

October 4, 2021

Call to order: 8:07

8:08: Roll Call

38 Senators Present

8:13: President's Address:

- Vibe Check
 - Take care of yourself
- Coffee Chats
- Terrier Talk

8:15: SR. 004

- Unity group now consists of 3 members
- 2020/2021 DEI report
 - Increased rep of students of color
 - Priority of their thoughts and feelings
 - We tackled asking every department on campus: learning services, diversity of staff, diversity of curriculum
 - You can read the report attached on the senate email
 - We found that BU departments have 2 issues:
 - Communication and consistency
 - We came up with a set of goals by the end of this year, in the future, and a broad horizon
 - Accountability in student input, structural change in courses, structural changes in staff
 - Endorse it!

8:18: Floor opens to questions

- Senator Shamsi: What are the plans after passing this to ensure the goals (students participating in hiring)?
 - A: Students have met w Dean B to create a task force between auxiliary and any other dep. The task force will create the diversity policy, technologies, and get money from the school
 - Timegoal= end of the semester and year
- Vice President Farooqi: This is one of the best reports I have seen... senators should do things like this
- Chairman Seagelmen: What would a survey look like?
 - A: A lot of issues with affordability, classes, etc, and I think the university should know about those issues.
- Senator Shamsi: How can senators help?

- A: The majority party is going to help. Work with the other senators and we can invite you to meetings. Also share this with your departments, as this is where we started. And we didn't get a lot of good responses from the CAS department

8:23: Floor closes

8:24: Motion to enter voting procedure

8:24: Second

8:24: Explanations on voting procedure from the chair. All senators should both

8:25: Passes with 38 votes

8:26: Motion to vote on SR.004

8:27: Passes with 36 votes

8:27 Voting on SR. 004

8:28: Passes with 33 votes

8:29: Senate Committee Fall Updates

Expect More Committee:

- Back2Bu survey engaged student outlook on campus
- Quarantine Learner Support (SR 003)
 - Survey with 711 responses
 - Faculty survey still awaiting responses
- Recruited 7 new senate members
- BUTV interview... international students are having a lot of trouble with international students
- Laundry issues "Hit a brick wall... we're looking for a way to revitalize this"
- Year-long goal= working on the National Student Debt Initiative

ROC:

- We have our first meeting on October 7
 - Theology Room 441
- New initiative-- collecting data from university-wide student committees
 - Keep track and keep a report so we can "present to senate and be on the same page"
- There should be an ongoing dialogue between senate and student committees
 - Need help in getting those committees

Rules:

- General Bi-Law Updates
- Table on Contents
- If you want exact details= can send exact document
- The definition of constituency
 - It's pretty important to define what that is
- Senator accountability
 - Repercussions on whether a senator is fulfilling their duties

- A senator could be impeached by someone and that could go to judicial for review
- Defining what the office of the senate chair is
- Vacancy clause... Questrom is missing senators

16,000 Strong:

- First event= **Fries on November 1**
- Take back the night with SARP
 - Towards the end of October
 - A rally where sexual and dating violence is at its peak
 - They want their help to plan
 - Drafting a survivor's bill of rights
 - Keep the pressure on admin to be updating their policies
 - Ava from CAS Advocacy; Student support line for survivors
 - Help in pushing through senate

Mental Health Committee:

- GSU tabling with compliments on campus
 - To make students feel heard and connected
 - Wellness kits along with the compliments
 - Use this to collect data
- In general, the results of whether something negative/positive is the same
 - 60% of answers are negative
 - 20% percent are positive
 - 15% are a bit of both
 - 5% neutral
- For the entire month of October: terriers thrive together
 - QR code for all of the events and dates
 - **October 13= MHF Marsh Plaza 12-4 PM**
 - Organizations, student groups, and faculty dep
 - 25-26 groups coming

8:45: Floor opens to questions

- Senator Balboa: What will you do with the reports of student debt?
 - A: Shashi and I are working on the details. The end goal would be getting it into the Boston City Hall and the White House. Biden pitched the idea when they ran and they haven't done anything with it.
- Senator Mayyapan: What changes have you seen? And what are you doing with the data?
 - A: The University has prioritized well being more than ever before. But students struggle with mental illness, which the university does not address. We want to take the data and show the university so that they could extend their programs to long term. We hope to reach out to other student groups for endorsements and present it here.
 - Last data set led to more funding for the mental health fair

8:50: Open Forum

- Senator Khapadia: Reminding everyone about the Mutual Aid fundraiser
 - Take the time to give an item... it goes directly to a family in need
- Chairman Seagelmen: Looking into quarantine and vaccine isolation
 - If you have any students who can offer a testimonial, reach out to Rich
- Chief Justice: BU Library Fair
 - Hopes to see all senators there
- Senator Majarawicz: How can we address the issue of Shiny James?

8:55: Motion to enter discussion on the topic of Shiny James.

8:55: 7 minutes; 30 seconds for each person speaking

Passes

8:56: Can someone summarize?

8:56: Basically, Shiny James runs BU's orientation and the work environment she's created has been identified as toxic and tortuous. Specifically towards the female employees.

8:57: From what I know, it's not that she's hostile... she's abusive. Forcing people to be personal but are actually abusive

8:58: Is there a complaint system? Do they have a meeting?

8:58: On BU's formal website, when a student files a complaint, then it goes to the dean of students' office. Then they do an investigation and resolve the complaint.

8:59: We need alternate paths... people have submitted complaints.

8:59: I worked in orientation. They seemed to not understand where they were coming from. Maybe in the past year, this has been fixed?

9:00: No, it was the same this past year. I know people this past summer who had similar experiences.

9:01: That shows the difference between her treatment of male and female employees.

9:01: Majarawicz: I'm going to reach out to the dean of students. If you're interested in working on this.

9:02: President: E-board discussed this and we are planning on asking about this.

9:02: Remaining time is elapsed.

9:04: Vice chair

- Student Government retreat
- Letters to constituents

9:08: Chair

- If you ever have questions, you can ask the chair to call them to the senate meeting.

9:09: Floor opens to any motions

9:10: Motion to adjourn

9:10: Seconds

9:10 Motion passes with 35 votes

9:11: Meeting Adjourned