



**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DISCUSSION OF THE YORK  
COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2023  
7:00-8:28 P.M.  
HELD ON ZOOM**

- I. Started at 7:11 PM**
- II. Adjourned at 8:28 PM.**

**ROLL CALL**

President Rayon Chan, did the roll call for the meeting.

**Present:** Rayon Chan, Anaya Greene, Razzaine Williams, Kenzai Sinclair, Tatiana McLaren, Joah Joseph, Sweta Ambati, Cecilia Mendes, Aurelie Toumba, Katherine Catinac-Vaquero, Payoshni A Ramdeen, Abubakar Khamis

**Excused Absent:** Nelsy Moody Pierre and Akkeem Polack.

**PURPOSE**

This is a discussion intended for us to address vital topics that pertain to the SGA as a whole and explore ways to enhance our support for the student body.

**TOPICS ADDRESSED**

- **Queens College Collaboration Opportunity: Caribbean Night**
  - VP Razzaine Williams initiated a discussion regarding the invitation that York College Student Gov't received from Zareefa Khan, the Vice Chair for Programming at Queens College.

- Zareefa Khan, extends a warm greeting and introduces the purpose of the email. Queens College is excited to host their annual "Caribbean Night" on November 16th, a celebration of Caribbean culture featuring music, dance, cuisine, and a vibrant atmosphere.
- They seek collaboration with Caribbean student associations from various universities and colleges to enhance the event's success. They suggest multiple ways for the recipient's college's Caribbean Student Association to contribute:
  - **Financial Contribution:** Financial support to cover event expenses.
  - **Cultural Performances:** Showcasing Caribbean cultural performances
  - **Food and Beverage Participation:** Offering traditional Caribbean cuisine
  - **Promotion and Outreach:** Assisting in event promotion
  - **Networking and Connection:** Opportunities for students to network and share their cultural experiences
- **Concern: Timing of Elections and Enhanced Networking Opportunities**
  - USS delegate Sweta Ambati discussed topics from a recent USS Delegates retreat.
  - The primary concern was the timing of elections, as some USS delegates faced scheduling conflicts that prevented their attendance.
  - Sweta proposed moving the elections to an earlier date to ensure everyone's participation and avoid conflicts with future retreats.
  - During the retreat, Sweta observed a strong interest in inter-campus visits and meetings to share campus updates.
  - Sweta recommended implementing guest passes to facilitate easy access for visiting students and ensure smooth entrance and exit during these networking interactions.
  - President Chan expressed interest in the guest pass concept but suggested that we should consider working on it later in the semester since we are still in the early stages.
- **Agenda for the September 18th Full Board Meeting**
  - VP Kenzai inquired about the status of the upcoming meeting agenda.

- President Chan confirmed that the agenda is a work in progress, and he, along with the recording secretary, Joah, is actively receiving additional topics that need to be included in the meeting.

➤ **The Status of the Constitution**

- PCP Anaya Greene inquired about the current status of the SGA's constitution.
- President Chan provided an update, mentioning that he is actively working on this matter with Mrs. Skinner.
- It was noted that the SGA currently requires six additional senators due to the resignation letters received from three senators.
- A special election is planned to fill these vacancies and ensure a quorum for a full board meeting, during which changes to the constitution will be discussed.
- The goal is to complete the constitution revisions by the end of the semester.

➤ **Food and Clothing Drive Proposal**

- VP Razzaine Williams proposed organizing a food drive and clothing drive, taking into consideration the upcoming Thanksgiving season and the needs of both our student body and the surrounding communities.
- VP Williams suggested launching a food drive to support students who may be struggling with food insecurity despite being enrolled in our institution.
- This initiative would also extend its assistance to members of our local communities.
- Additionally, there was a proposal for a clothing drive where students could contribute clothing items they no longer needed.
- This would help prevent clothing from going to waste and provide resources to those in need.

➤ **Proposal: Lowering Prices in the Cardinal Cafe and Plus/Minus Grading System Changes**

- A proposal was raised during the meeting regarding two distinct topics.
- Discussion centered on the potential of reducing prices at the Cardinal Cafe.
- The aim is to make meals and services more affordable for students.
- Another discussion point was the consideration of making alterations to the current plus/minus grading system

➤ **Reopening the Cafeteria**

- Anaya suggested that it would be beneficial to explore a compromise regarding the high prices at the York Starbucks.
- **Goals:** Implementing healthier food options and improving the menu while maintaining affordability.
- Moreover, we can actively seek out vendors that offer more budget-friendly options.

➤ **Gurpreet**

- President Chan mentioned that he received a message from Gurpreet in which Gurpreet expressed that he felt criticized.
- Mrs. Skinner proposed a communication strategy for the Eboard members.
- She recommended refraining from directly telling Gurpreet that he is wrong, even when he may be mistaken, as he tends to repeat his viewpoints.
- Instead, Mrs. Skinner emphasized the importance of being encouraging and motivating in our interactions.

➤ **Ballot Type (Open or Closed)**

- VP Kenzai suggested the possibility of using open ballots instead of closed ballots. He believes it's essential for Gurpreet to have clarity on our positions.
- President Chan agreed to contact Mrs. Skinner to gather her input on this matter.
- Closed ballots are preferable, as they help prevent Gurpreet from feeling targeted or attacked.

➤ **Women Center World Food Event**

- The event is scheduled for October, and the SGA is strongly encouraged to participate in the event's video recording, which will include participation from across the CUNY system.

➤ **Performance Art Committee Funding**

- The committee is allocated \$40,000 as part of their budget, intended to be used for student events and various needs related to performance art.