The 2009-2010 Undergraduate Student Government set out to change the culture and climate of Baruch College. We wanted to foster a Baruch that enriches the lives of students not only academically, but also socially. Our initiatives have all surrounded our primary goal of promoting active student engagement on campus.

Carrying Out our Agenda

Fall 2009

Freshmen Transition

We began with a focus on the incoming freshmen at Baruch. Over the summer we went to all the orientations, introducing ourselves and handing out free Baruch paraphernalia.

- **Hosted Welcome Week ’09** – Continuing the momentum from the convocation street fair we hosted a week of fun activities which included workshops, socials, movie night, and our infamous Toga Party.
- **Freshman Overnight Experience in Philly** – 44 members of the freshman class bonded during a weekend experience of icebreakers, teambuilding activities, speaker events and a city-wide scavenger hunt in the city of brotherly love. We intend to expand this program to allow 200 freshmen to attend next year.
- **Class Representatives** – the USG created a House of Representatives by appointing a non-voting body to the organization allowing more student leaders to get engaged. This dynamic group of 25 individuals have made significant contributions on campus which include rewriting the USG constitution and fundraising for Haiti. 90% of this body consists of first year students.

Clubs & Orgs

USG is the allocating body for over 170 clubs on campus. We oversee the disbursements of over $300,000 for funding to student organizations.

- **New Sites for Club access to USG** – We brought our organization to the 21st century with the creation of three new websites with over 50 pages of resources for student organizations and our constituents. This includes clubs.usgbaruch.com, joinusg.com, and a revamped usgbaruch.com. We are also offering free hosting service for club sites.
- **Thursday Nights at Baruch co-sponsorship fund** – To create night life at Baruch a new programming fund was established in partnership with the VP of Student Affairs who would match dollar for dollar on Thursday night festivities. Our goal is to bring different segments of the college community together.
- **New Director of Club Relations** – We established a new position to oversee the needs of this huge constituency. This person is responsible for a weekly listserv email to all student leaders on campus, and personally addressing their concerns.
Spring 2010

Enhancing the Campus

- **Capital Improvements** – The neglected ‘student center’ on campus is finally getting attention from campus operations. The club area and game room was repainted and will be getting new furniture while we dispose the mishmash of chairs and tables originally from the Field building. We have allocated $30,000 for the creation of two new student lounges and a new conference room within the USG suites on the 3rd floor of the Vertical Campus. Student Government has also allocated funding for lockers for clubs without rooms in the student center.

- **Establishing a Programming Board** – Many college campuses have a Programming Board or an Activities Planning board. At Baruch social planning responsibilities fall under the Student Government. This year we have operated a separate Programming Board as an ad-hoc committee within USG. This board has been responsible for weekly movie nights, huge Thursday night socials, and reviewing co-sponsorship requests from clubs amongst other activity planning. Our new Student Fee referendum calls for a new Programming Board with a 6-figure budget.

- **Lobbying Albany** – USG has participated in the Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caucus Conference in Albany. We took 12 students to lobby for funding for 17 Lex amongst other college priorities. We will also attend the Somos El Futuro lobbying day in late April.

Baruch Pride

- **Student funding for National & International Competitions** – USG has funded over 15 student competitions and conferences. We intend to continue this support with dedicated funding. We look to partner with academic departments to learn of more opportunities for the student body to engage in.

- **Distinguished Speaker forums on campus** – USG has co-sponsored several speaker events with student organizations to bring in business professionals and other high ranking executives. In April we are planning a Health-Care forum and a “Go-Green” speaker panel.

- **Baruch-wide Events** – USG co-sponsored the Battle of Lexington tailgate and made alcoholic beverages available for the first time. USG also is a proud sponsor of the Relay for Life annual event having raised over $1500 to date.

- **CUNY President’s Dinner** – USG hosted a CUNY SGA President’s dinner here on campus. Representatives from 15 different CUNY campuses were in attendance to speak about not only the issues but also successful initiatives and policies on their respective campuses. This was attended by Vice Chancellor Peter Jordan and representatives from the Leadership Academy.
USG representation around the country

The Baruch College student government was further represented at the National Conference on Student Leadership in Washington D.C. Over 300 colleges from around the country and US territories were represented.

The American-Israeli Policy Action Committee (AIPAC) invited SGA President’s from around the country to attend their annual conference and Baruch College was one of 213 colleges represented.

USG representation in CUNY

Baruch was represented at the CUNY Leadership Conference hosted by the Leadership Academy in late August.

The USG President served on the Presidential Search Committee and we welcome Dr. Mitchell Wallerstein as the next President of Baruch.

A senator from USG serves as the Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs in the University Student Senate (USS). That is the number two position in the CUNY SGA system next to Chairperson.

USG representation in Baruch

Most of USG’s work with the Middle States Accreditation Committee had already been completed by our predecessors, but we tied up any lose ends and saw it through its completion in mid-March.

USG engaged in the Baruch Day of Protest on March 18th supporting the student grievances listed by the New Baruch Alliance Party. We worked with President Stan Altman and Vice President Ben Corpus on taking action on all concerns that were raised.

The Auxiliary Board made the historic decision of obtaining dormitories for Baruch College, a high priority item for our team. We are proud to have been a part of this moment. This board is also looking to offer textbook rentals to Baruch College students which we will also fully support.

The Technology Fee Board worked primarily toward improving wireless on campus. We also began the kindle loan program with the support of Arthur Downing. Funding was made available for Collegiate Link, but we were not able to see it come to fruition.

Our Legacy

When future students and administrators look back at this year in Baruch College’s history what will they say?
We cared about student life and the student experience. We wanted to bring Baruch past its labels and continue its path to be the premier public institution in the City of New York.

Our group will be known for…
1) Our strong advocacy of student concerns to the administration, on committees, and with the March 18th Baruch Day of Protest.
2) Our strong belief in student programming and a social atmosphere on campus with our support of Student Fee Referendum that would create a Programming Board and increase funding by 30%.
3) Our representation in many inter-collegiate venues and investments made to enhance the college experience.

We want to thank the administrators, faculty, and other members of the Baruch community who have supported our cause. We hope you will continue to work with future student leaders in continuing the historic mission of this institution. The Undergraduate Student Government will always be the representatives for the dynamic student body. With new generations will come new meaning for access, opportunity, and excellence.