



City University of New York
New York City College of Technology
Student Government Association
300 Jay Street, G400

Student Government Association (SGA) General Board Meeting

Date: October 10, 2024

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Location: Room A209

Presiding Officer: Ifathsarul Hoque

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:49 PM by [Presiding Officer]. The delay was attributed to technical issues involving microphone setup and equipment preparation. Attendees were asked to remain patient as the meeting commenced once issues were resolved.

2. Attendance

- Present: Ifathsarul Hoque, Twaambo Kabosha, Ousmane Diallo, Omar Faruk, Nayely Chimborazo, Tehreem Nadeem, Pierre Theodat, Maria Hashmi, Kaylynn Daoud, and Wei Chong.

- Absent: Ashiqul Islam
- Efforts were made to follow up with absentees before the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

- The presiding officer presented the meeting agenda for review.
- The agenda included the following key items:
 - Discussion of SGA office hours.
 - Overview of committees and assignments.
 - Budget review for 2024-2025.
 - Special elections for vacant positions.
 - Certification of new clubs.
 - Open forum for member concerns.
- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Maria Hashmi, seconded by Wei Chong, and approved by unanimous consent.

4. Discussion of Office Hours

- President Ifathsarul provided a detailed explanation of the office hours mandated by the SGA Constitution:
 - President, Executive Vice President, VP of Finance, and Executive Secretary: Required to complete 12 hours per week.
 - Vice Presidents of Activities and Events, VP of Student Organizations, and VP of External Affairs: 10 hours per week.



- Senators: 5 hours per week, with part-time senators completing 4 hours.
- Emphasis was placed on maintaining these hours to ensure the SGA remains accessible to students, addressing issues, and fulfilling its mission.
- Questions were raised regarding potential flexibility for part-time senators due to class schedules. The presiding officer noted that any changes to office hour requirements would need to be formally proposed and approved through constitutional amendment procedures.

5. Committee Overview and Assignments

- President Ifathsarul led an in-depth discussion about the roles, responsibilities, and current status of SGA committees:
 - Executive Board: Composed of key officers such as the President, VP, VP of Finance, and Speaker of the Senate. Their primary role is to set overall goals, manage SGA affairs, and represent students at various college meetings.
 - Judicial Committee: Chaired by the Executive VP, with participation from the President and two senators. This committee oversees disputes and ethical issues within SGA operations.
 - Budget Committee: Chaired by the VP of Finance, it handles all financial matters related to events, clubs, and other student activities.
 - Quorum Requirements: Two-thirds of the committee members must be present to conduct votes.
 - Recent Developments: Budget proposals for upcoming events were briefly discussed, with final approval pending budget confirmation for the 2024-2025 year.
 - External Relations Committee: Led by the VP of External Affairs, this committee is focused on engaging alumni, local communities, and potential partners.
 - Current Initiatives: Ongoing outreach efforts to establish connections with external organizations and alumni networks.
 - Volunteer Committee: Led by the Speaker of the Senate (pending appointment), it aims to organize volunteer efforts within the student body.
 - Events Committee: Chaired by the VP of Activities and Events, responsible for coordinating all major student events on campus. Discussion about potential collaborations with SLD to boost event turnout.
 - Clubs Committee: Oversees club operations, including budgeting, policy adherence, and member engagement. Chair: VP of Student Organizations.
 - Current Focus: Reviewing club budget proposals and planning club fairs.
 - Appeal Committee: Handles appeals related to club certifications or funding disputes. Chaired by the Speaker of the Senate.
 - Plans to refine appeal processes and documentation were discussed.

6. Budget Review for 2023-2024

- Ifathsarul presented a comprehensive review of last year's budget and projected plans for the current year:



- Total Allocation in 2023-2024: \$69,000, distributed across scholarships
- Scholarship Distribution: Three types of scholarships were offered:
 1. Merit-Based Scholarships: \$1,000 each, awarded to 27 students based on academic performance.
 2. Need-Based Scholarships: \$1,000 each, awarded to 27 students based on financial need.
 3. Freshman Scholarships: \$500 each, awarded to 30 freshman students.
- Metro Card Distribution: Budgeted at \$79,200, with 600 students receiving metro cards monthly.
 - Plans for metro card distribution are still under review, pending coordination with the Office of Student Affairs to finalize eligibility criteria and application processes.
 - Current Year Budget: Not yet finalized due to delays in CAB meetings. The committee expects to have a final version by the end of the month.

7. Special Elections for Vacant Positions

- Purpose: To fill vacant senator positions in the areas of Technology & Design, Arts & Sciences, and Professional Studies.
- Nomination Criteria: Candidates must have a minimum 2.5 GPA, be enrolled in at least 12 credits, and provide transcripts if they are transfer students.
- Discussion:
 - A major point of debate involved the necessity for candidates to be physically present to nominate themselves. Concerns were raised that the requirement for in-person nominations was not communicated in the email announcement.
 - It was suggested that clearer language be used in future communications to prevent misunderstandings.
 - Outcome: Due to communication issues, a motion was made to reschedule the special elections to the next general board meeting to ensure wider participation and fairness.
 - The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

8. Certification of New Clubs

- Criteria for Club Certification:
 - The club must align with the college's educational and cultural mission.
 - The club must promote inclusivity and provide benefits to the student body.
 - A minimum of 15 student members and 4 officers (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary) is required.
- Clubs must have a clear activity plan and not duplicate existing clubs.
- All clubs must comply with campus policies.
- Presentation:
 - Pierre Theodate introduced the Solar Decathlon Club, which focuses on sustainable and affordable housing projects. He highlighted the club's participation in state-level competitions aimed at developing energy-efficient housing.



- Questions about the club's inclusivity and its ability to attract sufficient interest were raised.
- Decision: The certification discussion was tabled until the next meeting to allow time for further review and to clarify criteria compliance.

9. Concerns and Feedback

- Communication Issues:
 - Attendees voiced concerns about the lack of clear communication regarding meeting attendance and nomination requirements.
 - SGA Response: SGA leaders acknowledged the communication issues and committed to sending clearer, more detailed emails for future meetings.
- Meeting Organization:
 - Feedback indicated that the meeting lacked proper organization, as it began late, and there were difficulties with setting up equipment.
 - Suggestions: It was suggested that SGA members arrive 45 minutes before meetings to ensure all preparations are complete.

10. Next Steps

- Next General Board Meeting: Scheduled for [Date], with clear instructions to be provided in advance.
- Special Elections: This will take place during the next general meeting, with an emphasis on attendance and active participation.
- Follow-up on Club Certification: The SGA will develop a more structured review process for certifying clubs, focusing on compliance and engagement.

11. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Twaambo, seconded by Pierre Theodat, and passed by majority vote at 2:00 PM.
- Members were encouraged to provide additional feedback to SGA officers and to be prepared for the next meeting.