

**Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 29
November 8, 2020
9:30PM (EST)**



**Undergraduate
Student
Government**

Introduction

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

New Business

1. Wintersession: Leanna Jahnke- Office of Wintersession and Campus Engagement (25 minutes)
2. Committee on Discipline Confirmations: Kennedy Miller (10 minutes)
 - a. Jesse Brewer '22: Hi, my name is Jesse Brewer and I am a junior in the Molecular Biology Department. At Princeton, I have a twin sister in the English department and a younger sister in the class of 2024. On campus I am a Peer Academic Advisor in Forbes College, member of the Princeton Running Club, Matriculate, and the Center for Jewish Life. I decided to join the CoD because I recognize the importance of this student role on campus and believe that serving on the committee will enable me to give back to this community in the most impactful way possible.
 - b. Alex Hunter '23: Alex is a sophomore, from Vancouver Island, British Columbia. He is planning to major in SPIA. He has been proud to engage in community issues throughout his life. Alex is currently taking advantage of the time he gets to spend at home with his family, and the time he gets to spend in nature. Throughout the interview process, Alex demonstrated a strong dedication to cultivating a fair and unbiased environment regarding academic integrity here at Princeton. We were impressed with Alex's impartiality and compassion, and we believe he will be a great addition to the committee.
3. SGRC Approved Clubs Presentation: Saran Toure and Lehman Montgomery (10 minutes)
4. Referenda Language Review: Kate Liu (20 minutes)

SGRC Approved Clubs List

- Acts of Kindness
- Princeton ResInDe
- Tigers in product
- Output

SGRC Approved Clubs List

- Acts of Kindness
- Princeton ResInDe
- Tigers in product
- Output

§ 306. Senate Referendum Language Review

- a. PRE-SCHEDULED TIME.—The Senate referendum language review shall occur at a pre-scheduled time.
- b. TIMING.—
 1. IN GENERAL.—The Senate referendum language review shall occur on a date no earlier than 15 days before the first day of campaigning and no later than 8 days before the first day of campaigning.
 2. SENATE MEETING.—The Senate referendum language review shall occur during a Senate meeting.
 3. RECESS SCHEDULING PROHIBITED.—The period beginning on the date after the Senate referendum language review and ending on the referendum petition deadline may not overlap with an academic recess.
- c. COMPONENTS.—In order for the referendum sponsor to begin petitioning, the Senate must, by majority vote, pass a motion to approve the language of both the referendum resolution and the ballot question.
- d. SCOPE OF REVIEW.—
 1. REFERENDUM RESOLUTION.—The Senate shall approve the language of the referendum resolution if—
 1. the resolution is neutrally worded;
 2. the resolution clearly describes the direct effects of its adoption; and
 3. the resolution does not claim to exercise a power that cannot be exercised by an undergraduate referendum.
 2. EXCEPTION.—A section of a referendum resolution is exempt from the requirement that the section be neutrally worded if both of the following conditions apply:
 1. The section is issued solely under the advisory power.
 2. The resolution unambiguously states that the section is issued under the advisory power.
 3. BALLOT QUESTION.—The Senate shall approve the language of the ballot question if the ballot question clearly describes the referendum resolution.
- e. AMENDMENTS TO REFERENDUM.—
 1. ONLY SPONSORS MAY AMEND.—Only the sponsor may amend the language of the referendum resolution or ballot question.
 2. BEFORE APPROVAL.—Before the Senate approves the language of the referendum resolution and the ballot question, the sponsor may amend the language.
 3. AFTER APPROVAL.—After the Senate approves the language of the referendum resolution and the ballot question, the language shall not be amended.
- f. FRIVOLOUS REFERENDUM DETERMINATION.—If the Senate approves the language of the referendum resolution and the ballot question, the Senate may

also determine the referendum to be frivolous in accordance with subsection 1001(c) of the Senate Constitution.

Suggested Practice 3-6.

The “direct effect” of a resolution issued under the advisory power is to take an official position on a question of interest to undergraduates. The Senate should not consider such a resolution to have violated section 306(d)(1)(B) merely because the proposed official position of the undergraduates, as expressed in the resolution, lacks specificity.

Referendum Question No. 1

Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Winter 2020

Sponsored by Joe Shipley '22

Condensation (Ballot Question)

Shall the undergraduates call on Princeton University to designate Election Day an official University holiday?

Explanation

The purpose of this referendum is to encourage members of the University community to vote and provide them with the time to do so by declaring Election Day a University holiday. Election Day in the United States falls on a Tuesday in November, one of the busiest times of the year for students, faculty, and staff alike. This initiative calls on the University to take action to provide sufficient time to vote.

Short of a University holiday, on which normal academic operations are suspended or significantly curtailed, there is no way to guarantee every member of the Princeton community enough time to vote. We expect that a voting holiday will broadly increase turnout among members of the Princeton community by reducing time and scheduling barriers on Election Day.

Fewer academic and administrative commitments on Election Day would also allow members of the community to volunteer as poll workers. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for poll workers as many states have run short of qualified volunteers. The University has urged students and staff to sign up to be poll workers by promoting programs such as Poll Hero. Being a poll worker is a significant time commitment, one which is incompatible with fixed deadlines or commitments on Election Day.

Moreover, we hope that the symbolism of a voting holiday will not be lost on potential voters. This is a way for the University to eliminate a significant obstacle to voting and to reinforce a campus culture which prioritizes civic engagement. A voting holiday would enshrine the importance of voting within the academic calendar and within the fabric of the University itself.

THE UNDERGRADUATES OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, New Jersey

Referendum Resolution 2-2020

Referendum Question No.1 (Winter2020)

Sponsored by Joe Shipley '22

Referendum Resolution

Calling on the administration to declare the date of each United States national election a campus holiday, and to take all necessary steps to reduce barriers to voting for all members of the University community.

Whereas the United States has perennially low voter turnout;

Whereas voter turnout among Princeton students remains below the national average;

Whereas Princeton has dedicated time and resources to voter registration and voter engagement efforts;

Whereas Princeton has actively encouraged its students and staff members to volunteer as poll workers on Election Day;

Whereas the University's motto, "Princeton in the nation's service and the service of humanity," signifies its continuing commitment to civic engagement and democracy;

Whereas significant voter turnout is essential to the health and legitimacy of democratic government.

Resolved by the undergraduates of Princeton University,

SECTION 1. FACULTY, DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND ADMINISTRATION.

The undergraduates call on the faculty and administration to reaffirm the University's commitment to voting by:

- (1) Designating the date of each United States national election an official University holiday.

- (2) Cancelling, rescheduling, or shortening classes on every future Election Day, and, if necessary, creating a plan to make up lost instruction time. This could be accomplished by shortening Reading Period, having classes on Labor Day, or giving faculty the option to hold extra asynchronous classes.

- (3) Eliminating or reducing non-essential University operations on every future Election Day to give faculty, staff, and students time off to vote.

- (4) Establishing a standardized policy to guarantee all University employees paid leave to vote.

SECTION 2. USG SENATE

As per Section 708 of the Elections Handbook, the USG Senate will write a report that explains the official position of the undergraduates as stated in the referendum resolution. The report will include action steps for the Senate and recommendations for the administration to further the undergraduates' official position.. The report must be written and sent to the administration by no later than the start of Spring 2021 classes on February 1, 2021.

SECTION 3. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION

The Executive Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an official copy of this resolution to each of the following university officers:

- (1) Christopher L. Eisgruber '83, President of the University.

- (2) Jill Dolan, Dean of the College

- (3) W. Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Campus Life

- (4) Sanjeev Kulkarni, Dean of the Faculty

(5) Lianne C. Sullivan-Crowley, Vice President for Human Resources

(6) Kathleen Deignan, Dean of Undergraduate Students

(7) Thomas Dunne, Deputy Dean of Undergraduate Students

Referendum Question No. 2

Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Winter 2020

Sponsored by Anna Hiltner '23

Condensation (Ballot Question)

Shall the undergraduates call on Trustees of Princeton University and the Princeton University Investment Company (“PRINCO”) to divest its endowment, as quickly as possible, of all direct and indirect holdings of fossil fuel companies and reasonably phase out all research and formal associations with fossil fuel companies?

Explanation

Divest Princeton (divestprinceton.com) is a coalition of students, faculty, and alumni calling on Princeton University to divest our endowment from fossil fuel companies and reinvest responsibly. The divestment movement has grown rapidly in recent years, with institutions like Georgetown University, Brown, Cornell, and Oxford recently joining its ranks. We see divestment as a crucial step toward Princeton’s commitment to be in the service of humanity.

Through its research and curriculum, Princeton shows that it realizes the scope of the climate crisis as both a natural disaster and issue of systemic social injustice. Investments in fossil fuel companies whose deliberate misinformation campaigns and extractive practices have precipitated our current emergency interferes with the University’s ability to serve its students and critically examine climate change in its research.

Princeton University Investment Company (PRINCO) has a fiduciary responsibility to make money from its endowment and fund students’ education. The long view of human progress cannot include fossil fuels, which are neither socially acceptable nor wise investments. Take it from banks themselves: the head of the European Central Bank has declared climate change a “mission-critical” priority, and the Bank of England has evangelized the importance of “shifting the financial system [...] to support the 1.5 degree goal of the Paris agreement.” Firms like BlackRock will no longer invest in coal projects, citing a fiduciary responsibility to be part of the new, low-carbon economy. In BlackRock’s view, “every government, company, and shareholder must confront climate change.”

PRINCO also has a parallel responsibility to ensure investments are sustainable and socially responsible. The Annual Report for the Academic Year 2017–2018 states “PRINCO operates under the guiding assumption that an investment decision that takes into account a long view of human progress and social accountability tends to make the most long-term economic sense.” By definition, social accountability means profitability cannot override all else, and some initiatives are off-limits regardless of returns on investment. Given that climate change is an existential threat to humanity and Earth’s biodiversity, and given that the burning of fossil fuels and disinformation campaigns accelerate climate change, social accountability requires Princeton to divest from such activities.

As part of the University’s already established dissociation plan in the SAP, the University should thus phase out all research and formal associations with fossil fuel companies that spread or facilitate the spread of climate disinformation, and/or develop or make plans to develop fossil fuel resources beyond Science Based Targets adopted in accordance with UNFCCC global goals.

THE UNDERGRADUATES OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, New Jersey

Referendum Resolution 3-2020

Referendum Question No.2 (Winter2020)

Sponsored by Anna Hiltner '23

Referendum Resolution

Calling on the Trustees of Princeton University and the Princeton University Investment Company (“PRINCO”) to divest its endowment, as quickly as possible, of all direct and indirect holdings of fossil fuel companies and reasonably phase out all research and formal associations with fossil fuel companies.

Whereas certain fossil fuel companies— 1) spread or facilitate the spread of climate disinformation.

and/or 2) develop or make plans to develop fossil fuel resources whose emissions would exceed

Science Based Targets adopted in accordance with the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) global goals (i.e., Paris Climate Agreement);

Whereas global average temperatures have increased more than 1°C since the pre-industrial era due to

climate change, contributing to natural disasters such as forest fires, drought, and more intense

tropical storms that have disproportionately targeted Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

(BIPOC) and otherwise disadvantaged communities;

Whereas the world’s five largest publicly owned oil and gas companies spend about \$200 million on

lobbying designed to control, delay or block binding policies to mitigate and adapt to climate

change;

Whereas the Princeton University 2019 Sustainability Action Plan outlines a commitment to climate action and carbon neutrality by 2046, established by the 2015 CO2 Task Force convened by President Eisgruber, and states that “in future campus development, all projects should answer the question, ‘Will today’s decisions facilitate a movement towards the objective of nationwide decarbonization?’”;

Whereas the Princeton University report on South Africa divestiture states that divestiture should be considered “when such action seems required to prevent the University from being associated as a stockholder with a company whose behaviour has been found to represent, in substantial degree, a clear and serious conflict with central values of the University”;

Whereas the Annual Report for the Academic Year 2017–2018 states “PRINCO operates under the guiding assumption that an investment decision that takes into account a long view of human progress and social accountability tends to make the most long-term economic sense”;

Whereas resolution 1-2019 passed in 2019 calls upon Princeton University to more actively engage students in the process of reaching carbon neutrality and addressing climate change;

Resolved by the undergraduates of Princeton University,

SECTION 1. FACULTY, DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND ADMINISTRATION.

The undergraduates call on the Trustees of Princeton University and the Princeton University Investment Company (“PRINCO”) to:

- (1) Divest of all Princeton University’s direct holdings of fossil fuels;

- (2) Divests of all of Princeton University's indirect holdings of fossil fuels (e.g. commingled funds and shareholders of major fossil fuel companies);
- (3) Prohibit new and renewed research and formal associations (e.g., research partnerships, sponsorships, etc.) with fossil fuel companies that engage in activities as described in the preamble until these corporations cease such activities.
- (4) Establish a body to ensure its endowment is ethically invested; and
- (5) Ensure that this new body hosts open meetings and releases regular, publicly verifiable reports to measure its progress.

SECTION 2. USG SENATE

As per Section 708 of the Elections Handbook, the USG Senate will write a report that explains the official position of the undergraduates as stated in the referendum resolution. The report will include action steps for the Senate and recommendations for the administration to further the undergraduates' official position.. The report must be written and sent to the administration by no later than the start of Spring 2021 classes on February 1, 2021.

SECTION 3. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION

The Executive Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an official copy of this resolution to each of the following university officers:

- (1) Christopher L. Eisgruber '83, President of the University.
- (2) Jill Dolan, Dean of the College
- (3) W. Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Campus Life
- (4) Kathleen Deignan, Dean of Undergraduate Students
- (5) Chair Louise S. Sams '79, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Princeton University
- (6) Professor Blair Schoene, Chair, Resources Committee of the Council of the Princeton University Community.
- (7) Mr. Andrew K. Golden, President of PRINCO