

Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 12
April 25, 2020
9:30PM (EST)



Undergraduate
Student
Government

Introduction

1. Question and Answer Session (15 minutes)

2. President's Report (5 minutes)

- Working on a survey that will be sent out next week to gauge student preferences for Fall 2020 to elevate student input.
- Met with Office of Wintercession and Student Engagement to discuss shifting towards social media programming to build virtual community.
- The next CPUC meeting will be next week.
- A University Student Life meeting was held to host the Campus Mobility presentation.

New Business

1. Creating Resources and Discussing Concerns for Cancelled Summer Plans and Partnership with the Center for Career Development: Chitra Parikh and Kim Betz (20 minutes)

Background of virtual career development:

- Advisors are doing virtual meetings with students
- Have been doing outreach to alums who want to help students out
 - Asked alums to see if they can create virtual internships or projects this summer

Suggestions from Senate:

- There are students who have had their employment pushed back to 2021, which affects their visa status. These students are now looking for new jobs.
 - These students can be directed to the Davis International Center and may be able to find a short term opportunity that uses these students' skill sets.
- If school is online in the fall, students may have needs for fall internships.
- Promoting Career Development's Office Hours would be helpful for students who are unaware of opportunities for advising. USG could include Career Development's Office Hours in the newsletter.
- Create a centralized list on the USG website for university-provided fellowships, internships, and career development opportunities.

Questions from Senate:

- What resources are there for students who are struggling with their careers or jobs given the potential for an impending economic recession?

- Career Development has been reaching out to employers and has heard that existing job offers will not be revoked, but start dates may be pushed back. Handshake also has a list of employers that are still hiring. Some industries are ramping up hiring, while others are slowing down their hiring.
- How does virtual learning affect employment recruitment for 2021 that typically happens on campus?
 - Employers are able to implement virtual first-round interviews, which typically happens on campus.

2. Outreach Plan for Upcoming Survey: Chitra Parikh (10 minutes)

- Next week. USG will be releasing a survey to gauge student opinion on Spring 2020 and preferences for Fall 2020.
- USG should aim to maximize participation in this survey in order to provide a comprehensive picture of student opinions.
- USG will send the survey out via Survey Gizmo, using a personalized link.

Questions from Senate:

- Could this survey be similar to the year-end assessment survey?
 - While the year-end assessment survey has many close-ended questions, this USG survey is intended to reflect student experiences.
- What will this information be used for?
 - The metrics and answers will be generated into a report that will be sent to the administration and the student body.
- How long is the survey and is there an option to partially answer the survey or save answers and then submit?
 - All questions in the survey are optional. There are questions that pertain to specific semesters and the entire survey should take 10-15 minutes to fill out.
- How long will the survey be live?
 - While logistical details of the survey are subject to change, the length should still be in the ballpark of a week.

Suggestions from Senate:

- Graphics could be made to summarize the findings of the survey.
- Class Government could be asked to promote it.
- Monitor engagement for the survey and reevaluate the effectiveness of outreach.

3. Referendum Position Paper: Kate Liu and Lehman Montgomery (10 mins)

- The Senate must draft and submit a position paper regarding the referendum to limit widespread print distribution of the students' Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities Handbook following the 88% student approval of the referendum.

Questions from the Senate:

- Does the position paper have to reflect the exact specifications of the referendum or can USG omit some details or add information?
 - USG could add some details to add to the justification for the referendum, but USG should keep in mind that the existing referendum was what students voted on.

Referendum Question No. 1

Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Spring 2020

Sponsored by SHIYE SU '20 and AUSTIN WANG '20

On March 21, 2020, the USG Senate approved the language of this condensation (ballot question) and referendum resolution as being neutral and clear (24 members in favor, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstaining).

Condensation (Ballot Question)

Shall the undergraduates call on Princeton University to limit the widespread printing and distribution of the physical copy of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*?

Explanation (Submitted by the Sponsor)

The sponsor's explanation is due Monday, April 6 and may be updated before that date.

The purpose of this referendum is to demonstrate the commitment of the undergraduate student body to avoid paper waste. Currently, each new edition of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* is delivered in paper copy to each student. However, the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* is already available on the University website, and as a PDF document. As a reference and guide, these electronic forms allow the user to search for keywords related to their particular enquiry.

In our personal experience, the paper copy is far too under-utilised by the student body to warrant its widespread distribution. We have observed that students by far opt to consult the electronic rather than paper copy of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*. We have observed that the majority of physical copies of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* are immediately discarded upon delivery, or shelved away in an obscure and forgotten location. Some paper copies are never claimed from the Frist mailroom.

We would not oppose the highly limited printing and distribution of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibility*, for example to the Residential College Offices. However, the current state of widespread printing and distribution is an unjustifiable expenditure that involves the wasteful consumption of energy and paper resources.

THE UNDERGRADUATES OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, New Jersey

Referendum Resolution 1-2020

Referendum Question No. 1 (Spring 2020)

Sponsored by SHIYE SU '20 and AUSTIN WANG '20

Referendum Resolution

Calling on the administration to take a concrete step towards reducing carbon-emissions on campus by improving the functionality and student awareness of the online version of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* and ceasing the widespread distribution of the paper copy of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*.

Whereas the Princeton University 2019 Sustainability Action Plan outlines a current commitment for carbon neutrality by 2046, established by the 2015 CO2 Task Force convened by President Eisgruber;

Whereas resolution 1-2019 passed in 2019 calls upon Princeton University to more actively engage students in the process of reaching carbon neutrality.

Whereas the printing and distribution of over 5000 copies of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* annually represents an excessive and unnecessary burden on the environment.

Whereas the search functions of the online version of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* could be further improved to facilitate easier navigation.

Resolved by the undergraduates of Princeton University,

SECTION 1. FACULTY, DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND ADMINISTRATION.

The undergraduates call on the faculty and administration to reduce the environmental impact related to the widespread printing and distribution of the physical copy of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* by:

- (1) Limiting the printing and distribution of the physical copy of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*. This means making limited quantities of physical copies available publically in select locations such as residential college offices and restricting the distribution of the physical copy of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* to only those students who explicitly request a physical copy.
- (2) Actively directing students to the online version of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* when any consultation of University policy is required.
- (3) Improving the search functions on the online version of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*. Currently, the search results for “drugs” on the website rrr.princeton.edu does not return section 1.6.1 which contains University policy on drugs. Better search functions are needed to make the online version of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* more accessible.

SECTION 2. USG SENATE

As per Section 8 of the Referenda Handbook, the USG Senate will write a position paper detailing action items to be taken by the administration, as laid out by this referendum. The position paper must be written and sent to the

administration by no later than the end of Spring 2020 final exams on May 23, 2020.

SECTION 3. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION

The Executive Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an official copy of this resolution to each of the following university officers:

- (1) President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83, President of the University.
- (2) Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Campus Life.
- (3) Shana Weber, Director of the University Office of Sustainability.

Approved April 17, 2020.

With 2,329 Undergraduates Voting

By a Vote of 2,055 (88.2%) Undergraduates in Favor, 143 (6.1%) Against

LEHMAN MONTGOMERY '20,
Chief Elections Manager

Attest:

JOSEPHINE KIM '21,
Executive Secretary of the Senate.