

**Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 25
October 4, 2020
9:30PM (EST)**



**Undergraduate
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Introduction

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

New Business

1. EDI in the Arts Circuit: Jessica Bailey (30 minutes)
2. Election and Referenda Handbook Presentation: Kate Liu (15 minutes)



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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