

**Princeton USG Senate**  
**Meeting 27**  
**October 25, 2020**  
**9:30PM (EST)**



**Undergraduate  
Student  
Government**

### **Introduction**

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

### **New Business**

1. Office of Information Technology (OIT) Outreach Initiative: Joseph Karam (20 minutes)
1. Elections Working Group Constitutional Amendments: Kate Liu and Lehman Montgomery (10 minutes)

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### **Consent Agenda**

1. Undergraduate Student Life Committee Confirmations
  - a. Ryan Vuono '24: My name is Ryan Vuono, and I'm from Alexandria, VA! I'm a first-year prospective SPIA major, but who knows if I'll actually end up doing that. Outside of that, I'm a member of Army ROTC and work on the Policy Punchline podcast. I'm super excited to be a part of USLC, and I look forward to being a part of the organization and hopefully making some meaningful changes!
  - b. Ethan Sisbarro '23: My name is Ethan Sisbarro. I am a sophomore from northern Virginia majoring in Computer Science BSE. I joined the University Student Life Committee because I want to become more involved in and contribute more to Princeton's student community. I also volunteer as a COS126 lab TA and participate in Navy ROTC. In my free time, I like to run, play guitar, make bad puns, and listen to music. I look forward to working with my fellow committee members.
  - c. Kennedy Walls '24: Hi, I'm Kennedy! I'm a first-year from Atlanta, Georgia and a prospective Medical Anthropology major. I'm determined to find ways to support and unify the Princeton community despite our student body being dispersed across the globe during these times. So, I'm thrilled to serve my fellow tigers as a member of the University Student Life Committee this year! On the USLC, I will seek to prioritize the needs of womxn at Princeton as well as improving the overall student health (both mental and physical) of our community.
  - d. Sekinat Aliu '24: I am a freshman considering a concentration in ELE with a potential COS certificate. Overall, I am on the hunt for compelling innovation. I believe an important part of finding what that looks like for me as a student and

otherwise is getting involved and trying to make a difference, which is a goal of mine as an incoming USG USLC member. I am also looking forward to meeting more of the committee and making the most of our time together as a team!

- e. Rohan Amin '24: Hi! My name's Rohan Amin and I'm a freshman currently concentrating in Computer Science. I'm from Denville, New Jersey, which is about an hour north of Princeton. I am so excited to be a member of the Undergraduate Student Life Committee because I think that it's really important to stay engaged, especially from home. I look forward to serving Princeton's undergrad student body this term, and hopefully we'll have some interesting events coming up soon!
- f. Jerry Jaio '24: Hey everyone! My name is Jerry and I'm a freshman from Toronto, Canada. I'm an undecided BSE kid debating between ELE/COS/ORFE. In my free time, I play a lot of basketball and volleyball, and I'm a die-hard Raptors fan (Toronto tings, you know). My primary interest in joining the USLC is to provide insight and support for the international student community as the current circumstances make things especially difficult for our group. Super excited to be here!!
- g. Madison Linton '24: My name is Madison Linton and I'm from Barnegat, New Jersey. I am currently planning on pursuing a concentration in the School of Public and International Affairs (previously Woody Woo). I'm excited to be able to amplify the voices of our international students and bridge cultural differences through USLC, as well as broadening the outreach regarding mental health awareness.
- h. Aniket Mukherji '24: My name is Aniket Mukherji and I am a member of the Class of 2024 from New York City. I am an AB student and am currently undecided on my major. I look forward to using my position on the USLC to create a more intimate and inclusive Princeton community!
- i. Benjamin Cai '24: Hi, I'm Ben, and I am a first-year from Cumberland, Rhode Island in Mathey College. I use he/him/his pronouns, and I hope to major in economics. On USLC, I hope to improve socioeconomic equity, create resource guides, and connect students, especially frosh. At Princeton, I am involved with TigerLaunch and the business team of The Daily Princetonian. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, swimming, and reading.
- j. Kateri Espinosa '24: I am Kateri Espinosa, born in Queens, New York and raised in Tampa, Florida. I am a first-year prospective SPIA major, and am also involved in SIFP. I was involved in student government in high school and was the vice president of my senior class, so I am super passionate about student life initiatives and feel that the council is especially important given our current environment. I especially feel that we could benefit from some policies regarding Zoom,

including some sort of break structure to reduce eye strain. I'm looking forward to working with all of you and feeling excited for the year ahead!

- k. Taryn Sebba '23: Taryn Sebba is from Fort Collins, Colorado, and is a Sophomore in the class of 2023. Taryn is concentrating in the School of Public and International Affairs with certificates in the History and Practice of Diplomacy and Latin American Studies. She is the 2023 Class President, serves on the honor committee, is a member of the USG Mental Health Task Force and Student Life Committee, a James Madison fellow, a Service Focus cohort member, and an Orange Key tour guide! Being involved in these various capacities has given Taryn tremendous fulfillment and gratitude for the opportunities afforded by Princeton. As such, she hopes to extend them to more of her peers, reconcile some of our university's shortcomings, and progress Princeton's student life for all.
- l. Naomi Hess '22: My name is Naomi Hess and I'm a junior from Clarksville, Maryland. I'm majoring in the School of Public and International Affairs with a certificate in Journalism. Outside of class, I'm an Associate News Editor for The Daily Princetonian, the Maryland and Delaware State Director for Vote100, a Fellow for the AccessAbility Center, and a Butler PAA. I am excited to join USLC to advocate for more attention to the accessibility needs of students with disabilities, more equity and inclusion initiatives, and better transparency and communication with the student body.
- m. Matthew Wilson '24: Matthew Wilson is a first-year from Loudoun County, Virginia. He's planning to concentrate in the School of Public and International Affairs and to possibly pursue certificates in Chinese and Journalism. He was driven to join USLC to help ensure transparency, flexibility, and equality in the student life experience at Princeton.
- n. Brett Zeligson '24: Hi! My name is Brett Zeligson and I am a freshman from West Orange, New Jersey planning on majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering. I'm super excited to work with the Undergraduate Student Life Committee, especially in the areas of mental health awareness and community service.
- o. Katie Lee '24: Hello!! My name is Katie Lee and I am a freshman from Beaverton, Oregon interested in studying ORFE. I'm excited to be serving on the USLC committee this year. I hope to help strengthen our community and make cherishable memories with one another. I am passionate about student outreach, community building, and inclusion. In addition to the Student Life Committee, I am part of the Whitman College Council, KSAP, Princeton Data Science, and the Taekwondo Team. Feel free to reach out to me anytime at [katieyl@princeton.edu](mailto:katieyl@princeton.edu)!
- p. Melat Bekele '24: Melat Bekele is a first-year student at Princeton University from Rochester, NY. She is interested in studying at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and earning a certificate in African studies. Apart

from the University Student Life Committee, Melat is also involved in The Daily Princetonian, the Princeton African Students Association, and the Princeton University Undergraduate Choir Program. During her time at Princeton, she looks to improve the experiences of her fellow tigers through her work on the USLC. As a student passionate about policy and helping others, after her time at Princeton, Melat hopes to pursue her education in development studies.

## 2. Academics Committee Confirmations

- a. Avner Goldstein '21: Avner Goldstein is a senior in Classics, with certificates in Medieval Studies and Archaeology. He is a Peer Academic Advisor for Mathey College and serves on the Faculty-Student Committee on Discipline. He also spends much of his time as a community leader at the Center for Jewish Life.
- b. Matthew Wilson '24: Matthew Wilson is a first-year from Loudoun County, Virginia. He's planning to concentrate in the School of Public and International Affairs and while possibly pursuing certificates in Chinese and Journalism.
- c. Bharvi Chavre '23: Hi! My name is Bharvi Chavre and I'm a sophomore from Long Island, New York most likely concentrating in Chemistry on the pre-med track with a certificate in Engineering Biology. On campus, I'm a PAA, Daily Prince Staff Writer, and the AASA Secretary. I'm also on the USG Social Committee. I am really excited to be on the Academic Committee this year!
- d. Brain S.-K. Li '24: I am a first-year student from Bernards, New Jersey. On campus, I'm involved with the HonorCommittee Peer Reps, and the Portuguese Language Program, and the USG elections team. Offcampus, I work on research projects based at NJIT and Penn Medicine. I also volunteer at Cochrane and The COVID Tracking Project. Nothing excites me more than chalkboards and curling, and I look forward to working with everybody on the Academics Committee in the year to come.
- e. Sarah Kuo '24: Hi, everyone! My name is Sarah Kuo, and I am a first year from Davidson, North Carolina. I am hoping to major in physics and be pre-med, and I currently play violin for the Princeton Camerata. I am so excited to be on the Academics Committee this year, and I look forward to working with you to enhance the undergraduate academic experience at Princeton!
- f. Katerina Kourpas '24: Hi everyone! My name is Katerina Kourpas, and I am a first-year from Newark, Delaware prospectively concentrating in Molecular Biology with a certificate in Neuroscience. I am honored and excited to be part of the Academics Committee! My top priority is ensuring that all students, independent of background and academic preparation, are well positioned to succeed academically during their studies and persevere through challenges. I hope to work on policies that offer enrichment opportunities for lab-based courses to set a strong foundation for STEM majors as well as develop student-friendly grading policies throughout the pandemic. I am also eager to contribute to

ongoing initiatives and work to address student concerns. Outside of academics, I am passionate about dance, environmental sustainability, and community service. I also love to swim, row, listen to music, and spend time with my friends!

- g. Yash Parikh '24: Hi everyone! I'm Yash from central New Jersey. I'm an undecided AB major, and I'm really looking forward to serving on Academics Committee and representing the first-year perspective on academic life!
  - h. Taryn Sebba '23: Taryn Sebba is from Fort Collins, Colorado, and is a Sophomore in the class of 2023. Taryn is concentrating in the School of Public and International Affairs with certificates in the History and Practice of Diplomacy and Latin American Studies. She is the 2023 Class President, serves on the honor committee, is a member of the USG Mental Health Task Force, Social Committee, and Student Life Committee, a James Madison fellow, a Service Focus cohort member, and an Orange Key tour guide! Being involved in these various capacities has given Taryn tremendous fulfillment and gratitude for the opportunities afforded by Princeton. Taryn will continue to advocate for student voices and work to ensure equitable academic practices for all undergraduates.
  - i. Jiwon Yun '22: Jiwon Yun is a junior in the English department from Rochester Hills, Michigan. Interested in all things literature and public policy, she hopes to pursue a career in law after graduation. In her free time you can find her doing yoga, writing poetry, or watching Criminal Mind
3. Projects Board Confirmations:
- a. Lilianna Gittoes '24: Lilianna is a first year student from Redwood City, CA, and is so excited to be a part of Projects Board this year. She intends on concentrating in Operations Research & Financial Engineering. In her free time, she loves playing (and coaching) tennis, going hiking & camping, and is a cellist in Princeton's Sinfonia Orchestra.



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## Summer Referenda and Elections Handbook Working Group Report DRAFT

October 2020

### **About the Working Group**

The Referenda and Elections Handbook Working Group was an informal group of past and current USG members (Chitra Parikh '21, Andres Larrieu '22, Lehman Montgomery '22, Kate Liu '23, Jonah Hyman '20, and Olivia Ott '20) that met over a dozen times during the summer and fall to recommend revisions to USG's Elections and Referenda Handbook. This revisions process was initiated for two reasons: (1) to procedurally adjust the content of the handbook to account for the new academic calendar, last year's switch to instant-runoff-voting, and possible COVID-19 complications with the elections process; and (2) to address questions surrounding the wording of the current referenda and elections handbook that have surfaced in recent years. A comprehensive review of the election and referenda rules has not been conducted for some time, and the Working Group hoped to develop recommendations containing suggested updates to the handbook that the Senate could vote to formally implement in the fall.

### **Summary of Key Recommendations**

Over the course of the past four months, the Working Group met extensively to review and propose changes to the current Referenda and Elections Handbook. During this period of time, we discussed a wide range of topics, including how to finalize the implementation of instant-runoff-voting (IRV) through the Election Runner platform, aligning the elections handbook with the new academic calendar, streamlining and updating the elections process to conform with recent working campaign practices, improving the penalties and appeals processes, and clarifying the formal definitions of commonly used elections and referenda terms. The Working Group also spent a substantial amount of time refining the format and structure of the handbook to improve its readability and clarity for elections managers, candidates, and referenda sponsors participating in future campaigns; we also developed a comprehensive series of appendices and suggested practices contained in the new handbook that we believe will be useful in facilitating elections and distributing campaign information moving forward.



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In addition to this report, the primary result of the Working Group's efforts is a revised version of the current elections and referenda handbook ([linked here](#)) that we hope the USG Senate will choose to formally adopt in the coming weeks.

### **Next Steps for Senate and the Working Group**

The goal is to consider, finalize, and vote on the changes proposed in this document by the beginning of the winter 2020 election cycle, which is tentatively scheduled for October 25th, 2020. In order to meet this deadline, the Working Group proposes the following timeline for the Senate's consideration:

1. Sunday, October 4th: Present this report and introduce the proposed changes to Senate
2. Sunday, October 18th: Address any questions or concerns, and present and vote on Constitutional amendments (1st out of 2 required votes)
3. Sunday, October 25th: Present and vote on Constitutional amendments (2nd out of 2 required votes), Rules on Standing/Appeals, and Elections Handbook revisions.

In advance of the upcoming meeting on October 4th to present and vote on the Constitutional amendments required to adopt the new elections handbook, we respectfully ask that the voting members of the USG Senate do two things: (1) read the revised version of the USG elections and referenda handbook ([linked here](#)) and (2) reach out to Kate Liu '23 (USG Parliamentarian) and Lehman Montgomery '22 (USG Chief Elections Manager) with any questions. Please also come to next week's Senate meeting prepared to vote on the corresponding Constitutional amendments that would be necessary to adopt the new handbook.

#### *Required Voting Standards for Proposed Changes:*

- Constitutional changes -- Need two  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority votes
- Revising elections handbook -- Need  $\frac{1}{2}$  majority vote
- Rules on Standing and Appeals -- Need  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



**THE SENATE**

princeton university, princeton, new jersey

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Senate Resolution 11-2020

Submitted by KATE LIU '23, USG SENATE PARLIAMENTARIAN AND LEMHAN MONTGOMERY '22, CHIEF ELECTIONS MANAGER

**Resolution**

Adopting a new standing rule of the Senate that specifies procedures and voting thresholds for overturning an action of the Chief Elections Manager or an Elections Manager.

*Resolved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government (two-thirds of the Senate concurring),*

**SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF A NEW STANDING RULE OF THE SENATE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with section 406 of the Senate Constitution, the Senate adopts Standing Rule 3, which is attached to this resolution.

(b) **STANDING RULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 302(F) OF SENATE CONSTITUTION.**—Standing Rule 3 shall be construed as fulfilling the conditions of section 302(f) of the Senate Constitution.

Approved October XX, 2020.

ASHWIN MAHADEVAN '22,  
*Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government and  
Presiding Officer of the Senate.*

Attest:

JOSEPHINE KIM '23,  
*Executive Secretary of the Senate.*



## STANDING RULE 3—ELECTION APPEALS

### SECTION 1. FILING AND SCHEDULING AN APPEAL

(a) FILING AN APPEAL.—The President shall schedule an appeal of an action of an Elections Manager if the following conditions are met:

(1) An undergraduate informs the Chief Elections Manager of the appeal.

(2) No later than 24 hours after the Chief Elections Manager is informed of the appeal, 3 voting Senate members file the appeal by informing the President of—

(A) the Senate members' intent to appeal an action of an Elections Manager; and

(B) the action that the Senate members seek to overturn.

(b) CEM MUST BE NOTIFIED 48 HOURS AFTER VOTING.—If the action under appeal occurred during an election cycle, the notice requirement under paragraph (a)(1) is satisfied only if the Chief Elections Manager is notified of the appeal or a corresponding complaint no later than 48 hours after the end of voting in that election cycle.

(c) APPEALS ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER UNDERGRADUATE.—The Senate members may file an appeal on behalf of another undergraduate, including a campaign leader.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—A Senate member should not file an appeal if the Senate member is a campaign leader who could be affected by the appeal.

(e) SCHEDULING AN APPEAL.—If the President is required to schedule an appeal, the following procedures apply:

(1) IF THERE IS A REGULAR SENATE MEETING.—If there is a regular Senate meeting within 5 days of the filing of the appeal, the President shall add the appeal to the agenda of that Senate meeting.

(2) IF THERE IS NO REGULAR SENATE MEETING.—If there is no regular Senate meeting within 5 days of the filing of the appeal, the President shall—

(A) call a special meeting that occurs within 5 days of the filing of the appeal; and

(B) add the appeal to the agenda of that Senate meeting

(f) INFORMING PARTIES OF THE APPEAL.—No later than 24 hours before the Senate meeting of the appeal, the Executive Secretary shall send the date, time, place, and nature of the appeal to—

(1) each voting Senate member;

(2) each Elections Manager; and

(3) each campaign leader potentially affected by the appeal.

### SECTION 2. PROCEDURES AT SENATE MEETING

(a) APPELLEES MAY PRESENT ARGUMENT.—Before the Senate votes on an appeal, each of the following groups may present an argument:

(1) The Senate members who filed the appeal.

(2)The undergraduates on whose behalf the appeal was filed, if any.

(b)ELECTIONS MANAGERS MAY PRESENT DEFENSE.—Before the Senate votes on an appeal, the Elections Managers may present a defense.

(c)EXECUTIVE SESSION.—In order to discuss and vote on an appeal, the Senate should go into executive session.

(d)CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—A Senate member should recuse themselves from executive session if they are a campaign leader who could be affected by the appeal.

(e)STANDARD OF REVIEW.—

(1)IN GENERAL.—The Senate may overturn an action of an Elections Manager during an election cycle if, by a 2/3 vote, the Senate determines that the Elections Manager’s action was clearly mistaken.

(2)CLARIFICATION.—A Senate member should not vote to overturn an action of an Elections Manager merely because the Senate member would have acted differently.

### **SECTION 3. REMEDIES**

(a)IN GENERAL.—If the Senate overturns an action of an Elections Manager, the Senate may specify a remedy by majority vote.

(b)EXAMPLES.—Possible remedies include

- (1)assigning penalty points to a campaign;
- (2)removing penalty points from a campaign;
- (3)issuing or revoking a takedown notice;
- (4)issuing or revoking a campaign restriction;
- (5)disqualifying a campaign leader;
- (6)revoking a disqualification;
- (7)extending the voting period; or
- (8)requiring a revote.

(c)REVOTES.—

(1)ELECTION RULES MUST BE SPECIFIED.—If the Senate requires a revote as part of an appeal, the Senate shall specify the election rules that apply to the revote.

(2)REVOTES MAY NOT OCCUR PAST THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE.—The Senate may not require a revote if the voting period for that revote would extend past the constitutional deadline for the election, as specified in section 803 of the Senate Constitution.

### **SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION**

This standing rule shall be construed in accordance with the definitions and rules of construction of the Elections Handbook.

### **SGRC Approved Clubs**

- China Focus Group
- Student vs. Pandemics
- HOSA
- CJL Play
- Veritas
- Election Research Group
- Steel pan