

Princeton USG Senate  
Meeting 6  
March 21, 2020



**Undergraduate  
Student  
Government**

Introduction

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

New Business

1. Spring 2020 Referendum Discussion: Lehman Montgomery (20 minutes)
  2. USG Brainstorming Session: Chitra Parikh and Andres Larrieu (25 minutes)
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# Referendum Question X

**Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election - Spring 2020**

Sponsored by Shiye Su '20 and Austin Wang '20

## Condensation (Ballot Question)

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

## Explanation

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 are arguably superior to the paper form, as it allows 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.

## 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 given the choice, most students prefer to consult the electronic version of the *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* available online.

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

## 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](http://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.