



Student Government, Inc. Minutes of the Meeting 13 March 2017

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Student Government, St John's University Queens Campus Inc. (the Board) was held on March 13th, 2017 in DAC 128.

In attendance:

**Sarah Chaides
John Wiley
Micahel Duffy
Stefanie Bassaragh
Xhejsi Kamenica
Melissa Potter
Tahmir Williams
Christine Bebawy
Allan Louis
Ashley Leung
Atemkeng Tazi
Daisy Thomas
Maria Buitrago Cohoon
Tamara Garcia
Chiara Miuccio
Richard Cantoral
Frank Obermeyer
Clement Anozie
Julia Mackey
Jennie Lynn Martino
Donna Salib
Justin Fomba
Alexander Cheung**

**Opjyot Kaur
Andrew Kwong
Charles Daniele
Alexandra Kaiser
Catherine Sheehan
Christian Mercado
Julie Vu
Carl-Edward Fetiere
Henry Stitzel
Teresa Ehiogu
Andrew Pappadia
Brian Wagner
Christina Boccio
Tara Buttermark
William Pugh
Katie Sheldon
Jessica Dibugno
Nicole Cocca
Adriana Gallardo
Alicia Villafana
Neelesh Rastogi
Domonic Haire
Jamel Campbell**

Absent:

**Cooper Miqueli
Brendan Eugene
Mark Antonik
Christian Miuccio
Ryan Sullivan
Lillie Black
Victoria Lohwasser
Danielle Woodman
Jairus Pollard
Adriana Ball
Casandra Ferrante
Gabriela Reyes
Raven Bolding
Dylan Terrell
Mason Ledgering
Imani Jasmin**

**Kathryn Leeman
Jacqueline Canino
Brittney Slowden
Nuno Peixoto
Yovanna Roa-Reyes
Kenneth Shelton Jr.
Sal Monaco
Sara Restrepo Cortes
Shereen Massimi
Zachary Reale
Aaron Gallagher
Sylvia Lee
Blerim Bardhi
Blondine Desrosiers
Stephanie Pena
Kokie Childers**

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order at 5:05 PM.
- B. Prayer
- C. Attendance
 - 1. Quorum was not met for this meeting, therefore no votes were held.

II. Executive Reports

- A. President's Report
 - 1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:

The executive board is enthusiastic about the new meeting procedures. Please make sure to thoroughly read over all the reports in preparation for this Monday's meeting. I will go over the general format and expectations on Monday.

The Constitution Committee has been hard at work finalizing the document. The completed draft will tentatively be presented to the floor on Monday, March 27.

- 2. *Chiara Miuccio*: The Committee has worked hard to complete this document. At this point, I would like to call on Josh Rich to speak about the philosophy of the document. Josh Rich was invaluable to the Committee in helping us complete this constitution.
 - a. *Rich*: I commend the Committee's work and hope that the new constitution will better suit the needs of SGI.
- 3. Executive Summary of Changes
 - a. *Miuccio*: Changes were made to the functionality of the constitution.
 - i. A Purpose and Mission were written by Frank Obermeyer and implemented
 - ii. Membership was reconsidered, and the Committee resolved that only students who pay an activity fee are members of the Corporation
 - iii. Roles and Responsibility of Vice President and Treasurer were updated
 - iv. The Power to legislate was added to the powers of the legislative branch
 - v. Eligibility for elections was changed. There are now fewer requirements for running and an option to petition the representatives of SGI for exceptions to these requirements
 - (a) *Richard Cantoral*: I was originally against this change, but after consideration and discussion, I feel that this change will allow for more good candidates to run for higher levels of SGI.
 - (b) *Atem Tazi*: I had a similar experience to Richard's.
 - vi. An Oath of Office was added
 - vii. The removal processes were updated
 - viii. Quorum was lower to 50% plus one

- (a) *Justin Fomba*: what will be the new number for quorum?
 - (b) *Frank Obermeyer*: The new quorum number would be 25 people. This change will help us get more business done. As you can see by the lack of attendance at this floor meeting, we need to make changes as to allow for action at our meetings.
 - (c) *Cantoral*: Is this 50% of filled positions or 50% of the total possible positions?
 - (d) *Miuccio*: This would be 50% of the total voting positions.
 - (e) *Cantoral*: Should we not then consider making quorum 50% of the filled positions? 50% of the total could still be hard to fill, especially with a lack of freshmen in the beginning of the Fall Semester.
 - (f) *Miuccio*: This is necessary give an incentive to fill positions.
 - (g) *Alex Cheung*: Removing underperforming members is good for the group. We should only count filled positions in deciding quorum.
 - (h) *Catherine Sheehan*: Isn't the point of the Assembly to represent everyone? How is lowering the amount of people necessary to make a decision good for increasing representation.
 - (i) *Obermeyer*: Responsibility lies with the representatives to show up. In the end, we need a constitution that lets us get things done despite some dead weight.
 - (j) *Miuccio*: When we don't have quorum at meetings, many of these votes go to the Executive Board. This is an even smaller group than the 25 people who would constitute a quorum.
- ix. A non-discrimination article was added
 - b. Changes were made to the language of the document
 - i. "The Floor" will further be referred to as the Assembly
 - ii. "CoChairs" will further be referred to as Assistant Chairs
 - iii. Arbitrary GPA requirements will be replaced with a requirement to remain in Good Academic Standing

B. Secretary's Report

1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:

The recent news about forced meal plans has led many complaints to SGI. I will be setting up a meeting with Scott Lemperle from Conference & Auxiliary Services to ask about how the decision was made and whether or not student input was involved. Our goal is to set a precedent that Student Government should be at the table when any decision is made which affects the student body.

C. Treasurer's Report

1. A paper copy of the budget was passed out to each floor member to review before discussion. These materials were collected afterwards.
2. *Clement Anozie*: SGI is looking good on the money side.
3. *Tazi*: Who creates this budget? How much money do we have left after the year?
4. *Anozie*: The President and Treasurer create this budget and the Assembly votes to approve it. SGI usually does not spend the entirety of its budget.

D. Senior Senator's Report

1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:

We have a Senior Week schedule! The work currently occurring on it is ensuring the deposits and necessary paperwork all check out. Preceding Senior Week, our Senior BBQ will be happening May 1st. We have also decided that instead of a Shirt giveaway, we are doing a glass instead. We have sold 310 yearbooks, and have completed our last week of Senior Portrait sittings. At our next floor meeting, March 27th, we will be taking our picture as a floor for the yearbook, so please come prepared for such.

SENIOR STORM SCHEDULE

Date	Activity
May 13	League of Yes – Suffolk *Transportation provided
May 15	Mass Meal Packing
May 16	Bread & Life Mobile Soup Kitchen (AM) Midnight Run (PM)
May 17	Lucky Strike
May 18	Night at the Park
May 19	Broadway Night: Aladdin, or TBA
May 20	Baccalaureate Mass Family Graduate Dinner

E. Junior Senator's Report

1. *Miuccio*: It gives me no joy to announce that Aaron Richards has resigned from the position of Junior Senator. The Junior Senator position is now vacant and will be promptly filled by appointment from

the President and upon approval of the Assembly. Any interested parties should contact me.

III. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs Report

1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:

The Committee is finishing reviewing applications for the who's who award ceremony for seniors. And those nominated will be notified within the coming weeks.

We are also looking for ideas for a possible finals week event centered on study tips or last minute help.

B. Budget Report

1. Special Allocations Requests

a. American Chemical Society

- i. Event: Guest Speaker Seminar
- ii. Earned Income: \$0
- iii. Expected attendance: 80
- iv. Amount Requested: \$500.00
- v. Traveling expenses for Guest Speaker (split amongst 4 schools)
- vi. Recommendation: Fund for the amount of \$292.00

b. Step Ya Game Up (collaborating with Spectrum, ASA, CSA, & LASO)

- i. Event: All That & a Bag of Chips 90's Step Show
- ii. Earned Income: \$388.00
- iii. Expected attendance: 300-500
- iv. Amount Requested: \$8,000.00
 - Costumes: \$1,500
 - Lighting: \$5,000
 - Water: \$200
 - Food: \$1,500
 - Hair & Make Up: \$400
 - Decorations: \$400
 - Videographer: \$150
 - Photographer: \$200
 - Incidentals: \$400
 - Performer: \$11,000
 - Host: \$12,500
 - DJ: \$500
- v. Recommendation: Fund the amount of \$8,600 for food, water, decorations, lighting, and costumes

c. Indian Subcontinent Student Organization

- i. Event name: Chaat
- ii. Location: Little Theatre
- iii. Date: March 25, 2017
- iv. Expected attendance: 380
- v. Earned Income: \$3,316.15
- vi. Allocation Request: \$2,259
- vii. Recommendation: Fund for amount of \$2,259.86 (9 yays 2

abstentions)

- d. Global Medical Brigades
 - i. Event name: A Night in West Egg
 - ii. Location: DAC 416 ABC
 - iii. Date: March 25, 2017
 - iv. Expected attendance: 100-150
 - v. Earned Income: \$200
 - vi. Allocation Request: \$2,351.12
 - vii. Recommendation: Fund for amount of \$2,351.12 (8 yays 1 no 2 abstentions)

- e. Earth Club
 - i. Event name: Earth Fest
 - ii. Location: DAC Foyer, Living room, Rooms 210 and 212, Patio and Coffee House
 - iii. Date: April 10, 2017
 - iv. Expected attendance: 100
 - v. Earned Income: \$800
 - vi. Allocation Request: \$4,706.64
 - vii. Recommendation: Fund for amount of \$4,706.64 (9 yays 2 abstentions)

- 2. *Miuccio*: Due to a lack of quorum, these allocation requests with be voted on by the Executive Board.

C. Elections Report

- 1. *Cooper Miqueli*: The candidates for Executive Board positions will be presenting themselves at today's meeting.

D. Organizations Report

- 1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:

The Committee is preparing for finalizing the last couple of bullet points for the organizations standards we have been working on for a couple of weeks. There will be a rough draft available by next meeting. We have been notifying the organizations on campus about the first annual organization banquet in addition to making sure they know that their way in is to participate in Acceptance Students Day (ASD). Please, help us promote ASD so we can have as many orgs participate on that day! We are also putting together the workshop and will start promoting the StormSync workshop, not many organizations know the available resource StormSync offers and we are looking to not only tell, but also show/demonstrate how to use the resources.

E. Research and Development Report

1. *Cheung*: The Committee will be meeting with IT at St. John's soon. The IT department wants as many students as possible so please reach out to me if you can make it to the meeting. We will also be completing a survey regarding the new Townhouse meal plan policy.

F. School Spirit Committee

1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:

- a. *The Committee has finished planning the spring season events:*
 - i. *Most events are in April*
 - ii. *Sunglasses giveaway on March 25*



- b. *Once all of the bills come in and I see where the budget is, we may add more*
- c. *If you have any ideas for giveaways or you have designs, do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the committee*
- d. *Follow us @SJURedZone on all social media*
- e. *Important Dates:*

Date	Game Time	Event	Activity
March 17	12:00	Softball vs. Manhattan	-
March 17	2:00	Softball vs. Stony Brook	-
March 18	12:00	Baseball vs. Holy Cross	Schedule Poster
March 18	3:30	Baseball vs. Holy Cross	-
March 18	1:00	LAX vs. Drexel	-
March 18	11:00	Softball vs. Fairleigh Dickinson	-
March 18	1:00	Softball vs. Hofstra	-
March 19	1:00	Baseball vs. Holy Cross	-
March 19	3:00	Softball vs. Fairleigh Dickinson	-
March 22	3:00	Baseball vs. Saint Peter's	-
March 25	12:00	Baseball vs. Maine	-
March 25	3:30	Baseball vs. Maine	-
March 25	12:00	Softball vs. Providence	Sunglasses (200)
March 25	2:00	Softball vs. Providence	-
March 26	1:00	Baseball vs. Maine	-
March 26	12:00	Softball vs. Providence	-

G. Service Committee

1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:
 - a. Service:
 - i. We are working on an event to bring focus to different domestic abuse situations. (More info to follow)
 - b. Relay:
 - i. We had a very successful Paint The Campus Purple Week!! Thank you for everyone that helped make this week successful!
 - ii. We are participating in the Big East Bragging Rights competition. ACS wants to see if the Big East schools can collectively raise a total of \$20,000 over the next week of the Big East Tournament! Let's show them that we're the best Relaying school in the Big East!
 - iii. We have raised almost \$32,000 so far!
2. *Alex Kaiser*: Everyone should sign up for Relay soon! The price will rise to \$20 on March 21st.

H. Student Services

1. The following report was distributed to the Assembly prior to the meeting:
 - a. *The Committee has received many complaints regarding the new Townhouse meal plan policy. They cite the following reasons:*
 - i. *The new policy is a "predatory" move by the university to extort more money from resident students.*
 - ii. *Lack of transparency in relation to the new policy, what it actually entails in relation to monetary amounts that need to be paid for townhouse students.*
 - iii. *The university inadequately broadcasted these new changes to the student body, the vast majority found out thru the student newspaper and the ensuing outrage that came from it.*
 - iv. *Lack of options within meal plans, the minimum required meal plan (Apartment Meal Plan) jumps straight to \$4,300 for a whole year within the townhouses.*
 - v. *Defeats the purpose of paying more for a townhouse suite with a kitchen if students within those facilities are required to have a meal plan.*

IV. New Business

- A. Candidate Introductions were made. The following candidates were in attendance:
 1. Anthony Savino
 2. The REAL Ticket
 - a. Frank Obermeyer
 - b. William Pugh
 - c. Teresa Ehiogu

- d. Alissa Santolo
- e. Brian Wagner
- f. Atem Tazi
- g. Domonic Haire

V. Old Business

- A. There was no old business

VI. Open Forum

- A. There were no discussions.

VII. Announcements

- A. *Tazi*: My name is Atem Tazi and I am the Community Service Chair of the African Students Association. This year, we are taking a leap into service by hosting our first annual Relay for Life Charity event coined, "Relay for Love". The purpose of this event is to create a platform for all organizations to be able to raise some money towards the Relay for Life cause. The Relay committee has done an amazing job getting the word out and promoting their event and this event will support their efforts. This event is similar to a bachelor/bachelorette auction but no individuals can actually be purchased. Donations can be made to support a particular individual and you will be able to win an outing with that individual. We are asking organizations to nominate a maximum of 10 individuals to participate in the Charity event. The date for this event is March 23rd, 2017 in the Little Theater. Doors open at 7pm. We will be having a mandatory info meeting on March 15th to give you all of the information that you will need for the event. Please reply by March 13th to confirm participation. This is open to the entire SJU community.
- B. *Miuccio*: The floor meeting will be held on Monday, March 27th at 5:00 PM in DAC 416.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent of the Assembly.