



University Student Senate
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**MINUTES OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
HELD
SUNDAY, April 24, 2022
ON ZOOM**

I. ROLL CALL

Upon a roll call the attendance recorded was as follows:

2021-2022 USS Steering Members:

Chairperson, **(Vacant)**

Cory Provost, Vice-Chair for Legislative Affairs

Oumou Sylla, Vice-Chair for Fiscal Affairs

Vice-Chair for Graduate Student Affairs **(Vacant)**

Tzvia Waronker, Vice-Chair for Senior Colleges

Vice-Chair for Community Colleges **(Vacant)**

Muslimah Abdul Muntaqim, Vice-Chair of Evening and Part-time Affairs **(Absent)**

Vice-Chair of International Affairs **(Absent)**

Saaif Alam, Vice-Chair for Disability Affairs

Jonathan Harrington, Vice-Chair for Technology Fee Affairs

2021-2022 Delegates & Alternates:

Ashley Chen, Delegate, Baruch College

Daniel Flores, Delegate, Baruch College

Jessica Yauri, First Alternate Delegate, Baruch College (Absent)

Richard Reyes-Romero, Second Alternate Delegate, Baruch College (Absent)

Candi Primus, Graduate Delegate, Baruch College

Timothy Hunter, Graduate Alternate Delegate, Baruch College (Absent)

Rajvinder Kaur, Delegate, Borough of Manhattan Community College

Rayon Chan, Delegate, Borough of Manhattan Community College

Zaki Azam, First Alternate Delegate, Borough of Manhattan Community College

**Nuhamin Melaku, Second Alternate Delegate, Borough of Manhattan Community College
(Absent)**

Ekinadose Elizabeth Asemota, Delegate, Bronx Community College

Jeithy Jason Ofosu-Mensah, First Alternate Delegate, Bronx Community College

Kellis Rickards, Second Alternate Delegate, Bronx Community College
Maria Jose Romero Urquijo, Delegate, Brooklyn College (Absent)
Chika Otisi, Delegate, Brooklyn College
Aharon Grama, First Alternate Delegate, Brooklyn College
Iqura Naheed, Second Alternate Delegate, Brooklyn College (Absent)
Louis Di Meglio, Graduate Delegate, Brooklyn College (Absent)
Anna Matarazzo, Graduate Alternate Delegate, Brooklyn College
Kazi Tejwar, Delegate, City College of New York (Absent)
Andrew Salmieri, Delegate, City College of New York (Absent)
Aneesah Saeed, First Alternate Delegate, City College of New York (Absent)
Abdullah Moiudd Mohiuddin, Second Alternate Delegate, City College of New York
Bashir Juwara, Delegate, Guttman Community College
Kelsey Lowe, Delegate, Guttman Community College
Hridika Tasnim, First Alternate Delegate, Guttman Community College (Absent)
Fatima Butt, Second Alternate Delegate, Guttman Community College
Brian Carter, Delegate, Hostos Community College
Bouampoundi Thiombiano, First Alternate Delegate, Hostos Community College
Ariana Ahmed, Delegate, Hunter College
Shuhashini Khan, Delegate, Hunter College (Absent)
Devashish Basnet, First Alternate Delegate, Hunter College (Absent)
Kayla Benjamin, Second Alternate Delegate, Hunter College (Absent)
Denisse Batista, Delegate, John Jay College (Absent)
Tzvia Waronker, Delegate, John Jay College
Devon Brooks, First Alternate Delegate, John Jay College (Absent)
Gregory Kirsopp, Second Alternate Delegate, John Jay College (Absent)
Saaif Alam, Graduate Delegate, John Jay College
Purusotam Shah, Graduate Alternate Delegate, John Jay College (Absent)
Anthony Thomas, Delegate, Kingsborough Community College (Absent)
Malka Bergmann, First Alternate Delegate, Kingsborough Community College (Absent)
Lana Krinberg, Second Alternate Delegate, Kingsborough Community College (Absent)

James Stuart, Delegate, LaGuardia Community College (Absent)

Junayed Ahmed, Delegate, LaGuardia Community College (Absent)

Maya Demby, First Alternate Delegate, LaGuardia Community College (Absent)

Shopna Mazumdar, Second Alternate Delegate, LaGuardia Community College (Absent)

Aryeh B. Kalb, Delegate, Lehman College

Emile G. Zounon, Delegate, Lehman College

Kenya Mighty, First Alternate Delegate, Lehman College (Absent)

Caleb Kim, Second Alternate Delegate, Lehman College (Absent)

Tameka Ridley, Graduate Delegate, Lehman College

Diamond Derival, Delegate, Medgar Evers College (Absent)

Brian Garret, Delegate, Medgar Evers College

Tracey Squires, First Alternate Delegate, Medgar Evers College (Absent)

Tricia Bartholmew, Second Alternate Delegate, Medgar Evers College (Absent)

Salimatou Doumbouya, Delegate, New York City College of Technology

Frank Lachapelle, Delegate, New York City College of Technology

Alisha Corke, First Alternate Delegate, New York City College of Technology

Saida Bary, Second Alternate Delegate, New York City College of Technology (Absent)

Jamal Mark, Delegate, Queens College (Absent)

Muslimah Abdul Muntaqim, Delegate, Queens College (Absent)

Zaire Couloute, First Alternate Delegate, Queens College

Enrique Peña, Graduate Delegate, Queens College

Audrey Arias, Delegate, Queensborough Community College (Absent)

Chloe Chery, Delegate, Queensborough Community College (Absent)

**Charlayne Hurlington, First Alternate Delegate, Queensborough Community College
(Absent)**

Sofia Rosado, Second Alternate Delegate, Queensborough Community College

Marwan Mahmoud, Delegate, College of Staten Island (Absent)

Angelyne Acevedo, Delegate, College of Staten Island (Absent)

Jesus Rolon, First Alternate Delegate, College of Staten Island (Absent)

Michael Ivany, Second Alternate Delegate, College of Staten Island (Absent)

Jingyi Weng, Graduate Delegate, College of Staten Island (Absent)

Keanu Loyola, Delegate, York College (Absent)

Oumou Sylla, Delegate, York College

Sumaiah Ali, First Alternate Delegate, York College (Absent)

Bianca Chery, Second Alternate Delegate, York College (Absent)

Jonathan Hanon, Graduate Delegate, CUNY Graduate Center

Zhuo Yin, Alternate Graduate Delegate, CUNY Graduate Center

Peter Tomao, Delegate, CUNY School of Journalism (Absent)

David Westenhaver, Alternate Delegate, CUNY School of Journalism (Absent)

Tania Caldwell, Delegate, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Marlon Bailey, Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Kevin Wilson, Graduate Alternate Delegate, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Nerdeen Mohsen, Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Law (Absent)

Cory Provost, Graduate Alternate Delegate, CUNY School of Law

Daniel Sayani, Delegate, CUNY School of Professional Studies

Jamie Lerner-Brecher, Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Professional Studies (Absent)

Jacklyn Tomlin, Graduate Alternate Delegate, CUNY School of Professional Studies

Sherline Altidor, Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Public Health (Absent)

Claudia Calhoun, Graduate Alternate Delegate, CUNY School of Public Health (Absent)

University Student Senate Staff:

Robin Green, Executive Director

Jasper Diaz, Legislative Director & Secretary to the USS Plenary

CUNY Central Office of Academic Affairs:

Jonathan S. Gagliardi, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Effectiveness and Innovation

CUNY Central Office of Student Affairs:

Ian James, Deputy to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Joseph Awadje, Director for External Relations and Compliance; University Liaison to the University Student Senate

CUNY Office of the University Registrar:
Vivek Upadhyay, University Executive Registrar

CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College:
Christina Waszak, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Leadership

University Faculty Senate:
Professor Hugo Fernandez, CUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS)

Student Members of CUNY USSERC:
Marlon Bailey, Student Representative Member of USSERC
JaLoni Owens, Student President Member of USSERC (Co-President of Student Government Association at CUNY School of Law)

Prior to the official start of the meeting, Ian James, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, provides opening remarks on proposed changes to the Academic Integrity Policy (sent to Plenary for feedback). Mr. James states that the next step is to present it prior to the June board meeting (updated draft will be sent) and asks any suggestions to be sent to him as well.

Mr. James' brief remarks are followed by Jonathan S. Gagliardi, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Effectiveness and Innovation regarding the Chancellor's Strategic Roadmapping Process which has recently begun and is aimed at creating a new strategic plan for CUNY. Mr. Gagliardi begins presenting his PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Gagliardi's presentation concludes with the link for online feedback and encourages students to submit input on the university's strategic roadmapping process.

USS Executive Director Robin Green begins roll call. With 33 members present and voting, quorum was established.

The meeting was officially called to order by USS Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs Cory Provost at 12:38 PM. Plenary moves into discussion on the agenda below.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

AGENDA

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. MINUTES
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- IV. USS ELECTIONS-CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR FOR GRADUATE AFFAIRS

- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE SUGGESTION TO PLENARY ON HOW TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE VACANT VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
- VII. CAUCUS UPDATE
- VIII. EID CUNY-WIDE HOLIDAY DISCUSSION & RESOLUTION
- IX. CO-SPONSORSHIP FORM DISCUSSION
- X. RESOLUTION FROM DSGC REGARDING TIMELY PAYMENT FOR DOCTORAL STUDENT ADJUNCT
- XI. MAY PLENARY MEETING DATE
- XII. UPDATE FROM THE VICE CHAIRS
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda is amended as follows below.

Sen Aharon Grama of Brooklyn College motions to approve the agenda, Vice Chair Saaif Alam seconded the motion. Motion passed with 31 votes.

III. MINUTES

Minor amendments made to the January, February, and March minutes. Sen Aharon Grama motions to approve all three minutes (January, February, March) as amended, Sen Zhou Yin seconded. Motion passed with 31 votes.

IV. DSGC RESOLUTION

Sen. Zhuo Yin from CUNY Graduate Center presented on the resolution which calls on the university to build a centralized payment system for CUNY Graduate Center Doctoral and Master's students in order to ensure timely payment processing and consistent teaching workload across all Senior Colleges.

Sen. Aharon Grama motions to pass the resolution, Vice Chair Alam seconded the motion. Motion passed with 30 votes.

V. EID RESOLUTION AND COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DISCUSSION

USS Vice Chair Provost opens up the plenary floor for discussion.

Vice Chair Alam speaks on the resolution which was passed last year by then USS Vice Chair of Senior Colleges, Amber Rivero. Vice Chair Alam intends to meet with administration and the University Provost in order to advocate for proposed changes to the academic calendar. Vice Chair Alam welcomes student leaders to be a part of the meeting if they wish to participate as well, in addition to Mr. Hugo Fernandez on behalf of UFS.

Sen Grama speaks on the Brooklyn College resolution which was passed on November 14, 2021, which specifically calls for no classes to be scheduled during the holiday, in addition to sharing a petition calling on the university to cancel classes during Eid.

Vice Chair Provost adds to the discussion in support of the previous efforts while calling for USS to begin working with UFS on the issue as a next step.

Vice Chair Hanon states that we should also take into account other holidays that are not currently being recognized such as Orthodox Easter (Eastern Orthodox Calendar) and Diwali.

Sen Bashir Juwara states that the resolution needs to be amended from Eid Holiday to Eid Holidays to reflect both Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

Sen Zhuo Yin mentions that Lunar New Year is not recognized either in the CUNY calendar and looks forward to working to implement changes.

Vice Chair Alam motions to approve the resolution, Sen Juwara seconded. Motion passed with 31 votes.

VI. BYLAWS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Sen Aryeh Kalb of Lehman College presents the recommendation under “Special Election Procedures for Vice-Chair of Community Colleges and Vice-Chair of International Affairs One Meeting Format.” See recommendation below.

Sen Grama motions to approve the resolution, Sen Yin seconded. Motion passed with 31 votes.

VII. ELECTIONS

Vice Chair Provost opens up the floor for nominations for Vice Chair for Community Colleges. Sen Juwara nominated Sen Elizabeth Asemota of Bronx Community College, for Vice Chair for Community Colleges. Sen Asemota accepts the nomination.

Vice Chair Provost opens up the floor for nominations for Vice Chair for International Affairs. Vice Chair Hanon nominates Sen Zhuo Yin of CUNY Graduate Center for Vice Chair for International Affairs. Sen Yin accepts the nomination and states that he is also an international student.

Sen Asemota gives a 2 minutes speech followed by Sen Yin.

Candidates enter a brief Q&A period. Plenary enters voting process under USSERC for the positions of USS Chairperson, Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs, Vice Chair for Community Colleges, and Vice Chair for International Affairs.

For the position of USS Chairperson, Sen Salimatou Doumbouya received 29 votes, with 4 blank votes. Sen Soumbouya is officially elected as USS Chairperson.

For the position of Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs, Sen Nerdeen Mohsen received 18 votes, with 15 blank votes. The position of Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs remains vacant.

For the position of Vice Chair for Community Colleges, Sen Elizabeth Asemota received 32 votes, with 1 blank vote. Sen Asemota is officially elected as USS Vice Chair of Community Colleges.

For the position of Vice Chair for International Affairs, Sen Zhuo Yin received 31 votes, with 2 blank votes. Sen Yin is officially elected as USS Vice Chair of International Affairs.

Acting USSERC Chair Hugo Hernandez states that USSERC will begin the process of certifying the election results after the meeting, while handing it back over to Vice Chair Provost who congratulates the USS Chairperson and Vice Chairs' Elect. Election portion of the meeting is concluded.

Certified USSERC results are included below.

VIII. CAUCUS UPDATE

Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs Oumou Sylla states that she will have the numbers included in her report which will be sent out. Presentation included as attachment.

Vice Chair Provost provides an overview of the USS Caucus Weekend trip.

Sen Doumbouya encourages more students to attend in the future.

IX. CO-SPONSORSHIP FORM DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Sylla presents, explains, and answers questions on the newly created online USS Co-Sponsorship form. The form will be reviewed by USS Fiscal Affairs committee. Vice Chair Sylla mentions that the form once completed, can be circulated to CCSD and student government Presidents as well.

XIV. MAY PLENARY MEETING DATE

Poll is taken in the chair for the next May Plenary Date. Sunday, May 15th, 2022, is chosen as the date for the next USS Plenary Meeting in May.

XV. REPORTS

Report given to USS Plenary on the recently adopted NYS FY23 Budget which was recently signed into law by Gov Kathy Hochul. The NYS FY23 Budget included an increase of \$240 million in additional funding for CUNY. The highlights are as follows:

CUNY and SUNY Operating Support

More than \$500 million in new CUNY and SUNY operating support, with \$122 million in new recurring operating aid to CUNY (to hire 540 new full-time faculty across the system, close the TAP gap this year, increase the SEEK program investment, and support childcare centers on all CUNY campuses). Also \$40 million in one-time operating aid to CUNY senior and community colleges.

New Faculty

The State Budget provides CUNY with \$53 million to hire additional full-time faculty positions at both four-year colleges and community colleges. This investment will fund additional full-time faculty at CUNY, including support for CUNY's plan to convert adjuncts to full-time faculty. In addition, the Budget includes a \$110 million increase to fund fringe benefits for CUNY and SUNY staff, including \$67 million to cover CUNY employee fringe benefits.

Strategic Investments

The Budget allocates \$40 million for nonrecurring strategic investments at CUNY to improve academic programs, increase enrollment, enhance student support services and modernize operations.

New Capital Support for CUNY and SUNY Facilities

The Budget invests \$2.2 billion in new State-funded appropriations for capital projects at CUNY and SUNY, including \$1 billion in new capital funding for CUNY with \$879 million for CUNY's senior colleges and \$102 million for community colleges across New York State. Capital budget includes a one-time appropriation of \$60 million to CUNY and SUNY, with \$170 million for CUNY in additional capital funding. \$3 million will be allocated to the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

Part-Time TAP

Budget expands the TAP program to part-time students and restores TAP eligibility for incarcerated students. The budget provides \$150 million to expand the Part-time Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to support part-time students in degree-seeking programs and non-degree training programs at community colleges, including fully reimbursing colleges for the TAP Gap resulting in \$59.6 million to CUNY, with \$69 million for CUNY to close the TAP gap and reduce out-of-pocket expenses. This will result in fully closing the TAP gap this year.

Supporting Senior Colleges

Budget includes \$729 million in state aid for CUNY Senior Colleges.

Supporting Community Colleges

The Budget includes a 98% funding floor (instead of funding on a solely per pupil basis) to protect community colleges across New York State from the loss of over \$80 million in funding from declining enrollment especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with \$217.2 million for CUNY to increase the funding floor to 100% of the prior year funding. This includes \$2.5 million in funding for the Accelerated Study and Associates Program (ASAP) and \$1.7 million for CUNY for existing community college childcare centers.

Expanded Opportunity Programs for Students

The Governor is providing a \$30 million increase in funding for higher education opportunity programs such as SEEK and training centers, to ensure those students who face academic and economic challenges are positioned for success.

Expanded Childcare on Campus

The Governor is providing \$15.6 million in start-up funding to establish and expand childcare centers on all remaining CUNY and SUNY campuses, as well as \$2 million for mental health programs at CUNY and SUNY. This initiative will greatly expand access to higher education for more individuals. This includes \$1.7 million for CUNY for existing community college childcare centers.

Mental Health Services

Budget includes \$2 million to enhance student mental health services at CUNY.

Additional Investments

\$3 million to expand CUNY's nursing programs (\$1 million increase).

Vice Chair Waronker praises the productivity of today's meeting.

Vice Chair Sylla will be sending her report to the Plenary.

Vice Chair Hanon reports to the Plenary that April 30th is the deadline for all USS Scholarship applications and encourages students to submit their application materials on time.

Vice Chair Alam gave a Vice Chair Report to USS Plenary covering February 27th 2022, March 17th 2022, and April 4th 2022), beginning with meetings attended and held (February-April). PowerPoint presentation attached as part of official USS Plenary Minutes.

Vice Chair Provost mentions that he will be sending a copy of his report, which will also include information on the Vice Chancellor Search Committee.

Following USS Steering Committee reports, Vice Chair Provost observes that the current plenary attendance count has fallen below quorum. Meeting is unofficially adjourned at 3:24 PM.