

Princeton USG Senate  
Meeting 10  
September 22, 2019  
8:00 PM Lewis Library 138



- I. Summer updates and Semester Expectations: Zarnab Virk '20 (12 mins)
- II. Allvoices Initiative Presentation: Tyler Eddy '21 (20 mins)
- III. Task Force Proposals: Chitra Parikh '21 (30 mins)
  - A. Sustainability, Claire Wayner '22
  - B. Indigeneity at Princeton, Gab Duguay '22
  - C. Mental Health, Allen Liu '22
  - D. Thesis Advisor Search Engine, Tania Bore '20
  - E. Transparency, Andres Larrieu '22
- IV. Menstrual Products Project team, Preeti Iyer '20 (5 mins)
- V. USG Fall budget proposal: Brad Spicher '20 (10 mins)

# Princeton University

## AllVoices Initiative

**Goal:** To enrich the dialogue on campus with more speakers that are representative of those throughout the nation and world by empowering students' perspectives.

**Format:** Any student can create a petition for a speaker.

Once the speaker receives ten endorsements, they will be added to the pool of speakers that can be selected for the upcoming semester.

Each student will have ten votes that they can disperse in any fashion amongst the candidates. Votes will roll over from semester to semester, ensuring that candidates with support from minority groups can become elected over continuous cycles.

The top two speakers and one conversation will be chosen for the following semester.

### Timeline:

#### Prior Month

First Month	Endorsements and profiles must be finalized
Second Month	Election begins, and votes may be cast for one month
Third Month	Election ends, and the winners are announced with invitation letters sent out to speakers in order to schedule and finalize dates for the following semester

**Board:** Both student and faculty members of the board will be chosen with the primary intent to maintain as much diverse and representational views on the board as possible.

Their primary qualifications will be a commitment to uphold, respect, and promote the views of others, even those they do not disagree with, and to maintain standards in promotion and planning for all selected speakers that would equal that of one hosted by a faculty department

**Speaker** A speaker may not be selected if they knowingly insight violence towards any group or protected class (race, gender, sexual preference, religious affiliation, political beliefs, etc.) The President of the University will have the right to veto a speaker if they so choose.



### Description and Objectives

The Sustainability Task Force will aim to increase environmental sustainability at Princeton both by implementing more sustainable campus practices in partnership with the university administration and by cultivating a spirit of environmental stewardship among the student body. By leveraging USG's close relationships with key campus administrators, the task force will advance the sustainability goals of various student groups, particularly through high-level policy reforms. In addition to facilitating changes desired by the student body, the task force will also work to increase communication and collaboration among undergraduates involved in sustainability on campus by encouraging in-person and virtual meet-ups.

### Background Information

Sustainability has been an essential part of campus life for several years, with the Princeton Office of Sustainability founded by students in 2006. Within USG, the latest Sustainability Task Force was started last year by former U-Councilor Morgan Carmen '20. This year, the task force will continue to work on projects begun last year to ensure good continuity. It will also work to implement the [Carbon-Neutral Campus climate referendum](#) passed this past spring as well as many of the goals outlined in the campus's new Sustainability Action Plan, continuing to strengthen a partnership with the Office of Sustainability.

### Potential Activities, Deliverables and Timeline

The task force will continue many existing projects, including:

- Establishing a student "green space" in Frist
- Exploring green options for USG events, including composting all event waste at the campus S.C.R.A.P. Lab (e.g., TruckFest)

In addition to these, the task force will explore new options for campus change, including:

- Implementing the goals set out in the [position paper](#) for the spring 2019 climate referendum
  - Establish a Scope III emissions task force
  - Send out a 2018 emissions progress report to the student body
  - Host a campus energy town hall with the Office of Sustainability
  - Meet with various stakeholders responsible for carbon emissions reductions
- A campus-wide ban on single-use plastic procurement and usage
- Revamped recycling education system for peer-to-peer outreach (in partnership with the Office of Sustainability)
- Participating in and organizing various public outreach events (e.g., monthly town halls) with the Office of Sustainability related to the new Sustainability Action Plan

- Providing reusable dishware to student groups for their events
- Implementing optional/mandatory sustainability provisions for student groups
- Introducing a sustainability component to freshmen orientation
- Giveaways of sustainability items (e.g., take-out containers, reusable coffee mugs, etc.) in partnership with the Princeton Student Events Committee (PSEC)
- Adding a weekly “sustainability tip” to USG newsletters (e.g., recycling guidelines, bring-your-own reusable item, etc.)

### **Funding Allocation Request**

\$500 (this is a rough estimate and accounts for both funding for new initiatives, e.g., student dishware rental program, and potential increases in operational expenses for USG events and giveaways that become more sustainable)

Name: Gabriel Duguay'22

Date 2019-09-16

Indigeneity at Princeton Task Force Proposal



### Description and Objectives

The Indigeneity at Princeton Task Force has the broad goal of reconciling Princeton University's situation on the historic territory of the Leni Lenape with its current practices, which include very low Indigenous enrollment and limited opportunities for the study of Indigenous issues.

### Background Information

There are two primary groups that focus on Indigenous issues at Princeton. The first is Natives at Princeton (NAP), a group that is primarily a social space for those with an Indigenous identity. NAP is a very small group as a matter of course due to the low enrollment of Indigenous students at Princeton. As such, it has little political capital with the Administration, and is not necessarily the correct forum for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike to conduct advocacy. The second is an informally constituted group called the Princeton American Indian and Indigenous Studies Working Group (PAIISWG), which is a group of graduate students who aim to engage with and promote the academic discipline of Indigenous Studies. Their primary activity has been the organization of academic conferences at Princeton. As neither of these groups are part of "institutionalized" mechanisms for change at Princeton, their effectiveness can be limited. Having a recognized Task Force will provide a forum to centralize advocacy and signal to the Administration that the Undergraduate Student Government has recognized the need for progress on Indigeneity at Princeton.

There was a meeting during the 2018-2019 academic year where various campus stakeholders agreed on the importance of promotion of Indigenous Studies, but pointed out that the lack of undergraduate initiative on the subject was a barrier to further progress. This task force would demonstrate and execute that initiative.

### Potential Activities, Deliverables and Timeline

- Meet with Dean of Faculty to discuss lack of Indigenous Faculty
- Work with Fund for Canadian Studies, the Humanities Council, and the American Studies department to create a permanent professorship in Indigenous Studies
- Solicit Indigenous students, alumni, and leaders for Letters of Support
- Present to Committee on Naming and meet with Mr. Ben Chang on the subject of land acknowledgements
- Gather information about the process of establishing Indigenous Studies at other Ivy League and comparable institutions
- Meet with the Office of Admissions and present to QOFA about the need for increased recruitment and college readiness programs targeted to bring Indigenous students to Princeton

- Interview Indigenous students and alumni about obstacles they face in order to make recommendations to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Submit a written report to CoCS on the case for an Indigenous Studies certificate and step-by-step deliverables to create it.

### **Funding Allocation Request**

0



### Description and Objectives

The Mental Health Task Force has two broad goals: (1) collaborate with groups such as the Mental Health Initiative Board to improve mental health awareness initiatives on campus; and (2) examine and address barriers to off-campus mental health access.

### Background Information

Following initiatives implemented by USG in recent years such as the creation of the Mental Health Initiative Board, Kognito training for first-years, and the creation of Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) satellite offices, awareness of the mental health needs of students and access to care on campus have increased. However, significant equity issues still exist in access to mental health care, presenting barriers for students on financial aid with off-campus needs. This task force will work to both improve existing mental health awareness initiatives on-campus and address inequities in access to off-campus care.

### Potential Activities, Deliverables and Timeline

This task force will focus on several initiatives, to be chosen from the below list (I'd like to speak with Dr. Chin and VP Calhoun soon to make these goals more specific and narrow them down):

- Examine the adequacy of current sources of funding for off-campus healthcare needs (Special Needs Fund, Dean's Emergency Fund, Aryeh Stein-Azen Memorial Fund, VP Calhoun's Emergency Fund); create visuals and other materials to increase awareness of these funding sources; if appropriate, explore the possibility of expanding these funds
- Collect student feedback on the redesign of the McCosh Health Center and lobby for incorporation of this feedback into the redesign
- Collaborate with the McCosh Health Center to publish materials on resources the health center is able to provide in accessing care, such as connecting students with affordable off-campus providers
- Meet with the Mental Health Initiative Board and develop closer collaboration between the Senate and MHI Board on mental health week programming and publicity

### Funding Allocation Request

N/A

Name: Tania Bore

Date: September 9th 2019

Thesis Advisor Search Engine Task Force Proposal



### Description and Objectives

**Objective:** The goal is to create a search engine for rising seniors to look for thesis advisors that fit their unique needs without having to scroll through dozens of different web bios about different advisors in order to find the best match.

**Reason:** Currently, in order to find thesis advisors some students have to scroll through dozens of different paragraphs that detail information about thesis advisor research and expertise. Thereafter, a student determines an advisor who seems like a good fit and approaches them to request to be an advisee. However, there's a lot of information that a student may not know before they approach an advisor. For example, how much time their advisor is willing to allot to them weekly, how well the advisor has been reviewed by past students, and if the advisor has already reached maximum capacity for student advisees or not. If this information could be captured online in a timely fashion, it would be helpful for students. In addition, if students could skip the long process of digging into different thesis advisor bios through entering simple preferences in a search filter like "religious politics" a thesis topic subfield, and seeing which professors across departments pop up, it would save them time from looking for advisors. The search engine would hopefully address these kinds of problems.

### Background Information

I am not aware of any USG project that has been done like this before.

### Potential Activities, Deliverables and Timeline

**Timeline.** (The first week is the week following the 1st USG meeting, September 22nd-29th.)

- WK 1-3:
  - Create the two surveys
    - Survey A: Survey to various departments to learn about the process their students go through to select thesis advisor. (Timeline students are required to pick advisor by, range of information about the advisors available to students, frustrations students face, if a search engine would be helpful, etc.,.)
    - Survey B: Send survey to students within different departments to learn about the same issues from the student perspective.
  - Interest Emails
    - Coordinating with Academic Chair regarding project
    - Coordinating with Treasurer regarding budget



- Coordinating with university regarding the project and possible search engine options and associated costs
  - Send
    - Survey A and send follow up email for incomplete surveys.
    - Survey B and send follow up email for incomplete surveys.
- WK 4:
  - Determine if a search engine would be beneficial, or if an alternative service would be more useful

*If a search engine is beneficial*

- WK 5-9: Create a survey to send to thesis advisors that will include robust list of questions that can be transformed to search filters later on
  - Send the potential survey to students and professors and heads from each department to ask if they think more information could be covered
  - Revise the list of survey questions
  - Have finalized survey version and obtain approval from departments regarding the finalized information that will be asked on the survey
- WK 10: Send the survey out to thesis advisers
- WK 10- End of Reading Period: Work with people to create the website and search filters - or maybe see if there's a "Wix" for search engines
  - Upload the information from the advisors onto the website
  - See if it's possible to have a mechanism thesis advisors could use to indicate they already have the max number of students, so students don't waste their time trying to contact them.
- Finals: Test the website
- 1st Week of Spring Semester: Launch the website.
- Next step:
  - Extend all the information on the website to help juniors find junior paper advisors

### **Funding Allocation Request**

Website Budget: TBD.



### Description and Objectives

The Transparency Task Force has a goal to making sure the proceedings, projects, infrastructure, and progress of USG are clear and presentable to the public. The task force will keep documents on meetings updated on the USG website, maintain clarity on the electoral procedure, and answer any questions students might have on. Not only that, but also the task force plans to offer a platform to encourage student input on campus life.

### Background Information

Student government must hold its actions accountable to the student body. Therefore, transparency is necessary to ensure students are informed on USG's progress and actions. Readily available information on USG allows students to understand the progress the government makes, which in turn encourages them to get more involved and interested. As well, there is a need of a system to encourage student input, potentially hosting small town halls to discuss issues pertinent to campus life.

### Potential Activities, Deliverables and Timeline

To answer any questions, the current plan is as follows:

- Once a week, USG will host office hours.
  - There will be a USG member available in these office hours.
  - For more specific questions regarding particular issues on campus, the task force members will invite a different student or faculty that represents different groups that will be more informed on specific groups' efforts.
  - Every week, there will be a different guest at office hours, providing clearer information on specific issues from experts.
  - Offer a suggestion box to encourage student input during office hours
  - Host less frequent town halls to encourage student participation on issues they care about.
- Apart from this, this Task Force will continue the previous administration's' efforts to release information on USG's meetings and progress in a timely and organized manner.

### Funding Allocation Request

N/A

Name : Preeti Iyer

Date : September 16, 2019

[Menstrual Products Team] Project Team Proposal



### Description and Objectives

The Menstrual Products Project Team is a continuation of the Menstrual Products Project Task Force that led the 2-week menstrual products pilot in Frist two years ago and has been working on campus implementation since 2018. The goal of this task force is to finalize implementation of University-provided menstrual products in academic building restrooms (female, male, and gender-neutral) with the goal of expanding services to student life buildings, residential colleges, and other important space on campus.

Current Members: Preeti Iyer (former U-Councilor, former Task Force Leader), Rayyan Sarker, Aliya Ismagilova, Madeleine Marr, Stephanie Sartzetakis, Janette Lu

We might expand the task force a little bit in a few weeks, and invite anyone on campus who is interested in the project team, whether on USG or not, to come to our meetings and help us make free menstrual products on campus a reality.

### Background Information

Menstruation is a basic biological function, and students require access to menstrual hygiene products to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Without guaranteed access to these products, the ability of students to perform - academically and socially - is disrupted. Students who cannot afford products suffer a financial burden each month. These products will be available in bathrooms regardless of gender assignment.

Students have demonstrated overwhelming support of free menstrual products being provided on campus, with students echoing that free menstrual products should be inclusive for all genders and should be provided regardless of the likelihood to use it.

### Potential Activities, Deliverables and Timeline

Right now, we've successfully passed the 1<sup>st</sup> stage implementation for installing menstrual products in 56 major campus restrooms and these products are now available in major restrooms. The proposal for this year is to finalize all operational details, take data on the program, and monitor it's success in preparation for expansion. Once there is a better understanding of the project / how Princeton differs from industry standard, we will pursue expansion and begin to talk with administration about receiving an annual funding source / operational expansion.

### Funding Allocation Request

To be determined – future expense might include conference funding, and publicity



Funds Currently on Prime by Chartstring	Committee/Group		Budget - F19
			\$ 231,687.50
		Deficit from S19	\$ (7,575.97)
<b>GENERAL SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>ELECTIONS</b>		
		Helios	\$ 2,000.00
		Candidate Reimbursements	\$ 500.00
	<b>ACADEMICS</b>		
		General Expenses	\$ 500.00
	<b>CCA</b>		
		Communiversy	\$ -
		General Expenses	\$ 500.00
	<b>DIV &amp; EQUITY</b>		
		General Expenses	\$ 2,000.00
	<b>Tiger Apps</b>		
		Domain, Server, Service Subscriptions	\$ 1,400.00
	<b>MHI</b>		
		Mental Health Week	\$ -
		General Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
	<b>PPP</b>		
		General Expenses	\$ 1,100.00
	<b>USLC</b>		
		Free Fitness Classes	\$ 1,700.00
		Free Flex Passes	\$ 600.00
	<b>Wintersession</b>		\$ 2,000.00
	<b>Thanksgiving Buses*</b>		\$ 1,000.00
	<b>Senate Retreat</b>		\$ 500.00
	<b>Academics Fair</b>		\$ 5,500.00
	<b>Senate Faceboard</b>		\$ 2,000.00
<b>SENATE PROJECTS</b>	<b>Task Forces</b>		\$ 1,000.00
		First day of School Bagels	\$ 900.00
OFFICE ALLOCATION		Copier Charges	\$ 3,500.00
		Misc	\$ 50.00
		Office Worker Salaries	\$ 5,000.00
		Coffee	\$ 1,200.00
		Paper	\$ 250.00
SOCIAL ALLOCATION		Lawnparties	\$ 100,000.00
		Yardparties	\$ -
		Dean's Date	\$ 14,000.00
	Projects Board		\$ 45,000.00
	<b>Movies</b>		\$ 22,000.00
		TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$ 215,200.00
		EXPECTED LEFTOVER	\$ 8,911.53