

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

VERTICAL CAMPUS 3-270
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Senate Meeting #21

Meeting Date:	February 27th, 2018	Meeting Time:	5:35 P.M. - 8:31 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	Emma Jorgensen Chair of Appeals
David Barros Chair of Finance	Nicole Taniguchi Chair of Marketing
Rachel Liang Chair of Graphic Design	[ABSENT] Arseny Averyanov Representative Senator
Alex Dimcevski Representative Senator	Aaron D'Souza Representative Senator
Carlton Maddix Representative Senator	Brandon Paillere Representative Senator
Brian Ronquillo Representative Senator	[ABSENT] Hamed Doumbia Representative Senator
[ABSENT] Lin Lin Representative Senator	Tarak Chowdhury Representative Senator
Andrew Windsor Representative Senator	

Meeting begins at 5:35 P.M.

PASSING OF THE MINUTES

Minutes #20: Motion Passes 16-0-0.

I. Arthur Downing | Vice President for Information Services and Dean of the Library

- A. Be aware of (my focus on Wifi on 17 lex) for 15 years we were forbidden to do any investments in the network infrastructure of the 17 lex building because of the pending renovation. For years we were told that it was going to happen any time. President Wallerstein had heard pretty much the same thing, and heard that much of the work would not be completed for many years to come. Building that had from a center point of view neglected, present time it's all past end of light. Faculty has said why don't you just put in some access points, but there is no capacity for that. We could barely provide wi-fi access to the offices that are in there. Knowing this years back we decided to put wifi services in the building. At first, we had been told we can't do that. Lisa Edwards will do a presentation showing you how in doing the demolition work, they managed to not touch any of the cables in the building. This confirmed that we could do this, we went out and got funding. Took two years to get the half million dollar funding, we couldn't go through with it right away because they discovered that before they could do this construction, (digging up) the fiber run into the building and the data center that we have in 17 lex that supports the networking for that building was in the path of the demolition. So it took us more than a year for a separate project phase 1 to move the data center and re route the cables coming into the building. It wasn't a simple project overnight, had to take some preliminary steps. Funding released by the city in the fall. Purchase requisitions for the equipment, for the services we bring in outside contractors, nothing happened because the university notifies us that since we have to buy all of these under a state contract, the state contract will expire while we were underway. After weeks of negotiation, CUNY decide we could go ahead with the project which would require ___ BCTC staff has been working on the project, expect them to give in the paperwork next week. Set of services and equipment. Even though our calculations once the purchase orders went through it would probably only take us 2-3 months , it looks like it's going to have get done during the summer. Trying to get this done as soon as possible and get a timeline that we can post and distribute to the students.
1. Erica: situation with wifi in general in NVC and library?
 2. Arthur: I don't know what the problem is until I talk to the person, we replaced and upgraded access points in this building, a few days during that process there were outages. Unfortunately, when I get people describing issues it's as vague as you described it. There was another outage that we didn't pin-point until I brought staff here one day and talk to people. Most of the time when I work with students and they're having issues it has to do with their connection from their device, the settings. If I get them in touch with someone from the help center, or working on having people come by and help students out. People's issues with wi-fi get conflated, they all start to sound the same. Trying to understand exactly why folks are having their issues with wi-fi.
 3. Erica: system for students to report their issues?
 4. Arthur: Should be able to call the help-desk. If you know particular location where several people are having an issue, we could focus on the tarea.
 5. Nicole: Yesterday, almost all the chargers on table weren't working.
 6. Arthur: Actually not the one to fix that, but I'm the one to report it. Lights were going out yesterday so that may have to do with the circuits being off.
 7. Carlton: Temporary wifi access in 17 lex?
 8. Isabel: That's the project they're working on.

9. Arthur: Not only don't we have sufficient network being bad, verizon user has good coverage in this building and over there that's because verizon paid to have good cellular data. Haven't given up on finding another way to give some other kind of temporary access.
10. Erica: A lot of the outlets in NVC don't work.
11. Isabel: To lisa Edwards.
12. Victoria: New technology check in check out on the second floor very popular, any more plans to put more around campus?
13. Arthur: There are, that particular one was supposed to go on the 6th floor in the new library space. I thought it'd be better use to put them as students are getting in and out of class. What I would need to know is where they would be most useful... The vendor that we would use told us the volume of use for the Library is the highest.
14. Alex: X-Code
15. Arvis: A lot of the computers broke in the club rooms. Router was broken, do you know when we could possibly fix these computers?
16. Arthur: I agreed this morning that we would do an inventory, most clubs told me that they didn't even bother using them and they weren't worth replacing. The reason I heard is that they're too locked down for what students need. I've agreed to go through it anyway.
17. Arvis: I think they would want them replaced. Another club reached out to me asking for a mac computer instead of dell. I have a mac computer in my room, is it possible for me to give them my desktop?
18. Damali: No
19. Brandon: There's access to Microsoft word, excel, ppt. would it be possible for students to get access to adobe software?
20. Arthur: We had an agreement with adobe for years, it probably hasn't been activated yet. There were other software availability, baruch students log for more use than any other campus, that other universities don't agree on getting access to all software.

II. Arvis Chen | Chair of Clubs & Organizations

- A. Basetime, third-party that gives you an unbiased opinion on survey. Last Thursday I started to put out the survey. Also, found out that we were not given the extension. Have to deal with the deadline that's going to be this Thursday. Have 200 responses, 68% are in support of ending the ban, 24% against it, 12 % neutral. Most of them in support of moratorium. 40% against social greeks.
 1. Erica: How have you been pushing out the survey?
 2. Arvis: 265 based on club life. On friday I reached out to the club pages I was associated with, Monday it was on USG's newsletter. I will be tabling in the future.
 3. Deryn: If this is due by Thursday how do you plan on gaging the opinion of students who are not involved in club life?
 4. Arvis: I will be tabling. Newsletters, the ticker.
 5. Isabel: Sending this information in by Friday Morning
- B. Research gathered so far displayed on the screen. Those who were positive emphasized community, mainly stated that Baruch was a commuter school. Those who were negative mentioned going through hazing and were traumatized by it. Those who were in support of social greek life were still scared about how it would be brought forward and regulated. So that was the majority's main concern.

III. Andrew Windsor | Representative Senator

- A. I had posted a message on fb and linkedin saying I've been reinstated in the senate. A message in LinkedIn wanted to know more about the basketball courts, why they are always closed or they're told that other teams are using it, wanted to do my due diligence and figure out what we could do or who refer him to.
 - 1. Isabel: I've brought this issue up and they've told me teams are using it. I could bring it up to him to see what hours are being offered to students.
 - 2. Damali: 6th floor gym in 17 lex closed because of construction so they could have basketball open hours now everything falls on the main gym. We can't even handle the capacity anymore. They've been looking into extending gym hours.
- B. Last few weeks, one of the past candidates for in-house elections mentioned the pins that USG should wear. She and I would be looking to work together on this in the future. Want to have maybe a soft vote to see if we would wear them.
 - 1. Emma: Student Activity Fee?
 - 2. Andrew: Yes, but we could look at other options, DIY.
 - 3. Emma: From outside perspective students don't like us buying stuff for ourselves with their money.
 - 4. Isabel: I think it's fair to spend our money to increase our outreach to students. Also, I know you may have times when you're rushing to class but that's the perfect time to hand them your business card.
 - 5. Brandon: Would a pin be visible?
 - 6. Nicole: In terms of doing outreach I think we are already working on ways to get out there with office hours and other initiatives.
 - 7. Deryn: I think it's a good idea, at Albany, they wore pins and you could tell who's a legislator, what sorority they're a part of.
 - 8. Savanna: If a club came to you appealing for marketing would you give it to them?
 - 9. Andrew: A club is very different from USG, that's why there's a clear distinction; we also have no funded club marketing for years now, yet still fund USG marketing.
 - 10. Andrea: I don't think you're marketing an event. It's really more informational, putting a resource out there. I think it's a good idea.
 - 11. Andrew: We're all in class everyday, how many of your classmates know you're a representative senator...
 - 12. Deryn: Soft vote on it to see how people feel.
 - a) Soft Vote Fails: 6-10
- C. This year, I have different students looking to restart my Constitutional Review Committee with me with different things that we want to amend. I'd like to introduce Liam, classmate that reached out about some problems he saw as a regular student.
 - 1. Liam: Commuter student, full time student, and work full time. Want to create committee with Andrew. Analyzed the constitution and the governance by the board of trustees that was sent out.
 - 2. Andrew: Mission statement is to review constitution of USG and assess its relation to the USG and benefit to the Baruch College undergraduate student body.
 - 3. Liam: We have a handful of students ready to participate on a tight deadline.
 - 4. Andrew: Going forward, once we identify things that could be wrong in the constitution and would be prepared for senate review, vote on it, if majority passes it then we have to get 10% of the student body signatures to get it on the ballot. All have to be done by the end of March.

5. Liam: Worth mentioning, once we all vote on the wording of the amendment that we receive a fair vote by you guys.
6. Andrew: Depending on how you guys vote, we can't go get the signatures. Don't worry this committee can't do anything without your approval.
7. Liam: Last two considerations, co-chair men, Andrew will focus on legislative side, and I will be focused on the student outreach.
8. Andrew: nothing in the constitution that says you can't have more than one chair.
9. Erica: elaborate on the third branch...
10. Andrew: number 4 says we may consider these topics; these are some ideas we had while drafting the proposal. Addition of the third branch, judicial branch. My committee last year decided there may not be a purpose for the judiciary branch. Doesn't necessarily mean it'll come to you this year, just an idea there.
11. Suleman: last year you concluded that the constitution was perfect the way it was, so what's changed?
12. Andrew: I never said perfect. Also, like I said there are new students trying to get involved like Liam. Why make this committee over? Other things that we did not go over last year, like spending. Another problem may be vague wording, like the fact that there could be two chairmen, there is ambiguity.
13. Liam: More importantly there are other students' concerns.
14. Tarak: Looking at your potential focuses, looks like a committee overseeing USG, instead of trying to change the constitution...
15. Liam: Fair point, it definitely seems as if it's oversight, we want to reiterate the focus would be on the constitution and that that's transparent to the student body.
16. Andrew: Anything that we do would affect all USG after that. We can't act without USG, plus we won't be doing anything that affects this USG.
17. Arvis: I know you had this committee last year, can you speak more about what you focused?
18. Andrew: Committee focused on the third branch idea. President said make it constitutional review committee, I personally don't think there's room for a third branch in USG but other students may think that.
19. Arvis: What did you find out about things that for example did we overspend...
20. Suleman: That wasn't their focus.
21. Andrew: Yeah, these are new potential focuses for this semester, and like Liam said we have a really tight deadline. Short window of opportunity. No speed bumps basically.
22. Isabel: How many people interested in joining this committee?
23. Liam: 5-10 people
24. Andrew: Motion to create constitutional review committee
 - a) Motion Passes: 15-0-1
25. Erica: Motion to nominate Andrew John Windsor II and Liam Giordano as chairmen of this committee
 - a) Motion Passes: 15-0-1

Daniel Morote leaves.

- D. Last thing, resolution on what Arvis had just spoken about. Resolution against the extension of the moratorium and any other versions against social greek life. Provost has decided to make his decision by the end of this week. I am sponsoring as the co-chair of the constitutional review committee with several members of the senate co-sponsoring; you could still tell me that you'd like to co-sponsor.

1. Nicole: I would also like to co-sponsor this.
 2. Alex: I, as well.
- E. Frat Resolution read out loud. [*Link Here*](#)
1. Tarak: USG believes?
 2. Andrew: When we vote on it we will be affirming all of these.
 3. Tarak: Since he has placed this ban, we could have actually done this way earlier.
 4. Andrew: This USG had from September to figure out what had happened. However, candidates should be debating on it, but it's not a hot topic of debate while elections go on. If he really cared about students' input, he would let the parties and candidates talk about it. Provost came to us in November not giving us much time to get student's opinions.
 5. Arvis: Legal did not reply to my emails, concerning. The only people who have checked it is my marketing research professor and baseline.
 6. Damali: You sent it to them 2 days before you put out the survey. You didn't push. To put it against everyone that it took long is not okay.
 7. Arvis: 3 weeks ago we decided survey and fact sheet was the best way to go, Karl showed me baseline. Next one and a half weeks I created the survey and fact sheet. I've been doing my due diligence, not saying nothing's been done. After the forum, the Dec 5 meeting, I created my own petition and it got shut down because it had to be institutionalized. December 8 to December 15, scheduled two meetings both didn't happen. Winter break after, next meeting was when school started and I got it back up.
 8. Nicole: Moratorium was a sense of secrecy. We didn't get it on our plates until November. Sure, we could have done it since the moratorium had been instituted but we've taken action ever since we've been made aware.
 9. Tarak: Letting these people debate on it, June 1st he has to make his decision so they won't be able to do anything about it next year since he's already made his decision. He could come around and say let's push this again to next year's USG.
 10. Andrew: I view this deadline as secrecy from the administration.
 11. Tarak: If there was a ban, would next year's USG be able to bring it back?
 12. Dery: Soft-vote on removing the line "WHEREAS USG finds the March 2, 2018 deadline a limitation on proper research and collection of input from students on this matter; and,"
 - a) Soft Vote Fails: 1-6
 13. Andrew continues reading resolution.
 14. Arvis: wording implies people want to join "thousands of students have been prohibited from joining social Greek organizations because of the moratorium"
 15. Suleman: they are prohibited...
 16. *Wording changed*
- F. Andrew continues to read resolution
1. Isabel: Why should it only be 5 of the people that sponsored the resolution to amend?
 2. Andrew: Just a safeguard to keep the intention of the document as it is, even if you co-sponsor and vote against it, you're going on the record. How does everyone feel about this line?
 3. Arvis: I think we get all the names of the people who are in favor.
 4. Emma: I think if we vote on it, people who vote on it should be allowed to be on the document.
 5. Isabel: I understand that these are the people willing to back this. Following the vote, there's a bunch of points saying USG backs the entire resolution, doesn't matter who

voted against it. Means we're all behind it now. For me I'm not voting on it, and if it passes I'm arguing behind it wholeheartedly, but I think at that point it gives the people who backed it up more power.

6. Andrew: But I am readily admitting that. It's just a check.
7. Isabel: Kills the point.
8. Carlton: This is being presented to the entire senate, I think the entire senate should be able to amend it.
9. Andrew: Any member of the Senate can amend it, but they need support from majority of original co-sponsors.
10. Derny: Soft vote on whether we should remove this line?
 - a) Soft Vote Fails : 5-9
11. Andrew: Last part of it says ...
12. Isabel: Discussion in general about this piece?
13. Arvis: Long way from getting student data, but we're in support of lifting ban from social greek life. Consider what if the provost continues ban.
14. Tarak: If this does pass tonight, is there any point to survey?
15. Andrew: USG can take their own stance, survey is more of a democratic process. This resolution is more of taking a stance on representing the democracy.
16. Arvis: My data is skewed... For all we know, people who are not in club life may have a different opinion.
17. Isabel: For me it's whatever you guys say. I just want to make sure the decision you guys make is based on what the students think not what you all believe. One, yesterday the survey results were 50/50. Personal experience, taking a few classes, brought the discussion up, students were overwhelmingly negative. I just think we need to be very cautious about truly being representative of student body. If that's what you think by all means go forward with it.
18. Erica: What's to say any of the decisions we make are based on majority of the students?
19. Isabel: That should be the idea behind it.
20. Suleman: Just like the Roller Hockey Club, I'm sure many students wouldn't have agreed with giving them such a large budget.
21. Andrew: I don't think we should take into consideration the majority of anything. If those 10 students want to create a club, we can't say no because nobody else cares about it, instead we come together and let them exist with a small budget. Allowing them to become thoughtful and engaged students.
22. Isabel: To a degree in which we could ensure the safety of the students.
23. Damali: You guys are going to do what you're going to do. What you guys decide on is what you are promoting. If a student comes to you and says, 'You asked us what we wanted and you did the opposite,' what does that do for USG? If that's your choice, you have to be able to back that up. Whatever you choose to do just be clear about why you're doing it and be ready to defend it. You can't say we care about the majority of students, then don't ask them because you literally don't care about what the students have to say. Be clear about whether you are saying some students want this, make a strong decision that you can back up to the other students. Literally think about who you are responsible to.
24. Andrew: Do we just agree with the majority? Everyone should be given the same opportunities, even it's the minority of students. I'm trying to defend those who are the minority— even if it was 10% , those 10% should be allowed the opportunity to come back and ask us for a charter.

25. Carlton: Do we really believe a situation where someone died, a club chartered by Baruch, do we want to create an atmosphere where students can go through that process and end up in that same situation?
26. Erica: This resolution is giving an equal right to those who want to do it.
27. Brian: Hasn't that system failed us already? On paper it may say they're not hazing, any degree of hazing can grow.
28. Damali: At Baruch College, every single semester there has been a case of hazing.
29. Andrew: You just heard Damali, you can't stop the hazing regardless.
30. Carlton: Then why would we promote it?
31. Suzanna: Provost is going to make a decision. Comparison in my head is thinking why would I come to Baruch if I want to be an engineer, should I have them fight that there should be a department for engineering? That's like asking to establish a department. You want to have an apple but we have oranges.
32. Liam: Speak as a regular student, I do agree fully with Erica. The issue is not necessarily saying we should talk about reinstating fraternities, the purpose is that the minority of the students should be protected by USG, if not equally at least minimally. If the senate did agree on this, there can be a higher level of scrutiny, but if you suppress something it will come back in higher levels underground.
33. Brandon: Students are still getting hurt, us doing this is not making it happen. Instead it gives us a small percentage of a shot at policing it.
34. Tarak: How are you regulating that?
35. Brandon: I don't know.
36. Andrew: The atmosphere has already been fostered by making them illegal.
37. Nicole: Bad assumption that every social greek organization hazes. We can see from the testimonies who came for the forum, there were many organizations following the rules and they were punished.
38. Isabel: People are saying for the past 3 years there's been a moratorium and they've been going underground so let's bring it to light instead, from the other stance you are saying let's give them access to the entire Baruch population. I understand, let's just regulate so tell me how we regulate them because I don't think an OSL member can just come to them or their events.
39. Khin: Joining a frat or sorority is your choice, that's their choice as an adult. It goes along with clubs. Majority aren't even in clubs. Everyone makes an able body choice. I understand that accidents happen, it happens nationwide. As far as regulation, do they regulate everything that students do on campus? Not possible for OSL to have that ability.
40. Liam: New perspective, if senate passes this you are allowing them on campus. Goes to Brandon's point, right now 0% chance of saving anyone, if moratorium is ended there is a slightly bigger chance of helping someone from making the wrong decisions.
41. Isabel: You're saying make a crime legal instead of outlawing...
42. Liam: Marijuana made illegal, and now many people are suffering from them.
43. Isabel: There are many outlets. You can still join metro-chapters.
44. Andrea Soto: Fraternities/greek life happening underground, people tried rushing and it was purely dangerous. Long shot, in some way psychologically it regulates them in their head. Right now they're running underground, so there's no chance for them to have that little voice saying 'ok this is wrong'. Even if this does go through you still have to vote on the fraternity being chartered.

45. Andrew: We're not making crimes legal, what we're saying is they have the right to say they want to be chartered on campus.
46. Isabel: We're not cutting away from their right to assemble. It doesn't need to be one built on years and years of secrecy, everyone would admit that there's secrecy, even people there.
47. Brandon: you still have the decision to charter these organizations.
48. Carlton: We can't forget recent history. Someone died.
49. Frances: No one's opinion is going to be swayed, for me personally I'm not on there because I don't know about it. I just don't think it's right to put USG as whole because at the end it only says a couple of people sponsoring it.
50. Nicole: I think it's fair if you're not comfortable being on it, but that's just how these votes work. Sometimes, unfortunately, things get passed without you being for it.
51. Frances: But those things didn't involve a death.
52. Tarak: If someone dies again, this comes back to us.
53. Andrew: If your motivation is not being held responsible for deaths instead of preventing them, then it is a PR stunt to instate a moratorium.
54. Isabel: that's not at all what she's saying.
55. Damali: the irony of this is beyond me, you're saying you care about the student minority, but not about the minority on this table.
56. Andrew: Nicole has said there have been many votes passed without everyone's consent. This is just asking 'do you give them a right to come back?' We respect the minority's vote on the table but also have to back the minority of the student's opinion.
57. Tarak: You were comfortable with a decision being voted through. Is there anyway to do this so that it states only the 10 people on the bottom support this?
58. Andrew: Nowhere in that article that got voted through last time without me being in favor did it say that I was against it.
59. Erica: You are part of the table.
60. Tarak: I'm not in agreeance with this.
61. Erica: Then don't be part of the table.
62. Isabel: Come on, don't say that.
63. Damali: This got very nasty and very disrespectful, no need for it. Maybe you guys need a 2 minute break, you can talk and disagree but not be disrespectful. Erica and Brandon are right, sometimes you don't win the majority. If this is going to be something that's posted, the people who do not agree have a right to write a letter, once again it makes USG look bad but by all means go for it.
64. Andrew: Statement given to me by Samuel Rubinstein, former VP of Academic Affairs (2014-2015) when original moratorium was being discussed: *"A student government should be evaluated on how it protects its most vulnerable and marginalized student groups. What may have been a 'compelling' reason for the moratorium three years ago has only led to social Greeks experiencing more exclusion with no viable solution in sight. The student government can and should fight for the constitutional guarantees of equality for social Greeks, but should it passively acquiesce to the Administration's 'endless moratorium,' each and every one of you should receive an 'F.'"*

Tarak Chowdhury leaves.

65. Andrew: Motion to adopt the resolution
 - a) Motion Passes: 11-2-1

IV. Erica Yang | VP of Student Services

- A. Bearcats on Ice next Thursday, whoever wants to help distribute tickets let me know. Post it on the chat so everyone can share it.
 - 1. Isabel: when is marketing going to start with that?
 - 2. Rachel: that's me, working on it, will be out soon.
 - 3. Isabel: Anything for the rest of this year we should try to market a week before the event

V. Brandon Paillere | Chair of The Arts Committee

- A. Jam session 12:30 conference room, 48-hour film challenge launching next tuesday.
- B. Website live, usg-bearcat.com/filmchallenge
- C. Apparel: \$107.50, patches \$1.75 per person, \$15 - 20\$ per person. Plus extra patches. I sent 4 different choices for the jean jackets, let me know what you guys think is the best. I'll ask for everyone's opinion by Friday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. Arvis Chen | Update

- A. Cultural event title pending, April 9th 6-9PM day we get back from spring break.
- B. Bernie's would be on may 18th, friday, \$3000 in refreshments, \$3000 in awards. Room 750.
- A. Club survival guide underway, I don't know how I should go about it.
 - 1. Deryn: What exactly is your question?
 - 2. Arvis: Either weekly blog posts to distribute or at the end of the year send it out as a guide.
 - 3. Emma: I know clubs have done brochures or booklets, you could do that and distribute.
 - 4. Isabel: If you were to do blog posts, have them include appeals. Put them on a separate folder on the USG website.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Deryn Fleurima | Bash Update

- A. Visiting venues for bash, if you guys want to come with me to visit that would be awesome, just let me know. I could really use another set of eyes.
 - 1. Nicole: Can you take pictures?
 - 2. Deryn: Depends on the venue, I can try.
 - 3. Frances; Toshi Living Room, super close, they have a cool fish tank in the middle.
 - 4. Deryn: if you have any venues suggestions, please by all means let me know.

ADJOURNMENT

- I. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #21 at 8:31 P.M. by Brandon Paillere. Motion Passes 14-0-0.

