

Hi there!

It's been seven weeks since I began my term, greeting you with a First Day Welcome Letter. In it, I promised to lead with creativity, to serve with compassion, and to drive action while proactively listening to your feedback and suggestions.

With this Mid-Semester Letter, I'm sharing some updates from the work of the USG Senate these past seven weeks and outlining some of our plans for the rest of this semester, organized by policy and priority areas detailed on [our website](#). **We'd like your input: What's missing? What do you want to see more of?** I invite you to email us at usg@princeton.edu, me at mayut@princeton.edu, or the initiative-specific points of contact below; sign up for a coffee chat with me [here](#); or submit your feedback anonymously via [this form](#). We will take your input into account as we continue into the second half of our semester.

Sections ahead: USG and University Resources; Mental Health; Community; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Academics; Sustainability

USG and UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

- We're working to increase engagement through our Spring Elections, starting with our **General Elections Open House tonight—Monday, 3/14, 8-9 pm** in the Frist Multipurpose Room—come for the boba and stay to meet USG members and to learn more about USG, the election, referenda, the U-Councilor and Class Government positions up for election, and more! As a reminder, referenda proposals are due March 20 and candidate registration is due March 29. *Contact:* usgvote@princeton.edu
- We're hosting a **Town Hall with University administration on Tuesday, 3/15, 5:30-6:30 pm** via Zoom, and the link will be available on [this form](#). At this Town Hall with Dean Dolan, VP Calhoun, and other administrators, all students will have an opportunity to voice questions, suggestions, and concerns regarding the updated COVID guidelines and the spring semester. *Contact:* Sarah Sharma, Director of Communications, ss89@princeton.edu
- We've established a routine of sharing our Senate meeting agenda in advance: every week, it's at the top of our USG Newsletter. All these meetings are open to all undergraduate students, and they're held on Sundays 8-9 pm at Robertson 016 unless otherwise noted. [This document](#) outlines the items planned for the rest of the semester as of now; please check it out and join us for any discussions that interest you, as they offer opportunities for you to engage directly with USG representatives and senior administrators. *Contact:* Charlotte Selover, Executive Secretary, cs8092@princeton.edu
- We'll soon launch a cross-campus pilot initiative to facilitate feedback gathering on matters of student life as well as to bridge communication gaps between administration

and the student body. *Contact:* Avi Attar, Undergraduate Student Life Committee Chair, abattar@princeton.edu

MENTAL HEALTH, including Counseling & Psychological Services (CPS)

- We've reframed USG's approach to mental health, demonstrating that mental health is about more than CPS and that it's important in all aspects of our lives. I charged all USG Senate members with developing recommendations to support mental health, we discussed them at our February 20 meeting, and we'll assess our progress at our April 3 meeting. *Contact:* Mayu Takeuchi, President, mayut@princeton.edu
- We're developing resources to make CPS more accessible. As examples, we're creating a walkthrough video demonstrating what "going to CPS" entails, and we're collaborating with CPS to develop signage resources for campus restrooms. *Contact:* Stephen Daniels, U-Councilor, stephendaniels@princeton.edu
- We're advocating for **transparency and accountability regarding mental health care resources** and levels of student demand, including on issues regarding **funding** and the **diversity** of CPS counselors. As one step: we've successfully advocated for a more streamlined process for switching counselors to find a better fit—now, there's a CPS Change of Provider Request Form, accessible [here](#). *Contact:* Stephen Daniels, U-Councilor, stephendaniels@princeton.edu
- We're looking into establishing a campus space specifically for unwinding and self care (with a dog, maybe??). *Contact:* Noah Luch, Mental Health Initiative Co-Chair, nluch@princeton.edu

COMMUNITY

- We're working to establish a program that will **extend meal plan coverage to locations in town**, and we expect to have an exciting update by the end of April! This work builds on the pilot from last semester. *Contact:* Stephen Daniels, U-Councilor, stephendaniels@princeton.edu
- We've hosted Tigers in Town events involving Bent Spoon, pizza from Jules and Proof, and pastries over spring break. We've also seen very high demand, and just yesterday we allocated additional funding to support **expanded Tigers in Town** offerings. *Contact:* Isabella Shutt, Campus & Community Affairs Chair, ishutt@princeton.edu
- We're actively planning Lawnparties: **our first Spring Lawnparties in three years!** We've gathered student input through a pre-Lawnparties survey and shared an update in our Week 8 USG Newsletter. We're currently seeking submissions for a student opener. *Contact:* Madison Linton, Social Chair, mlinton@princeton.edu
- We've heard from many communities across campus, including student groups and athletic teams, that it'd be helpful to have a central tool for knowing what events are happening around campus. We're working with the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students and other partners to build on MyPrincetonU and provide a streamlined yet

engaging resource. *Contact:* Sarah Sharma, Director of Communications, ss89@princeton.edu

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION

- We've established monthly meetings with Michelle Minter and Shawn Maxam in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. At these meetings, we raise student concerns and suggestions, all to ensure accountability. *Contact:* Braiden Aaronson, DEI Chair, braiden.aaronson@princeton.edu
- We're advocating for an **assessment of the differential impacts of disciplinary processes and policies** on students of different backgrounds and identities. *Contact:* Avi Attar, Undergraduate Student Life Committee Chair, abattar@princeton.edu
- We're collaborating with the CPUC Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Climate, Culture, and Conduct to host forums of discussion between students and the administration on the subject matter. *Contact:* Hannah Kapoor, USG Vice- President, hkapoor@princeton.edu
- We'll develop a **report on the experiences of immunocompromised students and students with disabilities** and other underlying conditions, including aspects of these experiences as they particularly relate to life through the pandemic. *Contact:* Naomi Hess and Jennifer Lee, Disability Task Force Co-Chairs, nihess@princeton.edu and nahyunl@princeton.edu

ACADEMICS

- We're working towards establishing a framework for **minors** (separate from certificates!), to allow for more **flexibility** and exploration of different academic interests. Join us at our April 10 Senate meeting to learn more! *Contact:* Austin Davis, Academics Chair, austind@princeton.edu
- We've hosted an information session and developed a [resource](#) to expand access to accommodations for a range of temporary and chronic disabilities. *Contact:* Naomi Hess and Jennifer Lee, Disability Task Force Co-Chairs, nihess@princeton.edu and nahyunl@princeton.edu
- We've published our [USG Health Survey Report](#) and are now working to implement the recommendations, including to make attendance and accommodation policies more navigable. For example, we're advocating for the University to require all faculty to explicitly state their attendance policies on Canvas and for faculty and University policies to prioritize student health and wellness alongside academic rigor. *Contact:* Austin Davis, Academics Chair, austind@princeton.edu
- We're continuing to implement the recommendations called for by the Winter 2021 referendum on **midterm grades and feedback**. For this semester, the administration has urged faculty to provide midterm grades and feedback. We're optimistic that the process will be fully institutionalized by next semester! *Contact:* Austin Davis, Academics Chair, austind@princeton.edu

SUSTAINABILITY

- We're working to scale up and institutionalize the **move-out and resale** program to reduce our waste production and make campus life more sustainable. *Contact:* Sean Bradley, Class of '24 Senator, seanpb@princeton.edu
- We're excited to host our first ever **Sustainability Coffeehouse**, where we'll celebrate sustainability through art, written work, music, and other creative work. We're currently collecting submissions. Read more in our Week 8 USG Newsletter in your inbox!
Contact: Audrey Zhang, Sustainability Chair, az5221@princeton.edu
- We've continued to ensure student representation in the ongoing conversations about **fossil fuel divestment**, specifically the process for developing guidelines and metrics for fossil fuel dissociation (which includes and goes beyond divestment). We're hosting our fourth meeting between student, faculty, and administrative representatives this Thursday.
Contact: Audrey Zhang, Sustainability Chair, az5221@princeton.edu
- We're co-developing an official resource in partnership with the Administrative Committee on Fossil Fuel Dissociation that compares the fossil fuel investment policies of peer institutions to inform the ongoing conversation about divestment at Princeton and beyond. *Contact:* Mayu Takeuchi, President, mayut@princeton.edu

These items are just some of the ongoing initiatives within the USG. I'm grateful for all the time and effort that [USG members](#) have put in to bring these initiatives to life. I appreciate you making the time to learn a bit more about our work, and we all would appreciate your feedback and input. Please don't hesitate to be in touch as we move forward through the semester!

Warmly,

Mayu

Mayu Takeuchi

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