



**Undergraduate
Student
Government**

Princeton USG Senate

February 26th, 2022

1. Standard procedure (15 min total)

a. President's Report (Stephen Daniels, 10 minutes)

- Facilities check in
 - Communications strategy and scooter sprint
- New Jersey Higher Education Meeting
 - Resources available for students
 - Start conversations with other students governments
- 1-on-1 with Dean Dunne
- Rapid feedback
 - Bigger USG surveys
 - Social media
 - Office hours - focus groups
 - Other suggestions?
 - Avi: Small sample size, incentivize participation through selection/prize
 - Afzal: Agree on sample size; engagement through location specific conversations rather than incentives; removes bias of incentivization
 - Uma: Agree; support for office hours; wants more officers walking around locations like Frist and Dining halls, asking about qualitative experience. Wants large sample size to better include identity-based experiences.
 - Aishwarya: Curious in use of Instagram; fun use of social media to keep students engaged with USG; hesitant to ask information through Instagram.

b. Questions and Comments (5 minutes)

- Noah: What resources with New Jersey Higher Education Meeting
 - Stephen: financial aid practices; mental health resources possible
- Uma: What's the context for contact?
 - Stephen: reaching out to other schools to have conversations about resources; notes Aishwarya's outreach to other Ivy schools.

2. Projects Board Approval: Princeton Conservation Society (5 minutes)

- Michael Salama: Presentations and break-out activities with student environmental activists at Princeton; guest speakers
 - Walker: Projects Board allocation?
 - Michael Salama: \$1,250



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- Stephen: How to engage more students?
 - Michael Salama: Strong numbers → high engagement throughout student body
- Stephen: How to involve other student groups?
 - Michael Salama: Best space for engagement is break-out groups; provision of perspectives from several different continents
- Sean Bradley motions for a vote, Braiden Aaronson seconds the motion
 - 21 in favor; 4 abstaining; 0 opposed
 - *The vote passes*

3. Menstrual Products Ad Hoc Committee (5 minutes)

- Expanding to 15 new campus locations
- Investing resources into sustainable products.
 - Stephen: What buildings are in need?
 - More products needed in locations that are heavily trafficked. Identified 15 buildings within budget that are most trafficked. Residential colleges are not currently stocked through the initiative
 - Sean: Can we have a conversation with administration about institutionalizing organization so it doesn't have to be student run?
 - Walker: Clarification - \$250 is separate from amount requested
 - Braiden: Expand on why Ad Hoc Committee structure?
 - USG title is useful, especially for collecting data and applications. Putting products under USG name bolstered student support.
 - Braiden: Policy goals?
 - Expanding to meet student demand. Make as accessible and sustainable as possible.
 - Sean Bradley motions for a vote, Aishwarya Swamidurai seconds the motion
 - 19 In favor, 0 opposed, 6 abstaining
 - *The vote passes*

4. Discussion of Mental Health Work Organization (20 minutes)

- Mental Health Policy
 - Utilization of existing resources
 - Working with data team
 - Passive mental health support
 - More info in annual DEI report
 - Leave policy



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- Mental health luncheons - guest speakers and programing; partnering with other student groups; greater role for USG in organization. Making social connections between students.
- Mental health Coordination
 - Working with MHI as it transitions to core committee
 - Working with other Ivies
- Other suggestions for cross collaboration?
 - Avi: Calls for care in identifying goals of the project as a core committee.
 - Stephen: Core committee shows intentionality (greater efficiency)
 - Caitlin: Potential for conversation; potential partnerships with other campus groups to gain greater help.
 - Walker: Important that USG creates a core committee for mental health; acknowledges the intersectionality between USG core committees. Believes wide support among student body for core committee on mental health
 - Srista: Agree; many committees have implications for mental health (especially academics committee); conversations between committees already happening but without context of mental health. Calls for core committee formation. Solidified approach makes USG position on mental health clear and has potential for widespread student support
 - Uma: Believes that mandate by student body to form mental health core committee is already present through senate election results
 - Braiden: Not opposed to the mental health core committee, but believes that goals/rationales need to be established. Believes that these goals lead to Ad Hoc committee structure instead.
 - Daniel: What are the substantive differences between core committees and ad hoc committees?
 - Stephen: president chooses leadership for ad hoc committee; core committee chairs elected. Ad hoc committees at the whim of the senate.
 - Quin: Important to look at how USG can unite committees and their projects on mental health. Think about unity within a broader context.
 - Walker: Difference: Ad hoc committees need to be revived every year per Ad hoc committee resolution passed in the fall whereas core committees do not. Calls for discussion and then formation.
 - Stephen: Recognizes that this will be an ongoing conversation
 - Braiden: What percentage of the budget is allocated?



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- Walker: \$45 constant student fee; all monies allocated. Special one-time projects can dip into reserves. Fully-fund student groups need longer term solutions like increasing student fees to adjust for inflation.
- Braiden: Can USG increase student fees?
 - Stephen: No
 - Riley: Increase in student fee will only impact students who are not on any sort of financial aid. Will have no effect on the majority of students.
 - Ned: How has this activity fee been updated? USG conversation or administrative?
 - Stephen: Increases are usually USG initiated
 - Ned: Calls for reform to evaluate and adjust student fees periodically to account for inflation, notes 20 year sporadic raises
 - Motion to extend time by five minutes
 - Aishwarya seconds
- Stephen Daniels motions to enter Executive Session, Aishwarya Swamidurai seconds the motion
 - 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstaining
 - *The vote passes*