



USG Senate

February 2020 - January 2021 Overview

Spring 2020 First Day of School Bagels, Coffee, and Hot Chocolate

Per tradition, on the first day of classes for the Spring 2020 semester, the USG Senate provided free bagels, coffee, and hot chocolate to students in front of McCosh Hall and in front of Fine Hall. In the interest of being sustainable, we also encouraged the student body to come with a reusable coffee mug or thermos if possible. Professional photographer Sameer Khan joined the McCosh Hall station to take first day of school pictures for students to celebrate the start of the term.

USG and Letters to Strangers Mental Health Guidebook

The USG Mental Health Task Force partnered with Letters to Strangers in Spring 2020 to create the [Mental Health Resources Guidebook](#), which compiles information about Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS), resources to support students with off-campus appointments, information about non-counseling resources on campus, and peer advice about mental health (taken from a survey conducted by Letters to Strangers and the USG Mental Health Task Force in Fall 2019).

Spring 2020 Mental Health Week

The Mental Health Initiative, led by Ella Whitfield '21 and Richard Yang '22, hosted a Mental Health Week in early March. The events and tabling sessions were all well attended and engaged in. Daytime events during the week included three main tabling sessions: 1) how to cultivate meaning and growth in life (with the vocation, relationship, and higher meaning board) 2) how to reach out to others about mental health (with TMAYD stickers and mental health handouts), and 3) tabling about mindfulness with a mood board and mood rings, in conjunction with the PHA "Measure Your Mood" event. We also organized evening events including a late meal trivia collaboration with the QuizBowl club (featuring self-care prizes), an event where students could meet CPS providers in a low-key, no-pressure environment, a mental-health themed open mic night in collaboration with the Arch & Arrow poetry group, and an Art Night event in collaboration with the coffee club. Finally, we sponsored the first ever "Failure Epics" Dialogue dinner event, planned by Cierra Moore '21, featuring Princeton professors reflecting on times of failure in their lives and how they stayed resilient.

Housing Committee Room Draw Reports

On February 16, 2020, the USG Committee on Student Housing released a [report](#) outlining the randomization errors of Room Draw 2019 and the five changes (extended timer to select rooms, a full



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list of available rooms on the website, a confirmation email after room selection, information about the waitlist process, and extended time between draw groups) in addition to a new in-house randomization system which were implemented as a result of a series of technical meetings between the USG Committee and Housing.

Over Spring Break, members of the Committee reached out to the students who analyzed Room Draw 2019 and analyzed the 2020 Room Draw Lists released on undergraduate Housing portals on March 25, 2020. Utilizing the same battery of statistical tests as last year, the 2019 and 2020 room draw lists were analyzed to see if there was a correlation among the two lists and if group size impacted draw time. The [analysis](#) found that **room draw times are fair for 2020**. The Housing Committee disseminated a second [report](#) on March 26, 2020, which covered the randomization analysis, reiterated the new changes implemented for Room Draw 2020, outlined helpful resources students can use to guide their room draw selection, and provided a Google Forms link that called for question submissions.

Using the Google Forms link in the second report, members of the Committee collected and answered 100+ student questions about room draw, individually following up with every student submission by email, message, and an Instagram Q&A. In addition, per student request, Committee members FaceTimed students during their draw time to help facilitate room selection and aided students with strategizing their room improvement and waitlist applications post-room draw.

USG Movies Program in the Garden Theatre (Prior to COVID-19)

Prior to the sudden move-out in March, the USG Movies program, led by Jess Ma '21, offered free movies weekly at the Garden Theatre on Nassau Street, along with free popcorn and soda. This program was open to all undergraduates.

Creation of Sustainability Committee Charter

In early March 2020, the USG Senate voted to approve the Sustainability Committee charter, drafted by committee chair Claire Wayner '22. The Sustainability Committee was created as a core USG committee following a Winter 2019 referendum. The charter emphasizes the role of the committee in unifying various campus sustainability groups around common goals, including reducing carbon



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emissions and single-use items/waste, as well as planning collaborative programming for events such as Earth Day.

Airport Buses to EWR After Sudden Move-Out Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

In March of 2020, when the University abruptly closed all in-person instruction and required students to move off campus, the USG Senate sponsored a number of chartered buses to EWR airport for students flying out of Newark. During the weekend of March 14th and March 15th, two buses each were provided to students at three different times throughout the day; the buses stopped at each of the three terminals at EWR, and the USG collaborated with ODUS and Transportation and Parking Services to ensure that buses were suitable for following social distancing guidelines. These buses aimed to make travel easier on students by being a direct trip from campus to the airport instead of having to switch trains multiple times, particularly as students had to now carry many of their belongings as they moved out on short notice.

Relaying Student Concerns to Administrators and Advocacy

In addition to advocacy through both USG and University committees as well as task forces, USG Senate members regularly met with administrators such as Vice President Calhoun (Vice President for Campus Life) and Dean Thomas Dunne (Deputy Dean of Undergraduate Students) to discuss and share student concerns and input collected through the USG Feedback Form/Virtual Office Hours, the COVID-19 Student Concerns Form (March 2020), the COVID-19 Student Input Survey, the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Focus Groups, and through personal outreach. In order to provide further opportunities for student input, the USG Senate also worked with the administration to include various items on the Council of the Princeton University Agenda, such as updates from the CPUC Resources Committee and the CPUC Committee on Sexual Climate, Conduct, and Culture. In addition, the USG Senate worked with the University cabinet to create an opportunity for students to provide feedback and ask questions about the University's efforts to address systemic racism at a Student Community Conversation in October. Throughout the year, USG Senate members also advocated for the student body across a number of areas (i.e. transparency in the leave of absence process, centralizing Emergency Funding applications and publicly displaying criteria for funding, mandatory anti-racism training for students, faculty, and staff, storage accommodations, offering



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virtual CPS drop-in hours, prioritizing accessibility in campus construction, etc.) through meetings with administrators and questions at CPUC meetings.

Serving on University Committees

Throughout both the Spring 2020 semester and the Fall 2020 semester, USG Senate members served on various University committees including the University Student Life Committee, the Transportation Advisory Council, the Council of the Princeton University Community, the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, the Committee on the Course of Study, the Canvas Undergraduate Advisory Group, and more.

Serving on USG Task Forces Regarding Long-Term and Short-Term Policy Areas

Members of the USG Senate have the opportunity to propose and sit on task forces, Senate subgroups targeted at specific policy areas. The spring 2020 semester featured five task forces. The re-approved Transparency Task Force (led by Adhitya Raghavan '20), the re-approved Mental Health Task Force (led by Allen Liu '22), the Community Dining Task Force (led by Sarah Elkordy '21 and Bradley Phelps '22), the Study Abroad Task Force (led by Jacob Gerrish '21), and the Town Hall Task Force (led by Juan Nova '23). These task forces worked on a variety of projects, including relocating physical office hours to the Frist tabling area and then moving the weekly events online during the pandemic, creating a Mental Health Guidebook for navigating mental health resources, and collaborating with the Counseling and Psychological Services to create a COVID-19 FAQ regarding mental health resources during the online transition, and more.

Likewise, the Fall 2020 semester featured seven task forces: the Transparency Task Force (now led by Juan Nova '23 and Julia Garaffa '23), the Mental Health Task Force (still led by Allen Liu '22), the Virtual Community Building Task Force (led by Riley Martinez '23), the Friends of FLI Task Force (led by Sarah Elkordy '21 and Riley Martinez '23), the Sexual Misconduct Task Force (led by Sarah Elkordy '21), the Town Hall Task Force (led by Juan Nova '23), and the Disability Task Force (led by Naomi Hess '22 and Aaron Leung '23). Similar to Spring 2020, these task forces took on a broad array of projects, including facilitating virtual office hours and meetings with USG representatives via Zoom, working with CPS to set up a Q&A forum on their website, collaborating with the Interclub Council and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students to start an accessibility training for eating club



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leadership in Spring 2021, continuing to advocate for a survivor space on campus, advocating for increasing chat and text therapy options during the remote semester, and more.

Summer 2020 Available Internships Compilation on USG Webpage

In response to cancelled student internship and employment opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USG Senate created a webpage, designed and maintained by USG Website Manager Ceon Sun '23, that compiled links to internship opportunities offered and created by various University offices and organizations for students who had opportunities cancelled or postponed.

COVID-19 Mental Health FAQ

In April 2020, the USG Mental Health Task Force produced an [FAQ](#) that outlined changes to services provided by CPS and insurance coverage for off-campus appointments following the transition to a remote semester.

Gratitude Campaign for Staff and Faculty

In April 2020, the USG Senate partnered with ODUS to launch a [Gratitude Campaign](#). Members of the student body were invited to submit videos and/or anonymous comments expressing gratitude for both staff and faculty. This initiative sought to express appreciation towards on-campus staff, faculty, and other members of the Princeton community (working both in person and remotely) who have tirelessly supported students since the sudden move-out in March, the transition to remote learning, and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The final compilation of videos and messages, edited by Dean Ian Deas and Sahil Jain '23, was shared with faculty and staff across various University offices and departments.

COVID-19 Student Input Survey (May 2020)

Given the unprecedented move off-campus in March 2020 and the sudden transition to remote learning, the USG Senate organized a student-body-wide survey to gather information on students' experiences during the virtual-remote portion of the Spring 2020 semester and their concerns about the subsequent summer and fall. The survey was designed to collect widespread student input for consideration in important University decisions and COVID-19 policies. With 2,237 responses in total, students offered answers to questions about academics in the virtual-remote context, mental



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health, virtual community, summer plans, leaves of absence, and student employment, among other topics. The findings of the survey were summarized in a [report](#) and shared with the student body and various administrative offices, such as the Office of the Dean of the College, the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, Athletics, the Office of Wintersession and Campus Engagement, and the Lewis Center for the Arts. In addition, the results of the survey were presented to the Board of Trustees Committee on Student Life, Health and Athletics in May 2020.

Q&As and Town Halls Regarding COVID-19 Decision Making

Following the University's decisions regarding the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, the USG Senate organized four Q&A sessions between University administrators and the student body. These sessions were moderated by Chitra Parikh '21 and Hannah Kapoor '23, and students were invited to submit questions both before the event and during the event. Dean Jill Dolan (Dean of the College) and Vice President Rochelle Calhoun (Vice President for Campus Life) were present at all four sessions, with other key administrators (listed below) joining the August and December events. The Q&As were hosted to address student questions and concerns about both decision-making and policies/plans announced in light of COVID-19. Senate members aggregated and organized student questions prior to the sessions and facilitated the dialogue during the sessions themselves. These town halls were held in May (125 attendees), July (759 attendees), August (706 attendees), and December (1,052 attendees). Detailed notes were sent to the entire student body after each session as well.

Kathleen Deignan, Dean of Undergraduate Students	Cecily Swanson, Associate Dean for Academic Advising	Claire Fowler, Senior Associate Dean of the College	Alec Dun, Assistant Dean of the College
Khristina F. Gonzalez, Director of Programs for Access and Inclusion, Associate Dean of the College	Katherine Stanton, Director of the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Associate Dean of the College	Liz Colagiuri, Deputy Dean of the College	Polly Griffin, Office of the Registrar
Elizabeth Badger, Senior Associate Director, Undergraduate Financial Aid	Mollie Marcoux Samaan, Director of Athletics	Smitha Haneef, Assistant Vice President, Dining	Dorian Johnson, Director of Housing, Housing & Real Estate Services



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Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu, Senior Associate Dean of the Office of International Programs	Robin Izzo, Executive Director of Environmental Health and Safety	Brent Colburn, Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs	Ben Chang, Deputy Vice President for Communications and University Spokesperson
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Anti-Racism Book Initiative and Book Talk with Professor Glaude and Professor Perry

This summer, in response to the call to action against racial injustice across the country, the USG Senate organized and funded the Anti-Racism Book Initiative. In a collective effort to educate ourselves as a student body, the USG Senate provided a free digital copy of either *Breathe* by Professor Imani Perry or *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* by Professor Eddie Glaude to 1290 undergraduate students. We also encouraged all those who are able to purchase a copy of the book they did not receive from a [Black-owned bookstore](#). This initiative was planned alongside invaluable feedback from our peers Ashley Hodges '21, Lauren Johnson '21, Masha Miura '21, and Erica Dugué '21. Our hope was that reading these two texts, written by renowned faculty who are members of our community, would engage us, as a student body, in new perspectives and encourage us all to further our engagement through coursework (such as classes listed in this [comprehensive list of fall courses](#) surrounding race and identity compiled by Taylor A. Jean-Jacques '20) as well as exploring other works (such as ones listed in the [Anti-Racist Reading List](#), a great resource created by Ashley Hodges '21 and Lauren Johnson '21). In August of 2020, the USG Senate hosted a Book Talk with Professors Glaude and Perry to continue the conversation; the Book Talk was open to all undergraduates regardless of whether they received a digital copy of the book. This initiative was co-sponsored by ODUS, OWCE, and Campus Conversations on Identities.

Fall 2020 Semester Focus Groups and Spring 2021 Semester Focus Groups

In addition to hosting University-wide Q&A sessions, the USG Senate held a series of focus groups to gather student concerns on specific topics in a more intimate setting. The Senate held four focus groups in Fall 2020 on Academics (7/11/20), Housing and Dining (7/12/20), Virtual Programming (7/18/20), and Student Life & Student Groups (7/19/20). Likewise, the Senate held three focus groups in Spring 2020 on Academics (11/29/20); Campus Life, Housing, and Dining (11/30/20); and the Virtual Student Experience (12/1/20). Notes from these focus groups were shared with both the student body and with various University offices, including the Office of the Dean of the College, the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, and



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the Office of Wintersession and Campus Engagement. In addition, following both the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 focus groups, findings from the focus groups were also presented to a group of administrators with representatives from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, Athletics, Residential Colleges, Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of the College, the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, the Graduate School and the Office of Communications.

Fall 2020 FAQs Webpage and Spring 2021 FAQs Webpage

Following the decisions made by administration regarding the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, various University offices released FAQs and additional details for undergraduates. In order to centralize access to each of these FAQs, the USG Senate created a [webpage](#) for each semester and worked to compile and organize links to each FAQ on webpages specific to each semester in order to streamline information and provide students convenient access to all of the information shared.

Student Group Funding and Approval

Student Groups Recognition Committee

Throughout both the spring and the fall, the SGRC transitioned to a virtual student group approval process to ensure that interested students continued to have the opportunity to form new student groups. During this past fall semester, the Student Groups Recognition Committee met over half a dozen times for the purpose of establishing new undergraduate student organizations. SGRC worked to (1) help groups of motivated students find their niches on campus and (2) recognize groups committed to providing opportunities for the entire undergraduate student body.

This committee, led by Emma Parish '21 and Lutfah Subair '21 (Spring and Summer 2020) and Lehman Montgomery '22 and Saran Toure '22 (Fall 2020) approved the following 38 student organizations:

Global Research and Consulting Group	Princeton Disability Collective	Students vs. Pandemics @ Princeton
Tiger for Nassau	Princeton U. Kendo Club	Princeton Body Positivity
The Doorstep	Hoagie.io	Princeton Curling Club
HOSA	Princeton K-Pop Society	Tiger Quant



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PPC	Princeton SAAPS	Princeton Political Review
JuST	Scholars of Finance	CJL Play
Princeton Election Research Group	Princeton University Steel Ensemble	Veritas Club
Act of Kindness	Princeton Culinary	Tigers in Product
slashRoot	Princeton ResInDe	Output
Princeton Options Traders	The Doorstep	Princeton South Asian Progressive Alliance
Jubilee	Karaoke Club	Longboarding Club
Princeton Students for Fair Elections	Princeton Transfer Association	Student's Speaker Initiative
Technology in Public Policy Club	The [Blank] Project	

Projects Board

During the fall semester, the Projects Board, chaired by Rachel Hazan '21 and Kavya Chaturvedi '21, funded 25 events or projects as the goals of the board expanded to support more unique programming in the digital space. Some highlights include a Q&A with Olympic Figure Skater Gracie Gold hosted by the Princeton Figure Skating Club, a Custom Sneaker Painting Workshop hosted by Picasso, and BodyHype Hip Hop Has History with Culture Shock LA hosted by BodyHype.

EDI in the Arts and Funding for Student Group Anti-Racism Programs

The USG Senate continues to recognize that significant work must be done to make our University community actively anti-racist. As a result, beginning in June of 2020, the USG invited student groups to request funding for any programming addressing racial injustice and inequities and dedicated a portion of our funds through the Projects Board to specifically support student group anti-racism programming for the University community. The USG Senate also co-sponsored EDI in the Arts, a program led by ODUS in collaboration with the Lewis Center for the Arts and the Office of Diversity & Inclusion in an effort to provide arts groups with the resources and mentorship to reckon with racism and inequality in the Princeton arts community. We funded the student group grant portion of the program, which



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allows arts groups to request funding and bring in Alumni Arts Alliance members for anti-racist restructuring.

CPUC Note-Taking and Inclusion of CPUC Notes in USG Newsletter

Throughout this past year, U-Councilors have been taking detailed notes at the CPUC meetings, including on the open Q+A session, presentations, and any other topics, and publishing them in the USG weekly newsletter to help keep the student body informed. In an effort to keep the student body informed and encourage students to submit questions and concerns, the U-Council promotes graphics and other informational materials through listservs and social media prior to each CPUC meeting.

Virtual Academic Expo (August 2020)

Given the remote fall 2020 semester, the annual Academic Expo, usually held in Frick Laboratory, was adapted virtually. The Academic Expo allows students, particularly first-years, to engage with representatives from academic departments, certificate programs, and resource offices to learn more about Princeton's academic offerings. The virtual version, hosted through a Canvas "course," invited departmental representatives and student concentrators to share content with students and to host multiple webinars and Zoom conversations over the course of a week to accommodate students in different timezones. (An analogous event for certificate programs is being hosted in late January and early February of 2021.) The event was organized by the USG Academics Committee and the Office of the Dean of the College.

Fall 2020 Virtual USG Movies Program on Canvas

USG Movies offered 12 movies to all undergraduate students throughout the course of the Fall 2020 semester. These movies were offered asynchronously, with one new movie being unlocked on the Canvas page each week. In addition, we offered a limited showing of *Tenet*, which was available to the first 500 students and garnered more than 9,000 views total on the Canvas page in the week that the movie was available. During the Spring 2021 semester, an additional 14 movies will be available for students to watch for free.

Virtual Programming and Community Building



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In addition to the USG Movies Program, which provided asynchronous weekly movies to the student body, other virtual programming and community building included the Undergraduate Student Life Committee and Letters to Strangers' Buds at a Distance (BuD) initiative (led by Aaron Leung '23 and Hannah Reynolds '22), Lawnparties planned by the USG Social Committee (led by Sophie Torres '21), and a Wintersession program planned by the USG Movies Committee (led by Julie Kim '21) that offers free movies through Canvas and Zoom along with a chat option for socialization while watching. The Buds at a Distance initiative aimed to facilitate connections amongst members of the student body despite physical distance.

The USG Senate also collaborated with the Office of Communications and ODUS to create a virtual first day of classes for the remote Fall 2020 celebration with an Instagram frame and photo campaign. In addition, USG members also served as facilitators for ODUS State Socials, which aimed to foster connections among students living in the same state/area for the Fall 2020 remote semester.

Furthermore, USG's Director of Communications, Hannah Kapoor '23, coordinated with administrative offices such as ORL, Campus Recreation, the Pace Center, and ODUS to publicize programs through the USG weekly newsletter. USG members also met regularly with OWCE to discuss campus-wide virtual programming.

Undergraduate Student Life Committee Ideate, Iterate, Innovate (i3) Hackathon with Council on Science and Technology (CST)

In the summer of 2020, USG's USLC, USG's TigerApps, and CST collaborated to create and host the i3 Hackathon, an opportunity for students to transcend physical boundaries through digital creation. Over the course of two days, ~50 participants attended a talk by Princeton professor John Danner, explored creative prompts, and formed teams to ideate, iterate, and innovate projects of their choosing. The digital hackathon culminated in live Zoom presentations, in which 10 teams pitched on topics ranging from gamified productivity boosters to centralised platforms for campus activism.

***All We Can Save* Book Giveaway**

In October 2020, USG partnered with the Office of Sustainability to give away 157 copies of *All We Can Save*, a feminist climate anthology, to undergraduate students. The USG Sustainability



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Committee, led by Claire Wayner '22, is currently organizing book discussion groups during Wintersession 2021. This giveaway was co-sponsored by the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality + Cultural Understanding, the Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment, and the Office of Sustainability.

Voting Power Hours with Vote100 and ODUS

During the week of October 19th to 24th, the USG Senate partnered with [Vote100](#) and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students on a week of [Voting Power Hours](#), a series of daily events to encourage voter registration and turnout in the 2020 election. Voting Power Hours were coordinated by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. Events held throughout the week were streamed via USG and ODUS's social platforms, and participants used the Outvote app to reach out to friends and family about creating a voting plan. Outvote is a platform that has been used for events sponsored by When We All Vote (a national non-profit, nonpartisan organization).

Election Night Watch Party with Whig-Clio and Vote100

On the night of November 3rd, the USG Senate co-sponsored an Election Night watch party with Whig Clio and Vote100. In order to accommodate the virtual environment, a livestream of election results was shared via Zoom, where participants could come together in community on Election Night. There were over 200 attendees at the event.

Elections Handbook Working Group

In 2020, the Referenda and Elections Handbook Working Group met over a dozen times to recommend revisions to USG's Election and Referenda Handbook to (1) procedurally adjust the content of the handbook to account for the new academic calendar, the previous year's switch to instant-runoff voting, and possible COVID-19 complications; and (2) to address questions surrounding the wording of the previous Handbook that had surfaced over recent years.

Recommendations finalized the implementation of instant runoff voting through the Election Runner platform, aligned the Handbook with the new academic calendar, streamlined and updated the elections process to conform with recent working campaign practices, improved the penalties and appeals process, and clarified the formal definitions of commonly used elections and referenda terms.



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The Working Group also refined the format and structure of the Handbook to improve its readability and clarity in future campaigns while also developing a comprehensive series of appendices and suggested practices. The USG Senate voted on finalized revisions to the Handbook prior to the Winter 2020 election cycle. The revised Elections Handbook can be found [here](#).

Rights, Rules and Responsibilities, Election Day Holiday, and Divestment Referenda

In April 2020, [Referendum Question No. 1](#), sponsored by Shiye Su '20 and Austin Wang '20, was approved with 88.2% support and a 44% voter turnout. The referendum called on Princeton University to limit the widespread production and distribution of the physical copy of Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities (RRR) in order to reduce paper usage by the University. In May 2020, the USG Senate wrote and sent a position paper detailing action items to the administration, requesting a formal response. In response to the position paper and the referendum, ODUS no longer distributes hard copies of RRR to sophomores, juniors, and seniors unless explicitly requested by an individual.

In November 2020, [Referendum Question No. 1](#), sponsored by Joseph Shipley '22 and co-authored by Ana Blanco '23 and Abby Poten '23, was approved with 89.5% support and a 52% voter turnout. The referendum called on Princeton University to designate Election Day an official holiday by cancelling, shortening, or rescheduling classes on every future Federal Election Day, eliminating or reducing non-essential University operations to give time off to vote, and establishing a standardized policy to guarantee all University employees paid leave to vote. The USG Senate will send a position paper detailing action items to the administration by February 1, 2021.

In November 2020, [Referendum Question No. 2](#), sponsored by Anna Hiltner '23, was approved with 82.5% support and a 52% voter turnout. The referendum called on the Trustees of Princeton 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 phase out all research and formal associations with fossil fuel companies that 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). The USG Senate will send a position paper detailing action items to the administration by February 1, 2021.



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Mental Health Panel with Letters to Strangers and Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS)

On September 4, 2020, the USG Mental Health Task Force partnered with Letters to Strangers to host a virtual mental health panel introducing students to CPS staff and resources. The panel featured Calvin Chin (CPS Director), Sue Kim (Outreach Counselor), and David Campbell (Counselor).

CPS Website Q&A Forum

In Fall 2020, the USG Mental Health Task Force worked with Dr. Calvin Chin, Director of CPS, to release a [question-and-answer](#) form on the CPS website, through which students can submit questions about CPS policies and services. The forum allows students to submit questions and receive a direct response from a CPS staff member or to submit anonymously and have their question published and answered on a live document.

USG Oral History Project

Starting in August 2020, the USG Historian, Austin Davis '23, developed an Oral History Project to build internal institutional memory to inform future policy advocacy as well as to address gaps in USG's institutional memory. USG Presidents who served between 1997 and 2018 were identified, contacted, and, if possible, interviewed using a standardized, predetermined set of questions. These interviews typically covered a generalized look at each President's tenure, thus allowing successive administrations to better inform policy planning and discussions going forward. In total, as of January 16, 2020, eight former Presidents were interviewed.

Weekly USG Executive Committee and USG Senate Meetings

Since February 2019, the USG Senate has hosted 33 Senate meetings, held on a weekly basis during the Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 and on a biweekly basis in Summer 2020. Presided over by the USG Vice President, the Senate meetings were open to the entire student body and often featured presentations from campus administrators and stakeholders, including from the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, the Campus Mobility Project, Vote 100, and the Office of Wintersession and Campus Engagement. In an effort to increase transparency and accountability, the Senate also allotted the first 15 minutes of each meeting for a Q&A session, allowing both Senate and



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community members to raise their own concerns. In addition to the Senate meetings, the USG Executive Committee met on a weekly basis as well to share updates.

USG Newsletters and Social Media

A total of 85 formal email communications were sent from the Princeton USG account to the entire student body between January 2020 and January 2021. These communications consisted of 38 newsletters and 47 announcements. Announcements were delivered sporadically throughout the term and newsletters were delivered weekly on Sunday evenings. Students received newsletters each week of the academic terms (including reading periods, final exam weeks and Wintersession) . Newsletters were also delivered on a bi-weekly basis during the summer.

The purpose of these communications was to provide students with a consistent stream of information where they could find updates not just from USG, but also the administration, various campus offices, and student groups. Furthermore, in an effort to keep students engaged, a consistent effort was made on social media to make news and information more accessible. Through Facebook and Instagram, newsletter announcements were reiterated.

Virtual Weekly Office Hours via Zoom and USG Feedback Form

Because of the virtual nature of Spring and Fall 2020, USG's weekly office hours moved to a virtual format. The office hours were hosted Thursdays at 9 PM EST via Zoom through a link posted in each week's USG newsletter. A form was available for students to submit their question beforehand in order to have a USG member present who could hear any concerns and/or answer their specific question. Students could also come to the Zoom meeting and the members present would answer their question or follow-up with more information. If students were unable to attend office hours due to time zone constraints, they could contact the USG Director of Communications to schedule an alternate meeting time or be put in touch with someone who could answer their question. In addition, a USG Feedback Form was shared in weekly newsletters for students to share any feedback pertinent to both the University and/or USG. The Feedback Form allowed students to remain anonymous if they preferred sharing their concern or feedback anonymously. The Feedback Form could also be accessed via the USG website as well through the "Contact Us" page.



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Update on Policy Priority Areas (Set Prior to COVID-19)

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the USG Senate identified five policy priority areas in February 2020: 1) Mental Health, 2) Title IX Reform and Sexual Misconduct, 3) Housing, Dining, and Transportation, 4) Sustainability, and 5) Making Resources and Information More Accessible. Two of USG's main aims for this calendar year were creating opportunities for engagement not only with USG but also with University administrators and making information (especially regarding campus resources) readily accessible and easier to navigate. Although the pandemic took precedent and required USG Senate members to focus their attention on immediate concerns arising from the pandemic, the Senate made progress on a number of the goals originally outlined in February 2020.

Below are updates on a number of the goals outlined that have been implemented or will be implemented by University offices across both Campus Life and University Services:

- A new Emergency Funds website, created by Victoria Byrd (OVPCL), was launched this year that publicly displays criteria for qualification of existing Emergency Funds in addition to centralizing all applications for emergency funding.
- The Mental Health Task Force partnered with CPS to create a system (i.e. a question/answer forum) in which students can ask questions anonymously about policies.
- The Campus Accessibility Map was updated and added as a layer into the [Interactive Campus Map](#), allowing users to overlay accessible routes with real-time campus impacts to understand which routes are closed due to construction, maintenance or other issues.
- In its [Recommendations Report](#), the Campus Mobility Framework recommended the implementation of a flexible daytime van service for people with temporary and permanent disabilities in which community members could reserve a ride and potentially request on-demand rides if there is capacity.
- The opt-in program for reusable utensils was expanded by the Office of Sustainability to include students on campus in the fall.
- A collaborative calendar of student groups was created and maintained by the Office of Winter Session and Campus Engagement through the Virtual Activities Calendar.
- The Sexual Misconduct Task Force continued conversations with SHARE and the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life to create an inclusive survivor space. OVPCL is currently



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identifying spaces on campus that may work for this purpose, and the next step of this process is gathering student feedback to inform the design of this space once a space is identified.

- The Sustainability Committee worked with the Office of Sustainability to incorporate environmentally-minded educational materials and videos into first-year orientation, including on how to live sustainably while in quarantine at home.