



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF **BARUCH COLLEGE**  
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## GENERAL FACULTY REPORT – FALL 2016

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of the success the Undergraduate Student Government has had since October. Through trying times at Baruch and CUNY we have stayed true to our mission of broadening the number of educational opportunities available to students, facilitating extracurricular activities, and representing, promoting, and protecting the interests of our undergraduates. We would like to share some of our favorite programs and projects from the past year and share some future plans for the remainder of our term.

### Undergraduate Student Voter Registration and Advocacy Efforts

This fall, we held an extremely successful voter registration rally where we registered hundreds of Baruch students for the Presidential election. Many clubs on campus participated alongside the League of Women Voters, New York Public Interest Research Group, and the University Student Senate. Increasing the student population that votes is vital to the success of Baruch and we were happy to play a part in this.

In the second part of our voter registration campaign, on November 7<sup>th</sup>, on the 25<sup>th</sup> street plaza, USG hosted NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, and many State elected officials who spoke to the importance of student engagement at all levels of politics and encouraged students to turn out to the polls the next day.

Post election, Baruch USG led the charge in calling on the CUNY Chancellery and Board of Trustees to declare its campuses sanctuaries for undocumented students. Working with U.S.S. and other student governments we were able to draft and pass resolutions and joint letters addressing the needs of our undocumented students. We have continued this advocacy as federal policies continue to negatively effect large portions of our undergraduate student population.

On a local level, the CUNY Board of Trustees once again called for tuition hikes through the Rational Tuition Policy. USG and all CUNY student governments stand united in our opposition to this plan. We believe continued State and City investment is a necessity for the success of the institution and the funding for this public university should not come on the backs of students. We are appreciative of

the Professional Staff Congress' support and hope that in the future, the University Faculty Senate as well as campus Faculty Senates will support our agenda as well.

In our continued advocacy efforts, USG participated in multiple lobbying trips to Albany including the New York State Association for Black and Puerto Rican Legislators conference, Higher Education Action Day and the Somos el Futuro conference. USG was able to meet with members of both the Assembly and Senate to discuss our concerns with Governor Cuomo's Excelsior Scholarship and a variety of other issues regarding the state of public higher education. Additionally, USG representatives testified in front of the Board of Trustees and the New York City Council in opposition to these plans for CUNY and Baruch.

### Continued Communication through Campus Media

USG is committed to connecting with our various constituents through our campus media platforms. Each week we publish an article and advertisement in The Ticker, our campus newspaper, and host an hour long USG Report on WBMB Baruch College Radio. The radio show and weekly article updates have served to be great tools to reach students, and this year we initiated a new component to the show.

Once per month, for an hour-long episode, President Wallerstein joins us on air to discuss various Baruch happenings and offer a unique perspective on the world around us. Listenership for the show has consistently been in the triple digits making Park Bench Philosophers one of the most listened to programs on WBMB. Our fans have logged roughly 3,160 listener minutes and with every episode, the numbers continue to go up.

We constantly improve and add to the show and are always looking for more partners. We are always excited to highlight our faculty's work and would love to incorporate more members into our regular programming. Tune into 94.3 on your FM dials or baruchradio.com to hear all WBMB has to offer!

### Reinstatement of USG Arts Committee

At the beginning of the year, USG committed to investing in the artistic talents that Baruch students have to offer and re-introduced our Arts Committee. We have hosted various pop-up performances and public art projects for students to express their creativity. Students created a painted club mural, student experience mosaic, and performed all around campus to showcase their talent. Our Arts Committee also had the pleasure of teaming up with Dean Romero for the Art-A-Thon in early March.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, we were able to successfully host Baruch's Got Talent where students competed to become Baruch's top performing artist. Performances ranged from spoken word and modern dance to incredible vocals and instrumentals. We

look forward to their success in the CUNY's Got Talent competition and will continue to provide creative outlets for them to perform for the student body.

### Campus Facilities and Sustainability

Once again, Assistant Vice President Lisa Edwards has been an incredible partner in our work towards a better campus. Working with her on the roll out of water bottle refilling stations, various bathroom improvements and defining our sustainability agenda has been incredibly helpful.

Inspired by our partnership, we have implemented a sustainability task force, which has been teaming up with the ECO Club and Baruch Sustainability Taskforce on various initiatives including solar powered phone chargers, issues regarding waste, and public campaigns to increase recycling on campus.

### Bearcat Awards

Each year, USG awards our most outstanding students a monetary award for their participation in our Bearcat Awards competition. This year, we have expanded this program and are looking for faculty and administration partners to attract a wider variety of students. If your department is interested in joining our efforts, please reach out to myself or USG's Vice President of Academic Affairs Andrew Armoogan at [Andrew.Armoogan@usgbaruch.com](mailto:Andrew.Armoogan@usgbaruch.com).

### Participatory Budgeting

In order to create a more transparent USG and engage members of our student body, throughout March we will be hosting Participatory Budgeting workshops where students can come and propose projects they wish to see happen at Baruch College to members of the student government. We will work with them to put together a final plan and submit it to our Vice President of Academic Affairs. We will then determine the feasibility, cost, and timeline for each project by working with members of the Baruch College Association, and respectful departments across the college. All eligible projects will be placed on the ballot for the USG elections so students can directly vote on how they wish to spend their money.

We have valued your partnership throughout this year and look forward to ending our term with a successful spring semester. Your dedication to the Baruch undergraduate student body has been unwavering and has made our jobs as representatives much easier. You are always invited to attend any of our weekly senate meetings, Tuesday's at 5:30PM in room 3-270 in the NVC. We look forward to continuing the shared governance that makes Baruch such an incredible place for students. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. See you around campus!

Respectfully Submitted,

**Daniel Dornbaum**

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