

USG Senate  
February 18, 2018  
Frist 302

**Attendance:**

- Elizabeth - 2021 Senator
- Pooja - U-Councilor
- Miranda - U-Councilor
- Tori - Director of Communications
- Ben - U-Councilor
- Olivia - Academics Chair
- Jonah - Parliamentarian
- Kade - 2020 Senator
- Sam - 2020 Senator
- Olivia - U-Councilor
- Sam - U Councilor
- Rachel - President
- Nate - Vice President
- Chitra - Executive Secretary
- Liam Glass - Social Chair
- Caleb - CCA
- Emily - Historian
- Isabella and Elliot - Projects Board Co-Chairs
- Jenna - Brad's Substitute
- Josh Gardner - MHI Board Co-Chair
- Tania - USLC Chair
- Ruby - 2019 Senator
- Diego - U-Councilor
- Dora - Alumni Affairs
- Nick Wu - U-Councilor
- Allison - Treasurer
- Mike - 2019 Senator

**President's Report**

- Thank you to Brad for working on the website and contacting Greg in OIT to ensure we have a princeton.edu address!
- Thank you Kade for the first blog post covering the first meeting on the new website!
- Thank you to the 2021 senators for coming to the speed dating!
- Olivia, thank you for helping with e-mails in the absence of a Newsletter chair!
- Olivia, Allison and Nate, thank you for retreat funding!
- Nate, thank you for organizing interviews!
- Nick, thank you for putting together a social event!
- Ben and Jonah, thank you for putting together the consent agenda!

**Week in Review**

- CPUC Meeting - Monday
- Christian Smith - Tuesday (regarding future Whig Clio collaborations)
  - We will discuss more about possible avenues of collaboration next week
- Honor Committee Clerk Interview + Speed Dating Event - Wednesday
- Olivia Ott, Patrick and Ling prepped for the Honor Committee Review - Thursday
- Meeting about HRSC Committee - Friday

- Appointed Position Interviews - Saturday
- Meeting with Sydney Jordan '19 (Chair of Diversity and Equity Committee) - Sunday

### Looking Ahead

- Re-evaluate and reflect on email formatting this week.

### Feedback

- Olivia Ott: Honor System Review Committee Meeting
  - Discussed the referendum, student reactions, etc.
  - Received many questions, but overall felt there was a positive reaction.
  - Due to confidentiality concerns, many specifics of the meeting cannot be shared.
  - Question to Olivia: Are there next steps?
    - Rachel and Olivia will not meet with this committee again.
- Question to Nick: Any update on the Sexual Misconduct Committee?
  - There will be a meeting this week regarding this.

### Attendance Policy

- As per the constitution, Senate members can have up to 3 unexcused absences. If you have 3 or more, your position will be up for review (by the Senate).
- If you can't be here, make sure that you get a sub and reach out to Nate (**nkl@**) or Chitra (**chitrap@**) to notify us that you will be absent. Please let us know **24 hours** in advance.
- If you are a class senator, ask class officers first.
- If you are a U-Councilor, you can ask anyone in the student body first.
- If you are a committee chair, generally ask a member of your committee first.

### Transition Retreat Funding

- This plan has been approved and endorsed by many administrators.
- The cost has been lowered as much as possible.
- The goal is to create avenues for leadership programming and to establish a tradition of leadership training. Everyone will also receive baseline knowledge regarding the function of USG, applying for funding, working with campus groups, the USG constitution, etc.
- Workshops:
  - Design Thinking - Rafe Steinhauer
  - Communication and Team Management - Rafe Steinhauer
  - USG History - Zhan Okuda-Lim
  - Time Management - Nic Voge
  - Distress Awareness and Response Training - Dr. Calvin Chin
    - If this training is useful, we will attempt to provide this training to all eating clubs.
  - Leadership Training - Claire Pinciaro
- Question: What is the reasoning behind having the transition training off campus?
  - Sometimes, past retreats have felt lacking in team bonding and focus/purpose. Having a retreat off-campus is a better way to allow new members to get to know

everyone and to reinvigorate the interests/passions of members who have been around for a while.

- Also, off-campus retreats have occurred in the past.
- Question: Have all 25 people confirmed attendance? If someone doesn't show up, what will happen? Do we lose the money?
  - Originally, we were planning to have 30 people. 25 accounts for people who may not come, but if we have lower than 24 members, we will reach out to other USG members to invite them to attend.
- Question: Will there be transportation?
  - Nate is trying to receive permission to use a Whig Clio van.
- **Voting Results (Budget Proposal Approved)**
  - Yes: 17
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0

### **Financial Report Resolution Voting and Projects Board Co-Chair Confirmation**

- Nick (outgoing Projects Board co-chair):
  - Elliot and Isabella have both been on the board for a year. Elliot has worked with Kate and ODUS regarding funding. Isabella has been directing logistics, and she has a really good grasp of the policies. She also does not have a thesis, which will allow her to devote time to the Projects Board.
- Voting Results (Projects Board Co-Chairs Confirmed)
  - Yes: 17
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- Financial Report Resolution
  - The resolution will address the funding gap for the Projects Board.
  - It also addresses an outdated charter for the Projects Board.
  - The Projects Board will receive \$10,000 if the charter is updated.
  - Nick: In the later part of the spring, the Projects Board tends to run out of money, especially in February and March. Groups that have events around Communiversities time are unable to receive funding, thereafter. One of the focuses of this funding would be providing funding to groups that promote diversity.
  - Earlier in the semester, Projects Board is able to provide a couple hundred, whereas towards the end of the year, they are only able to fund less than \$100.
  - Question: Is there any way that earlier requests can be decreased (more stringent) to ensure events at the end of the year can have more funds?
    - The Projects Board monitors their budget closely; however, some groups tend to come to them with very little funding.
  - Question: How much funding does Projects Board receive?

- \$30,000 from USG and \$7,500 from WWS/Politics
- Question: Have you requested that ODUS gives you funding?
  - ODUS does not give Projects Board a grant. There's a "pot" that Projects Board can take from, but there is no dedicated amount. This amount is always variable.
- Question: Will the first semester budget be changed?
  - The \$10,000 would be allocated for the second semester. In the fall, it would \$30,000, but in the spring, it would be \$40,000.
- Question: Are there more requests in the spring?
  - The fall is generally smaller events such as open houses. The spring events tend to be larger.
- Question: How do you decide between WWS/Politics funding and USG funding?
  - Requests receive USG funding, but based on the content of the funding, there will be WWS/Politics funding.
- Question: Can you provide an example of an event you couldn't fund in the spring?
  - The issue isn't about not funding at all but rather about how much can be funded. This would help Projects Board ensure equality and fairness in funding groups.
- Question: Would it be possible to provide the Senate with background on these facts in writing?
  - Much of the funding is confidential, so unfortunately, this is not possible. Nick is here to discuss these numbers since he has been on the board for three years.
- Question: Why are these funds from ODUS confidential?
  - ODUS funding is not public because their spending is not public.
- Question: Why did you choose \$10,000 specifically?
  - \$10,000 would allow equality among events since it is an ample amount of money to allow an increase in spending for second semester events.
- Question: Would it be possible to approve this for just this year instead of annually and then evaluate the increase at the end of the year?
  - Yes, there can be an amendment. However, the Projects Board would like to vote today.
- Feedback: Is it necessary to amend the resolution? The resolution provides a contingency.
- Feedback: USG has extra money at the end of the year, so providing money to Projects Board to reach student groups will be beneficial.
- **Voting: (Financial Reform Resolution)**
  - Yes: 17

- No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- Goals Moving Forward
  - Centralize funding sources
  - Establish regular meeting with ODUS to hopefully increase student fees in order to help ODUS feel more comfortable funding Projects Board
- There will likely be a policy regarding attendance at meetings for standing committees.
- Thank you to Nick for 3 years of service on Projects Board!

### **CPUC Meeting Overview (Nick)**

- President Eisgruber held his annual town hall.
  - There will be 2 new residential colleges, but only one will be opened so that renovation of old residential colleges can occur.
  - The percentage of students on Pell grants has more than doubled since 2008.
  - There are new initiatives to build a new E-Quad.
  - There was discussed about the endowment and the possibility of an endowment tax. If it does go into effect, it will reduce the operating budget of the University. If you have any questions, you can contact Nick Wu.
  - The new pre-read (Speak Freely) was also discussed and answered a number of questions from the public.
  - Professor's Rosen use of the n-word was addressed. President Eisgruber said that he supports professor's pedagogical use in the manner they deem okay. He spoke enthusiastically about how he feels free speech should not be stifled on campus.
- If you would like to learn about the Priorities Committee update, contact Miranda, Michael or Patrick.

### **College Pulse Presentation**

- College Pulse is an app created by Dartmouth students. Students fill out surveys in the app about a wide range of topics, and as a reward, the students receive points. The points can be exchanged for prizes.
- It is currently used by 97% of the Dartmouth student body.
- College Pulse is also partnering with the current Harvard Student Government.
- The app is also great for demographic analysis, and the incentives engage more students than the surveys would otherwise.
- The app conducted a survey on the situation with Professor Rosen recently.
- The app increased voter turnout for the Dartmouth student election tremendously in 2017.
- The student government can create surveys for free.
  - You can write the survey yourself or you can send it to the team at Dartmouth.
- Question: How can you analyse survey?

- For each question, you can see data based on demographics (12 factors such as financial aid, athletes, gender, etc.).
- Question: Has USG paid for Survey Gizmo in the past?
  - Yes, we have paid for Survey Gizmo.
- Question: Is College Pulse for profit?
  - Currently, College Pulse is not profit, but it would like to expand to become for profit in the future. Organizations are not charged to create/send surveys. They are a startup receiving funding.
- Question: If USG decides to partner with another organization, what is the protocol for this?
  - We will look at precedent to determine how to approach this.
- Feedback: Regarding privacy, the Senate should consider the incident with TigerBook in reflecting on the possible collaboration.
- Question: Are surveys anonymous? Are there mechanisms for bullying students through this?
  - Generally, no, surveys cannot be created anonymously. Currently, there have been no incidents about bullying. Many questions are multiple choice, so it would be difficult to bully others. The Dartmouth team would monitor questions and remove any harmful ones.
- The surveys can be limited to campus members.
- You do have to register for the app, and this might deter students from taking surveys.
  - Registration is fairly simple.
- Question: Anyone who would like to do so can sign up and create a survey. If someone wanted to create a Princeton campus specific survey?
  - There are mechanisms for checking surveys before they are published, and people who want to create surveys, they pay based on the number of the responses it will get.
- Question: How are surveys filtered?
  - There is a search bar, but the representatives are not sure if you can search for Princeton specific surveys.
- Question: How would USG benefit from demographic breakdown?
  - Demographic breakdowns can help show how different demographics respond to campus issues.
- Question: How would College Pulse increase turnout through an outside platform?
  - The app would increase turnout not necessarily through an outside platform but if the College Pulse app was used for voting.
- Feedback: You suggest that USG sends an e-mail to student groups about using the app to create/send surveys. There is concern about whether this would be seen as USG's promotion of a certain vendor (which may be perceived as unfair).

## Consent Agenda Resolution

- If this were adopted, the agenda would include a consent agenda. Items would go under this section and would be approved quickly without discussion (through unanimous content).
- This is in response to an online voting proposal for subcommittee members.
- A consent agenda enables for discussion in an open meeting at any time if a member pulls an item out for discussion. It does provide the benefit of going through routine items quickly.
- Possible purposes: Committee Appointments, Adoption of Meeting Minutes, etc.
- Objection does not have to occur before the meeting, and it can be raised during the meeting itself. Objections can be raised up until anytime the chair seeks unanimous content.
- Suggestion: If the consent agenda is adopted, the agenda should be sent early enough for members to review (i.e. Friday night).
- Suggestion: The consent agenda should include information about members who are to be approved.
- Questions: What happens if the chair of committee whose members are being approved is not there to defend appointments?
  - Chairs can still be invited to attend the meetings. The consent agenda is voted on directly after the meeting opens.

### ● **Voting: (Consent Agenda Resolution)**

- Yes: 17
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

## Confirmation of MHI Chairs

- Josh Gardner
  - MHI is hosting Mental Health week.
  - Josh believes the Yee administration will be supportive of mental health projects.
  - Josh has been part of the board for the past year (Casey has a well).
  - Josh is a sophomore majoring in Computer Science. He is interested in mental health issues because of his Princeton experience as well as mental health issues in his family. He wants to help people thrive in a high-stress, challenging environment such as Princeton. He wants to promote resources that students may not immediately think of (for example, a course on happiness).
- Casey Kemper
  - Casey has been part of MHI for a year.
  - Casey attended the Ivy League Mental Health Conference by skyping in from a rowing commitment; this shows dedication on her part.

### ● **Voting: (Confirmation of 2 Chairs)**

- Yes: 17
- No: 0
- Abstain: 0

### **Confirmation of Senate Members**

- The Elections Manager will not be approved today. Instead, the historian will be approved today. The Elections Manager position still has interviews left.
- Liam Glass (Social Chair)
  - Liam is a junior. He has been part of the Social Committee since his freshman spring. He has seen an expansion of the role of the committee in the past year both artistically and musically, and he wants to expand the presence of the social committee even more in the coming year.
- Caleb Visser (CCA Chair)
  - Caleb is a sophomore. He is new to USG, but he has been involved in a lot of community-oriented groups on campus such as Pace Center, SHARE Peers, and ROTC. He wants to break down socioeconomic barriers between the University and the Community.
- Chitra Parikh (Executive Secretary)
  - Chitra is a freshman. As Executive Secretary, she hopes to be involved in working with the VP to oversee Senate projects, specifically about mental health and transparency. She also hopes to establish organized, clear notes in order to maintain institutional memory over the years.
- Emily McLean (Historian)
  - Emily is a sophomore. As historian, she would like to conduct archival research. She wants to look through USG history and assist research the practices of student governments at other universities to add to a record of best policy practices.
- Dora Zhou (Alumni Affairs)
  - Dora is a first year student. She has served in the USLC committee under Tania in her freshman fall. She wants to establish connections both internally and externally. She wants to develop mentorship internally in USG as well as externally by partnering with extracurricular groups on campus.
- Tori Gorton (Director of Communications)
  - Tori is a freshman. She hopes to expand the reach of USG by making it more efficient and approachable.
- Jonah Hyma (Parliamentarians)
  - Jonah is a sophomore. He would be the resident expert on USG rules and procedures. He would advise Senate members and the future Chief Elections Manager on USG proceedings.
- Brad Spicher (Website Manager)

- The appointment of a Senate member to two positions is likely not allowed, so we will hold discussion until this has been looked into.
- Question: What is the timeline for the new Chief Elections Manager?
  - There is an interview at 7:30 PM today; this is the last interview for today. The decision will be made either tonight or tomorrow.
- **Voting (Confirmation of 6 Positions)**
  - Yes: 17
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- Reminders
  - Email Brad your bio for the website as soon as possible!
  - Establish a GroupMe or group chat with project teams if you haven't already done so.