

Baruch College Governance Review FAQ

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Answers

What is governance?

In a college, governance is how decisions are made and who has a voice in making them. It brings students, faculty, and administrators together to shape policies and priorities.

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What is the Baruch College Governance Charter?

The [Charter](#) is Baruch's foundational document describing:

- who participates in decision-making,
- what governing bodies exist, and
- how policies are discussed, approved, and changed.

Think of it as the college's constitution for shared decision-making.

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Why is the Charter being revised?

The Charter has not undergone comprehensive review since 1998. Since that time, governance expectations, College practices, and CUNY policies have evolved.

The proposed revisions aim to strengthen shared governance by improving clarity of roles, updating committee structures, and ensuring broader and more balanced representation across College constituencies, including faculty, students, and staff.

Updating the Charter helps ensure that governance rules accurately reflect current College operations and shared governance principles.

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What are the main proposed revisions?

The proposed revisions focus on updating governance structure, representation, and procedural language. The major changes include:

- Establishing a Staff Council with elected representatives on the General Faculty, similar to existing student representation
- Recognizing the Library as the College's remaining Independent Unit and updating related language
- Revising Personnel and Budget committees to align with CUNY bylaws
- Allowing Student Government to determine whether to send representatives to certain College personnel and academic review committees
- Updating and clarifying the role and terms of office for the Office of the Ombuds
- Clarifying archival and records procedures
- Updating language to reflect current College operations and practices

These revisions are intended to improve clarity and better reflect current governance structures at Baruch.

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Were curricular processes changed?

No. Curricular articulation processes continue to be set by Faculty Senate bylaws.

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Where can I see exact revisions and their explanations?

The proposed revisions and supporting materials are available on the [Governance website](#).

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How was the Charter revision process conducted?

The revision process followed a multi-year, shared governance approach.

- At the beginning of the 2024–25 academic year, President Wu appointed an 18-member Governance Review Committee representing faculty, staff, and students.
- In Spring 2025, the Committee conducted focus groups and surveys of faculty, staff, and students to gather input on governance concerns and priorities.
- In May 2025, findings were discussed during a Governance Review Town Hall.
- During Summer and Fall 2025, subcommittees drafted proposed revisions.
- In November 2025, draft revisions were shared with the College community for feedback.
- In February 2026, the Committee incorporated feedback into a revised draft.
- A Spring 2026 referendum vote ended without enough student participation to be valid.
- A new referendum is scheduled for Fall 2026, with one minor wording change requested by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

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Who can vote in the referendum on the revisions?

Eligible faculty are those eligible for Faculty Senate elections.

Eligible students are those eligible to vote in student government elections.

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How will voting work?

Voting will be conducted using personalized anonymous electronic ballots sent to official College email addresses. Each voter receives one unique voting link.

Votes cannot be linked to individual voter identities.

The voting window will open in mid-September 2026 and will close at 11:59 PM on December 15, 2026.

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What happens if the referendum fails?

The current Charter remains in effect and no changes are adopted.

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Why should I participate in the referendum?

The Charter cannot be updated without the direct approval of faculty and students.

For the referendum to be valid:

- At least 20% of eligible faculty must participate
- At least 15% of eligible students must participate
- Approval requires at least two-thirds support within each voting constituency

Participation is therefore a required procedural step for governance changes, not just an expression of opinion.

Your participation helps ensure that governance decisions reflect the College community.

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