

## **Referendum to Establish a Student Government and Student Activity Fee for all Undergraduate Students**

In spring 2019, the City University of New York (CUNY) changed its admissions module for CUNY colleges and eliminated the designation of “day” and “evening” for all undergraduate students. As a result, undergraduates admitted to Brooklyn College are no longer identified as day or evening students.

Currently, Brooklyn College has two undergraduate student governments, CLAS and SGS. However, the College no longer has a “College of Liberal Arts and Sciences” or a “School of General Studies,” the derivations of the CLAS and SGS acronyms. The rationale for having two undergraduate student governments—that CLAS represents day students and that SGS represents evening students—has been rendered moot. Brooklyn College undergraduates can no longer be designated as day or evening students, and all of them may take day, evening, or weekend classes as they see fit.

Brooklyn College’s student activity fees have been tied to whether students are designated as day or evening students. Student activity fees fund student government, as well as many other vital student organizations and services, such as Athletics and Recreation, Career Services, Emergency Medical Squad, Health Care Clinic, Child Care, SOFEDUP (the student disability rights organization), and others.

Unless Brooklyn College changes its structure for undergraduate governance, in the summer, newly admitted undergraduates will not be charged student activity fees because they will be neither day nor evening students. As a result, these students would not have access to all the crucial services those fees fund. For example, new students would not be able to use the Health Care Clinic, new student parents would not be able to use the Child Care facility, etc.

Continuing students would also be affected by the approximately 20% reduction in collected student activity fees overall. With the shortage in funding, club allocations would have to proportionately decrease, which would harm student clubs such as WBCR Radio Station, the Kingsman and Excelsior student newspapers, Global Medical Brigades, Veterans Student Organization, Study Abroad Scholarship Association, Student Forensics Society, and many others. For example, Athletics would have to reduce the hours of our recreational facilities by about 20%, Career Services would have to curtail its offerings, etc. Such an outcome would be disastrous for all students.

Finally, unless Brooklyn College changes its governance plan, the advent of the fall semester would dramatically undermine the power of the Student Government. Each semester, an ever-increasing number of Brooklyn College undergraduates would not be represented at all in the governance structures of the College. To assist in remedying this concern, on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, the Policy Council voted to recognize only one student government for all undergraduate students.

Therefore, in order to preserve the vital student services offered at Brooklyn College and to provide all students with equal access to these services, the goal of this referendum is to establish

a singular student government for all undergraduate students in addition to a new Student Activity Fee applicable to all undergraduate students granting all undergraduates with full access to all services funded by it. More specifically, this referendum shall:

1. Dissolve the CLAS Student Government and SGS Student Government and terminate their respective student activity fees.
2. Establish the Undergraduate Student Government as outlined by the proposed constitution and bylaws. All student clubs/organizations chartered by CLAS or SGS will have their charters transferred to the Undergraduate Student Government.
3. Transfer existing funds allocated to CLAS and SGS Student Governments to the Undergraduate Student Government.
4. Establish a uniform Student Activity Fee (SAF) for all undergraduate students as outlined below consistent with the current fee charged by CLAS students. Referenda previously established under the CLAS and SGS fees shall remain in effect, with the same funding, under the SAF except where noted below. The Student Activity Fee shall be collected for each semester a student is enrolled unless the fee is waived by the college or university.

<b>Undergraduate Student Activity Fee = \$114.85</b>
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**1. Student Government = \$ 13.20**

- a. \$0.20 Riverrun Journal
- b. \$0.50 Broeklundian Yearbook
- c. \$0.50 Student Film Society
- d. \$3.00 Student Government Operating Budget (*Formerly allocated to the Academic Club Association (ACA), but reduced by \$0.50*)<sup>i</sup>
- e. \$7.55 Student Government Clubs/Activities (*The \$0.25 allocation from On Campus has been added to Student Government Clubs/Activities along with \$0.50 from the ACA allocation.*)<sup>ii</sup>
- f. \$0.45 Stuck In the Library
- g. \$1.00 Global Medical Brigades

**2. Student Center = \$32.50**

**3. Brooklyn College Association (BCA) = \$58.70**

- a. \$18.60 Athletics & Recreation
- b. \$5.00 Career Services
- c. \$2.00 Emergency Medical Squad
- d. \$1.00 *Nightcall* Newspaper (*Formerly allocated to Student Concerts (BC Entertainment)*)<sup>iii</sup>
- e. \$1.00 WBCR Radio Station
- f. \$0.20 BC Poetry Slam Team
- g. \$1.00 Student Organization For Every Disability United for Progress (SOFEDUP)
- h. \$2.40 Student Forensics Society
- i. \$20.00 Health Care Clinic
- j. \$5.00 Child Care

- k. \$1.50 Study Abroad Scholarship Association
- l. \$1.00 Veterans Student Organization

**4. BCA/Student Government = \$ 4.00**

- a. \$2.50 Student Newspaper (*Formerly allocated to the Kingsman (\$1.25) and Excelsior (\$1.25)*<sup>iv</sup>)
- b. \$1.50 Women's Center (*Formerly allocated to the Lay Advocate Program*)<sup>v</sup>

**5. NYPIRG = \$ 5.00**

**6. University Student Senate (USS) Fee = \$1.45**

**Undergraduate Summer Session Student Activity Fee = \$78.95**

**1. Student Government = \$ 2.50**

**2. Student Center = \$32.50**

**3. Brooklyn College Association (BCA) = \$37.50**

- a. \$10.00 Athletics & Recreation
- b. \$1.00 Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- c. \$20.00 Health Care Clinic
- d. \$5.00 Child Care
- e. \$1.50 Study Abroad Scholarship Association

**4. NYPIRG = \$5.00**

**5. University Student Senate (USS) Fee = \$1.45**

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<sup>i</sup> The mission of the Academic Club Association is solely to allocate funding to academic clubs. This function will be managed by the undergraduate student government per its constitution and bylaws consistent with other categories of student clubs such as cultural and religious clubs. Therefore, the Academic Club Association shall be dissolved and their allocation will be transferred to the undergraduate student government operating budget.

<sup>ii</sup> On Campus has been inactive. Therefore, On Campus shall be dissolved and their allocation will be transferred to Student Government Clubs/Activities.

<sup>iii</sup> Student Concerts (BC Entertainment) has been inactive for over three years. Therefore, Student Concerts (BC Entertainment) shall be dissolved and their allocation will be transferred to the *Nightcall* Newspaper to preserve the publication under the undergraduate Student Activity Fee.

<sup>iv</sup> The *Kingsmen* and *Excelsior* shall be dissolved and their respective fees shall be allocated to one student newspaper as established by its constitution and bylaws.

<sup>v</sup> The Lay Advocate Program has been inactive for over three years. Therefore, the Lay Advocate Program shall be dissolved and their allocation will be transferred to the Women's Center to support their programs.