

Formal Meeting Minutes

USG Senate Meeting

Lewis Library Bowl 120

Sunday, October 15th, 2017 7:30pm

President's Report

A lot has been done to improve mental health initiatives for students. Hiring full-time employees for CPS. Something that Kelvin Chen has been working on is eliminating the need for students to pay high upfront costs to see mental health professionals. Even though the Student Health Plan reimburses students, the upfront costs are excessive. Chen is working on finding mental health professionals who are willing to accept students who pay just the copay.

Honor Committee Membership Confirmations

The Honor Committee recently expanded to 15 members. During the Spring selection term, they choose to leave one position open in hopes of finding more promising applicants in the fall. Three first-year students were selected to join the Honor Committee.

It is essential that The Honor Committee pays attention to having a good balance of AB and BSE members. It is a little concerning that there are not many STEM majors in the Honor Committee. In order to increase the number of STEM major members, the Honor Committee will reach out to professors of STEM subjects. The Honor Committee will also reach out to student groups that represent interest in the natural sciences. Engineers Without Borders is an example of such a student group. The Honor Committee may also have a natural sciences open house because a lot of students believe that Honor Committee members are for people who want to become lawyers.

The applicant pool this was excellent and the Honor Committee did a great job with recruitment. Many qualified applicants were turned away this year. Many applicants had experience with an Honor Council in their high school. While this is not a bad thing, it is important to stress that no experience with Honor Councils is needed to join the Honor Committee.

The three new members were confirmed with 18 voting in favor, 0 opposing, and 0 abstaining.

SGRC New Member Confirmation

SGRC brought on two new members to their committee. When choosing members, they looked for leadership skills and experience with spearheading initiatives. Since most of the current members are juniors and seniors, the SGRC looked for freshmen and sophomores.

The two new members were confirmed with 17 voting in favor, 1 opposing, and 0 abstaining.

Tigerbook Update

We will be investigating the data stored by TigerApps. Three apps (Recal, Wintersession, Rooms Guide) use Google Analytics. The main issue with the Res College Facebook is that it stores records of names searches. The Res College Facebook has not been working for the past few months and Tigerbook is far more popular, so this application is not a huge concern overall.

Most apps store user-identifying information that is tied to their functionality. It is necessary to write a privacy policy for TigerApps. People who work on these apps as well as people in COS 333 will need to agree to the privacy policy. COS 333 is a feeder class for Tiger Apps. In terms of data access, Rushy is the only one who has access to the data currently. Some students were glad that USG reached out to the student body. Other students were concerned about the Res College Facebook. Students should be more aware of the fact that they can opt-out of this service if they would like. Unfortunately, the University doesn't make it really transparent about how you can opt out.

There should be a discussion with the computer science department about what will be done before the privacy policy is made. Management of TigerBook should be turned over to faculty rather than students in the meantime.

PPP Update

Last spring, the PPP started a collaboration with the Athletics department to showcase the unique challenges of balancing athletic and academic duties. They got lots of great footage from a wide range of athletes from different teams. They plan on hosting a speaker event in the fall.

PPP has reached out to Professor Danner, who is a professor at here and Berkeley. He would be a very valuable speaker for the student body to hear from. Professor Haushofer (author of the first 'CV of Failures) is another potential speaker.

The PPP's planned Thanksgiving event will focus on gratitude and the importance of positive perspectives. It will help students learn the importance of focusing on the positives without making it seem like their problems don't matter. Focus on both student problems and positives.

Diversity & Equity Committee Update

The Diversity and Equity Committee is trying to get the work that they do aligned more with their mission. There are some many organizations that do diversity and equity programming already.

There is a Cultural and Advocacy Group Meet & Greet coming up. The Diversity and Equity committee is offering leadership training for diversity and inclusion. This will be offered to group Executive Boards.

The new members for the Diversity and Equity committee were confirmed with 19 in favor, 0 opposing, and 0 abstaining.

CPUC Update

The meeting occurred a few weeks ago and there will be another meeting coming up. Princeton has only divested twice. The Resources Committee determines when Princeton divests from certain companies or investments. From the Carl A. Fields Center, the Princeton University Membership program will be intended for upperclassmen. There will be a regular program every Sunday. Renovations of the Carl A. Fields Center are almost done. The LGBT Center will have a new resources page on their website to clarify things like vocabulary and other issues. The redesign will be very user-friendly. Qnections is a membership program that will continue this year from last.

When it comes to FLI graduations, it was confirmed that no subsidies are directly provided. Dean Dolan mentioned that the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid was taking this issue up and that they're considering solutions

The Women's Center needs provide more funding to student groups on campus. Many groups have said that the Women's Center has refused to fund them even though the Women's Center has the money to do so.

Subcommittee on Eating Club Relations Chair Approval

The Eating Club Referendum Response Team nominated Rachel Yee for the position of Chair of the Subcommittee on Eating Club Relations, and requests approval by the USG Senate. The application process went out with the rest of USG applications. There were only five applications, most likely because the application was long. There were four interviews. Rachel Yee was confirmed for the position of Chair of the Subcommittee on Eating Club Relations with 19 voting in favor, 0 opposing, and 0 abstaining.

Budget Proposal

The total amount allocated is \$208,373 for the fall semester and \$229,847 for spring semester. \$415,974 comes from student fees, \$30,209 comes from the endowment, and \$7,962 from the Woody Woo department. This is for this semester and the upcoming spring semester. We are in line with the past in terms of budget. USG tends to spend more in the spring than in the fall.

These are allocations by department: USG General (32.6%), Projects Board (17.1%), and USG Social (44.9%), and USG Office (5.4%).

90% of the budget comes from the student fee. It would be worth figuring out how to grow the percentage from endowment so that the burden isn't placed on the students. When a committee doesn't spend their full allocation, the money rolls over. We're not using all the money that USG is allocated, so it's possible that the budget for USG could be reduced in the future. Most of the money goes to the Social Committee.

The budget was approved with 15 voting in favor, 0 opposing, and 0 against.