

Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 4
March 1, 2020
7:00 Lewis Library 138



Undergraduate
Student
Government

Introduction

- 1. Question and Answer Session (15 minutes)**
- 2. President's Report (10 minutes)**
 - Finished Mental Health guidebook
 - Attended advisory group meeting for Canvas (replacement for Blackboard)
 - Spoke to Darrell (instructional designer at McGraw) about creating a resource instructing users on how to best use Canvas.
 - Tabling at Frist could be improved by playing music
 - Ceon Sun finalized design changes to the USG website
 - Will be meeting with COS 333 students to discuss creating resources for USG
 - The Transparency Task Force met to discuss creating a graphic about what the task force aims to accomplish.

Task force updates:

Allen Liu (Mental Health Task Force)

- Mental Health Guidebook will be published this week.
- Will be working with MHI to publicize the release

Sarah Elkordy and Brad Phelps (Community Dining Task Force)

- Meeting with Dean Gonzalez to discuss a pilot program
- Met with Princeton Emergency Association President. The organization is willing to lend financial support for the project.
 - The task force will be doing presentations to individual groups to secure support.
 - This meeting was helpful in clarifying stakeholders that support the project

Jacob Gerrish (Study Abroad Task Force)

- Met to discuss the format of the survey regarding study abroad

Fatinah Albeez (Substitute for Juan Nova from the Transparency Task Force)

- Discussions are taking place about optimal times to host town halls in residential colleges

Other updates:

Julia Garraffa, Kate Liu, Juan Nova, Chitra Parikh

- Working on a graphic that elucidates what USG does and the internal structure of USG that will be available at office hours, published on website, and on social media

Mental Health Guidebook

- A barcode will allow students to access the guidebook on their phones or other devices
- The Mental Health Guidebook will be announced in *The Daily Princetonian*, pushed out by Directors of Student Life in residential colleges, and possibly on the UHS website.

New Business

1. Dillon Gym Expansion Presentation: Jarett Messina (20 minutes)

Project goal:

- Expansion of the availability of recreational space with a focus on wellness and community gathering
 - This will be accomplished by the addition of facilities such as pools, tennis courts, more exercise machines, and wellness spaces.
- Renovation of underutilized spaces, such as the squash courts

General suggestions from the Senate for improvement:

- Addition of a rock climbing wall to combat intense crowding at the wall in the Jadwin tower
- Finding a permanent space for the trailers behind Dillon if the expansion takes over that area.
- Dedicated yoga room (the current yoga room is a multi use facility that does not block out light or sound)
- Group fitness room overlooks Little Hall, leading to residents complaining about noise; improving sound proofing
- Multiple scanned entrances around the building (currently exist only on the north end)
- Poor ventilation; adapt for occupancy
- Every piece of equipment in use at busy hours
- Separate room for mat exercises
- App to show occupancy levels
- Private cardio rooms are great
- Multiple access points
- Expansion of Stephen's Fitness Center
- Above ground or outdoor areas for exercise
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Multi purpose court

Suggestions from Senate about creating social spaces within Dillon Gym:

- A study space
- Relaxation space
- Coat room or an easy way to facilitate getting students in and out
- Storage space for club sports equipment
- Natural light
- Larger lockers
- Recovery and rehabilitation spaces

2. Sustainability Charter Presentation: Claire Wayner (15 minutes)

- The Senate must vote on 2 consecutive sessions to approve it, and the charter must receive the approval of the Senate majority.
- This session will be used to gather feedback

Explanation of charter:

- Contains information about the purpose of the Sustainability Committee, membership, and duties of members
- The Committee Chair is elected, the Vice Chair helps share organizational duties, the Outreach and Collaborations Chair communicates with the campus community, the Earth Month and Campus Programming Chair focuses on Earth Month and Earth Day celebrations, the USG Internal Operations Chair works to make USG operations more environmentally friendly, and the Office of Sustainability Staff Liaison performs an advisory role but will not attend all of the meetings.

Suggestions from the Senate:

- Addition of mission statement elucidating why sustainability is important
- A specified “staff liaison” may create the precedent that the committee must work with the staff or inadvertently impart influence or decision-making power on the staff. Changing the wording to “collaboration” may be better.
- Clarify that USG is not paying the student Sustainability Liaison
- Lessen role specificity; allowing more fluidity in members’ roles may be easier to manage

Questions from the Senate:

- Will the Student Sustainability Liaison be paid?

- Yes, they will be paid by the Office of Sustainability. This student's job is to go around to sustainability groups on campus and learn about what they are doing. However, this person could perform an advisory role for the committee instead of sitting on the committee.
- Encourage committee to just work together with this student might be better than having them sit on the committee
- Is Claire Waynor involved in choosing this Student Sustainability Liaison? Is sitting on the Sustainability Committee written into their job description?
 - No, Claire Waynor does not choose the Student Sustainability Liaison and sitting on the committee is not written into their job description.
- Would students apply to committee and then be matched to chairship based on expertise?
 - Yes

3. Ideas Incubator: Chitra Parikh and Allen Liu (10 minutes)

- Purpose of Ideas Incubator: Allow students to work with one USG member who could provide guidance on their ideas and advise students on the most appropriate administrators to contact
- Performed two focus group sessions with students about what kind of support they want. Students preferred case-by-case support and personalized responses.
- Will email OIT about obtaining a net-id for the Ideas Incubator, allowing students to email the Ideas Incubator
- Chitra Parikh and Andres Larrieu would read through the emails and match students with the most appropriate USG members.
- Another possibility is to create a page or form on the USG website that students could fill-out to receive assistance
- Need to find ways to make students aware of the Ideas Incubator

Suggestions from the Senate:

- There are many outlets for feedback on the USG website, which may make the Ideas Incubator redundant.
 - Answer: The feedback feature is for opinions/suggestions for campus life. The Ideas Incubator is specifically for ideas and projects that students want to pursue, especially individual students who do not have an outlet like a student group to see their ideas come to fruition.
- Adding a form on the USG website is easy and can be done in conjunction with the Ideas Incubator email address
- Having all ideas and projects directed to one email address centralizes the process and allows one or two people to filter through the emails.

- Trying to help or direct a student idea or project that USG cannot support may be misconstrued as USG endorsement/support, which could lead to problems with the administration.
 - Answer: Providing background on an issue is not supporting it.
 - There could be Senate meetings dedicated to students coming in to receive guidance and information about their ideas and projects.
-

Sustainability Committee Charter

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

The Sustainability Committee shall serve four primary roles:

1. Communicate sustainability themes to the campus community through USG broadcasting platforms, targeted campaigns, and in-person events
2. Coordinate collaborative annual campus-wide programming, including:
 - a. Earth Month (April)
 - b. First-year orientation education (September)
3. Ensure collaboration among sustainability groups on common campus challenges, including advising newly formed sustainability groups or students seeking to form a new sustainability group.
4. Incorporate sustainability into USG internal events and office practices.
5. Advocate for sustainability as part of campus-wide policies and decisionmaking.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

The committee shall consist of 6-8 members, filling the following positions, with additional positions and roles created and assigned on an as-needed basis.

- Sustainability Committee Chair (elected by the student body every fall election)
- Committee Vice Chair
- Outreach and Collaborations Chair
- Earth Month and Campus Programming Chair
- First-Year Orientation Chair
- Communications Chair
- USG Internal Operations Chair
- Members-at-large (to fill in for general projects/needs)

In addition, an Office of Sustainability Staff Liaison will support the committee in an advisory role. All members (excluding the Committee Chair) will be recruited by the Committee Chair following fall elections and will serve renewable one-year terms. Meetings will be open to the campus community, including any interested students and staff members. Student sustainability groups on campus are strongly recommended to send a representative, ideally the group president or another officer, consistently to each committee meeting (the Outreach and Collaborations Chair can assist with communicating among the different groups).

ARTICLE III – DUTIES

The Sustainability Committee Chair will be responsible for setting and coordinating the meeting time as well as representing sustainability issues on USG at all Senate and ExComm meetings. In

addition, the chair will serve as a public advocate for sustainability issues in broader campus-wide policymaking processes.

The Committee Vice Chair will assist the Committee Chair with their duties as well as with any miscellaneous projects (on an as-needed basis).

The Outreach and Collaborations Chair will interface among the various undergraduate sustainability groups on campus to facilitate dialogue and partnerships among these groups as well as ensure representation at committee meetings by group members as often as possible or, in their absence, represent their interests. This position functions as a student employee, called the Student Sustainability Liaison, under the Office of Sustainability.

The Earth Month Chair shall coordinate, in partnership with the Office of Sustainability, planning for Earth Month programming each April with a particular focus on USG-sponsored event(s). Outside of Earth Month, this person will plan and execute other campus-wide programming that focuses on sustainability.

The First-Year Orientation Chair shall coordinate sustainability programming during first-year orientation to ensure that sustainability continues to be a major theme.

The Campus Programming Chair shall plan interdisciplinary sustainability-themed programming to reach a diverse array of the campus community, leveraging USG's broad reach.

The Communications Chair shall coordinate content for the USG newsletter (e.g., weekly recycling/climate tips) and targeted outreach campaigns related to sustainability.

The USG Internal Operations Chair will focus on advancing sustainability within USG's normal events (e.g., Lawnparties, Communiversity), utilizing the Office of Sustainability's Sustainability Action Plan and Sustainable Event Guidelines as guiding frameworks. All USG event organizers will be required to consult with the Committee Chair and Internal Operations Chair before hosting their event. This person will also maintain internal USG sustainability initiatives as needed, including recycling within the USG office and washing reusable USG tablecloths after events.

The Office of Sustainability Staff Liaison shall advise the committee, communicate initiatives being led by the Office, and connect students with campus partners.

Members must attend all committee meetings. The Committee Chair will assign special projects on an as-needed basis.

Censure of Members

Any member with unexcused absences from two consecutive meetings or are exhibiting a general failure to participate may be dismissed by the Committee Chair. This decision can be appealed and brought before the USG Executive Committee which will subsequently conduct a review, in consultation with the Committee Chair, Outreach Chair, and Staff Liaison.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS & CRITERIA

The committee will meet on a monthly basis, with more regular meetings to be coordinated by chairs as needed (e.g., more frequent before April Earth Month).

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

This Charter may be amended or altered by a majority vote of the USG Senate (S. Const. §308).

ARTICLE VI – CHARTER RATIFICATION

Upon a 2/3 vote of the USG Senate, this charter shall be considered established and operational. When this charter is enacted, the previous charter will no longer have authority.