

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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Senate Meeting #12

Meeting Date:	November 14th, 2017	Meeting Time:	6:17 P.M. - 7:32 P.M.
Location:	USG Conference Room	Note Taker:	Andrea Valverde

Attendees:	
Isabel Arias President	Derny Fleurima Executive Vice President
Andrea Valverde Executive Secretary	Suzanna Egan Executive Treasurer
Daniel Morote VP of Legislative Affairs	Erica Yang VP of Student Services
Frances Subervi VP of Campus Affairs	Suleman Aleem VP of Academic Affairs
Arvis Chen Chair of Clubs & Organizations	David Barros Chair of Finance
Nicole Taniguchi Chair of Marketing	Rachel Liang Chair of Graphic Design
Arseny Averyanov Representative Senator	Brandon Paillere Representative Senator
Brian Ronquillo Representative Senator	Hamed Doumbia Representative Senator
Lin Lin Representative Senator	Michael Cherry Representative Senator
Molly Bhuiyan Representative Senator	Tarak Chowdhury Representative Senator
Zakari Abubakar Representative Senator	

Meeting begins at 6:17 P.M.

PASSING OF THE MINUTES

Minutes #11: Motion Passes 17-0-0.

REPORTS

I. Isabel Arias | President

- A. We have to officially vote in Suzanna as Treasurer.
 - 1. Motion to approve e-board's nomination of Suzanna as the new treasurer of USG.
 - a) Motion Passes: 16-0-1.

II. Erica Yang | VP of Student Services

- A. Lip Sync Battle this Thursday. Just need help at this point, tomorrow night at 6 PM we're having a meeting about décor. Set up begins at 4:30 PM on Thursday. Please come and help set up in the MPR. Ordered some trophies, need someone to help me pick them up on Thursday before 4 because I'll be in class. Blowing up balloons and all. Will also need help serving food.
- B. Finals week: all events on the USG calendar. Have about 10 events that I need volunteers for. 10 events on the span of 5 days. Need help with handing out stuff. Have confirmed study spaces- MPR and 2-125 (hours listed on events calendar). Reminder my event suggestion form will be open forever. USG 17-18 drive under forms folder.
 - 1. **Tarak:** Will we open up more rooms?
 - 2. **Erica:** If we open so many rooms, it's a lot to maintain and manage.
 - 3. **Nicole:** Is any of them going to be silent room?
 - 4. **Erica:** Oh yeah, 2-125 could be the silent room.

III. Arvis Chen | Chair of Clubs & Organizations

- A. On Saturday I said I had something to review. Wanted to add a new rule to co-sponsorships; cap is currently \$500 but as of last Thursday I kind of broke my own rule. WIB asked for co-sponsorship request, for an event they've had every year [Style Your Success Fashion Show]. Location: MPR room, expect 250 people on a Thursday night. They came to me and I saw that they had a lot of stuff written down that totaled \$500, on the bottom there was a lot of stuff in red which they couldn't afford it because the cap was \$500. I told them I had more budget and I felt like I could help them even more, we had a 3 hour long meeting about each and everything that they wanted. With the help of my committee with we totaled up \$913.33. Although this is unprecedented and never happened at Baruch, I believe that I did the right thing. I know I put a \$500 cap because the resources would go out fast, I wanted to create new rule: for every MPR event on Tuesday or Thursday night with 250 people that's happening again and they've used 95% of their budget in the past years; want to give them a cap of \$1000. Just for large scale events. Sorry for not letting you guys know. I really should've vocalized this idea, I thought I should take care of it myself and not bother you guys.
 - 1. **Erica:** I know we talked about this a little bit, I know you did it with good intentions but to offer them so much money without them having to do much for it, they could've appealed for the same amount. For you to give them the money it sets a precedent because now other clubs will just go to Arvis and believe they'll get the money instead of going through appeals.
 - 2. **Suleman:** Cap is set up to your discretion, you made the decision too quick and you've set the precedent now and we can't take it back. People are just not going to appeal. Appeals has strict guidelines, damage is done we have to keep up precedent. It would be unfair to the rest of club life if we didn't continue.

3. **Zakari:** 95% of their budget overall or just for that event in the past?
4. **Arvis:** 95% of their budget overall.
5. **Arseny:** I believe it's a good thing because a lot of times the clubs that come to appeal they would appeal for thousands of dollars, he's making guidelines- it's not a loophole they have to meet those guidelines (large scale, mpr, tuesday/thursday, has to be a recurring event), showing Baruch students that we are more easily approachable.
6. **Michael:** The only time appropriate is if a club comes and they have an event they need money for, BOD is November 9th and the event is November 8th so appeals would have to turn it down. The issue is clubs would just wait to miss the deadline on purpose to avoid paperwork.
7. **Tarak:** Unfair to smaller clubs just because the guidelines are only for large clubs with large scale events. Smaller clubs aren't going to be holding large scale events. Are we favoring large scale events?
8. **David:** Messes up the order of money team. Supposed to go through finance, appeals, then co-sponsorships.
9. **Lin:** FYI any club wants any money they have to go to the office, clubs have option to co-sponsor other events. We are giving co-sponsorships to help other clubs, destroys the entire purpose of the co-sponsorship money.
10. **Molly:** When you appeal for money, you can't appeal if you get your room too late. That should be the only exception.
11. **Damali:** All large scale events are submitted in the beginning of the semester, last minute room is if it's last minute planning.
12. **Brandon:** Shows favoritism to bigger clubs, if you're going to set new precedent it will have to be for every single event.
13. **Suleman:** When they appeal, they risk having their appeal rejected or modified, why would they go through 19 votes at the table, when they could have all that money from Arvis.
14. **Nicole:** Question- did they appeal for this event before coming to you?
15. **Arvis:** I'm not sure what happened on their side, I just saw a lot of red and I wanted to help them out.
16. **Isabel:** I spoke to chair of sys committee this September, she said she wanted to appeal and asked for the deadline and I told her about the October deadline and the November deadline, they were aware and didn't appeal.
17. **Brian:** You did give them the money already, so now you have to be very logistical. I know you were trying to help them out but now you have to make sure you look at everything.
18. **Lin:** Confused about something, everyone is saying appeals process is strict. Appeals committee is based on whatever amount is given by the club times the amount of people expected minus what they can't get. Now they are going to be getting that money from you so we are not on the same page.
19. **Damali:** Just because Arvis made this decision you guys do not have to move forward with this. We just apologize and we won't do it again. You can say you brought it to the table and it was a one time thing and won't happen again.
20. **Arvis:** Thank you all for your input, just to understand – it creates a loophole, it's unfair to everyone else, about it being a loophole for appeals; I know Lin mentioned it's not strict but it is. After the appeals get confirmed it has to get sent to BOD, appealing within the month kind of deadline, I feel like based on my 3 years as a part of club life, I feel we have been too strict on the deadline. For co-sponsorships it should be a little bit looser,

there's a stigma that USG and club life not trusting each other. I just wanted to extend that trust especially if we can do it. I understand it may seem unfair to midsize and smaller clubs, I've already taken the steps to reach out to those clubs, I'm not singling out the big clubs. I just wanted to do my part in supporting large scale events, I understand I was very naive in that kind of thinking so if you guys decide against it I understand it.

21. **Derny:** Should we soft vote on whether you should be amending your cap. Soft vote on \$1000 rule for the future:
22. **Arvis:** This is just for large scale events with 250 people guaranteed, they've had to have this event in the past already and must have spent 95% of their budget last year.
23. Soft vote: All in favor of the \$1000 rule. Soft Vote Fails: 6-9-0.
24. **Tarak:** In my understanding, why don't you make it for every single club because other clubs will most likely not meet those guidelines so other clubs don't feel excluded.
25. **Isabel:** Suggestion- before you make this rule I would do specific research on how many clubs it's going to affect. A lot of clubs do not waste 95% of their budget.
26. **Suleman:** My point is that since he stated the 95% thing, he could help out other large scale events. If they meet these strict requirements.
27. **Nicole:** One of the issues is that it's favoring older clubs, just suggesting not to favor older clubs. Requisite that they have at least attempted appeals committee.
28. **Hamed:** An idea like that means you have to restrict yourself more. Scale your guidelines to smaller clubs.
29. **Tarak:** To Suleman's and Isabel's point, what it does is give smaller clubs the chance to meet those deadlines. Just extend it to all clubs.
30. **Isabel:** Suggestion- make it that one club can't do that more than once, you can still co-sponsor but I would be wary about giving them another \$1000 for another event.
31. **Lin:** Each club has different e-board every year, putting the 95% budget is based on the past expenditure. You cannot guarantee that they'll do the same this year.
32. **Erica:** I don't want this to turn into a second appeals committee, you're asking for certain guidelines just like appeals. Creates strict environment for your committee, your asking very specific clubs that can meet those guidelines, deters everyone else from even wanting to go with you.
33. **Arvis:** With all due respect they already do that, I already see the breakdown of all events and compare numbers. Word favoritism is thrown around a lot, you are afraid people are going to say we are trying to choose favorites. With my 5-step strategy I don't think they'll think that. For refreshments we do \$4-\$6 per person, it's 30-60 people for small clubs. \$6 is the max, times the 60 people is at most 400\$. This is not to say that I don't care about them I do continue to support them.
34. **Brandon:** We trust your intention but you're literally giving more money to big clubs. It would be damaging to smaller clubs because why would people go to their events when the big clubs are having better events.
35. **Suzanna:** I know you're willing to do the work but it disrupts the separation between appeals and clubs & orgs. Because I specifically would send people under \$500 to you. At the end of the day it's a budget, we give them a resource to help the event not to make the event twice as good that's not our resource. They should've had a plan before that. When we reject people, then they can get more money from you than what we rejected which defeats the purpose. I think our guidelines were set in place correctly.
36. **Frances:** I walk into his meetings all the time, he literally sits down with every club and picks the best and cheapest option and he really is resourceful but it does show favoritism with this choice.

37. **Tarak:** If you go that route, there are other large events that happen like the Caribbean show in mason hall or conference room large scale events.
 38. **Arvis:** I have to think about that.
 39. **Isabel:** Please let us know of your final decision.
- B. Talked to Savanna, booked room for December 5th to have secret santa with all the clubs. If your club would be interested please let me know. Just want to have a recap, club life rewind of everything's that happened this semester. 3-4 members could be there on behalf of each club. Tuesday during club hours. Will put on calendar.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. Isabel Arias | USG Office Hours

- A. Sending out USG MVP for October tonight. In regard to USG Office Hours, how's that going Andrea?
1. **Andrea:** People will have to sign up to the sheet, be in the conference room during that time or the usg computer area if the room is booked.

II. Frances Subervi | Potluck

- A. Potluck form sent out, please fill it out. We should still order food. I'll meet with Andrea to decide whether we should still order food or not.

III. Brandon Paillere | USG Apparel

- A. Apparel: 3 choices we're thinking about. Denim jackets, bomber jackets, tote bag, oversized shirt...
1. **Erica:** I like denim jackets, can we get them embroidered?
 2. **Brandon:** I have one draft for the shirts.
 3. **Nicole:** Crewnecks?
 4. **Isabel:** You will have to pay for this out of pocket.
 5. **Nicole:** Are you trying to do just one thing?
 6. **Brandon:** I was thinking about a couple things.
 7. **Tarak:** Just have all options and we all just to choose.
 8. **Isabel:** If you don't buy in bulk, it won't be at a reasonable price.

IV. Isabel Arias | Strategic Planning Committee

- A. Strategic Planning committee: plan for college for next 5 years. Final meeting is December 4th, not to say they won't take any more suggestions but next semester is just more about formulating ideas and how they will proceed. So if any of you have any pressing issues please send it my way.
1. **Frances:** Danny and I went to the town hall today, the issues faculty mentioned were actually the issues we have. Majors being business oriented.
 2. **Isabel:** Idea wall, town hall is dedicated to get students' ideas. Are we really trying to just cater to business students? There are big picture issues. It really does make a difference, they do want to know what you guys have to say. They've schedule tons of faculty meetings but not as many with students. So we want to hear more from you guys

NEW BUSINESS

I. Rajbir Singh | United Sikh Association

- A. How many times do you come to the city and how many times do you see a homeless person? There are thousands of people here that have become familiar with the streets. Care packages for homeless people, hygiene products as well as comforting letters and clothing. I wanted to talk to USG to talk to senators because you are the voice of Baruch. Asking to sponsor a care package, one care package is \$20, our goal is to get 100 care packages. Also, you could donate any small things that you have like the hats, jackets, also you could spread the word on social media platforms. November 22nd help the homeless drive. You have about a week left to help us out. We would really appreciate your help.
1. **Daniel:** Still doing reach to get people help?
 2. **Rajbir:** Yes, with \$20 you will be able to write the letter and make the care package and will personally give out the package. United Sikh will be running this and we won't donate to an organization but rather we will be giving them out personally.
 3. **Derny:** Giving them out everyday?
 4. **Rajbir:** Collecting supplies right now. We will be buying the supplies soon then making the packages and writing those letters. Who's interested in sponsoring?

Molly leaves at 7:25 P.M.

Zakari leaves at 7:28 P.M.

II. Isabel Arias | Sustainability Committee

- A. Sustainability committee, Jasper had taken it on in the beginning of the year. He's not planning on continuing as lead of the committee, he'd be part of it but not lead anymore. He has individual in mind that would like to take charge of the sustainability committee in the next meeting. It is Nico he has been taken a lot of initiative.
1. Motion to nominate Nicolas Fuentes as chair of the Sustainability Committee.
 - a) Motion Passes: 14-0-1.
- B. We are going to have an upcoming discussion on the issue of social greek life and for any person around campus who would like to speak on the issue come speak at our upcoming meeting. Just a discussion for people to come share their thoughts on it.

ADJOURNMENT

- I. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #12 at 7:32 P.M by Suleman Aleem. Motion Passes 15-0-0.