

USG senator proposes judicial branch

BY ANDREW WINDSOR
REPRESENTATIVE SENATOR, USG

Our Founding Fathers deliberated over how much power an ideal government should have and the true purpose of government. Eventually, they agreed that the purpose of government is to ensure the proper use of force in order to protect the individual rights of its citizens. For this very reason, it is central to the theme of government and freedom that the conclusion the American people come to is that a limited government is more beneficial than the government currently in place. This government must be equipped with a system of checks and balances to which it must adhere. If it does not, how can the people entrust the government with law and order?

For this very reason, I believe that the Undergraduate Student Government of Baruch College has not yet developed the ideal way to serve its constituents.

USG is currently made up of five different tiers. The first tier is made up of committees. All undergraduate students can join a committee in order to address issues in Baruch. The list of committees includes the Campus Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Student government needs judicial branch

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Board members are elected through a popular vote by the student body and, if called upon, report to meetings with their respective administrative departments. The purpose of board members is to relay the wants and needs of their constituents. A few examples of boards include the Student Building Fund Committee and the Health Advisory Board.

The third tier consists of 14 representative senators who are elected through a popular vote by the student body. Each representative senator represents 1,000 students and has one vote on the USG Senate, where clubs are allocated budgets, resolutions are passed and student services are voted on and decided.

The fourth tier consists of vice presidents. There are four vice presidents who are also elected through popular vote. Each vice president chairs a specific committee and retains one vote on the USG Senate.

The fifth and final tier is called the Executive Board of USG. The Executive Board is also elected through popular vote by the student body and is made up of the president, the vice president, the treasurer and the secretary.

I, as a USG representative senator, feel that USG is lacking a branch. As a result, it is not performing to the best of its abilities for our constituency. The only way to protect the rights of Baruch students and ensure maximum transparency and accountability is to amend the USG constitution by adding a third branch—the USG Supreme Court.

Daniel Dornbaum, the cur-

rent USG president, mentioned last year that he wanted to explore the possibility of this addition to our government. However, Dornbaum was busy with his duties as vice president of Legislative Affairs and the project was placed on the back burner.

As a newly elected representative senator, I held no cardinal duties as head of a committee. Therefore, I am in a position that I can use as a vehicle, and I owe it to the students of Baruch to revive Dornbaum's original idea of implementing a judicial branch for our student government. I am pleased to announce that USG has formed a committee for this very purpose, titled the Constitutional Review Committee.

Every student should be aware of what his or her representatives are doing. This article is a way for students to not only find out what their representatives are doing, but more importantly, the reasons behind the decisions and initiatives of their student representatives.

I want to reach out to the students. The addition of a judicial branch is a rough draft that needs a lot of work and all students are welcome to chime in on the discussion. As I have previously explained, all undergraduate students can join committees to make changes in Baruch.

If this project interests you, please send me an email at Andrew.Windsor@usgbaruch.com. My committee has and will continue to meet in person on Thursdays at 5 p.m. in the USG Conference Room. Discussions in-person and offline will be geared toward deliberating the limitations, the powers and the purpose of a USG Supreme Court.