



# Student Government, Inc. Minutes of the Meeting September 7, 2020

*A meeting of the Board of Directors of Student Government, St John's University Queens Campus Inc. (the Board) was held on September 7, 2020 virtually through the Student Government, Inc. Zoom.*

**In attendance:**

**Patrick Kohn  
Julia Betancourt  
Natasha Yangthito  
Amy Ackel  
Caitlin Cassidy  
Chris Bernabe  
Ethan Burrell  
Adriana Odom  
Alison Rowe Tacaderas  
Amesha Diyunge  
Anfernee Osandu  
Angelina DeCoro  
Anjali Rana  
Anjolaoluwa Fashanu  
Anthony Salvia  
Anthony Catanese  
Brian Monahan  
Bryan Tavarez  
Cherokeesun Goodson  
Christianna Ukponmwan  
Christiana Vaccaro  
Courtney Norford  
Crystal Persaud  
David Diano  
Diamond Wilson  
Elise Faulk  
Emely Yanes  
Ethan Snider  
Faiz Shakir  
Gabiella Matatoff  
Hakeem Holmes  
Isabella Guarino  
Jerijah McCray  
Jewel Antoine**

**John Hagan  
Joseph Gandelman  
Katelyn Johnson  
Kayla Liborio  
Laiba Amin  
Matt Ventura  
Mikeshia Withanachchi  
Natalia Acevedo  
Nicholas Alexander  
Nicholas Mebane  
Nicolas Bautista  
Peter Grabowski  
Raya Keir  
Richard Neri  
Samantha Lanza  
Samantha Moore  
Sean Donnelly  
Shaeleigh Severino  
Shannon Thearle  
Tauryn Brown  
Tommy Giobardo  
Tracy Singh  
Tyler Gulston  
Victoria Gahn**

**Absent:**

**Tazia Sullivan  
Michelle Chin  
Matthew Fontanez  
Greggy Charles  
William Pierre  
Victoria Graceffa  
Lauryn Simon**

Jenna Gallo  
Jewyl Raikes  
Christopher Davis  
Kaitlyn Orsini  
Marianna Riquelme  
Andrea Vizzuett-Garci  
Brandon Singh  
Helen Li

Jennalynn Fung

Excused:

Ian King  
Jackie Alvarez  
Antoinette Bastone  
Hailey Pomara  
Samantha Reichert  
Logan Aquino  
Alex Coger-Bonet  
Joben Santos  
Naya Lipkens

## I. Opening

A. Call to Order at 5:07PM est.

B. Patrick Kohn

1. Hello everyone, Thank you all for coming today. Welcome to the first assembly meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year. Today the agenda will be out of order, with New Business directly following Campus Dialogue.

C. Natasha

1. Alright thank you everyone. Before we begin, we will doing attendance differently this year in efforts to save time. In the chat we there is a link that takes you to a form, please fill this out, it is what we will be using from now on to take attendance. The form will close within the first 10 minutes of every meeting.

D. Attendance

1. Quorum was reached during this meeting.

E. Campus Dialogue

1. *Ismael*

- a. When will be changing the Student Code of Conduct as SGi? The process is not clear and harmful to students. How are we planning to change the student code of conduct process? How is SGi moving forward this year with changing? What about the relationship with Public Safety and how they do not protect marginalized students.

2. *Julia*

- a. The Public Safety Advisory committee gets to decide who gets to come to the meeting. We are still reaching out to PS and inviting them to our meetings. Separate forums to address student experiences to address public safety. Forum for just student and a seperate one with Public Safety. We will start with safe space forum. From there we will be contacted if they select us to be on the committee, however, if they do not, we will reach out facilitate our own meetings with them. The Student Conduct Process is more a recent initiative and we have looked into statistics and demographic of students that are getting convicted of sanctions.

3. *Ismael*

- a. SGi should amend student conduct process. The current process is harmful the Black and Brown communities. R&D committee needs to do more for this issue.

4. *Anfernee*

- a. What specific changes to the conduct that are concerning you?

5. *Ismael*
  - a. Administration sees the Student Code of Conduct as law and they will use what is written to reduce and undermine statistics.
6. *Amy*
  - a. (Conversation has exceeded the two minute criteria of CD)
  - b. We will table this conversation for the next assembly meeting, we will address this later in the meeting.
7. *Patrick*
  - a. Second Amy's decision to table the conversation
8. *Anfernee*
  - a. I have a separate problem for CD.
  - b. They closed down Einstein's Bagels because Dunkin was similar. The concern for resident students is because they took away a meal option for resident student. Students were suppose to get an additional \$50 dining dollars. Did anyone get their \$50?
9. *Amy*
  - a. Yes, resident students were reimbursed today the amount they are allotted based on their meal plan.
10. *Adriana*
  - a. Motion to end Campus Dialogue.
11. *Brain*
  - a. 2nd Adriana's motion to end Campus Dialogue.

## II. **New Business**

### A. Committee Approval of Health & Wellness

1. *Isabella*
  - a. What are the responsibilities of H&W and is mental health included?
2. *Christianna*
  - a. We have been in contact and collaboration with the counseling center. We have events coming. Any human can go to counseling center, if they are not equipped, they will link you with other sources.
3. *Courtney*
  - a. Can you clarify the bylaws on the section that states if the chair or assistant chair does not do their job, their process of removal?
4. *Christianna*

- a. Vote within the committee and then take to the eboard.
- 5. *Tauryn*
  - a. Motion to approve Health and Wellness as an official standing committee.
- 6. *Adrianna*
  - a. 2nd Tauryn's motion to approve Health and Wellness as an official standing committee.
- 7. *The votes were as follows*
  - a. 17:0:0, the motion carries.
- B. Proposal of the Legislative Branch
  - 1. *Ethan*
    - a. Over the summer we had 3 representative workshop. Legislative Meeting will happen every other monday, when Assembly do not occur. Present legislative for programming, bylaws, etc. all representatives attained workshop.
  - 2. *Tauryn*
    - a. Motion to move on from New Business.
  - 3. *Diamond*
    - a. 2nd Tauryn's motion to move on from New Business.

### III. Executive Reports

#### A. *From the Office of the President*

- 1. *Patrick Kohn*
  - a. Presidential search committee.
    - i. Send your expectations for the new university President to me. What should we be advocating for?
  - b. Organization Designation Restructure
    - i. New budget tiers for orgs
      - (a) All orgs are now budgetary, starting at \$100.
    - ii. Funding shifts from budgets to special allocations.
  - c. Spark Summit Training
    - i. Aggregated policies for organizations and recorded training presentations for org leaders explaining policie. How they can access funding and what is available to them.
  - d. Organization DEI Trainings
    - i. Will not be mandatory at the moment. We do not have sufficient means of doing that.
- 2. *Shaeleigh*

- a. Why will DEI trainings not be mandatory for orgs?
- 3. *Patrick*
  - a. Put it in campus life and how inadequate service hours were in orgs. Change it something more positive and beneficial in the long term.
- 4. *Shaeleigh*
  - a. It needs to imperative that these DEI trainings are mandatory. How are we going to get them to become more socially aware?
- 5. *Amy*
  - a. Table this. I will talk more about this in my report.
- B. *From the Office of the Vice President*
  - 1. *Julia Betancourt*
    - a. Please save questions for the end of the meeting so that we can get through the agenda in a timely fashion. We will answer them all after the meeting.
    - b. Addressing rising costs of higher education
      - i. Fighting for financial transparency and tuition justice.
    - c. Measuring Antiracism
      - i. Our letter to Senior Leadership addressing their Antiracism statement was 66 days ago on July 3rd, and we have not received a response or acknowledgement.
      - ii. If you have not read it, I encourage you to read it on the SGi website and our linktree on our Instagram.
      - iii. Meetings with Chief Diversity Officer to structure dialogues between students, faculty, and administration, and determine the success of the bias reporting system and Policy 704.
    - d. New SGi Newsletter
      - i. Documenting our own history
      - ii. First issue will be released at the end of the month.
    - e. Org Congress on 9/10
      - i. Thursday during common hour via Zoom.
- C. *From the Office of the Secretary*
  - 1. *Natasha Yangthito*
    - a. First Year Elections
      - i. We are well on our way with having first year elections finished prior to the end of this month!
      - ii. I will let Elections committee speak more about it during their report.
    - b. Office and Representative Hours
      - i. Office hours can be deemed while working on legislation and

- policy making. We will discuss more next week at the first legislative meeting.
  - ii. Representative hours will have to do with virtual programming. We know we are making the role more serious but we still want everyone to have fun.
  - c. Virtual Sexual Violence Awareness Event
    - i. Try to find a way to do “Support Our Survivors” event to kick off a series of events that was supposed to happen last spring. I will be working with the SOAR office and the new director once they are hired to hopefully also do a virtual *Take Back the Night*.
  - d. Sign up for the Remind for the most up to date information
    - i. Text @sjust to 810-10
- D. *From the Office of the Treasurer*
- 1. *Amy Ackel*
    - a. The 2020-2021 SGI Budget is still pending approval.
    - b. St. John’s Connect App
      - i. It will be how orgs, representatives, committee chairs access funding.
    - c. New spending policies that will be in support of virtual programming.
    - d. Voter Registration Campaign
      - i. Athletics and Campus Activities are spearheading a big event, hopefully virtually as well.
      - ii. Any suggestions? Email me.
- E. *From the Office of the Senior Senator*
- a. *Caitlin Cassidy*
    - i. Senior Scholarship was completed in July and the recipients were announced in August.
    - ii. It was a success and we were able to give scholarships to students that are also graduating this fall.
    - iii. Virtual event ideas?
      - (a) Let’s Collaborate!
- F. *From the Office of the Junior Senator*
- 1. *Chris Bernabe*
    - a. Asian Alliance
      - i. Spearheaded by Natasha and I on the executive board. We are looking at different programming boards constitutions, especially Haraya.
      - ii. This is important for community and unity amongst Asian orgs.
    - b. Addressing Plastic Bag use in monties with their togo food.

- i. Shoutout Diamond for bringing this to my attention.
- c. Meeting with Deans of Colleges
  - i. Setting up communication between representatives and the deans of their colleges to hear concerns on behalf of their students.

G. *From the Office of the Sophomore Senator*

1. *Ethan Burrell*

- a. Tuition
  - i. Researching a fixed tuition program for St. John's to use in the future to tackle tuition increase.
- b. First Year Shirts
  - i. CAMPUS CONCIERGE DISTRIBUTION METHOD
- c. Restructuring sgi
  - i. Rewriting a new constitution and bylaws
  - ii. Legislative meetings
  - iii. Parliamentary procedure
  - iv. "Play" bill template
  - v. First-year introduction to new structure
- d. Fall giveaway
  - i. Over 500 new followers on instagram!
- e. Hosting a sophomore class forum and program

**IV. Committee Reports**

A. Academic Affairs Committee Report

1. *Tracy Singh*

- a. What does sgiaac have planned?
  - i. The academic affairs committee is off to a great start this year!
  - ii. We have created our own instagram page which we have been utilizing to directly connect with students, in order to provide a platform where students can voice their academic concerns
  - iii. Aside from developing our social media and reaching out to other organizations on campus, we have also been reaching out to deans from respective colleges in order to address issues students have already brought to our attention
  - iv. We are also working on planning events this semester, which we will provide updates on as time progresses
- b. Contact information
  - i. Tracy singh - chair
  - ii. Lauryn simon - assistant chair
  - iii. Thomas giobardo - assistant chair
  - iv. Email: [sgiacademicaffairscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:sgiacademicaffairscommittee@gmail.com)
  - v. Instagram: @sgiaac



- c. \*We are eager to collaborate with other organizations, please do not hesitate to reach out!

B. Budget

- 1. No Report

C. Elections

1. *Joseph*

- a. We are currently in the process of first year elections
  - i. All first year students have been reached out by email.
  - ii. Follow the sgi elections instagram @sgielections
  - iii. If you know any first year students that would be interested, we have one more information session this thursday at common hour on zoom.
  - iv. The tentative dates for the elections are september 24th and 25th.

D. Equity

1. *Jerijah*

- a. Welcome to equity committee! Your chairperson, ian, could not be in attendance today (yay for wacky, online class schedules!).
- b. In this committee's third year under sgi, now is perhaps the most important time for us to exist on st. John's campus.
- c. Our board of chairpeople has already spent the better part of the summer educating ourselves and navigating how we can reach out to our student body during this time in a virtual sense.
  - i. We have been hosting several instagram lives on topics ranging from performative activism, to navigating news media, to the intersection between the black community and the lgbtq+ community -- all of which are archived on @equitycommitteesju.

2. *Isabella*

- a. We are partnering with SJURadicals. This is the most pivotal and prolific year. We were going to do office hours, but now it is not likely. Reach out to the insta.

3. *Jerijah*

- a. Follow us for more events like these, some upcoming collaborations with other organizations and committees, and updates on our soon-to-be-announced first gbm/open forum! Our goal is to even further posture ourselves as a voice for the student body, so any and all voices are welcome.

E. Health and Wellness

1. *Jewel*

- a. This committee is dedicated to enhancing the experience of st. John's

university students by providing relevant holistic wellness resources. By implementing new initiatives that address student needs in regard to their health, as well as collaborating with existing wellness services, this committee will be able to create a culture of physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. The members of this committee aim to develop effective relationships with the wellness services on campus that are defined by advocacy, reflection and understanding.

## F. Organization

### 1. *Anfernee*

- a. The organizations committee oversees the power 2 organize process, assists in planning org congress, and serves as an avenue for support and guidance for the organizations.
  - i. If representatives or general body members are interested in joining our committee please reach out to me:  
[anfernee.Osandu17@stjohns.edu](mailto:anfernee.Osandu17@stjohns.edu).
- b. Info session details will be emailed to all students next week. Everything P2O related will take place on outlook and microsoft teams. Important dates:
  - i. Sep 28-29: P2O info sessions
  - ii. Sep 30: application released
  - iii. Oct 8: applications due
  - iv. Oct 20-23: e-board & reps will rank orgs using the virtual grading form
  - v. Oct 23-24: decision emails
- c. We are actively working with campus activities to create a resources list to include on the SGI website. Our work is ongoing.

## G. Public Relations Committee Report

### 1. *Tauryn*

- a. (Re)Introducing Instagram Takeovers:
  - i. We're considering hosting Instagram takeovers every month on the SGI Instagram account [[@sjusgi](https://www.instagram.com/sjusgi)] (If you're not following, you should be)
  - ii. If you're interested, email me (email below)
  - iii. We're looking for busy beings so you can provide hefty content for that day, anywhere from 6-8 posts. Preferably committee chairs and E-board members
  - iv. If they become popular, we might host more takeovers
- b. Looking for additional assistant chairs! Send me an email if interested: [tauryn.brown18@stjohns.edu](mailto:tauryn.brown18@stjohns.edu).
- c. Campus activities is looking for more engagement since transitioning

solely to virtual events. If you have any ideas to help engage and put the SGI name on it, follow up with me!

#### H. Research & Development Committee Report

##### 1. *Shaeleigh*

- a. Covid-19 Impact Survey [analysis](#)

#### I. RedZone Committee Report

##### 1. *David*

- a. What's going on in athletics?
  - i. Fall sports are postponed to the spring semester
  - ii. Winter sports (including basketball) have not been changed, but could potentially start without fans and/or start late
  - iii. Spring semester could have all three sports seasons going on at the same time
- b. What is RedZone plan for this semester?
  - i. Currently working on logistically planning out many different events:
  - ii. Watch party on the great lawn- old st. John's sports games or current professional sports games
  - iii. Sports caricature day- have you and your friends picture painted with a carnesecca arena background (student artists needed!)
  - iv. The first year redzone bucket list- 20 tasks for new students to fulfill by the spring semester when sports are back
  - v. Partnering with campus rec on esports tournaments (fifa in sept. And nba 2k in oct.)
  - vi. Other small online events like trivia nights
- c. Contact information
  - i. David diano- committee chair
  - ii. [David.Diano19@stjohns.edu](mailto:David.Diano19@stjohns.edu)
  - iii. [Sjuredzone@gmail.com](mailto:Sjuredzone@gmail.com)
  - iv. Instagram/twitter- @stjredzone
  - v. Remind-text @sjured to 810-10
- d. We want to collaborate with other organizations during these uncertain times. If you have any ideas or want to work together- never hesitate to contact me!
  - i. Catie, let's collab!

#### J. Service Committee Report

##### 1. *Samantha*

- a. Welcome back! We are still planning virtual events, but stay up to date by following our instagram @sjuservicecommittee.

#### K. Sustainability Committee Report

1. No Report.
- L. Student Affairs Committee Report
  1. No Report.
- V. **Old Business**
  - A. There was no old business.
- VI. **Announcements**
  1. Legislative meeting for representatives next Monday at 5pm.
- VII. **Adjournment**
  - A. *Anthony*
    1. Motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - B. *Victoria Gahn*
    1. 2nd Anthony's motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - C. *The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent of the Assembly.*