

Undergraduate Student Government Report to the General Faculty

I **Allowing more students the opportunity to help determine policy**

The Undergraduate Student Government has been trying, and will continue to try, to have as great a student involvement as possible when it comes to committees that determine policy in Baruch College. We feel as though the best way to have policies that best reflect the interests of all involved is to have representation by all involved. In years past, student representation on these committees has been lacking (mostly by the fault of the student governments). We are reversing this pattern and making students a more respected, viable component of the policy-making process.

II **Having more collaboration between faculty and student clubs/organizations**

We have over 120 clubs and organizations in Baruch College, and about a third of these organizations are related to academics. We feel as though these organizations, as well as the departments they represent, can be much more effective with greater collaboration. In many situations, these clubs and organizations are the first groups that students go to when they want information about a particular major or career. Also, most of our academic clubs and organizations are members of national bodies and, with the help of members of faculty, can provide great feedback to these students and can help with recruiting students into particular fields.

Also, having social events that blend faculty and students together can be very worthwhile. This would help students by putting them in a situation where they can speak with faculty in a less formal setting, giving and getting information. Faculty will benefit by being able to relate to students in a different light, while learning what students are interested in, in and out of the classroom.

In addition to social events, more events that are co-sponsored by faculty and students would be beneficial. Events such as the one USG sponsored last semester where Peter Bakstansky, senior VP of the Fed and Baruch alum, spoke to students and faculty about the Fed, the state of the economy, and fielded questions about a variety of topics. More events like this will help the relationship between students and faculty and create an environment where open communication and collaboration is welcomed.

III **Democracy Project**

Along with the University Student Senate, the Undergraduate Student Government has been working on the CUNY Democracy Project. Historically, CUNY gets more students to vote than any other university in the country. To help continue this trend the USG has tried to come up with creative ways of getting students directly involved in this process. One of the things we are doing is offering \$1000 to the student club or organization that registers the most students to vote. Along with this, we are providing them with information about the issues that CUNY students are most concerned with as well as information on the importance of voting. This is will be a humongous election year and we feel as

though CUNY students should be on the forefront, with our issues being discussed and resolved. In concert with the efforts at Baruch, there will be a CUNY wide student government effort to get students aware of the issues and voting. On the majority of CUNY campuses we will have a Democracy Day, where entertainers, politicians, students, and motivational speakers will rally students to get out and vote.

We feel this is a highly effective way of getting students involved and making CUNY a priority.

IV **Conclusion**

In short, the USG of Baruch College is working to become as effective a representative body for students as possible. We also want to be open to feedback from faculty and administration about how we can better serve our constituency. Our motto has been “We may not know the answer, but rest assured that we know someone who does.” With your help and support, we can make this statement more valid and accurate than it has ever been.

Respectfully,

Adrian Lovell
President, USG