

REFERENDUM

In 2019, Brooklyn College passed a referendum to dissolve CLAS and SGS and create one united Student Government called the Undergraduate Student Government (USG). However, by dissolving those organizations it created a situation where the student government lost representation on bodies they previously had representation on (because the old groups are still named in the bodies constitution). Item 1 in this referendum would address this issue.

Secondly, students lack oversight over the Student Activity Fee (SAF) implementation. Organizations receiving SAF can change their governance to eliminate student representation on the body, overriding students. Item 2 in this referendum would address this by having an oversight body from the Student Government to ensure SAF monies directly impact students. This would not include current or future news organizations to ensure no conflict of interest will arise.

In item 3, the USG constitution will be updated to reflect the SAF oversight committee mentioned above.

The organizations/clubs listed in item 4 can fully operate with no conflict of interest under USG and as such have no need to be referendum groups. The organizations/clubs will be managed by the undergraduate student government per its constitution and bylaws consistent with all other student organizations/clubs. This will prevent a situation where if the club is inactive the money will not pile up in reserves and the student government will be able to reallocate it to active clubs. This will also allow the referendum group flexibility to ask for money directly from the centralized budget at USG. Several organizations/clubs during COVID shut down and the money is still allocated to them even though they don't exist. Students should not be obligated to pay for services that don't exist and the best way to avoid this in the future is to centralize the budget, so USG can allocate the money to active organizations. Arguments for leaving these groups as referendum groups were that previous student governments did not allocate money to them. These arguments are not applicable now because the structure of USG allows students to hold the executives accountable (unlike the structure of student governments prior to the establishment of USG).

Finally, in item 5 the student activity fee will be decreased in the Fall & Spring sessions from \$114.85 by $-\$0.90$ to \$113.95, and in the Summer \$78.95 by $-\$18.95$ to \$60.00. This change would preserve the essential student services provided and make the student activity fee less of a burden.

1. Any rights, privileges, franchises and authorities held by CLAS, SGS, or any defunct undergraduate student government or allocating body in effect prior to the establishment of USG should transfer over to USG.¹
2. With the exception of student news organizations and student government, any current or future organization receiving student activity fees from undergraduate students shall be overseen by the Undergraduate Student Government Committee on Oversight of the Student Activity Fee.
 - a. For all organizations under its jurisdiction. The Committee shall be informed of all expenditures, and must approve any governance changes.
 - b. The Committee may propose sanctions to the USG Rules and Ethics Committee over any organization for failure to follow that organization's constitution, bylaws, or any other rules as set forth by the college, university, or any applicable laws. Proposed sanctions may include anything up to and including the freezing of bank accounts.

¹ The dissolution of the previous student government has caused a situation where undergraduate students have no representation due to a technicality of CLAS/SGS titles not being updated to USG when the former student governments combined in 2019.

- c. The Committee may propose sanctions to the Rules and Ethics Committee over any executive or employee of an organization for failure to follow that organization's constitution, bylaws, or any other rules as set forth by the college, university, or any applicable laws. Proposed sanctions may include anything up to and including suspension or expulsion from an organization, or termination of employment (for those receiving money through SAF).
3. Upon the passage of this referendum the 2022 amended USG Constitution shall be ratified and take effect for the term beginning on July 1st 2022.
4. Listed organizations/clubs will be dissolved as referendum groups and listed as organizations/clubs under USG²:
 - Riverrun Journal (\$0.20)
 - Broeklundian Yearbook (\$0.50)
 - Student Film Society (\$0.50)
 - Stuck In the Library (\$0.45)
 - Global Medical Brigades (\$1.00)
 - Nightcall Newspaper (\$1.00)
 - BC Poetry Slam Team (\$0.20)
 - Student Organization For Every Disability United for Progress (\$1.00)
 - Veterans Student Organization (\$1.00)
5. The student activity fee shall be changed to reflect the new amounts as listed below. All other funds, assets and reserves held by other undergraduate student organizations that are no longer receiving student activity fee funding shall be transferred over to USG. These student organizations will exist as clubs under USG and will receive an allocation and assets as needed.

² The organizations/clubs listed can fully operate with no conflict of interest under USG and as such have no need to be referendum groups. The organizations/clubs will be managed by the undergraduate student government per its constitution and bylaws consistent with all other student organizations/clubs.

Student Activity Fee Breakdown³

Undergraduate Student Activity Fee = \$113.95⁴

- 1. Student Government = \$ 16.00**
 - a. \$3.00 Student Government Operating Budget
 - b. \$13.00 Student Government Clubs/Activities⁵
- 2. Brooklyn College Association (BCA) = \$59.00**
 - a. \$20.00 Health Care Clinic
 - b. \$18.60 Athletics & Recreation
 - c. \$5.00 Career Services
 - d. \$5.00 Child Care
 - e. \$2.50 Student Newspaper
 - f. \$2.00 Emergency Medical Squad
 - g. \$1.90 Student Forensics Society (Reduced by \$0.50)
 - h. \$1.50 Study Abroad Scholarship Association
 - i. \$1.50 Women's Center
 - j. \$1.00 WBCR Radio Station
- 3. Student Center = \$32.50**
- 4. NYPIRG = \$ 5.00**
- 5. University Student Senate (USS) Fee = \$1.45**

Undergraduate Summer Session Student Activity Fee = \$60.00⁶

- 1. Student Government = \$ 5.00**
- 2. Brooklyn College Association (BCA) = \$23.55**
 - a. \$9.30 Athletics & Recreation
 - b. \$1.00 Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
 - c. \$10.00 Health Care Clinic
 - d. \$2.50 Child Care
 - e. \$0.75 Study Abroad Scholarship Association
- 3. Student Center = \$25.00**
- 4. NYPIRG = \$5.00**
- 5. University Student Senate (USS) Fee = \$1.45**

³ We have thoroughly reviewed the allocations and tried to minimize the SAF. However, we have refrained from decreasing it further because with the shortage in funding, club allocations would have to proportionately decrease, which would harm student clubs, recreational facilities, career services, health services and more.

⁴ Decrease of 90 cents.

⁵ The \$5.45 allocation comes from Riverrun Journal (\$0.20) along with Broeklundian Yearbook (\$0.50) along with Student Film Society (\$0.50) along with Stuck In the Library (\$0.45) along with Global Medical Brigades (\$1.00) along with Nightcall Newspaper (\$1.00) along with BC Poetry Slam Team (\$0.20) along with Student Organization For Every Disability United for Progress (\$1.00) along with Veterans Student Organization (\$1.00) along with Student Forensics Society (\$0.50).

⁶ Decreased from \$78.95