



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Baruch College, Suite 3-275, 55 Lexington Ave. New York, NY 10010

General Faculty Report: October 2010

The Undergraduate Student Government of Baruch College (USG) is one month into an exciting term. We have set before ourselves an ambitious agenda, and it will only be accomplished due to the continued hard work of our team and our partners. Our goal is to make Baruch better for the students, a mission shared by everybody in this college.

Please take a look at what we have done, what we are doing, and what is next for our team.

Completed Initiatives:

BaruchConnect.com: We are proud to announce that BaruchConnect.com went live in August of 2010. This website is a unique lens through which to view the student experience at Baruch. Student-generated content from across campus, including news from The Ticker, photos from the Lexicon Yearbook, live streams from WBMB Radio, blog posts from USG, and Twitter feeds from dozens of college organizations make this site a truly amazing tool to enhance student life. We are also proud to announce that we have been invited to present BaruchConnect.com at WordCampNYC, a regional Wordpress developers' conference.

Sophomore Fest: We hosted over 400 rising sophomores and incoming transfer students at the first ever "Sophomore Fest" on August 27, 2010. Our three goals for the event were to help students succeed academically and be prepared for a fulfilling career, become involved in student life on campus, and interact socially with their peers. Through partnerships with the STARR CDC, Academic Advisement, Study Abroad, Alumni Relations, and 55 different student organizations, we succeeded in holding a truly phenomenal event.

Welcome Week: Over the first seven days of classes, we held nine events welcoming students to the 2010-2011 academic year. During the week, we gave away 1,000 t-shirts ("Bernard Baruch is my Homeboy"), kicked off our voter registration contest, launched BaruchConnect.com, and held our first meeting. On Thursday, September 2, we wrapped the week up with a very fun "Welcome to Las Vegas" party.

Voter Registration Contest: We challenged our fellow student organizations to register as many voters as they could during the month of September. We would like to publicly congratulate Golden Key for winning the contest by registering over 100 new voters.

Great Idea Contest: From our new programming budget, we earmarked up to \$10,000 to award to the student group that submits the most creative and original event or program proposal. Many impressive submissions were entered, and the winner will be announced on October 19.

In Process:

Student Space Facility Improvements: At our first meeting, we approved an allocation of \$30,000 to improve student spaces around campus. Already, we have partnered with the Athletics Recreation Center to purchase new equipment for the gym, and ordered new televisions for the TV Lounge. As we look forward, the Game Room is another area where we intend to focus our attention, as well as the corridors surrounding the third floor student offices.

Recycling and Sustainability Initiatives: We are currently working with the Task Force on Sustainability to bring a true recycling program to campus. Soon, you will see large recycling receptacles near vending machines in the Newman Vertical Campus that will divert thousands of cans and bottles from our waste stream. We have appointed a Sustainability Senator, and an accompanying Sustainability Committee to work on this project and other green initiatives this year.

Cafeteria Improvements: Working with AVP Jim Lloyd and AVI Foodsystems, we are taking steps to improve the quality and image of the on-campus dining experience. Improvements to this area include a re-branding, student specials, increased seating, and the addition of calorie information to the menus. We expect most of these projects to be completed during the fall semester.

Baruch District: Our team has been working on developing a neighborhood discount program with local businesses. In our “Baruch District” program, participating business partners would give a 10% discount to all customers that provide a Baruch ID card. Expect to see this program going into effect before the end of October.

On the Horizon:

Student Bill of Rights: One of our most important goals this year is the creation of a Student Bill of Rights. We are beginning to form an ad-hoc committee of administration, faculty, and student representatives that will draft this document. Following the committee’s work, we will seek approval from the General Faculty, the Cabinet, the USG, and the GSA. This is the cause of our term, and we hope to work with all members of the Baruch community in making this dream a reality.

Government for the New Generation: We have plans to bring back our popular speaker series of two years ago. During the 2008-2009 academic year, we hosted Governor Mario Cuomo, Congressman Charles Rangel, and Congressman Anthony Weiner in a series of lectures and discussions. All members of the Baruch community are invited to these outstanding events.

Events, Parties, and Baruch Bash: We are fortunate to have an increased programming budget this year and we plan on continuing and expanding our tradition of holding exceptional social, educational, professional, and cultural events all year long. We also eagerly look forward to an exciting Baruch Bash at the end of the spring term.

There are many more projects that you can read about at BaruchConnect.com, and we hope to report back in March with tales a successful year. Thank you for your dedication to the students of Baruch College, and I hope to work with you in the months ahead.

Best,

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