is currently the plan. This Spring semester, I would like to oversee improvements on all sides of the implementation of safety protocols to ensure everyone is safe and secure in the Fall. I would also like to work on fixing places where students can hang out socially on campus such as the club room and the game room and fix technological things much as possible and oversee their improvement with the tech fee committee. Understandably so, this is hard to do so all in the one semester that we have left but I would like to set up steps and ideas into the minds of the faculty so that students' concerns are heard and I would do this through a survey and making sure to voice my opinion in meetings held with faculty, and heads of the departments and facilities. I

would also like to host large scale social and informational events with other speakers and perhaps Baruch faculty to give students a chance to learn more about resources available to them that they may not know. I believe USG has done a great job creating events that explain these resources to students and first years alike. I also think that social events, such as homecoming game nights, have worked well in providing a detressor to students during midterms and finals weeks, and just weeks where they look forward to having these events to talk and socialize, being that this virtual environment has kind of robbed us of that social interaction aspect. One thing I think USG could improve on is outreach, working with clubs on USG-related events. I have experience with this through my own Immigration Resources event, working with 14 different Baruch clubs through co-sponsorship. It is great to work with and highlight these clubs and get them involved. I work well with others to make sure to always understand the other person and set clear times and dates that work for both parties. I have been in multiple leadership positions and I believe the most important part is to have empathy for others and also set boundaries so that everyone is comfortable and can achieve their goals. Fun fact about me is I have 2 dogs. Versace who is 4 years old and Hermes who is 3 months old. Thank you so much for hearing me out today.

- v. Aniur: My name is Ainur Nasirov and I'm a second semester junior. I am majoring in Finance and minoring in Economics. In terms of what I like to do I love outdoor activities, like hiking, swimming, and exercising, and I'm also a huge fan of sports and love volleyball and soccer. I've wanted to get involved with clubs at Baruch, specifically USG, since freshman year. Unfortunately due to personal and family reasons I was unable to get involved in anything for the first two years of my college career and mainly had to focus on my grades, work, and family. Now that my issues have been resolved, I am finally able to join USG and is why I'm running for VP of Campus Affairs. I believe that my qualities are perfect for the position and becoming VP of Campus Affairs would be the perfect start to my USG career and I hope that I can make the most of it for myself and the club. A fun fact about myself is that I'm a huge fan of Bayern Munich, a soccer team from Germany. This is something about myself that tends to shock a lot of people. One of the things USG has done well is the way they have attempted to keep up with the students. I'm signed up for the USG newsletter and constantly see emails from USG about everything that's new and what they're trying to improve on. This is something I personally appreciate a lot because in this virtual world everything is so distanced from social life so it's nice to know that your school and peers still care about you. In terms of what USG could do better on, honestly these are extremely tough circumstances and unfortunately being remote from school and students, there's not much else that could have been done and I genuinely think that USG has done all it can. Something has been a huge issue for me and my friends since freshman year has been a problem with the elevators. Either the express elevators are too packed, huge lines for the local elevators, or people are too packed in them. I think there needs to be a better way of separating and sectioning off the elevator use, especially during busy class times like between 10:45a.m. to 12:00p.m. or 2:30p.m. to 3:45p.m. Especially coming off from a pandemic whenever we go back to school, there needs to be a more precise and organized way to get students where they need to be in a timely manner. Like I said before, unfortunately I wasn't able to gain any leadership experience through clubs at Baruch, which I would've loved to have done. However, I do have leadership experience through my prior jobs, I've always had a leadership position whether it was being a supervisor or an assistant manager. These roles have

helped me gain a tremendous amount of leadership skills, like time management, team work, organizational skills, and an overall balance when it comes to working with other people. I hope to be able to show USG I am the right person for this job and thank you for listening.

- vi. Mariam: My name is Mariam John-Sandy and I'm highly interested in applying for the role of VP of Campus Affairs. I truly believe I would be a great fit for the position because of my active involvement on Campus as a USG committee member and currently the Vice Chair for both the Campus Affairs and the Student Affairs committee. I've definitely showcased myself to be an inclusive leader and someone who really cares about the opinions of others and also fostering a positive environment where all voices are heard. Some of the facilities that I believe could be improved on is the library. The library is such a historical place filled with resources and I believe through innovation and technology we can really find solutions to make things more effective and overall more exciting for students to be able to utilize. I think in terms of facilities, such as the campus bathrooms, being sanitary is so important and we need to find solutions to make sure that the health and well-being of students during and through this pandemic is at the forefront. I truly believe that my hard work and dedication to not just creating a better environment but also the betterment of Baruch College will make me a great candidate for this position. I am also a transfer student so I know what it's like to be in a new environment and not know the proper steps to take to build that community that you need. I believe with me in this position, it will allow me and others to feel like there's a new start in fostering the environment within USG. One thing that I know I do well is I'm incredibly patient and really kind and generous. I truly believe that what you give to the world, you'll get back and positive energy is so contagious. Now more than ever we need to foster a sense of positive community and uplift and support one another.
- vii. Sonali: My name is Sonali Rathore, and I would like to run for VP of Campus Affairs. I'm an international student from Dubai and waiting for the pandemic to be over to meet everyone in person. I'm a second semester first year student and it's been terrible to say the least. A fun fact about me is I love cinnamon toast crunch. I have been working as a Vice Chair for the Academic Affairs and with Taji Sanders and Tomasz Horczak, we've been successful in establishing a computer science minor. I have been talking to Professor Adam Scheffer and if everything gets signed and with the proper authorization, it will be implemented for the upcoming Fall semester. Since the pandemic has started, I think it's been very difficult for students to make friends. Especially me, I thought college would be the place to make friends and those connections but it didn't really happen. I would like to host events similar to Homecoming and make sure everyone has a good time, fun, and they don't end their first year not having made any friends. One thing that USG could do better is making the merchandise for international students possible and quicker. Because I needed international shipping, I could not receive merchandise last semester as easily, and had to go through a hassle to get it. I look forward to keeping students engaged and interacting with each other. All in all, I want to make sure everyone knows each other in the group should they ever need help with anything. Thank you.

## 2. Erika Cumbe | Representative Senator

- a. Erika: Thank you to everyone who came to the Immigration Resources event. It went amazing and we had a lot of important information shared for the students. Huge thank you to Christine, Richard, Yam-Yu, Ally. Osvaldo helped us with Citizenship now and gathering slides, so thank you so much.

Thank you Mayer for sharing your story during the event. The students enjoyed the interactive platform to share their stories and the Q&A with the lawyer. Huge shout out to Kristina for designing our merch.

3. Osvaldo Garcia | Chair of Philanthropy

- a. Osvaldo: At a previous senate meeting, I talked about creating a survey to give to professors in different departments so we know the different types of alternatives to proctoring that will be available. I have been working with Laiba on the survey and wanted to share with you a draft of it to get your feedback. If you think there are any additional questions or information we should include, please let me know. I'll email the associate Provost to contact him about the survey and to disperse it to the departments. The answers for the survey will be anonymous for privacy reasons. We will include adjunct and tenure positions and departments on the survey as questions.
- b. Erika: Is this a 2 page survey?
- c. Laiba: Yes, and if you want to see all the questions, you have to go through the survey. The format on qualtrics keeps it to 2 pages.
- d. Briana: I clicked "No" on one of the questions and it automatically ended the survey. Maybe as a followup we could include a space for participants to write why they don't believe in alternatives for the proctoring.
- e. Mayer: Would it be possible to have room for participants to leave open response comments?
- f. Osvaldo: Yes, we could definitely include that if they have any additional questions.

### Unfinished Business

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1. No Unfinished Business.

### New Business

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1. No New Business.

### Executive Session

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1. Motion to enter into Executive session passes at 6:10 p.m.

### Election Results

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1. Motion to elect Julia DiMarcello as VP of Campus Affairs.
  - a. Motion passes, 17-0-0

### Adjournment

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1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #21 at 8:07 PM. Motion passes, 17-0-0