

**Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 18
July 12, 2020
3:30 (EST)**



**Undergraduate
Student
Government**

New Business

1. Concerns Regarding ICE Announcement of Policy Change for International Students

Princeton's Advocacy:

- Princeton has joined an amicus brief and is currently following the status of lawsuits filed in other states. The University is prepared to engage its general counsel.
- The University is split between two models—online for first semester and hybrid for second semester—which makes it difficult for Princeton to comply with the new policy changes.
- The University does not know how much of the hybrid experience would be available to international students who want to come to campus in the fall because a live schedule of the courses is not available yet. Faculty will be planning courses through August.

Announcement Details:

- Students in F1 or J1 status are tied to enrollment, meaning that these students must be enrolled in classes online or in a hybrid form in order to maintain their status. Students in F1 or J1 status cannot retain their status and remain in the US if they decide to take a leave of absence. Taking a leave of absence and giving up F1 or J1 status does not reflect poorly on an immigration record.
- The Five Month Rule does not start until the beginning of fall semester even if students may have left the US last spring. Princeton begins counting inactivity/absence from the beginning of fall semester.
- Options available to second and fourth year students are more ambiguous and will become more clear when advisers have access to class schedules.

Davis International Center Advocacy and Information Sessions:

- **Davis will be notifying students if there is a court decision on July 15th.**
- Princeton students should share stories to Davis advisers about how this announcement has imminently affected their lives, as these stories can be turned into compelling impact statements.
- The Davis International Center is planning on hosting additional information sessions individualized for all years. These information sessions are scheduled for after July 15th

because the University is waiting to see whether the temporary restraining order takes effect.

Questions from students:

- To apply for an emergency visa appointment here in India, I need to upload a copy of my I-20 and under the new guidelines I won't be eligible for a visa or even an appointment on the current I-20. Is Princeton issuing new I-20 forms for those of us on the hybrid model?
 - Princeton does not intend to upload documents stating that students will be taking all online courses until the live schedule of classes is published. Princeton is planning on publishing I-20s with more general statements saying that students are welcome back on campus and should expect to participate in some form of in-person engagement. Princeton can issue I-20s for students with visa appointments or urgent travel plans, but the University is waiting for litigation for all other instances. The university is hoping that immigration and border offices do not start implementing practices outlined in the announcement until details are more finalized. Students should reach out to the University when encountering difficulties with consulates or airports.

- What should students do if they have to submit information from their I-20s in order to apply for an emergency visa appointment in the next few weeks? This is the case for the New Delhi consulate's office.
 - Princeton has heard about this being in the case in New Delhi and has passed on a story in the amicus brief.

- If a student chooses to attend Princeton remotely for the entirety of the 2020-21 school year, does the Five Month Rule apply?
 - While this would be assessed on a case by case basis, the current version of FAQs state that the University can keep students in active status if students are taking full time online classes but are outside of the US.

- Can students unable to come during the fall come during the spring semester?
 - This will depend on the COVID-19 situation during the spring. Princeton is still trying to reduce density on campus. If things are improving in the spring and density can increase, then it may be more acceptable for students to be on campus.

- Will there be an extension to the deadline for taking a leave of absence?
 - There has not been any discussion about changing that deadline.

- If the earliest available visa appointment date in Pakistan is October 8th, which is more than 15 days after the start of the fall semester, should students still apply for a visa?
 - The University is working for first and third year students to follow a process in which the school pushes back start dates on I-20s to reflect when students can come to campus. Though the details of this “rolling deferment” have not been specified, the University plans to keep pushing back start dates through the fall semester for students unable to arrive at the beginning of first semester. However, students should consider the effects of a shorter timeline for their fall semester, especially because they have not been invited back for the spring semester.

- How should students navigate closed embassies?
 - Princeton is aware that some embassies are closed for visa appointments. This situation is further complicated by a Presidential proclamation restricting travel from many countries, meaning that travelers cannot enter the US even with a visa. When embassies open back up for visa appointments, there will most likely be a backlog of appointments.

- Should students be looking to attain emergency or expedited visas?
 - Princeton has not seen many students successfully attain visas through this system. Embassies, customs, and border offices are looking to prioritize appointments once they open up. This may mean that some emergency visa appointments will open up to students, but these efforts have been unsuccessful thus far.

- What is the scope of a “preliminary injunction” and is it possible for ICE to try to re-implement this policy even if Harvard and MIT reach this injunction?
 - Yes, but proper procedures for this to happen are slow. ICE did not even allow for a comment period in which people can write in and highlight dysfunctional aspects of policy, which should have slowed down this process even more. Overall, this is unlikely to happen, and even if it did happen, it would be very slow in implementation.

- Can the Davis International Center advocate for international freshman to be given priority to come back if they choose to take a leave of absence?
 - Davis will try to advocate for international freshman, but there is no guarantee that the University will accommodate.

- Will there be an exception this year to issue CPTs if students are only on campus for one semester?
 - This question cannot be definitively answered at the moment. The required 12 months can be split, but this question should be examined in more detail.

- Is Princeton considering filing a separate lawsuit?
 - Yes.

- Can I-20s be sent digitally?
 - Yes, students should be able to use their original paper I-20s and updated digital I-20s for their visa appointments. Students encountering difficulties using digital I-20s should contact the University.

- Are restrictions for OPT/post-completion OPT the same as those for CPT?
 - Yes, students must fulfill the academic school year requirement before they are eligible.

- Do students getting new I-20s need to fill out the DS-160 and pay the SEVIS fee again?
 - No, students do not have to pay again because they are being reissued the same documents with updates.

- If schools must shut down as they did in March, what accommodations or arrangements will be made for international students in the fall?
 - ICE guidelines are extremely inflexible as they strongly prefer students leaving the US instead of remaining in the US indefinitely, as was the case with many international students last fall. There are no clear answers at the moment, but Davis will continue to advocate for international students.

- If the travel ban is still instated, would students have to quarantine again from wherever they are coming from?
 - Yes, students must quarantine again in Princeton even if they quarantined in the country they are coming from.

- Can students travel through countries that are not restricted before arriving in Princeton?
 - Yes, but students should be mindful of health risks as well as isolation mechanisms for each country.

- What should students do if their visa appointments are cancelled?
 - Students should try to keep rescheduling their appointments.

- How many days after a successful emergency visa appointment do students typically receive their visa?
 - Students usually receive their visa within a week.
- If an emergency visa request gets rejected, are students unable to reapply for a visa until another 6 months?
 - Every consulate's office has a different process for visa appointments and many of the current regulations are impacted by travel restrictions.
- How should international students navigate financial aid issues, financial difficulties, or employment in the US?
 - The University can request emergency employment authorization for students in the US.
- Should students who are able to get visa appointments past the fall semester start date book those appointments in hopes of getting the visa expedited instead of waiting for embassies to fully open?
 - Yes, visas are valid for 4-6 years, and it is safer for students to arrive on their timeline if appointments are available.
- If a student has already paid all of their fees but defers admission for one year, will their DS-160 ID change and will they have to pay all their fees again? Additionally, could this reflect poorly on an immigration record?
 - As long as students retain the same SEVIS ID, none of the above questions should be an issue.
- Will international students be able to apply for jobs on campus?
 - Yes, students who are invited back to campus are able to apply for jobs. Though many jobs will be virtual, all students are welcome to participate.
- Are Canadian students affected by this ICE directive?
 - Canadian students may be affected at the border.
- Will the court decision for the suit filed by Harvard and MIT have national scope or will the decision only affect the state of Massachusetts?
 - While the University will not know until the decision is made, past instances indicate that federal district courts issue nation-wide injunctions.

- Current I-20s state that Princeton’s program start date is September 2 but it has been advanced to August 31 and move-in dates are earlier. Will this discrepancy affect students?
 - While there will be no issues for students entering the US, Davis is waiting for official confirmation before reissuing I-20s with the updated start date.
 - Do I-20s have to reflect changes in financial aid packages?
 - No, the information on current I-20s should be fine.
 - Should students go ahead and confirm housing by July 20th even if they are unsure about their fall semester plans?
 - Students should speak to Housing about this issue.
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Questions from students:

- What is the expected outcome if Princeton has to decide between inviting students back to campus or letting students be forced out of the US?
 - Around 30% of Princeton students, including graduate students, are outside of the US, meaning that the majority of students are in the US. The University would work to keep all of the students in the US active, which would be similar to pre-COVID regulations.
- Will international students invited back to campus in the fall be allowed to stay until spring if needed?

- While Princeton has not made a decision about that yet, peer institutions, such as Yale, have made similar accommodations.
- Is there any possibility that Princeton would offer a course for credit to allow international students to come back to campus in preparation for the policy change from ICE to be implemented?
 - While there is a lot of support in the University community to take measures allowing international students to stay, the University is hesitant to make any decisions for a policy that may not even happen. The University wants to ensure that productive measures are being taken.
- Given that recruitment for summer internships is starting now, is the University considering how to handle CPTs, which require active status for two consecutive years?
 - Every student's record will require a case-by-case evaluation, but students who have already been active for two years will not be impacted. Furthermore, students' statuses have not been deactivated and remain the same as though students had been in the US for the spring semester.
- What happens if SEVIS status is terminated?
 - The final rule is to be published in early August, but the known implications of being terminated is Authorized Early Withdrawal. This is the "kindest" form of termination available in which the students would have to leave the US. If the student were outside the US for more than five months, they would need a new I-20.
- Will move-in dates for international students be changed to reflect visa reissuance?
 - The specifics of this question should be answered by Housing, but Davis expects that students can enter the University whenever they can enter the US.
- Do students need to apply for emergency appointments, and should I-20s state that the University is pursuing hybrid education?
 - If consulate offices reopen, students will need a remark on their I-20s stating that the University is hybrid for this semester. The University is currently unable to certify this remark as information about classes have not yet been confirmed. Davis will email a form for students to fill out about scheduled visa appointments, allowing the University to prioritize printing I-20s for students with appointments.

The University will reissue every I-20 with this remark in August if it has to, but schools are advocating against this measure as it will require two full weeks with a fully staffed office to reprint all I-20s.

- Does Princeton have to classify its learning model as a school or for individual programs?
 - The University would like to be able to classify courses at the program-level rather than at the school-level.

2. CPS Orientation Video Discussion: Allen Liu (5 minutes)

- Senate members are invited to record individual segments spanning 30 seconds answering questions.
- Allen will send the topics/questions for the video.
- **All submissions are due by July 31st.**
- The folder for video submissions can be found at:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d4Bi6E42tCuwP0havHH5k1bcN50UyLVf?usp=sharing>

Introduction

- 1. Question and Answer Session (15 minutes)**
- 2. President's Report (5 minutes)**
 - 759 students attended the Q&A session with Dean Dolan and VP Calhoun
 - Signed a national letter expressing concern and urging the repeal of the ICE announcement with Andres Larrieu and 100+ student government Presidents and Vice Presidents