

**MINUTES OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE  
UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**HELD**

**NOVEMBER 22, 2015**

**AT GUTTMAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ROOM 401  
AT 50 WEST 40TH STREET - BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN**

There were present:

**USS Steering Members:**

Joseph Awadjie, Chairperson  
Chika Onyejiukwa, Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs  
Shirley Jackson, Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs  
Japneet Singh, Vice Chair for Senior College Affairs  
Nicholas Asamoah, Vice Chair for Community College Affairs  
Dexter Roberts, Vice Chair for Disability Affairs  
Katherine Gutierrez Rios, Vice for International Student Affairs  
Taisha Pagan, Vice Chair for Technology Fee Affairs  
Sandra Okeke, Vice Chair for Part-time and Evening Affairs  
Zulfiqar Soomro, Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs

**2015 - 2016 Delegates and Alternates**

**University Student Senate Staff:**

Fernando Araujo, Executive Director  
Lucas Almonte, Legislative Director  
Cruz Garcia, Budget Director

**I. Roll Call**

With 30 voting members present, a quorum was established. Chairman Awadjie called the meeting to order at 12:59 PM.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

- I. Roll Call
- II. A discussion on Robert Rules of Order
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Chair's Report
- VI. Audit and Ethics Committee Elections
- VII. Tuition Increase Update

- VIII. Tuition Freeze Resolution
- IX. USS FY2016 Budget
- X. Announcements
- XI. Adjournment

Sen. Oscoto motioned to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by Sen. Thomas.

VC Onyejiukwa motions to amend the motion and to add two points after the Chair's Report, a discussion on standing committees and the national day of healing, Dexter seconds. The motion passed unanimously: {30 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}

### **III. A discussion on Robert's Rules of Order**

### **IV. Approval of the Minutes of October 25, 2015**

Sen. Uruci motioned to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2015; the motion was seconded by Sen. Adrian. The motion carried unanimously: {30 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}.

### **V. Chair's Report**

Chairman Awadjie asked the students at the plenary meeting, "Who is sitting here that thinks tuition should go up?" Chairman Awadjie received no reply.

Chairman Awadjie stressed that he is working hard for us and in order to be successful he needs all of our help regarding the tuition hikes. "We all need to be on this campaign and we are all on the same side of this movement," said Chairperson Awadjie.

VC Roberts said "We have 42 senators, on social media no one is commenting that they can pay the extra money. We should all come together and rally because if it's not affecting you today it will affect you tomorrow.

Chairman Awadjie discussed our partnership with the Rubin Museum of Art and that on December 4th there will be a reception at 6PM for the University Student Senate. The sign up sheet will be sent out tomorrow and needs to be filled out by Tuesday.

Chairman Awadjie congratulated our new Legislative Director Lucas Almonte. His qualifications for this position include being a two time City Tech Student Government Association President and being a two time Vice Chair for the University Student Senate. Chairman Awadjie goes on to say, "Listen to him about big decisions, trust his opinions, and present each one of us with the highest respect."

Exec. Director Araujo highlighted some events that were co-sponsored by the University Student Senate. These events include TedxCUNY at Macaulay, ChemECar group, CUNY School of Journalism: Labor in 2015, and the Young Visible Forum at Laguardia Community College.

### **VI. A discussion on Standing Committees**

Standing committees should not include students that will just serve as space fillers. If you are going to recommend students for different standing committees directly to Chairman Awadjie, then make sure to choose hard workers to recommend.

### **VII. The National Day of Healing**

The power of significance of student governments in college was apparent when student leaders were invited to take part of an initiative and all of them were on time and Chairman Awadjie went around and thanked each one by first and last name.

The national day of healing partner Dr. Jeff Gorder wants us to participate by taking 5 seconds of our time at 12 Noon on December 15 to send out a message, "You are not alone."

The founders of the national day of healing want everyone to participate in an event at the Brooklyn Borough Hall. There can be 25 to 50 guests from the University Student Senate. In this event we will be introduced to senators and people of congress. VC Pagan and Chairman Awadjie will be speakers at this event.

*Notes:*

Sen. Saint Mbakopaboui left the meeting at 2:07PM.

## **VIII.**

### **Audit and Ethics Committee Elections**

It was made clear that USSERC members and Vice Chairs can not join the Audit or Ethics committee.

#### **Ethics Committee Nominations**

Sen. Jordan Paredes	Nominated	Sen. Raneem Elsayed
VC. Dexter Roberts	Nominated	Sen. Donnley Castello- Edwards
Sen. Blerim Cukovic	Nominated	Sen. Andrea Daizell
VC. Chika Onyejiukwa	Nominated	Sen. Daniel Dornbaum
Sen. Andrea Daizell	Nominated	Sen. Zachary Glass
Sen. Jaleel Thomas	Nominated	Sen. Anita Appiah
VC. Chika Onyejiukwa	Nominated	Sen. Jaleel Thomas
Sen. Fatime Uruci	Nominated	Sen. Devon Ly

Sen. Daniel Dornbaum withdraws his candidacy for the Ethics Committee.

#### **Ethics Committee Elections**

Sen. Raneem Elsayed: 27 votes  
Sen. Donnley Castello- Edwards: 26 votes  
Sen. Andrea Daizell: 26 votes  
Sen. Zachary Glass: 27 votes  
Sen. Anita Appiah: 27 votes  
Sen. Jaleel Thomas: 25 votes  
Sen. Devon Ly: 26 votes

Sen. Raneem Elsayed, Sen. Donnley Castello- Edwards, Sen. Andrea Daizell, Sen. Zachary Glass, Sen. Anita Appiah, Sen. Jaleel Thomas, Sen. Devon Ly are elected to the ethics committee.

#### **Audit Committee Nominations**

Sen. Andrea Daizell	Nominated	Sen. Blerim Cukovic
VC. Dexter Roberts	Nominated	Sen. Judith Alexander
VC. Dexter Roberts	Nominated	Sen. John Aderounmu
Sen. Cecilia Salvi	Nominated	Sen. Cecilia Salvi
Sen. Adrian Escoto	Nominated	Sen. Jeta Krasniqi
Sen. Adrian Escoto	Nominated	Sen. Adrian Escoto
Sen. Zachary Glass	Nominated	Sen. Rachel Torres

### **Audit Committee Elections**

Sen. Blorim Cukovic: 27 votes  
Sen. Judith Alexander: 25 votes  
Sen. John Aderounmu: 26 votes  
Sen. Cecilia Salvi: 26 votes  
Sen. Jeta Krasniqi: 24 votes  
Sen. Adrian Escoto: 27 votes  
Sen. Rachel Torres: 25 votes

Sen. Blorim Cukovic, Sen. Judith Alexander, Sen. John Aderounmu, Sen. Cecilia Salvi, Sen. Jeta Krasniqi, Sen. Adrian Escoto, Sen. Rachel Torres are elected to the audit committee.

### **IX. Tuition Increase Update**

Leg. Director Almonte and VC Onyejiukwa along with some SUNY students were in Albany delivering 40,000 postcards where 60 people came to show their support.

If you log on to usscuny.org with two clicks you can tweet or sign the petition.

On November 4th PSC held a rally and over 50 people were arrested.

VC Onyejiukwa is starting a tuition hike adhoc committee, the interested member are Sen. Paredes, Sen. Salvi, Sen. Torres, Sen. Dornbaum, and Sen. Eric.

### **X. Tuition Freeze Resolution**

Sen. Thomas motions to adopt the resolved resolution, the motion was seconded by Sen. Paredes: {28 Yes, 1No, 0 Abstentions}

### **XI. USS FY2016 Budget**

VC Soomro will be holding hearings to discuss big collaborations, the first hearing will take place on Tuesday at Noon at the USS office.

The first draft of the budget will be ready by the end of this week and we will be finalizing the budget on December 6th.

Sen. Eric wants to add to the budget that money be allocated so we can get legal representation from a lawyer.

Sen. Eric motions to allocate \$2000 to Ronald McGuire to represent us.

Sen. Alvarenga asks if we have enough money in the current budget for this and amends the motion so that the money is taken from the 2015 budget, the motion is seconded by VC Roberts.

Sen. Waardal amends the motion so that the money be allocated for any attorney and to not be tied to McGuire, the motion is seconded by VC Roberts.

Sen. Eric amends the motion so that money be allocated to a lawyer if the steering committee agrees to go through with this trial, the motion is seconded by Sen. Uruci.

VC Onyejiukwa motions a call to question.

Sen. Daizell objects the call to question: {20 Yes, 6 No, 0 Abstentions}, the motion fails.

Sen. Daizell motions to table Eric's motion indefinitely, the motion is seconded by Sen. Paredes

Chairman Awadje motions a call to question, the motion is seconded by VC Pagan: { 17 Yes, 6 No, 5 Abstentions}, the motion fails

Eric's motion to recommend an allocation of \$2000 from the 2015v budget to contract a lawyer for this case is back on the table, the motion is seconded by VC Pagan: { 26 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstentions}, motion passes.

## **XII. Announcements**

The University Student Senate also co-sponsored three events at the Graduate Center.

There will be a vote at tomorrow's meeting to extend the policy that expires in 5 years.

VC Roberts recited the quote, "Bad things happen when good people sit by and do nothing."

## **XIII. Adjournment**

Sen. Paredes motioned to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by VC Soomro. The University Student Senate plenary meeting was adjourned at 4:32 PM.

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Chairperson,  
Joseph Awadje

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Recording Secretary,  
Raneem Elsayed