



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, OCTOBER 15, 2023
AT THE GUTTMAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

I. ROLL CALL

Upon a roll call the attendance recorded was as follows:

2023-2024 Delegates & Alternates:

Delegates Present:

Barenboim, Eric (Graduate Delegate, CUNY Graduate Center); Hanon, Jonathan (Graduate Alternate, CUNY Graduate Center); Ramesar, Josiah (Graduate Alternate, CUNY School of Law); Fray, Falana (Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Journalism); DePaul, Ray (Graduate Alternate, CUNY School of Journalism); Park, Sojung (Delegate, CUNY School of Professional Studies); Perez Jimenez, Alexandra (Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Professional Studies); Wearing, Antionette (Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Public Health); Ali, Zaire S. (Graduate Alternate, CUNY School of Public Health); Trevalles, Anna (Delegate, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies); Davila, Miguel (Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies); Hernandez, Joseph (Delegate, Baruch College); Malachowski, Avrohom (Delegate, Baruch College); Aaron, Kayla (Second Alternate, Baruch College); Shyti, Flavia (Delegate, Brooklyn College); Yafai, Malak (Delegate, Brooklyn College); Ebbin, Carrie (First Alternate, Brooklyn College); Mohiuddin, Abdullah (First Alternate, City College of New York); Williams, Tinnycua (Graduate Delegate, City College of New York); Cronin, Daniel (Delegate, Hunter College); Pratsevich, Colin (Delegate, Hunter College); Louis-Byron, Shania (Delegate, Medgar Evers College); Elias Andrews, Junior (First Alternate, Medgar Evers College); Doumbouya, Salimatou (Delegate, New York City College of Technology); Islam Thuin, Ashiqui (Delegate, New York City College of Technology); Djuraev, Daler (First Alternate, New York City College of Technology); Villa, Adrian (Second Alternate, New York City College of Technology); Barron, William (Delegate, Queens College); Rajkumar, Shawn (First Alternate, Queens College); Palka, Julia (Delegate, College of Staten Island); Santos, Jaylee (Delegate, College of Staten Island); Gregory, Petra (First Alternate, College of Staten Island); Iloansui, Nchebe-Jah (Graduate Delegate, College of Staten Island); Ambati, Sweta (Delegate, York College); Marquez, Jennifer (Delegate, Borough of Manhattan Community College); Anasco, Angel (Delegate, Bronx Community College); Morris, Michael (Delegate, Kingborough Community College); Fletcher, John (Delegate, LaGuardia Community College); Willis, Davia (Delegate, Queensborough Community College); Pirovolikos, Nickolas (First Alternate, Queensborough Community College); Miller, Renaediaz (Second Alternate, Queensborough Community College).

Delegates Absent:

Thenor, Ludy (Graduate Delegate, CUNY School of Law); Johnson, Jaime (Graduate Alternate, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies); Abdugarimova, Amina (First Alternate, Baruch College); Angus, Jordan (Second Alternate, Brooklyn College); Koenigsberg, David (Graduate Delegate, Brooklyn College); Jones, Jamie (Graduate Alternate, Brooklyn College); Imran, Khizar (Delegate, City College of New York); Garcia, Jessica (Delegate, City College of New York); Arias, Miguel (Second Alternate, City College of New York); Brown, Kevin (Graduate Alternate, City College of New York); Mikhaylov, Avi (First Alternate, Hunter College); Sokolov, Juniper (Second Alternate, Hunter College); Pineda, Kelvin (Delegate, John Jay College of Criminal Justice); Qudusi, Aiisha (Delegate, John Jay College of Criminal Justice); Diallo, Kadiatou (Delegate, Lehman College); Kareemuddin, Zainab (Delegate, Lehman College); Marmolejos, Frankelly (First Alternate, Lehman College); Amargo, Zef (Second Alternate, Lehman College); Evbomwan, Abigial (Delegate, Medgar Evers College); Adelani, Grace (Second Alternate, Medgar Evers College); Qasim Raza, Muhammad (Delegate, Queens College); Adams, Brandon (Second Alternate, Queens College); Aviles, Alyssa (Graduate Delegate, Queens College); Acevedo, Gabriel

(Second Alternate, College of Staten Island); McLaren, Tatiana (Delegate, York College); Polack, Akkeem (First Alternate, York College); Ramdeen, Payoshni (Second Alternate, York College); Garrido, Brian (Delegate, Borough of Manhattan Community College); Rodriguez-Situ, Maximilian (First Alternate, Borough of Manhattan Community College); Serroukh, Zakaria (Second Alternate, Borough of Manhattan Community College); Fernandez, Krishta (Delegate, Bronx Community College); Aviles, Linmi (First Alternate, Bronx Community College); Alexis, Kaia (Second Alternate, Bronx Community College); Montrevil, Jahsiah (Delegate, Guttman Community College); Ruiz, Samantha (Delegate, Guttman Community College); Erazo, Jonathan (First Alternate, Guttman Community College); Garnillo, Andrew (Second Alternate, Guttman Community College); Dista, Kathy (Delegate, Hostos Community College); Soto, Orlando (Delegate, Hostos Community College); Hernandex-Ravelo, Yaxeny (First Alternate, Hostos Community College); Jacobs, Kobe (Second Alternate, Hostos Community College); Nemet, Netanel (Delegate, Kingborough Community College); Brunson, Adalah (First Alternate, Kingborough Community College); Bennett, Riquelme (Second Alternate, Kingborough Community College); Rijal, Diya (Delegate, LaGuardia Community College); Lenes Arreola, Carolina (First Alternate, LaGuardia Community College); Janeke, Jonathan T. (Delegate, Queensborough Community College).

University Student Senate Steering Committee:

Salimatou Doumbouya, Chairperson
Ahron Grama, Vice Chair for Senior College Affairs
Joe Yin, Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs
Zaire Ali, Vice Chair for Disability Affairs
Zainab Cisse, Vice Chair for International Affairs

University Student Senate Staff:

Daniel Flores, Executive Director
Fernando Araujo, Project Coordinator

USS Election Review Committee (USSERC):

Joseph Awadjie, Chairperson of USSERC
Hugo Fernandez, member
Brian Lange, member
Flynn Ezra Beckman, member

With 29 voting members, the present quorum was established. The meeting was called to order at 12:25 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (MARCH 26, 2023)
- IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
- V. DISCUSSION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE (USSERC) CAMPAIGN RULES
- VI. ELECTION OF USSERC STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
- VII. NOMINATIONS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Doumbouya presented the agenda and was approved without objections.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES MARCH 26, 2023

Chairperson Doumbouya ask the body is there are any objections to approving the minutes as presented. Sen. Bareboim explained that there are a number of revisions needed before the minutes are ready for approval. With that in mind, he motioned to postpone the minutes until the

next meeting. Vice Chair Yin noted that the next USS plenary meeting will be the USS election meeting. Given that the USS election typically runs long, it might not be prudent to delay the approval of the minutes to that particular meeting.

The motion to postpone the minutes failed: {27 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention}.

Vice Chair Grama motioned to table the meeting minutes until the next meeting.

The motion to table the minutes carried: {29 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention}.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Doumbouya presented the delegation with a chairs report which highlights the accomplishment of USS through the summer and the past academic year.

Internal Affairs

- Pending USS scholarship from previous administration finalized.
- USS Website access regained and USS Social Media engagement improved.
- Successful advocacy of student needs at SOMOS weekend, CAUCUS Weekend, at the NYS assembly, at the city council of New York.
- Addressed: Brookdale Campus, Tuition Increase, COVID 19, and mental Health.
- First Annual USS Leadership Symposium and first in person USS Annual Retreat since COVID 19
- Testified in-person alongside fellow delegates to the New York City Council, and New York State Legislature for the first time in three years.

Collaborations

- Office of the Chancellor
- CUNY Office of Government Relations
- CUNY Rising Alliance, Young Invincibles, NYPIRG
- Office of the Provost
- Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
- Office of Veterans Affairs
- CUNY Coalition of Students with Disabilities (CCSD)
- CUNY Athletics
- CUNY TV
- CUNY Marketing and Communications
- Office of the Chief Operating Officers

CUNY and Board of trustees

- Addressed the CUNY mandate on COVID19 vaccines.
- Advocated for an affordable/free Higher Education at CUNY.
- Influenced policy on CUNY Technological advancements: CUNY Online, Brightspace, New CUNY first platform, CUNY Buy etc.
- As student trustee, participated in every single Board of trustees' meetings and Hearings.
- 12/12 students appointed to the BOT Committees and subcommittees.
- Resolution supporting International and undocumented Students scholarship introduced.

- Introduced at the BOT Student Affairs Committee on Committee efficiency and student focus.
- Actively participated in the CUNY Budget discussions at CUNY Central and with the City Council Chairman of Higher Education Committee Eric Dinowitz.
- Learning Disruption and Recovery Discussion for Students.
- Participated in the 2022 leadership congress by the Association of Community College Trustees.
- Strengthened our collaborative efforts with the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Government Relations.

Press Coverage

- Gothamist
- Politico
- NY Daily News
- CUNY TV

Recognition

- Formal Citation recognizing USS unique role in student leadership by Attorney General Letitia James
- Address and congratulatory message by Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado
- City and State Education Power 100 List
- Advised Vice - President Kamala Harris on issues regarding reproductive healthcare on college campuses.

Chairperson Doumbouya presented the body with a citation that was recently issued by the Attorney General of New York, Letitia James. The citation was read and copied below for the :

**The State of New York
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CITATION**

Whereas, it is a longstanding tradition of the Office of the New York State Attorney General to recognize those organizations that strengthen our communities, support young people, and consistently endeavor to improve the well-being of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, establish in 1972, the University Student Senate (USS) of the City University of New York (CUNY) has played a vital role in representing the aspirations and interests of CUNY students; and

Whereas, by preserving the accessibility, affordability, and excellence of higher education within CUNY; USS is protecting the rights of the student body and promoting the general welfare of its students as well as the University as a whole; and

Whereas, today, the USS delegates are responsible to the representative governance of 500,000 students across the twenty-five CUNY campuses; now therefore be it *Resolved*, that on this, the fifteenth day of October, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-three, the Office of the New York State Attorney General deems it right and fitting to congratulate the University Student Senate of the City University of New York,

on its 50th Anniversary and commends its leaders and members for their on-going commitment to enhancing the educational experience, advocating for student rights, and fostering a sense of community within the institution.

Signed,
Letitia James
Attorney General
October 15, 2023

V. USSERC: ELECTION OF USS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Before the nominations for USS offices are held, an election for the two student members of SERC must take place. These two students cannot be of any of the nominated officers of USS and they must be in good academic standing. Also, one of them has to be President of a Student Government Association and not a delegate of USS. USSERC Chairperson Awadjie opened up the floor for nominations for the two student USSERC positions.

Sen. Nominated Flynn Ezra Beckman, President of Student Government Association at CUNY the CUNY School of Law for Student President Member of USSERC.

Sen. nominated Brian Lange, Delegate from the CUNY Student of Law, for student representative of USSERC.

Election of USSERC Members:

SGA President Member of USSERC

Votes for Flynn Ezra Beckman: 30 Yes votes, 0 Abstentions, 0 No

Student Representative Member of USSERC

Votes for Brian Lange: 29 Yes votes, abstentions.0 No

VI. STEERING NOMINATIONS

USSERC Chairperson Awadjie began with introductory remarks on the regulations and procedures of the nominations process. Nominators will have up to two minutes to make remarks about the delegate they wish to nominate. The nominees will then have up to five minutes to make an acceptance speech.

USS Officer Nominations

Nominations for Chairperson of USS

Sen. Ramasoire	Nominated	Sen. Salimatou Doumbouya of NYCCT
Sen. Davilla	Nominated	Sen. Anna Tresvallas of the School of Labor/Urban Studies
Sen. Barenboim	Nominated	Jonathan Hanon of the Graduate Center

Nominations for Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs

Sen. Doumbouya	Nominated	Sen. Joseph Hernandez of Baruch College
Sen. Wearing	Nominated	Sen. Zaire S. Ali of the School of Public Health

Nominations for Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs

Sen. Doumbouya	Nominated	Sen. Renaediaz Miller Queensborough Community College
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Sen. Ali Nominated Sen. Antionette Wearing of the School of Public Health

Nominations for Vice Chair for Graduate Student Affairs

Sen. Ramesar Nominated Sen. Josiah Ramesar of the CUNY School of Law
Sen. Doumbouya Nominated Sen. Tinnycua Williams City College of New York
Sen. Hanon Nominated Sen. Eric Barenboim of the CUNY Graduate School

Nominations for Vice Chair for Senior College Affairs

Sen. Doumbouya Nominated Sen. Kayla Aaron of Baruch College

Nominations for Vice Chair for Community College Affairs

Sen. Doumbouya Nominated Sen. John Fletcher of LaGuardia Community College

Nominations for Vice Chair for Evening and Part Time Affairs

Sen. Doumbouya Nominated Sen. William Barron of Queens College
Sen. Ali Nominated Sen. Petra Gregory of the College of Staten Island

Nominations for Vice Chair for Students with Disabilities Affairs

Sen. Ali Nominated Sen. Jennifer Marquez of BMCC
Sen. Tresvalles Nominated Sen. Davila of the School of Labor/Urban Studies
Sen. Ray DePaul Nominated Sen. Falana Fray of the CUNY School of Journalism

Nominations for Vice Chair for International Student Affairs

Sen. Doumbouya Nominated Sen. Davia Willis of Queens Borough Community College
Sen. Santos Nominated Sen. Nchebe-Jah Iloansui of the College of Staten Island

Nominations for Vice Chair for Technology Fee Affairs

Sen. Hanon Nominated Sen. Michael Morris of Kingsborough Community College
Sen. Sojung Park Nominated Sen. Sojung Park of School of Professional Studies

After all the nominations for USS Steering Committee members, nominees were allowed to deliver a speech (five-minute time limit).

Shortly thereafter, all nominees for Chairperson were assembled and every college was given the opportunity to pose a question to candidates. The question portion of the agenda was scheduled to be extended to every Steering Committee position, but it was cut short due to time constraints; Guttman Community College was scheduled to close at 5:07 PM. USSERC Chair Awadjie announced that, in the interest of time, USSERC agreed to give delegates a chance to e-mail questions to the candidates and allow candidates to respond via e-mail. This process remains in concert with the election guidelines and allows candidates to respond to questions.

After the questions portion of the nominations process concluded, USSERC Chairperson Awadjie yielded the floor to Chairperson Doumbouya. The Chairperson thanked the delegates for their participation in the process.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Sen. Grama motions to adjourn the meeting, the motion received numerous seconds. Motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 5:00 PM.