

Formal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting

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Sunday, April 24th, 2016, 4:00 pm

Office of Transportation Update

Director of Transportation and Parking Services Kim Jackson gave an update about changes in the upcoming years regarding transportation programs. This is Jackson's third year speaking to the Senate and is happy with the relationship she is building with the undergraduate and graduate student populations. Recently, the office has been looking into the efficiency of parking spaces on campus and has noticed that there are more and more visitors every year while there are fewer and fewer students who register their cars on campus. A decision by the Office has already been made that will go into effect in the Fall of 2016. Starting then, there will be no more automatic registration for undergraduate students for their vehicles and students will have to go through a registration process. Additionally, student spaces may no longer be near the graduate college, as that area might be restructured for faculty and staff spaces. Tiger Transit will also be expanded and, starting in the fall, there will be a combined route to the Engineering Quad area and a route to the boat house as well as a bus to West Windsor fields. Continued enhancements are also being made to the on-demand bus service. Students will be able to call a bus through the PRise system with a new mobile app. Students can report the pickup location and how many students will be picked up and the bus will notify the student as to when it will arrive. The Enterprise Car Share service will also be expanded and they may add more areas for vehicle pickups, possibly near Dillon or near more residential colleges like Rockefeller/Mathey and Forbes. There will be two more Saturday Shopper buses that will run every 40 minutes as opposed to every hour, and Whole Foods will be added as a stop. The last big update was the Zagster bike share program, which has been embraced by students. Additional locations are being added to Butler, near the science buildings, and near Jadwin gym. A person has also been hired full time to reposition and repair bikes so that bikes are always evenly distributed between locations. Concerns from Senate members included questions about the registration process for undergraduates who want to have cars on campus. Jackson stated that all students who want to have a car on campus will have to apply with a compelling reason for the vehicle, but clarified that many reasons will be considered valid and that the committee will review all applications carefully. Students with medical needs will receive priority. In terms of undergraduate student driving, we are on par with a lot of our academic peers when it comes to movement and access on access.

President's Report

President Aleksandra Czulak presented her weekly President's Report. Election results were discussed, since they were announced on Friday with no runoff. Neither of the referenda passed the required one third threshold. Additionally, only 7 out of the 10 UCouncilor positions have been filled, so the remaining 3 will be appointed at the end of the semester. The Task Forces have all been going well and drafts of resolutions will be worked on soon. The next Senate meeting will be after Lawn Parties. The Princeton website redesign focus group met this past week and Czulak gave feedback on the Princeton home page, which will undergo a few changes in the next year. Additionally, Czulak met with Dean Zeltner about the USG Office, which will

also undergo changes over the summer. Vice President Jeremy Burton and Executive Secretary Daniel Qian will send out information soon about the mid-year report and playbook submissions.

Elections and Referenda Update

President Aleksandra Czulak gave a more in depth update on the recent elections and referenda turnout numbers. The referenda threshold had previously been set at one third of the student population and neither referendum met the threshold. The SPEAR referendum was closer, but only had 1600 votes. Voter turnout was lower this cycle than last year's and less than a third of the student body voted. The Class of 2018 had the higher number of votes based on their class government elections, but there is no way to get the number of unique voters on campus as of yet. Several concerns and ideas were brought up, including ways to abstain from a referendum and if abstentions would count towards the required one third threshold, considerations to lower the threshold, ways to incentivize people to vote at all because as it stands, students in opposition to a referendum have a better chance at not voting at all than anything else because otherwise they might actually be helping a referendum reach the required threshold, and if the expiration time for voting can be moved from noon to midnight to increase participation. Czulak stated that she will bring up these concerns at the next town hall meet, and there will also be considerations for a longer campaign period.

Co-op and Independent Students Project Update

UCouncilor and Project Leader Lavinia Liang presented an update on her project dealing with co-op and independent students. One goal is to put out an infographic on how to join a co-op. A second goal is to organize an event for independent students who may want to attend a semi-formal event the week of eating club House Parties. The semi-formal event is set to be held at Campus Club and the event will be free for students. It is planned as a dessert party and the hope is to get it catered and that is why money is being requested from USG. In the future, in terms of longevity, there is the possibility to have more independent and co-op students involved in the actual planning for the event and establish an organizing committee in the future.

Committee Updates

CCA Chair Michael Cox presented on Communiversity, which happened last week. The event went well and there was really nice weather, which made for a great day. Restaurant Week planning is progressing really slowly based solely on restaurant interest. There are considerations to not have a Spring Restaurant Week at all since a lot of restaurants only want to do it in the fall. The reason there was a spring one last year was because it was the first spring one ever and restaurants were more interested in participating, but now a lot of restaurants feel that two a year is too much. Social Chair Rachel Park updated the Senate on the Battle of the Bands event, which was the previous Friday. Around 100 students were in attendance, which was good turnout. The winner will be announced Monday and they will help open for the main act at Lawn Parties, which is still set for next Sunday. Guest tickets are on sale now and will close Friday. Park also sent a letter out to the graduate student body to clarify what the price is and why they have to pay, while still recognizing them as students on campus. USLC Chair Jenny Zhang updated the Senate on the The Other Side of Me photo campaign. She extended thanks to all USG members who were involved in the test batch. Multiple colleges across the country have been in contact with USLC about the campaign and news outlets like The Tab and USA Today have reached out to write about the campaign. For the Career Closet program, the goal is to get a

student developer to create an app for the inventory. In other news, the bathroom codes funding request did not pass and so the determination on what to do with bathroom codes has not been finalized yet and will be discussed at the larger USLC meeting on Tuesday.

Executive Session

Academics Chair Shannon Osaka held an executive session to discuss the results of the academic calendar survey before the results are publicized to the whole school. All this information is to be kept confidential until the news report is publicly released on Friday. The General Education Task Force will convene on Thursday to also go over the results. Main findings were consistent across all degree areas and undergraduate years and there was dramatic support for the notion that the current calendar should be changed. 81% of students responding believed that the current placement of finals generated stress. Moving forward, the General Education Task Force is responsible for reviewing the calendar at this point. The hope is that they will release their recommendations over the summer and will present to the Board of Trustees and President Eisgruber. It will then go back to faculty and committees that will make a final calendar recommendation. The faculty voting procedure will follow and the calendar decision will be determined by a 50% + 1 of those who show up to the faculty meeting. It is unclear at this point if we will ever see the results from the faculty who took the survey.

Working Time

UCouncilor Brandon McGhee spoke about the upcoming Staff Appreciation Event that is happening on Thursday. The video for the staff has been made, thanks to all the participants. The banner has arrived and the project group is currently asking students to write a sentence or two expressing their gratitude. Volunteers are still needed for clean up shifts because if student's do not volunteer, the staff will have to clean up their own appreciation event. Class of 2018 Senator Myesha Jemison spoke about low-income student resources. One goal was to ensure that USG was an appropriate avenue for students to get information about low-income student resources. Another goal is to centralize all the information and to make sure all opportunities for these types of students are linked to each other. Class of 2017 Senator Cailin Hong spoke about RealWorld Princeton. Over the course of the semester, the project group planned 5 events, 2 on vehicle maintenance, 2 on cooking, and 1 on personal finance. There were 20-25 students at each workshop and there was good feedback. Hong feels that really good relationships have been developed that future project leaders can use. There has been interest from Dining Services to start a semester-long class that students could sign up for that would include 4 sessions over the course of a semester where chefs could teach cooking classes. This could be a good opportunity to offer support to co-op and independent students, but the trouble is ensuring student commitment. USLC Chair Jenny Zhang presented a proposed fund request for free fitness classes at Dillon gym during Reading Period. There are 9 classes that would be offered in total, each for one hour. The budget was lower than expected. With no abstentions and no voting members not in favor, the budget proposal passed.