

Undergraduate Student Government

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Meeting Date:	October 20, 2020	Meeting Time:	5:30PM - 6:22 PM
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	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
Zariana Gonzalez Representative Senator	Mayer Estinville Representative Senator
Vacant Representative Senator	

Passing of the Minutes

1. Motion to pass Senate Meeting #6 minutes. Motion passes, 14-0-3

Reports

1. Steven Le | VP of Campus Affairs

- a. Steven: First things first is the [volunteer form](#) for Homecoming. I only have 7-8 volunteers but we are going to need much more. I'm going to need at least 20 volunteers for next week's events and want to thank those who have signed up already. Not only does it show support from the table but also a heavy USG presence within Baruch's virtual setting. The next items are the Homecoming social media events that my vice-chair Erika has been working very hard on. She has worked very closely with Cindy on graphics and creating the trivia questions to make a very fun and engaging event. We want to create as much online presence and awareness especially during this time. It will begin starting this Thursday, October 22nd, up until next week, and people will have the chance to win special prizes for answering certain questions correctly. Make sure to check out the graphics and repost as well so that people are aware of these events and can participate. Next thing is the [Talent Show Schedule](#). All Homecoming events are set except for the talent show because we need more performers. Although I have 10 submissions on the [sign-up form](#), I only received 4 video submissions. If you guys can help promote the event as much as possible, and convince your friends to show off their talents and creativity, that would

be amazing. There will be fun ice-breaker activities as well. There has also been a subtle change within the event. In collaboration with Osvaldo, who's been working very hard on Charity week, I've decided to add a philanthropy aspect to it. Lastly, an update on Big Sibs. Initially, I was going to have an event this Thursday but due to conflicting things, my own personal schedule, and my mismanagement of my own time, I think it's best to move it on November 5th so that I can invest more time in it and give it the appropriate promotion and update as much as possible because I want to give the best quality mentorship program to our students. I can use the resources that Yam-Yu has shared with us in the past as well.

2. Osvaldo Garcia | Chair of Philanthropy

- a. Osvaldo: Hello everyone, I wanted to speak about the Philanthropy Committee's next big event which is Charity week. Whoo celebration! Charity Week is usually led by the Muslim Student Association (MSA). Last year they were able to raise almost \$50,000. Unfortunately, this semester, MSA is inactive and the Philanthropy Committee is grateful for the opportunity to help continue this legacy. The theme for this year is "Making History" which involves celebrating the history of each and everyone of us and the unity that comes from different backgrounds. All of the money that is raised will go to orphans and children in need. The organization gives the launch code and from there, students click on the code and donate. There will be 3 main events for Charity Week. The first event will be a Baruch versus Hunter joke-a-thon, in collaboration with Hunter's MSA. It will be on Tuesday, October 28th at 8 p.m. The logistics of the event are still being discussed but the main premise of the event is so students can compete against one another. Participants are sponsored by the audience and can tell a funny story, joke, etc. and try to make the audience laugh as much as possible.
- b. Umaima: Hi, I'm the President of MSA. This is an event that we held last year, and was very successful because the community was able to come together for a great cause. It did garner a lot of donations. Hunter saw that, and wanted to do it with us this year as well. It will be a fun night, and a chance for us to get to create a deeper relationship with Hunter as well.
- c. Osvaldo: Well said. The second event for Charity Week will be the Jeopardy/Auction-Off on Thursday, October 29th, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Still trying to come up with a better name for it. The participants will debate historical questions and categories. The prizes consist of a confirmed \$300 cosponsorship prize for first place. In terms of prospective clubs, we have ASEDOM, VSA, UCLA, FUSION, Himalyan Club, PSA, USA, and SASA. We will be sending out invites to them. The Jeopardy event will consist of 2 breakout rooms, with 2 clubs each competing against each other, with the winner of each room advancing to the main session for a final showdown. Participants are allowed to donate or buy a maximum of 4 clues per question. Each clue will cost \$2, and each club has a limit of \$8 per question. If a club is unable to answer a question, the other team has the chance to steal that question by donating \$3. The categories include American History, World History, Religious History, in terms of more historical facts, New York History, TV History, Pop Culture History, and Bearcat History. Next will be the auction. There are already some items lined up for it, such as art pieces and unique items. We were thinking of ranking each item from least to greatest amount.
- d. Briana: What items will you be auctioning off?
- e. Umaima: People have donated paintings, and we are still looking into more items.
- f. Alison: For the auction, and how the items are being priced, is that what they're estimated to be at?
- g. Umaima: The prices are also subject to change once we have them confirmed.
- h. Osvaldo: It would be the starting bid for it, and would really depend on the item itself. We were thinking \$25 to start the auction bid, and hopefully the numbers get bigger.

- i. Irine: Is someone going to be hosting the auction to get the crowd energized?
- j. Osvaldo: Steven has volunteered to host both the jeopardy and the auction. The last event for Charity will be in collaboration with Campus Affairs and their Homecoming talent show. There will be a mini jeopardy and family feud game, with the same rules but just on a smaller scale, and I'll be hosting them.
- k. Steven: The only change that's been added is we were supposed to have 4 icebreaker events, and to bring some more philanthropy aspect into it, I will be raffling off a gift basket that includes some USG merch and other items. We will also encourage students to donate \$1-2 to participate in the jeopardy and family feud games, and will split them up into 2 different teams. The games will be between 15 to 20 minutes. There will be a maximum of 2 questions to buy. In addition, we will also have a People's Choice Award for our talent show. We can not make people pay to vote, but can encourage them to donate in order to have a vote. If they donate a \$1, it will count as 2 votes, \$2 for 4 votes, and \$3 for 6 votes.
- l. Osvaldo: While that will be the final event for Charity Week, the week itself will continue into the week after that. The rules that the organization have given us is that only for the first week can events take place. For week 2, we will have more social media events to continue raising money.
- m. Cindy: For the raffle tickets, will you be doing a pre-order raffle, where students have to submit them through a pre-link, or will they be doing it on the day of the talent show?
- n. Steven: We haven't figured out all the logistics since this was something handed to us kind of last minute, and are still in talks with our team and MSA. This is a helpful suggestion, though, thanks.
- o. Osvaldo: I want to give a special thanks to Cindy, Christine, and Steven for all their help on these events. Thank you for your patience. I am super excited. One last thing I want to talk about is Nicole Souza, who is the alumni affairs to gain donations for Baruch, and has asked USG to create a video in support of the initiative of "Standing up for Baruch" where we talk about our daily lives of Baruch students. She hopes the video will help raise more funds for the unrestricted funding, which is used on COVID relief, mental health initiatives, and other things. I can forward the email to you all as well. If you decide to do it, you can film a short clip, and we can put it all together into one big video.

3. Cindy Chen | Chair of Graphics

- a. Cindy: Hi, I wanted to provide an update on the [graphics form](#). The form is always located in the same location within the USG 2020-2021 table folder, under "Graphics" for easy convenience. All your works will be in your respective folder. A quick change that I made was adding a new line, "will this event be recorded?" because I noticed that not every zoom event is recorded, and this is for students to know in advance before attending these events.
- b. Christine: If you are recording the event, please tell me so I can put it in the event page, and please send me the recording so I can make something out of it for the month. Otherwise, make sure to fill out the form and please tell both Cindy and I about it.
- c. Briana: For events, please make sure you are giving Cindy and Christine at least 2 weeks notice for any graphics or marketing needs. The more notice they're given, the more time they have to make the material and promote it. If the case happens where you're planning an event and you don't give them enough time's notice, they can say no to your request. Please be considerate of the hard work and time they put into helping promote your events and give them that respect, or your event may be rescheduled.
- d. Cindy: Thank you for that.

4. Nancy Sea | Treasurer

- a. Nancy: We have some late payment vouchers from Bengali Student Association (BSA). They had 4 late vouchers for their event, “Defying Gravity” which came out to a total of \$179.97.
- b. Briana: Motion to allocate \$179.97 to BSA for their late payment vouchers.
 - i. Motion passes, 17-0-0

5. Briana Staten | EVP

- a. Briana: First off, October check-ins have started. Besides talking about how you’re doing with events and midterms, I will also be checking in with you regarding the goals you had set for yourself in the beginning of the semester. Looking forward to meeting with you. I also want to give us a huge shout out. We’ve been doing amazing work, and it has been recognized by upper faculty, President Wu, and Dean King. Although this may not have been the USG term we expected to go into, with the virtual setting and ongoing pandemic, you’re all doing a great job so keep at it. Very proud of you all. We are all in the midst of midterms, and I just want to say to not lose motivation and for those who are hosting events, if you aren't getting the turnout that you desire, it might be due to midterms. With regards to table support, if you are free, please do your part and help out your fellow table members, and for those hosting events, please don't take it personally if you aren't getting enough table members to assist you because we all have other responsibilities outside of USG.
- b. Genesis: Keep in mind that before being USG, first and foremost we are students and especially during this time, with midterms and online classes, we do have other commitments to focus on. That being said, it's important to be mindful of the effort and hard work your fellow table members put into their events and show your support however you can.
- c. Briana: Exactly. Lastly, the representative senator form closes tomorrow at 11:59 p.m. After this meeting, please share it on your social media. If anyone has any questions, you can direct them to me.
- d. Raphael: Have we gotten a good turn out from the application?
- e. Briana: At the moment, no submissions. I have had people talk to me about applying, so they’re probably waiting a little longer to send it.
- f. Tomasz: If they sign up last minute, that means they have to submit the video that day when it's due?
- g. Briana: Yes, within the form.
- h. Erika: Let’s say only one person signs up; will we extend the application or will they get the position?
- i. Savanna: They have to go through the election process either way; it’s a part of the USG constitution.
- j. Erika: At what point do we wait until we have enough submissions?
- k. Briana: Depending on the turnout, I may extend the deadline. We will see how many applicants we have.

Unfinished Business

1. Yam-Yu Li | VP of Student Affairs

- a. Yam-Yu: The lips sync battle form was due this past Sunday. We only had 2 groups sign up. So because of time constraints and not wanting the event to be rushed, I believe the best option is to cancel the lip sync battle for this year, so it will not be happening. I am going to send out 2 emails to you all, one from PAWS asking for our help on a distress program, and the other one is from Brandy Peer from Dean of Students and Lynn from the Counseling Center, who are working on this upcoming program called “Cuffing Safely in COVID” and they wanted some USG input. It has do to with the Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Committee (SHAP). It’s a program to address dating throughout COVID, and will be on November 12th.

- b. Briana: By “cuffing” do they mean dating?
- c. Damali: I think they are trying to be serious about the things that need to be taken into consideration concerning your health, and we do realize that while we tell people to stay home, the chances of them doing that are not likely. So this program will be about how to protect yourself if you are going to be out there socializing, and realistic precautions you can take. The last thing you want to do is start dating someone and they get you sick.

2. Raphael Berdugo | Representative Senator

- a. Raphael: Last week we had a big discussion about Greek life. I guess we didn’t finish it all, so when are we going to get back to it?
- b. Briana: We haven’t made a decision yet on the matter. I was thinking about picking up the conversation again in November, but we have until May 2021 to vote on it and make our decision. We brought it up with you all last week during our executive session so we could start coming up with ideas and learning more about the whole issue.

3. Taji Sanders | VP of Academic Affairs

- a. Taji: This question might be for OSL, but do you know when the deadline for the Credit/No Credit policy will be, or if we’re even doing it this semester?
- c. Damali: I’m not sure, but I don’t know the deadline. It would be on the academic calendar.
- d. Taji: I was looking and also got an email from a student who was concerned and compared it to Hunter and other CUNYs who extended their deadlines to decide on it, but no further word has been heard about Baruch since the Spring semester.
- e. Damali: It is up to each individual school. I think the way that Baruch is handling it is you have until the last day of classes to drop a course. If it’s not on the academic calendar and you haven’t been contacted, then I don’t think we’re doing it.
- f. Savanna: According to the academic calendar, the last day to withdraw from a course with a grade of a “W” is December 13th.
- g. Briana: As a USG, would we be able to ask the school if they could consider implementing the Credit/No Credit policy? If so, how would we go about that?
- h. Damali: You can. I know that GSA has brought it up at their meeting with President Wu. It’s the Provost’s decision so if you as a USG are interested in it, I don’t know if it’s too late for the semester, but I would suggest contacting the Provost with a well thought out email and your signatures so they know this is something students have been bringing up.
- i. Richard: Laiba and I have actually been working together to address this issue. As you all know, in a previous senate meeting, we had the USS delegates come and speak about how I was working with them to introduce a resolution on a USS level for each CUNY campus to adopt the Credit/No Credit policy. They’ve been working hard on that, but the issue is that CUNY has to implement this, and we must urge them to do so. Thus, Laiba and I have been working on this survey to garner statistics and data about how students are feeling, amidst the pandemic, transition to a virtual setting, and midterms to get a holistic view on whether or not this should be introduced and get some feedback from the students. The survey is done, and I’m going to be introducing it in the table chat, so that the table members can provide their input and feedback on it so that we have a well-structured survey to introduce next week, as well as introducing it to my committee for their feedback.

- j. Laiba: He said it all perfectly. The survey is done, we are just in the revision process, and would appreciate getting input from the table before releasing it to the public.
- k. Briana: One suggestion; would it be possible for it to go out this week, and close it by Saturday so we can send the results of the form to the Provost by Monday? As Damali had mentioned, it is later on in the semester that we're doing this, so we want to make sure we can get this out to the Provost as soon as we can. Because it is a CUNY wide decision, and this was stated during meetings that were held in the summer, Baruch hasn't been working on it too much.
- l. Richard: On that note, I know I took part in subcommittee #4 with Tony and others and the Provost specifically stated that he was for the policy if CUNY decided to implement it again for the Fall semester. It's also making sure that the Board of Trustees and Chancellor also are for it. The way that I see it, on why they wouldn't introduce it, is because of keeping academic rigour to keep the college classified as a high-level institution. As a compromise, in our survey, we also put an option on giving students the option to have at least one class qualify for Credit/No Credit. As students, we're all struggling with the workload and the toll this virtual setting has had on us.
- m. Briana: This could also help accommodate for those students who struggle academically.
- n. Richard: I'm hoping this will be a requirement for all table members to look at this form and to give feedback on it, since we are all representing over 1,000 students each and so this can be very helpful in introducing this survey at the highest level we can. In terms of the timeline, we said we would like to push it out next week in order to give Cindy and Christine time to create the graphic and market it. That's my only concern.
- o. Cindy: On the graphic perspective, because you do want this out as soon as possible, I am willing to take the time to make this graphic real quick so we can spread the word to the students. I just want to know what time you think it's appropriate to have it finished by.
- p. Laiba: I had just submitted a graphic form, but we would like to have it done by this week.
- q. Cindy: That's fine, I can do that.
- r. Christine: I can also move things around, or if I have to double post in a day, that works, too.
- s. Laiba: Thank you so much, we appreciate it.
- t. Richard: In terms of marketing, it doesn't all have to be just on Christine. As students ourselves, we should also be sharing it on the class pages, clubs, and our own social media to spread the word and garner a huge variety of data to make a big impact on the Provost and CUNY.

New Business

- 1. Genesis Calle | Executive Secretary
 - a. Genesis: In case anyone needs a refresher on their roles and responsibilities, plus any other helpful tips, you are welcome to check out the [USG Internal Guidebook 2019-2020](#) which last year's USG kindly took the time to put together and was sent to all of you back in July. This is a good resource to use, as well as asking the table or E-board for any questions, too.

Adjournment

- 1. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #7 at 6:22 PM. Motion passes, 17-0-0