

Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 1
February 9, 2020
7:00 Lewis Library 138



**Undergraduate
Student
Government**

Introduction

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

New Business

1. Mission, Vision, and Priorities (10 minutes)

A. January

- a. Interviewed and appointed new Senate members
- b. Met with administrators
- c. Honor Committee Court selections: USG and Honor Committee met to discuss Honor Committee clerk Wells Carson '22
- d. Ideas Incubator: Allen Liu
 - i. Sessions in which students can come in with ideas they have for campus policy to get advice from USG members and administrators. The form of meetings are yet to be determined. Two focus groups will be meeting next week
 1. Tuesday (2/11) 5-6pm and Thursday (2/14) 7-8pm in the USG office. USG will collect data from these focus group meetings.
- e. Updates from this week (2/9)
 - i. Allen and Hannah Reynolds held a meeting for a Mental Health guidebook that will be published on the last week of February.
 - ii. Chitra and Andres met with Dean Gonzalez (leading SIFP); USG will be partnering with career services, GSG, ODUS, and the Graduate College to run the program for FLI to discuss professional attire in May
 1. Will need volunteers
 - iii. Emailed advocacy and activism groups to collaborate with USG on future projects
- f. Friday - USG will table for ODUS day of action for voter registration; ODUS will provide materials

B. Mission and vision

- a. Mission: "Support the undergraduate experience by collaborating with students, admin, faculty and other campus life stakeholders by crafting successful policy..."

- i. Focus: addressing student concerns by being open to receiving opinions and reaching out to students
- C. Priorities: 5 policy items
 - a. Mental health
 - i. Partner with CPS and university services for resources (transportation to see off campus providers, expanded network of resources)
 - 1. Guidebook (Allen Liu is leading the taskforce)
 - b. Title 9 reform/sexual misconduct (working w Sarah Lee)
 - i. Creating opportunities for feedback; reaching out to CPUC committee to see if it can get specific feedback
 - ii. Start conversations about survivor oriented spaces
 - iii. Introduction to training modules
 - c. Housing, dining, transportation
 - i. Increasing accessibility; updating accessibility map with ODUS, such as creating more wheelchair routes
 - ii. Starting a meal exchange with students
 - d. Sustainability
 - i. Claire Waynor: Orientation program's goals is to integrate sustainability into the first year experience. The student sustainability space launched this year in Frist. There is a feedback form circulating for the sustainability space. An opt-in program for a reusable utensils kit is being created.
 - e. Making information/resources more accessible
 - i. Creating opportunities for engagement such as the ideas incubator
 - ii. Reached out to VP Calhoun
 - iii. Meeting with students from the COS 333 class and Aaron Leung to make website/spaces to search for specific resources

2. Honor Committee Internal Referenda: Dina Kuttub and Camille Moeckel (10 minutes) (APPROVED)

- A. Referendum adds words "Honor Committee clerk" twice (article 1A and D) in the Honor Committee Constitution
 - a. The clerk should be mentioned in appropriate areas because the clerk is responsible for working with new members of the Honor Committee.
- B. Questions about the referendum
 - a. Q: Does the clerk already attend the meetings without being mentioned in the Constitution?

- i. A: Last year, someone reformed the constitution to solidify members of the sub committee but left out the clerk. This change puts the clerk back in.
 - b. Q: Why was the clerk excluded in the first place
 - i. A: Unknown.
- C. Votes:
 - a. Yes: 24
 - b. No: 0
 - c. Abstain: 0

3. U-Council Chair Elections (25 minutes)

- A. U-Councilor Chairs will lead CPUC operations.
- B. Voting on rules for the process
 - a. Rules used in the past:
 - i. Candidates can nominate themselves
 - ii. All candidates leave room
 - iii. Candidates come in to speak to the Senate for 2 mins. No questions can be asked
 - iv. Senate then votes using a single transferable vote
 - v. Votes:
 - 1. Yes: 24
 - 2. Abstain: 0
 - 3. No: 0
- C. Motion to start an executive session with all voting and nonvoting members, Dean Dunne, Jonah (former parliamentarian).
 - a. Votes:
 - i. Yes: 23
 - ii. Abstain: 0
 - iii. No: 1
- D. Motion to leave executive session
 - a. Votes:
 - i. Yes: 24
 - ii. Abstain: 0
 - iii. No: 0
- E. Voting results for U-Councilor chairs: Sarah Lee and Allen Liu are the new U-Councilor Chairs

4. USG Budget Proposal: Rachel Hazan (5 mins) (APPROVED)

- A. USG Spring semester budget allocates \$42.50/student
- B. 9k surplus from last semester
- C. Each line items are based on numbers in prime and what's happened in previous years
- D. Based on prime and communiversity (under CCA), there is a few thousand left within prime, so there is no need to allocate for additional money.
 - a. Communiversity has a \$3,000 surplus from last year
 - b. Mental Health Week created a \$5,000 surplus from last year
- E. Each committee receives \$500 for general expenses
 - a. All Senate members must still keep detailed records of spending and receive approval from Rachel Hazan.
- F. Projects board: \$45,000
- G. Movies: \$22,000
- H. Senate training: \$960 (surplus allocated for future trainings)
- I. Task forces: one conglomerate budget
- J. Yard parties (alternative to lawn parties): \$3,000
- K. First day bagels: \$959
- L. Lawn parties: \$100,000
- M. Dean's Date: \$7,000
- N. Questions about the budget:
 - a. Q: Why is there such a big surplus from mental health week?
 - i. Last year's budget was big bc there was supposed to be speaker, but speaker canceled
 - b. Q: Are there other groups under USG that could request funding besides the ones listed on the budget?
 - i. Anyone can request funding; Rachel can individually grant if it is under \$1,000; Any amount above \$1,000 must be approved by the Senate first.
 - c. Q: Has there been an increase in lawn parties funding?
 - 1. The lawn parties budget fluctuates between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Currently there is a deficit.
 - d. Q: What is the deficit?
 - 1. Approximately \$5,000 due to weather-related unexpected expenses from Spring 2019 Lawnparties.
- O. Vote to approve budget
 - a. Yes: 24
 - b. Abstain: 0
 - c. No: 0

5. SGRC Club Presentation: Lutfah Subair and Emma Parish (5 minutes)

- A. SGRC meets 1x/month to discuss the purpose of clubs; USG can vote to overturn SGRC's decisions. SGRC performs due diligence on the merits of the groups in advance.
- B. 2 clubs approved in previous SGRC meeting (no longer approving P's in a pod)
 - a. Princeton Progressive South Asian Alliance: Founded to encourage free speech and expression in principle of social justice regarding events happening in South Asia. This group aims to spread awareness about the social, economic, and political events happening in South Asia using factual information and encourage the development of a stronger political consciousness on campus.
 - b. First Love: Promote outreach to expose students to Christianity, make efforts to receive students from diverse backgrounds, focus on building relationships with students to help them develop a relationship with God
 - i. There may be questions, but SGRC has met with First Love multiple times and was eventually approved
 - 1. Q: What were the discussions about?
 - a. Some concerns were related to clarifying how leadership would be chosen because it was first affiliated with a church in Ghana. The discussions were about making sure that it was a student led group.
 - 2. Is it funded by a church in Ghana?
 - a. No, the idea is taken from a church in Ghana.
 - c. Q: Why is P's in a Pod not getting approved today?
 - i. It decided to be an independent project
- C. Motion to vote on both these groups together
- D. Votes:
 - a. Yes: 23
 - b. Abstain: 1
 - c. No: 0

6. Task Force Proposals (5 minutes/task force)

- A. Town Hall Task Force proposal (Juan Nova): Seeking to encourage clarity about USG through the creation of town hall that will include a board of USG members, administrators, and students. Administrators and USG will be there to answer questions in an effort to open up dialogue and address questions that student body may have
- B. Mental Health Task Force (Allen): Will release resource guide that has been developing for the past few months on the UHS website, providing insight on how to deal with mental health and campus resources. The task force is hoping to focus on other issues like emergency funding as well.

- C. Study Abroad Task Force (Jacob Gerrish): Connect with IIP to see what USG can do to promote study abroad and provide information about GPS and other forms you have to fill out prior to studying abroad. There will also be efforts to compile information from students about why many choose not to study abroad.
- D. Community Dining Task Force (Bradley Phelps and Sarah Elkordy): FLI students are isolated due to their economic status. This task force would work with SIFP and Dean Gonzalez to create a fund to allow FLI students to eat off campus that can be allocated at the beginning of the year. As the student body becomes more econ diverse, these inequities will become more pronounced. The task force is looking to integrate this into the meal plan in the future
- E. Transparency (Adhitya): Continue office hours by tabling in Frist and finding other outreach methods, increase outreach, communication, and alert students about what's going on in USG
- F. Q: Are we prevented from working with a task force even if we aren't officially signed up?
 - a. No, you can still help out at any point in the semester.

7. The Future of Co-ops and Independents at Princeton: Claire Wayner (5 minutes)

- A. Recent events have threatened the co-op and independent experience such as the Charter bicker transition. The most recent co-op proposal had 95 students, indicating demand for more co-ops. 2D is being shut down and will be made into upperclassmen housing, which eliminates the eating program. Launch of block 105 has also eliminated certain dining options
- B. Claire wants to talk to a committee like USLC to discuss establishing another co-op on campus. There has been interest in starting another co-op.
- C. Questions about co-ops and independents at Princeton
 - a. Q: what is hist behind how co-ops have started?
 - i. Talk to people who work administratively with co-ops or the alums who funded the international co-op
 - b. Q: Are meal plans for freshman and sophomores set in stone? Are they always on the unlimited plan?
 - i. Yes, freshman and sophomores are always on the unlimited plan.
 - c. Q: Why is Pink House getting shut down?
 - i. Forbes needed more space for upperclassmen, but detailed reasons are unclear. Pink House students were only recently notified.

Consent Agenda (APPROVED)

1. Communications Confirmations

a. Hannah Kapoor '23

- i. Hi there! My name is Hannah Kapoor and I'm a freshman who grew up in South Florida, though nowadays you can find me in the Los Angeles area. I'm a prospective concentrator at The Woodrow Wilson School with a certificate in Journalism. In addition to USG, I'm involved with the PACE center, Princeton Women in Entrepreneurship, and Princeton Bhangra. It is my honor to serve as Director of Communications for the upcoming term where I hope to advance outreach, transparency, and student engagement with USG.

2. U-Council Confirmations

a. Sarah Elkordy '21

- i. Hi everyone! My name is Sarah Elkordy, and I am a Junior Woodrow Wilson/pre-medicine concentrator from northern New Jersey. I decided to run for U-Councilor for this spring term because I am passionate about advocacy, representation, and diversity and inclusion, and on this campus, I hope to help represent PIXR and the First-generation low-income, or FLi, communities through my position in USG. Specifically, I would love to run initiatives to help better integrate the FLi community into campus, as well as start building a stronger connection between PIXR and USG/other campus administrations. Even though I have never been involved in Princeton's student government before, I'm very excited to use this role to help others feel understood, included, and heard in our community and help foster a better community for our current students and the students of the future.

b. Juan Nova '23

- i. Hello, my name is Juan Nova and I'm a freshman from Winter Park, Florida. I'm a Woodywoo major seeking a certificate in History and the Practice of Diplomacy. Student Government has always been a passion of mine, even from when I was in elementary school. Being able to foster a good environment for my fellow students and ensuring that their year is the best it can be brings joy to me and I'm blessed to be a part of it this year. I applied to the U-Councilor position knowing that it would allow me to seek improvements in the life of the student body and to ensure that their concerns are being properly addressed. I'm very excited to see what

this year has in store for us and plan to make the most of it by getting to work with the amazing people in this organization.

- c. Riley Martinez '23
 - i. Hello everyone! I'm Riley. I'm from the suburbs of Salt Lake City, Utah and will probably end up majoring in either politics or the Woodrow Wilson school. The reason that I initially gravitated towards this position is because a large part of my life revolves around service. Whereas I believe that service in the form of civic representation is one of the most important. Thus, I'm super excited to bring my unique background and interests to this platform and getting the opportunity to get to work with you and get to know all of you better throughout the year. Thanks!
 - d. Sahil Jain '23
 - i. I'm from San Jose, California, looking to major in COS. I'm very excited about USG because it gives me the chance to interact and engage with our wonderful student body, create and support change, and be part of a great team!
 - e. Julia Garrafa '23
 - i. Hi all! I'm Julia, a first-year from central Jersey intending to major in Molecular Biology with Gender Studies and GHP certificates. I am so excited to be serving as a U-Councilor and working as a representative of the student body this spring! My main goal for my term is to create programs which promote open dialogue about mental health on campus in order to decrease the stigma and obstacles associated with seeking treatment. On campus, I am a part of the Princeton University Band and Child's Play Improv Comedy and I was deeply involved with student government throughout high school.
3. Senator Confirmations
- a. Jacob Gerrish '21
 - i. Hi! I'm a junior from Bethesda, Maryland who's concentrating in Public Policy/International Relations and pursuing a certificate in History and the Practice of Diplomacy. I also work with the Alcohol Initiative Committee and Princeton's speculative fiction magazine Figments on campus. I can't wait to represent the Class of 2021 in the Senate and help improve the Princeton experience for all students throughout their four years here. And I'm also just really excited to participate in USG from the other side, as I've previously reported on the weekly Senate meetings for the 'Prince' pretty regularly since my freshman fall.
 - b. Tom Salotti '21

beginning my involvement with USG by updating and maintaining the website this year. Outside of USG, I staff and work on the e-board of Princeton Model Congress and I'm involved in the James Madison Program.

7. Alumni Affairs Confirmation

a. Katya Kopach '22

- i. My name is Katya and I am a sophomore from Bucks County, Pennsylvania planning to major in Philosophy or Politics. Since coming to Princeton, I have looked for ways to become involved in USG. This year, I will be serving as Alumni Affairs chair and cannot wait to help form new connections between alumni and current students! Outside of USG, I am a Program Manager for PSEC (Princeton Student Events Committee), Director of Programs for UNA-USA, Deputy/Communications Chair for the Whitman College Council, and a writer for Arch & Arrow.

8. Diversity and Equity Confirmation

a. Kevin Martinez '22

- i. Hi everyone! My name is Kevin Martinez, and I'm the Diversity and Equity chair. I was born in Jersey City, which is the #1 most diverse city in the country. Living there gave me a unique experience in diversity, and I hope to bring that perspective to campus. As a first-year, I'm looking to go into the Woody Woo school, and considering a certificate in Latin American Studies. Before Princeton, I was in Student Government, and I'm really excited to continue serving the student body.

9. Historian Confirmation

a. Austin Davis '23

- i. Hey everyone! I'm Austin Davis, a first-year student from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Currently, I am a prospective History major who is extremely interested in both the Urban Studies and Ethnographic Studies certificates. Outside of academics, I am a member of Princeton Quizbowl, member of SIFP, a future Matriculate advisor, and a library assistant in Digital Mapping & GIS at Lewis Library. Anyhow, my love for history has been a constant in my own life, driving me to look into opportunities that use history to leave some impact on the greater world itself. Given the Historian's role as not only an archivist but a researcher, I was (and continue to be!) really overjoyed to take on a role that perfectly blends history with on-campus action that will directly impact the greater Princeton community. Going forward, I am excited to archive, research, and share the various proposals of USG past, present, and future with everyone.

10. Parliamentary Confirmation

a. Katie Liu '23

- i. I'm a first year from New Jersey planning on concentrating on philosophy with a certificate in Values and Public Life. I am also on the Princeton Mock Trial team, and I enjoy swimming in my free time. I decided to apply to be the USG parliamentarian after speaking with various members of USG and realizing how important and fascinating the Constitution is. I'm very excited to join USG, meet new people, and help contribute in whatever way to the mission of USG!

11. MHI Confirmation

a. Richard Yang '22

- i. Richard is a sophomore from Raleigh, North Carolina majoring in psychology. He joined MHI last year to promote mental health resources and reduce stigma around campus. Because of his own personal connection with mental health, he hopes to reach out to students who need help on campus. He looks forward to planning events throughout the academic year, such as Mental Health Week, to get students the resources they need.

b. Ella Whitfield '21

- i. My name is Ella, and I am super excited to be a co-chair for the Mental Health Initiative this coming year! I have been a part of MHI for the past year-and-a-half, and have loved being part of the important work that the initiative does involving advocacy, education, and support of students' mental health at Princeton. We are looking forward to putting on events for another great Mental Health Week coming up the first week of March!
-