

Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 9
April 4, 2020
9:30PM (EST)



**Undergraduate
Student
Government**

Introduction

1. Question and Answer Session (15 minutes)
2. President's Report (5 minutes)

New Business

1. Gratitude Campaign: Chitra Parikh and Andres Larrieu (15 minutes)
2. Election Handbook Amendment: Lehman Montgomery (15 minutes)
3. Budget Update: Rachel Hazan (5 minutes)
4. CPUC Meeting Recap: Allen Liu and Sarah Lee (10 minutes)

CPUC Meeting Minutes

Council of the Princeton University Community

March 30, 2020 4:30 - 6 EST

Administrators in Attendance:

Christopher Eisgruber, President

Deborah Prentice, Provost

Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Student Life

Elizabeth Colagiuri, Office of the Dean of the College

Robin Izzo, Executive Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Agenda:

Presentation: COVID-19 Campus Update

Question and Answer Section

Presentation: COVID-19 Campus Update

1. **President Eisgruber:** When was the last time that Princeton students had to leave campus early?
 - Haven't since the 1880s
 - Thanks the Princeton Community from the alumni, students who went home, staff of our University who altered the way they're doing their jobs, faculty who put their courses online on short notice, undergraduates and graduate students for adapting while maintaining social distancing
 - We're in the early stages of this and there's a lot we don't know
 - Hoping to have more data to make decisions on as we go on
 - Get through this as a community, proceed with one accord to make a difference in the world
2. **Provost Prentice**
 - In accordance with NJ Governor Executive Order, we are all working from home (faculty, staff, students on campus)
 - Staff still paid full salary, for as long as we can
 - Wound down research operations to essential, without trying to suffer too large a scientific loss
 - Courses are going very well online
 - People are pitching in as much as possible, organizing a blood drive, organizing PPE which is in short supply
 - Working with state and communities to be in the area's

- [COVID-19 website](#): updates every Tuesday with case counts and up to date guidance

3. Vice President Calhoun

- Responding to public health crisis and NJ Executive Orders, made guidelines
 - Asking student to respect protocols and guidelines to do our part
- Hearing concerns from students (especially in regards to being removed from campus as a result of breaking guidelines):
 - Concerns about lack of communicating fundamental fairness in making those decisions
 - Have due process to hear students who are seen to be in violation of these policies through residential college discipline system
- How We can Act in solidarity as a community:
 - Virtual community
 - [Wintersession website](#) (look at virtual gatherings)
 - Students can continue to serve from home (PACE Center)
 - Go outside and be creative!
 - Find ways to be connected (following social distancing)
 - We understand times are uncertain which creates stress and anxiety
 - Trying to get support for those who need it

4. Robin Izzo

- There is an emergency management group for Covid-19 of over 50 people from 20 groups, including:
 - 15 people from 20 groups: PSafe, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, Dean of Graduate School, etc
- UHS acts on behalf of Princeton health department for contact tracing
 - Issues quarantine orders for students and faculty
- Case updates (as of March 30, 2020):
 - **Faculty and staff:** 29 tested, 12 positive, half of them have met CDC guidelines to be released from isolation, 12 tested negative, rest waiting for results remain in isolation
 - **Students:** 79 tested: 15 on-campus; 64 off-campus
 - *On-campus:* UHS tested the 15: 3 tested positive, and all 3 met guidelines to be released from isolation, 8 negative, 4 pending and remaining in isolation on campus
 - 18 students in quarantine on campus
 - *Off-campus:* 32 positive, 5 negative, 7 waiting for results
- Campus Dining providing meals to students on campus following NJ Executive Order procedures
- Housing has arranged appropriate spaces for students who need to be quarantined

- Supporting students with delivery of meals, thermometers, anything they might need

5. **Elizabeth Colagiuri**

- McGraw has had a full calendar of one-on-one meetings for faculty to talk to instructional designer about nitty-gritty of conducting online classes
- OIT ramped up staff dedicated on help desk to field technological questions
- *For students:*
 - Writing Center—appointments online as of 3/15 (scheduled the same way: through their calendar)
 - Since this week, McGraw - back online individual and group tutoring sessions, offering online learning consultations
- **Changes to Grading Policy**
 - 3/24/20: Committee on Course of Study (CoCS) took up proposals from the USG Academics Committee
 - *Previously was a flexible PDF-optional policy*
 - This past Friday, Dean Dolan sent out memo summarizing changes—CoCS and the Committee on Examinations and Standing (CoES) approved
 - Add PDF-option for **all undergraduates**
 - Faculty can further elect PDF-only grading policy if they feel that is required
 - “P” grade earned in Spring 2020 will fulfill all language requirements, departmental and certificate
 - Push final deadline to elect PDF to Dean’s Date (May 12)
 - PDF Also available to departments to choose if they would like for thesis, JP, and senior comprehensive exams

Question and Answer:

1. Claire Wayner ‘22: Given that a USG Resolution endorsing this passed, has a retroactive PDF been considered for this semester?

Dean Colagiuri: Yes, there was a proposal from USG. This has not yet been considered fully by CoCS, as we’ll consider next year. We did consider extending the PDF deadline to May 23rd, however, several faculty members worried that would devalue the pass on the transcript. Any pass on the transcript would then be considered as covering a “C” grade. By Dean’s Date, students should have a considerable amount of information on how their course is going at that point.

2. Suchin Smart (Graduate Student): Students in the Princeton MFA program are curious whether the University is reducing tuition, due to the drastic limited experiences. The virtual experience is a fraction of the on-campus, in-person experience.

Provost Prentice: As the University has shifted to online instruction for the rest of the semester, this has forced us to change the way we teach. We're not alone, as all universities across the country have adapted. What hasn't changed is our commitment to high-quality education and for students to continue making progress towards their degree, which will maintain the rigor and opportunities to engage and connect. We reviewed student charges. Instruction continues in the manner as planned, so we will not be refunding tuition. 90% of our students left campus, so we have refunded a portion of the room and board. Financial aid status did not change this refund. Both students with and without financial aid received the refund.

3. Daily Princetonian: Why was the decision to make individual courses PDF-only left to individual faculty members?

Dean Colaguirri: Our goal around the grading policy was to increase flexibility, so we did not consider taking PDF-only off the table, as several courses have operated for years. For example, Princeton Atelier courses have historically been PDFO. We received over 100 responses from students, faculty, and parents. This was a very divisive issue. We've added the PDF option to any course that doesn't already carry it and students can elect to PDF as many classes as they'd like this semester.

4. Daily Princetonian: Why do the recently announced social distancing procedures not even allow students who have been approved to stay on campus to visit each other?

VP Calhoun: The reason we enacted this policy, which really was a part of NJ Executive orders about behavior in public and private to prohibit gatherings of any size, to address through social distancing the slowing of the spread of the virus. There was lots of consideration given to each student who remained on campus. Those students who left on financial aid would continue to have needs associated, this is why the refunds were issued. We continue to make Hardship Funds available to students. We need to be both ourselves compliant to the executive order and to keep students on campus safe. We've tried very hard, while complying, to support the continuing needs of students. Colleagues from across the campus have been open to and in constant and continuous communication with students whose circumstances are changing. We must hold ourselves accountable to not only the state, to one another. We do want to make the resources available to the students who need them.

5. Daily Princetonian (and USG combination): How confident are you that we will resume in person instruction in the fall? What steps are you taking to make this possible? What are the University's plans if social distancing and stay-at-home orders continue into the Fall semester? How will the university support its students if virtual learning must occur in the long-term?

President Eisgruber: We are in the early stages of this experience. It's only been a couple of weeks since we've had students leave campus, and only a week since we started online learning. I want us to be up and running with an on-campus experience as rapidly as we can do that, but I don't know where we will be in the fall, but I am approaching that with optimism. This optimism is tied to us as a society and as a campus to increase testing which will add to our ability to respond to the disease and control transmission without all of the measures that are in place right now. I've been heartened by the scientific advances our own faculty are taking part in. We don't know where we'll be in weeks and months. We will continue to communicate with you about it. Our goal is to be up and running on campus, instead of virtual learning.

6. Sarah Lee '22: The uniformity of the prepackaged boxed meals for students on campus do not adequately accommodate students with dietary restrictions, and does not allow students to choose their portion sizes or offer diverse food options. Due to the closing of kitchens, these students are forced to buy their own food and some students have elected to eat less, or not at all, which would detrimentally lower their immune systems in the face of a global pandemic. How has Dining Services strived to ask for student input on boxed meals, and if not, is Dining Services open to implementing a survey for students to provide input?

VP Chad Klaus: Campus Dining has been in a major transition to attempt to both produce and serve food to the campus community in the safest way possible. Clearly, we're still learning, so we appreciate the feedback. For those with specific dietary needs, we request you contact Sue Pierson at (609)258-6678. They are working through on a case by case basis. We are really trying to do what is best, but this is a complicated set of circumstances. We are attempting to have some level of variety, but this is diminished from our normal circumstances.

7. Chitra Parikh '21: Are there resources the University can offer to students who have cancelled internships and postponed jobs to help alleviate the burden of lost income?

Dean Colaguiri: I do not have a firm answer at this time about resources available to students who lost internships. We have taken steps for students who had campus jobs in the spring term, but some jobs are continuing (McGraw tutors, writing center fellows). In other instances where students cannot perform jobs virtually (i.e. dining hall), student employment is making arrangements to pay for the remainder of the semester.

8. Claire Wayner '22: What do we say to pre-health students who can't PDF their pre-health requirements under a PDF-optional policy?

Kate from the Health Professions Advising office is in communication with med schools. Med schools have not fully adjusted their policies to what they will accept this. CoCS faculty members wanted to emphasize they feel this term is extraordinary circumstances, there will be a large asterisk on the Spring Term of 2020. Whether it's a letter grade, pass or a fail, we will all keep this in mind when evaluating any student or transcript. They want to recommend to students that a critical part of the application is the letter of recommendation, a faculty member could provide additional context to medical schools or professional programs.

9. Malachi Byrd: Is the University comfortable with the prospect of seniors not graduating due to academic struggles in the midst of COVID-19?

Dean Colaguiri: Any student who finds themselves struggling in the coming weeks should reach out to DSL or Residential College Dean. They are prepared to work with you in terms of potential extensions. We are not comfortable with the possibility of a student not graduating.

10. From staff member Kimberly Tedeeken: Employee research groups are curious. Is there anything else, we, the Princeton University community, can do to help front line workers or those affected by the virus?

Provost Prentice: We have a group that is mobilizing the human resources of our community to help in any way possible. VP for Space Planning Paul Prammarsh is heading that. Opportunities will become available. Blood drives and others will be on COVID-19 website.

Robin Izzo: One of the best ways to support those who are still working on campus: if you don't have to be on campus, stay at home. The less they interact with, the better.

11. Alumni Council Member Cecilia De la Rosa: What are some adaptations faculty members want to keep for the future?

Dean Colaguiri: Faculty on teaching and learning are gathering later this week to talk about the experiences they're hearing from their faculty members about what they're learning and can improve.

12. Sahil Jain '23: The US government is delaying mortgage and tax payments. For families financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, is the university doing anything such families are able to delay the remaining tuition payments (if they are paying on a monthly plan)? For next

year, are there financial loan options available to all Princeton families at heavily discounted interest rates (subsidized by the university)?

Jim Matteo: The Parent loan programs offer loans at favorable rates. We try to accommodate families as needed. Check it out on our website.

President Eisgruber: Our financial aid program is designed to ensure Princeton is affordable for all students. We know students who did not need aid in the past may need aid now, and we are willing to make those adjustments.

13. Juan Nova '23: Will there be a note on the transcript that indicates that the second half of the Spring 2020 semester occurred via virtual instruction and does the university carry any preference as to whether transcripts will indicate how each class was graded?

Dean Colaguirri: The registrar is drafting a transcript notation. We are also working on a consideration of a question on whether there will be a designation in a student-elected PDF or a faculty mandated PDF.

14. Anna Macknick '21: Social distancing guidelines for students on campus does not permit visiting family or close friends. New Jersey's shelter-in-place policy currently makes exceptions for immediate family and caretakers. Is there any way to make exceptions to the no-visitors policy, especially for students who may have caretakers or other individuals off campus they may need to see?

VP Calhoun: One of the things we considered when making the guidelines were about the kinds of living quarters students are in. Unlike homes, in our dorms, it is not possible to adhere to social distancing procedures indoors, which is why we enacted the policy. As long as Frist is open, we hope that people will have an opportunity to engage with each other following social distancing procedures.

15. Allen Liu '22: Will students remaining on campus receive at least a partial refund for room and board for the rest of the semester as amenities such as access to kitchens and other residential college or dorm spaces are more limited now?

Provost Prentice: No, we are not issuing any additional refunds at this time.

16. Sarah Elkordy '21: Is University continuing summer funding for research and international opportunities?

Provost Prentice: A number of summer programs have made decisions on their own to cancel. Following outside guidance we have, right now, there is no international travel to anywhere. We recognize that will require some programs will have to cancel. We won't be supporting anything that can't happen. We don't know what will be possible either on campus or off campus. We're not trying to cancel things prematurely, but also are trying to give people certainty in order to make decisions about their own plans. The likelihood of international travel is unlikely for the foreseeable future.

17. Andres Larrieu '22: Is the Office of Admission and Financial Aid expecting to grant more emergency financial aid to those whose financial situation changes dramatically?

President Eisgruber: We recognize in financial crises, the financial aid office will respond accordingly. 10 years ago, even when the revenues were going down, we increased our financial aid budget.

Dean Colaguirri: Financial aid office has just finished the financial aid packages for the class of 2024. There may be a need for some of the admitted students to appeal the award that has just been packaged to them. We have not yet packaged for current students, so families can submit updated circumstances with their application.

18. Olivia Ott '20: Have any discussions surrounding Commencement for the class of 2020 occurred?

President Eisgruber: While some peer institutions have already stated they will not be occurring, we will be taking more time to learn what we can, and make a call by the middle of April. The class of 2020, one way or another, will appropriately celebrate their achievements and accomplishments. We'll look for the right way to do that.

19. Julia Garaffa '23: Will students who qualify to remain on campus be allowed to remain there past the May 22 deadline and over the summer/into next semester if necessary?

VP Calhoun: There is a group looking at what might be the need for summer, so we don't have an answer yet, but this is an issue that has been brought to us by many students. We have always had a population of students who remained on campus in the summer.

20. Sahil Jain '23: How is the University taking care of students who have contracted COVID-19?

Princeton students have tested positive and it is possible they can't participate in classes for an extended period of time.

Dean Colaguri: A student should reach out to their Dean or DSL to alert them just as we would do during any other health difficulties to get exceptions, extensions, or alternative arrangements. Since most faculty are recording their live content, that content will be available for students who may miss class for a week or two due to illness until they get better.

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