



Undergraduate
Student
Government

Princeton USG Senate

November 20th, 2022

Senate Resolution X-2022

Submitted by, BRAIDEN AARONSON '25, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair.

Resolution

Amending the Senate Constitution to give Senate members enhanced ability to administer ad hoc committees.

Explanation:

This resolution empowers the Senate to take more ownership and responsibility of ad hoc committees by expanding the Senate's ability to create and administer them, while preserving significant flexibility for the USG President over them where the Senate or Executive Committee leaves discretion.

The USG, in recent history, has underutilized the potential of ad hoc committees since they have the opportunity to create more centralized places for addressing specific issues that may be best addressed through a committee structure, have detailed focus and scope, and generally last for a definite amount of time.

In the spirit of emboldening collaborative efforts in the Senate and striving to create more bottom-up structures within USG, this resolution specifically would give Senate members the ability to determine the chairship and membership of ad hoc committees. The Senate or Executive Committee may, however, leave those parts of ad hoc committees up to the discretion of the USG President. Rather than Presidential appointment be the status quo, this grants more oversight to the Senate and Executive Committee to collaboratively put forth initiatives via ad hoc committees in a way that ultimately makes more organizational sense.

This language appears separately as a parallel resolution to a proposal by USG President Mayu Takeuchi '23 to add an automatic expiration date to ad hoc committees under section 305. The language of this resolution is generally not dependent on the passage of that amendment and can function adequately with or without the passage of that proposed amendment. For convenience, the constitutional language of that resolution may be referenced in APPENDIX I of this resolution. Since the Senate is already considering a specific part of section 305, it makes sense to consider how to best structure this section as a whole.

Resolved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO SENATE CONSTITUTION

Section 305 of the Senate Constitution is amended as follows:

§ 305. Ad Hoc Committees



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~~(a) IN GENERAL.—~~

~~(+ a) SENATE **OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** CREATION.—~~By a majority vote, ~~of~~ the Senate ~~or a majority of the entire voting membership of the Executive Committee,~~ *either* may:

- ~~(1) create, **or renew**, an ad hoc committee; **and**~~
- ~~(2) prescribe its role and each of its duties;~~
- ~~(3) **select its committee chair or chairs; and**~~
- ~~(4) **determine how its membership may be composed.**~~

~~(b) **PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT.**--~~ *In reference to an ad hoc committee created under subsection (a):*

- ~~(1) **if the Senate does NOT specify committee chairship, then the President shall appoint at least one committee chair; and**~~
- ~~(2) **if the Senate does NOT specify a method for determining the membership and composition of the committee, then the President shall determine its membership and composition.**~~

~~(i) **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**--~~ ~~By a majority vote of the entire voting membership, the Executive Committee may create an ad hoc committee and prescribe its role and each of its duties.~~

~~(b) **CHAIR AND MEMBERS.**--~~

- ~~(i) **PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT.**--~~ ~~The President shall appoint the Committee Chair and each member of an ad hoc committee established under subsection (a).~~
- ~~(ii) **SENATE MAY OVERTURN APPOINTMENT.**--~~ ~~The Senate may overturn an appointment by a majority vote.~~

[Art. III, § F; art. VI, § F(8).]

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Following a 2/3 vote of approval by the Senate at two consecutive meetings, this Resolution becomes effective immediately.

Approved November XX, YYYY.

Members in Favor: X

Members Opposed: X

Members Abstaining: X

First Round of Voting:

Members in Favor: X



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Members Opposed: X
Members Abstaining: X

HANNAH KAPOOR '23,
*Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government and
Presiding Officer of the Senate.*

Attest:

CHARLOTTE SELOVER '25,
Executive Secretary of the Senate.

APPENDIX I. PARALLEL RESOLUTION CONSTITUTIONAL LANGUAGE

This is USG President Mayu Takeuchi's proposed addition to section 305:

(c) EXPIRATION.—Ad hoc committees shall expire at the adjournment of the first regular meeting of the succeeding President's term, unless renewed in accordance with subsection (a).



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Senate Resolution **X**-2022
Senate Constitution Amendment **No. X**
Submitted by MAYU TAKEUCHI '23, USG PRESIDENT

Resolution

Amending the Senate Constitution to set an expiry date for ad hoc committees.

Summary:

At least since 2014, there have been Senate efforts to: (1) more clearly define ad hoc committees, (2) distinguish between core and ad hoc committees, and (3) ensure appropriate Senate oversight over Senate initiatives. As articulated in the USG Senate Constitution, core committees are permanent committees (i.e. continued year-to-year) under elected Chairs. Ad hoc committees, on the other hand, are left to the discretion of the Senate, with chairs and members appointed by the President. As defined by Merriam-Webster, “ad hoc” means “concerned with a particular end or purpose” or “formed or used for specific or immediate problems or needs.” Establishing an expiry date for ad hoc committees is intended to accomplish the three objectives enumerated above, as well as to empower the Senate to be more intentional about creating and/or reaffirming ad hoc committees that will serve the short- and long-term interests of the Princeton undergraduate student body.

Digest:

- **Section 1** amends Section 305 to add an expiry date for ad hoc committees so as to clarify any uncertainty surrounding their timelines.
- **Section 2** clarifies the immediate implementation of expiration dates for ad hoc committees

EXPLANATION—Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter with ~~strikethrough~~ is material to be omitted.

SECTION 1.

Section 305 of the Senate Constitution is amended to read as follows:

§ 305. Ad Hoc Committees

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) SENATE CREATION.—By a majority vote, the Senate may create an ad hoc committee and prescribe its role and each of its duties.

(2) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—By a majority vote of the entire voting membership, the Executive Committee may create an ad hoc committee and prescribe its role and each of its duties.

(b) CHAIR AND MEMBERS.—

(1) PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT.—The President shall appoint the Committee Chair and each member of an ad hoc committee established under subsection (a).

(2) SENATE MAY OVERTURN APPOINTMENT.—The Senate may overturn an appointment by a majority vote.



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(c) EXPIRATION.—Ad hoc committees shall expire at the adjournment of the first regular meeting of the succeeding President’s term, unless renewed in accordance with subsection (a).

[Art. III, § F; art. VI, § F(8).]

SECTION 2.

Following a 2/3 vote of approval by the Senate at two consecutive meetings, this Resolution becomes effective immediately.

Approved November XX, YYYY.

Members in Favor: X
Members Opposed: X
Members Abstaining: X

First Round of Voting:
Members in Favor: X
Members Opposed: X
Members Abstaining: X

HANNAH KAPOOR '23,
*Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government and
Presiding Officer of the Senate.*

Attest:

CHARLOTTE SELOVER '25,
Executive Secretary of the Senate.