

Undergraduate Student Government
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Feb 11, 2025 | 📅 SENATE MEETING #17

Attendees: Senate

Meeting Date:	February 11, 2025	Meeting Time:	5:30 PM - 6:42 PM
Location:	USG Conference Room	Recorder:	Jason Martinez

— Attendees —	
Dave Olajide <i>President</i>	Makkedah Ramsey <i>Executive Vice President</i>
Skyla Chan <i>Executive Treasurer</i>	Jason Martinez <i>Executive Secretary</i>
Muskaan Kapoor <i>VP of Academic Affairs</i>	Sam Quervalu <i>VP of Campus Affairs</i>
Yasmine Agdali <i>VP of Legislative Affairs</i>	Laisha De Leon <i>VP of Student Affairs</i>
Justina Dodani <i>Chair of Appeals</i>	Nusaiba Haque <i>Chair of Clubs & Organizations</i>
Arthur Bugayev <i>Chair of Finance</i>	Abibatou Diarra <i>Representative Senator</i>
Christian Perez <i>Chair of Marketing</i>	Eddie Huang <i>Representative Senator</i>
Milton Gordon <i>Chair of Graphics</i>	Marbella Montalvo <i>Representative Senator</i>
Marc Fleurantin <i>Representative Senator</i>	Muskaan Bisal <i>Representative Senator</i>
Myat Thwe <i>Representative Senator</i>	Paz Moran <i>Representative Senator</i>
Zena Ally <i>Representative Senator</i>	María Elisabeth Torrealba <i>Representative Senator</i>
Miguel Rosario <i>Representative Senator</i>	

Passing of the Minutes - 5:30 PM

- I. Motion to pass the Minutes from Senate Meeting #16
- 0-19-0

Reports - 5:31 PM

I. Alaina Giligo | Baruch College VP of Operations & Administration

- VP Giligo's responsibilities are similar to that of a Chief Operating Officer; she oversees multiple departments, from HR to Finance, Public Safety to Facilities, etc. She joins us today to provide updates on what's been going on and to hear feedback and concerns from us, the student body.
- Facilities and Operations
 - Returned ~140 seats to the 4th floor of the library. We are funded to continue to the next phase of renovations in the library.

- For the first time in many years, Baruch will do a campus wide facilities master plan. It is going to map all of our real estate and will include the new building on Madison and 27th.
 - On that note, there will be community workshops open to students, faculty and staff, both in this semester and in the Fall semester. Please engage on the feedback requested at these, as they will impact the order and priority of which things are funded or worked on.
- By the first week of March you will see menstrual products in all bathrooms! Shoutout to the Moon Project.
- There will be a deep clean of the plaza along with new furniture (tables, chairs and umbrellas) in the plaza in April.
- All new furniture for the NVC seating area in March.
- They are currently scoping the club suite and other club areas on the second and third floors for a complete overhaul.
- Bidding is being done for construction vendors on the former bookstore space, and it should be all built out and open some time next year.
- Investments have been made in modernizing the cameras in the NVC, Library, and 17 Lex buildings. We plan on continuing to invest in this every year, barring resource constraints.
- Public Safety does escorts! It could be for any reason, dial 3333 or their number at 646-660-6000 and give at least 15 minutes of notice.
- There's going to be an agreement ratified by the city that allows us to have subconcessions on the plaza.
 - The agreement must first go before the Franchise Concession Review Committee, and then the Attorney General's office before it's fully ratified. Once all that happens, Baruch can bid for vendors and they will be able to set up on our plaza and sell.
- Q&A
 - **Jason Martinez | USG Executive Secretary:** Currently, there is nowhere on our campus for students to access free eating utensils. With the master plan in progress, would eating utensil dispensers in the NVC Cafeteria and/or Bearcat Den be something the administration could consider implementing?
 - **VP Giligo:** I think it's a very obvious and practical addition our campus needs. I'll check on sustainability concerns and do further research.
 - **Abibatou Diarra | USG Representative Senator:** How far does public safety escort?
 - **VP Giligo:** They will escort to nearby transportation, like the subway, bus stop, or Uber.
 - **Abibatou:** Is there an open date for the new building on 27th and Madison?
 - **VP Giligo:** The acquisition is being led by CUNY Central and we are in partnership with Hunter as we'd be sharing the space with them. I was

previously told it'd be open Fall of this year, but realistically, I don't see that happening. All of the programming and designing is complete, and we are still working on operational logistics with Hunter. My best guess is Spring of 2026.

- **Dave Olajide | USG President:** There is a very high demand for a prayer / interfaith space on campus. Is that being worked into the master plan?
- **VP Giligo:** It is on our radar, and we highly encourage you and GSA President Tahisha to continue to push for it during the master plan meetings you will be in.
- **Dave:** There is a lot of unused space on the first floor of the NVC leading to the cafeteria. Can we consider having more seating there?
- **VP Giligo:** I'll look into it.
- **Marbella Montalvo | USG Representative Senator:** Have you taken disability accessibility into account?
- **VP Giligo:** Yes, facilities have shown me a few iterations of a map where furniture would be placed
- **Miguel Rosario | USG Representative Senator:** Would people outside of Baruch be able to access the bookstore area after it's renovated? I ask because its entrance is before the turnstiles and security desk.
- **VP Giligo:** I'm not sure, I'd have to discuss further.
- **Muskaan Bisal | USG Representative Senator:** Will the plaza be out of commission when the new furniture is installed?
- **VP Giligo:** No, we'll just install it without having to close anything down because we aren't renovating anything. We'll also power clean the surfaces of the plaza.
- **Muskaan Kapoor | USG VP of Academic Affairs:** Our library becomes especially loud when it's cold outside. Do you have any ideas as to how we can address this?
- **VP Giligo:** I'll meet with the new library dean and get his thoughts.
- **Marbella:** You mentioned a lot of meetings where big decisions impacting many are made. Are students able to be in these meetings?
- **Arthur King | Baruch VP of Student Affairs & Dean of Students:** We always ask for your feedback before we make big decisions like those, as we've done today.
- **VP Giligo:** Also, Dave and GSA President Tahisha are on the steering committee for the master plan, and they are the voice of students at these meetings. Also want to remind everyone of the workshops that I mentioned earlier.
- **Marc Fleurantin | USG Representative Senator:** Will the MPR be renovated?
- **Dean King:** Yes it's part of the plan, however we don't know the priority of which it will be funded.

- **Dave:** The colors of the walls, on the 3rd floor especially, looks very dull and unappealing. Does the master plan include repainting it?
 - **VP Giligo:** Unfortunately that's not up to me. I recommend looking into partnering with the Mishkin Gallery to procure art and put them on the walls.
- Leadership Awards
 - Mark your calendars for May 12, where 250 students will be honored for their leadership, achievement, etc. Nominate and join us!
- May 28th is Commencement!
- Going forward, try not to call the plaza the “Baruch plaza”. We do not want to be associated if any external incidents were to take place. Please refer to it as the 25th Street Plaza.

II. Jack Lehane | G.L.A.S.S Advisor , Siena Bertman | G.L.A.S.S Advisor & Christopher Yordt | G.L.A.S.S Vice President

- LGBTQ+ Student Engagement Internship Proposal
 - Since we revived GLASS in Spring 23, we made many strides for the LGBTQ+ community. Currently, there is no established way of uplifting specifically LGBTQ+ students to internships. We want to introduce an internship, with inspiration from City College and Hunter College, to help the intern engage with civil leaders and CUNY Office of Student Inclusion Initiatives (OSII).
 - Much like Hunter’s internship program, the internship we are proposing would hire 1 intern that would be responsible for executing safe zone trainings, planning events, and community building and outreach. The intern would get a \$3,000 stipend.
 - We are bringing this to your attention to keep this initiative alive and to hopefully have your support in advocating for this to be realized.
 - **Muskaan Bisal:** Who would appoint this intern?
 - **Jack:** Undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral Baruch students can apply. They’d be appointed by administration, ideally under Baruch’s or CUNY’s OSII.
 - **Christopher:** The process would be similar to working with Baruch OSL.
 - **Muskaan B:** You mentioned Hunter’s program gets paid by grant. Where does that come from?
 - **Jack:** A private donor donated \$20k to them specifically to have that office / program be funded.
 - **Makkedah:** Have you pitched this idea to OSL?
 - **Jack:** Yes and we’ve also met with VP Giligo. Those meeting eventually sparked the idea to create a larger center, similar to an interfaith center would be, for LGBTQ+ students. We reached out to the Provost and President Wu with this idea, and we did not get a response. This is why we are here today to inform you all and to keep this initiative going once we leave.

III. Makkedah Ramsey | USG Executive Vice President

- Table members, USG board members, and USG Committee members and vice chairs do not take priority when it comes to things being given at events. We are students like everyone else and should not be cutting lines or taking extra. If you continuously disregard this, you will be banned from events.

New Business - 6:40 PM

- I. Happy Birthday to our Chair of Finance, Arthur Bugayev!**

Adjournment - 6:42 PM

- I. Motion to adjourn Senate Meeting #17 at 6:43 PM.
 - 0-19-0