Princeton USG Senate Meeting 3 February 13th, 2022 2:30 pm EST



Introduction

- 1. Question and Answer Session (5 minutes)
- 2. President's Report (Mayu Takeuchi, 5 minutes)

New Business

- 1. Lawnparties Review Committee Report Review: Lexy Sarsdedt (15 minutes)
- 2. Task Force Review & Approval (25 minutes, ~ 5 minutes each)
- 3. Projects Board funding approval for Curling Club (\$3000: \$1500 from USG): Stephane Sartzetakis and Lara (5 minutes)

Consent Agenda

- Sustainability Committee
 - o Emma Limor '25
 - Hi my name is Emma Limor and I am a freshman in the ORFE department from Los Angeles. On campus, I'm involved in student publications such as The Daily Princetonian and Tory as well as politically oriented groups including Whig-Clio, Federalist Society, and the James Madison Program. I've become increasingly engaged with the Jewish community and religious life during my time here. I'm passionate about sustainability and efficiency and am eager to work on making a positive impact on the mindsets of students regarding environmentalism, and in the process support the ecosystems that support us.
 - o Eddie Button '25
 - My name is Eddie Button, and I am a prospective member of the class of '25. I plan to major in ORF with a certificate in Architecture and Engineering. I love to play soccer, and I want to play on the varsity team! I am passionate about taking control of our individual impacts on our environment, our world, and our lives.
 - Nora Goodman
 - My name is Nora Goodman, and I'm from Westchester, New York. I'm a prospective History concentrator, and I hope to pursue a certificate in Environmental Studies. I'm also a member of the club tennis team and Princeton Conservation Society.
 - o Patrick Newcombe '25

- Patrick Newcombe is a freshman at Princeton University. He is undecided between EEB and SPIA. He is active in the Birding Society and Conservation Society.
- o Angie Allen '25
 - My name is Angie Allen, I am in the class of 2025, and a prospective SPIA major, thinking about certificates in Environmental Studies and Italian. I am on the Cross Country and Track team and a member of Princeton Students for Reproductive Justice. I enjoy reading, biking, drinking lots of coffee, and going to Princeton Record Exchange.
- o Sara Shiff
 - Hi everyone! My name is Sara Shiff, and I am from Minneapolis, Minnesota. I plan to concentrate in SPIA with certificates in vocal performance musical theater. I am excited to serve on the sustainability committee this semester! Outside of USG, I sing in the opera and scenes workshop, and I study voice in Manhattan. I also hope to join club lacrosse! I am passionate about music, arts, history, and nature.
- o Joyce Mo '24
 - Joyce Mo, class of 2024, is majoring in chemical and biological engineering with a certificate in sustainable energy. She is also a part of the Princeton Art Museum Student Advisory Board and the New Jersey Student Sustainability Coalition. Outside of classes, Joyce partakes in a lot of art-making, most recently diving into ceramics and sculpture at the First College ceramics studio.

Task Force Proposals

Mental Health Resources Task Force

Name(s): Stephen Daniels & Anna Sivaraj Semester-long

Vision & Purpose

care **resources**, specifically—with:

> A CPS where all students can get the mental health care they need (via reduced wait times and more counselors of diverse backgrounds)

> Greater University support for off-campus mental health care

To advocate for a vision—of mental health

Background Information

First established in Fall 2019, the Mental Health Task Force has focused on destigmatizing and simultaneously increasing the visibility of resources on campus (e.g. by publishing the Mental Health Guidebook with Letters to Strangers). This term, the USG Senate aims to **reframe** its approach to mental

> Better academic accommodations for	urgent
mental health issues	

> Greater CPS support specifically for students going through disciplinary processes (e.g. Honor Committee, Committee on Discipline, Res College Disciplinary Board) health, embedding mental health across all USG positions. This Task Force focuses narrowly on mental health care resources. Key issues continue to include the lack of diversity among CPS counselors and of timely availability of appointments. Mayu has already discussed most of these items with Dr. Chin in December 2021 - January 2022.

Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)

Sponsor a USG referendum to strengthen dialogue and articulate the need for more funding for CPS, to help reduce wait times and to ensure diverse counseling staff

- Advocate for CPS to publish a public annual report clearly outlining the status of wait times, appointment utilization, and diversity of counselors, all for accountability & transparency
- Conduct a student body survey gauging interest in supplemental mental health care resources (e.g. text-based therapy, mindfulness apps)

First Steps (as specific as possible!)

- Explore USG archives to examine what, if any, past referenda regarding mental health have been effective
- Develop a template list of questions/statistics that students would want to see reflected in a public CPS report (e.g. How many appointments? Students? Demographics of current counseling staff?)
- Research and develop an internal memo summarizing what Harvard, Yale, and other peer institutions have implemented (either at the student government or University level) to support mental health

List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts

Dr. Calvin Chin, CPS

VP Calhoun

Dr. Anne Laurita, TigerWell

Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information

Funding request: N/A

https://news.yale.edu/2021/11/05/amid-rising-student-demand-yale-expands-mental-health-services

https://www.ginger.com/business

https://uhs.princeton.edu/support-uhs/auxiliary-isabella-mccosh-infirmary

Move-out/Resale+ Task Force

Name(s): Sean Bradley

Year long

Vision & Purpose	Background Information	

To institutionalize the spring move-out item donation + fall Resale+ process with the purposes of:

- 1. Reducing waste by repurposing unwanted dorm items
- 2. Making dorm items more affordable
- 3. Facilitating transitions off campus at the end of the spring semester, onto campus at the start of the fall

For at least the past several years, the Office of Sustainability has been hosting a collection of unwanted dorm items at the end of spring semester and a sale of these items at the start of the fall semester. Student demand for this initiative has increased significantly in recent years. Key challenges include the need for staff/volunteers to run the collection/sale and for summer storage space for collected items.

Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)

- A dorm item collection drive at the time of Spring 2022 move-out that doesn't complicate campus operations around graduation/Reunions
- A clear team of administrators/staff who will help plan the Resale+ for the start of Fall 2022

First Steps (as specific as possible!)

• (Request to) review the Office of Sustainability's internal materials and records regarding past years' move-out/Resale+ procedures, to identify what's needed (e.g. funding, staffing, storage space – and how much of each)

List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts

Shana Weber, Office of Sustainability Human Resources

Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information

Funding request: N/A

Disability Task Force

Name(s): Year long

Vision & Purpose

The goal of this task force is to improve the disabled student experience by creating more resources to support students with disabilities, working to foster a more inclusive student body, and raising awareness of the challenges that students with disabilities face.

Background Information

This task force was launched in fall 2020 to combat issues related to accessibility and inclusivity on campus. So far, the task force has collaborated with ODUS to incorporate material about disability into first-year orientation, led accessibility training for eating club officers, and improved access to information about the ODS accommodations process.

Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)

- Working with Academics Chair to host ODS x USG webinar on accommodations
- Working with USLC Chair and the ICC to host eating club officer training on accessibility

First Steps (as specific as possible!)

- Build out task force members, both disabled and abled allies
- Work with ExComm to include survey questions on PwDs, who identifies as having a disability, who uses accommodations, what more support could be done
- Research disability studies programs at peer institutions

List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts

- AccessAbility Center
- Office of Disability Services
- Pace Center for Civic Engagement
- CPS
- TigerWell fund

Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information

Funding request: N/A

Housing and University Facilities Task Force

Name(s): Mariam Latif

Year-long

Vision & Purpose

The purpose of this task force is to address student concerns regarding university housing and facilities. Our focus is on making the housing experience more equitable for all students, especially now as the disparities between dormitory conditions grow with the construction of new residential colleges, while also increasing transparency with the student body when it comes to issues related to housing and facilities.

Background Information

This task force was established during the Fall 2021 semester primarily as a result of the lack of air conditioning in dorms and as a response to student concerns about room draw.

Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)

1. Working with the housing admin to put together room draw graphics to

First Steps (as specific as possible!)

1. Sending out the report put together as a result of the USG Housing and

- better explain and clarify the upcoming 2022 Room Draw.
- 2. Continuing the dialogue regarding AC.
- 3. Finalizing a decision regarding more short term solutions such as the purchasing of box fans for Fall 2022 move-in.
- 4. Establishing more long term projects and goals on how to make the housing experience more equitable for all Princeton undergraduates.

- University Facilities Task Force Survey from last semester to housing admin.
- 2. Meeting with the housing admin to discuss moving forward with our recommendations

List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts

- Chad L. Klaus (Vice President for University Services)
- Andrew Kane (Associate Vice President for University Services)
- Dorian Johnson (Director of Housing, Housing & Real Estate Services, University Services)

Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information

- N/A (as of now)

Community Dining Task Force

Name(s): Stephen Daniels, Bradley Phelps, Isabella Shutt Year-long

Vision & Purpose

The Community Dining Task Force's goal is to allow students to experience the amazing food available in Princeton as part of the meal plan. Increasing access to eating in town for all students is particularly important because of the significance of dining as a community building experience at Princeton.

Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)

1. Work with administrators to design an implementation of community dining

Background Information

This task force was originally the idea of Bradley Phelps, a former Class of 2022 senator. The Task Force was able to implement a pilot program last semester and asked participants to complete a survey which resulted in data that demonstrated overwhelming support for the creation of some type of community dining program.

First Steps (as specific as possible!)

1. Plan meeting with administrators to present findings from pilot program and discuss next steps

options into meal plans. 2. Ensure that community partners are on-board with the planned implementation of the program.	2. Work with CCA to speak with community partners about the implementation of the program.
List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts	Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information
 VP Klaus Dean Gonzalez VP Calhoun Dean Dunne Kristin Appelget 	Not applicable, at least for now.

Menstrual Products Task Force

Name(s): Rayyan Sarker

Year Long

Vision & Purpose	Background Information
>support the health, academic success, and dignity of all menstruators at Princeton by providing free menstrual products in accessible campus restrooms >alleviate burden placed on low income students who are not able to afford products while giving all students access when the need comes up >continue to scale with sustainable goals in mind >commit to further equality practices to alleviate burden from menstruators	Starting with a pilot program in the Winter of 2017 sponsored by the USG (funding provided menstrual products), the first iterations of the Task Force saw the need of free menstrual products on campus, thus beginning the policy process. In Fall 2019, the task force successfully installed the first stage for implementation in 56 campus restrooms. As the COVID semesters hit, we pivoted to sustainability practices, providing free menstrual cups to the entire campus population (through sign-ups).
Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)	First Steps (as specific as possible!) >Meeting with VP Calhoun/John Argento to
> Expansion of Menstrual Products to Phase 22 (Final) Expansion— putting products in about 15 more buildings to increase access to products	confirm commitments to second stage expansion >Organize timelines/meet with new task force members

> Spring Packing Party to donate more products to local community groups > Policy Book to provide other universities/organizations resources on doing similar work	>Brainstorm for other potential events
List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts	Funding Allocation Request & Misc.
1 at thet s/Contacts	Information

Transfer Student Task Force

Name(s): Gisell Curbelo

Year-long

Vision & Purpose	Background Information	
The Princeton Transfer Task Force will address issues affecting the transfer community and create events to raise transfer visibility and community engagement.	Last year USG created a task force devoted to transfer students. This task force will build on that work, as Princeton expands its transfer student in the current admissions cycle.	
Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)	First Steps (as specific as possible!)	
A conversation with the relevant administrators to introduce issues affecting the transfer community. Begin planning an event for Fall 2022 to celebrate the program's expansion and raise transfer visibility.	Meeting with transfer students (in particular, representatives of the PTA and PVSA (see partners)) to consider their insights and the role that USG can play in improving their concerns.	
List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts	Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information	
Princeton Transfer Association Princeton Student Veteran Association Director of the Transfer Program	Funding: N/A	

First-Year Experience Task Force

Names: Avi Attar, Ned Dockery, Carlisle Imperial, Walker Penfield

Year-Long

Vision & Purpose

The goal of this task force is to improve the first-year experience, whether that be in regards to the orientation process, FYRE events, academics, or social life. Through collaboration with administrators, we hope to make the transition process to Princeton as engaging and impactful as possible.

Background Information

In the past, students have voiced concerns that the orientation process and FYRE events did not adequately prepare first-years for their time at Princeton. With an expanding student body, it is important that we work proactively to facilitate conversations with the administration to prepare for this increase and improve programming.

Deliverables for the Semester (as specific as possible!)

- Make existing resources such as MyPrincetonU and McGraw more accessible to first-years while also developing new resources such as a handbook
- Address concerns about FYRE events with administrators through meetings, focus groups, and student feedback
- Anticipate and work to address potential issues this coming fall (i.e. larger incoming class, safer first-year introduction to the street, etc.)
- Ease first-year transition into classes, extracurriculars, and social life
- Improve genuine feedback collection (word-of-mouth feedback, what students remember several years after orientation, RCA input)

First Steps (as specific as possible!)

- Inquire about the feasibility of moving up first-year class registration (with the goal of giving students more time to figure out their course load rather than causing distress days before the school year begins)
- Meet with Dean Mel Thompson to present student concerns, discuss current FYRE feedback, and discuss collaboration on future improvements
- Reassess which FYRE events should be prioritized, improved, or combined with another aspect of orientation
- Contact CPS to find ways to make counseling more accessible to first-years (e.g. CPS tour w/ RCAs or intro video)

List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts

Dean Mel Thompson (FYRE programming)
Dean Dunne (ODUS)
Deans of Student Life
Dean Dolan/Academics Committee
(First-year class registration)

Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information

N/A

Dr. Calvin Chin (CPS)

Leadership & Membership

Co-Chairs: Ned Dockery and Walker Penfield

Members: Avi Attar, Carlisle Imperial, Kanishk Kanodia, Hannah Kapoor, Mayu Takeuchi

USG-ODUS Lawnparties Review Committee Report

Introduction:

On October 10, 2021, the USG Senate passed Resolution 3-2021 charging a joint USG-ODUS Lawnparties Review Committee, composed of members from the USG (Undergraduate Student Government) Senate, USG Social Committee, ODUS (Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students), and other relevant shareholder representatives.

The purpose of the Committee is to examine most aspects of Princeton's biannual Lawnparties event, ranging from the early stages of preparation work undertaken in advance of the Lawnparties event (including but not limited to the process of selecting the headliner act) through the completion of the event itself. Issues related to day-of safety and risk management will be addressed in collaboration with a separate University working group with professional competencies focused specifically on this area. The resolution that charged the committee is attached in the appendix.

Lawnparties Background:

Lawnparties are bi-annual music festivals organized by USG and university Eating Clubs held on Prospect Avenue, usually at the beginning and end of the academic year.

Planning for the Lawnparties event begins four to five months before the scheduled date of the music festival by the USG Senate and ODUS. In collaboration with the ICC, a scheduled date and time for the event is agreed upon by all eating clubs and USG. Upon finalizing and

approving the allocation of USG Senate budget for Lawnparties, the artist selection and bid process begins within the USG Social Committee.

The budget for Lawnparties has increased over the years to accommodate rising costs within the music industry, though a significant portion of the budget itself does not go to the headlining artist. Importantly, the budget must also encompass the costs of building the concert venue within the backyard of Quad, along with the costs associated with the equipment and labor of the headliner artist. A higher dollar artist requires more expensive production, or backline, equipment—a factor that must be taken into consideration above and beyond the price of the artist itself. In addition, the Lawnparties budget also pays for the beverages (primarily water stations), food trucks, activities, logistical fees, permits, additional event staff, security (Public Safety and contracted private security group), insurance, merchandise giveaways, and any other costs associated with the event.

An important aspect of Princeton lawnparties is that access to the event has always been free of charge to all Princeton undergraduate students, distinguishing itself from various other collegiate music festivals where students may need to purchase a ticket to attend the event (graduate students, however, are required to purchase a ticket). As a result, the Lawnparties event, described above, is entirely funded by the USG Senate without significant contribution from 1 ticket revenue. As a result, the budget for Lawnparties may not always be comparable to similar events held at other institutions.

The artist selection and bid process is complex, involving several stakeholders within the Princeton University community as well as third party agents and potential artists. The primary role of the USG Social Committee is to select a headliner artist, based on several criteria, including cost, availability, and interest and musical profile.

For the reasons stated above, the artist selection process is often constrained by multiple factors, and in recent years, has been exacerbated by student expectations of highly popular, trending artists. Popular, mainstream artists come at a price tag upwards of ten times the allocated Lawnparties budget, and given the unique circumstances of performing at an academic institution located in New Jersey, often may not be willing to perform at Lawnparties.

Transparency is also largely constrained. Confidentiality during the bid process is highly valued and expected within the entertainment industry. Associated costs for the same performer can vary significantly between different performances due to a handful of factors: the proximity of the artist to the venue, time/date/location of the performance, artist connection with the institution etc.. Therefore, artists expect that Princeton, or any potential buyer, use discretion when discussing the bid and contracting process, so as to not reveal the price charged for any one given performance. This limits the USG Social Committee in discussing the process transparently

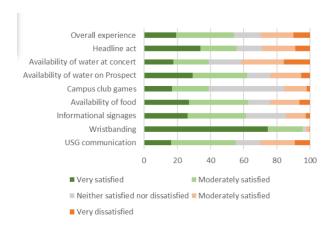
outside of the committee. It would likely discourage artists and agents from wanting to work with Princeton if the bidding process were to be made public. As a result, artists may be unwilling to perform at Princeton, or artists would cost more. In addition, sometimes the Social Committee may go through multiple bids that are denied before locking in a Lawnparties act. There is concern that sharing these challenges may undermine student excitement for the Lawnparties event.

Fall 2021 Lawnparties Survey

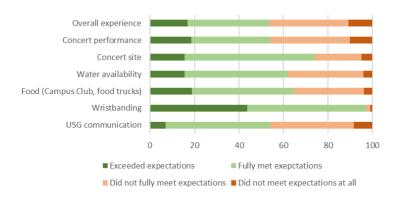
To collect feedback from undergraduates on their Lawnparties experience, USG partnered with ODUS to conduct a short survey. All undergraduates were invited to participate, regardless of whether or not they attended the Lawnparties show on October 3, 2021. Survey topics included pre-Lawnparties communications, food/activities on the street, and the headlining concert.

The survey received 768 total responses, with some variation in the number of responses to each question throughout the survey, 94% of whom were wristbanded and 88% of whom attended the headliner act at the Fall 2021 Lawnparties event, and 63% of whom had never attended a Lawnparties event prior to the fall of 2021. Those who did not attend the headliner act mostly reported one of two reasons for not having attended: first, occupation with academic or other work at the time, and second, lack of interest or familiarity with the artist.

The survey went on to ask respondents to report their satisfaction with various elements of the Lawnparties program and how these aspects of the program compared with their expectations. A majority of students expressed satisfaction (very satisfied or moderately satisfied) with USG communications about the event, and a majority also expressed that these communications met their expectations, either fully or exceedingly so. Almost all students reported that they were satisfied with the wristbanding process and that it met their expectations. A majority of respondents were also satisfied with both informational signage throughout the event and food options at Campus club and around Prospect Avenue, and both of these elements met a majority of respondents' expectations. 39% of respondents expressed satisfaction with lawn games and activities at Campus Club while 46% expressed neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction. A majority of respondents reported satisfaction with the availability of water on Prospect Avenue throughout the day and noted that the availability of water overall met their expectations, but 39% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the availability of water at Quad during the headline act specifically, while 41% expressed dissatisfaction (moderately or very dissatisfied).



56% of respondents reported satisfaction with the headliner, A\$AP Ferg, with 34% of respondents very satisfied. 29% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction, with 9% very dissatisfied. While the concert performance exceeded expectations for almost 20% of respondents, about 35% of respondents each reported being fully and not fully satisfied. About three-quarters of respondents reported that the concert site exceeded or fully met their expectations. Lastly, 54% of respondents reported satisfaction with their overall Lawnparties experience while 29% reported some level of dissatisfaction. 54% of respondents also said that Lawnparties overall met their expectations, while 46% said it did not.



Recommendations

Finally, the Committee was charged with developing recommendations around the issues within its scope. The following recommendations have been reached by consensus within the committee after our internal discussions and discussions with other stakeholders.

We recommend that

- 1. The USG Social Committee take the following steps to systematize and bolster the vetting it undertakes when selecting a Lawnparties headliner artist.
 - a. Institute a formal, systematic internal vetting process within the USG Social Committee that is grounded in student-driven values.

The USG Social Committee has always engaged in artist research prior to sending bids to artists. However, it has traditionally not formally conducted background checks of its own into headliners, instead relying primarily on information gathered from an insurance-related background check performed by Princeton's General Counsel. This check is similar to an employee background check, and, as such, may overlook matters that, while counter to University values, do not have legal or insurance implications. The shortcomings of this process were on display this past fall, when the University's processes did not flag some of the troubling aspects of the initially selected headliner's past. To that end, this recommendation would institute a formal vetting process distinct from other aspects of artist research that looks at artists through the lens of the Social Committee's values, not simply through that of insurance and legality. The structure of the process and the nature of these values are left to the discretion of the Social Committee: having a process in place will prioritize vetting and create internal accountability around this important issue. While there will never be universal agreement on every aspect of what to examine and how to examine it within a vetting process, 4 the Social Committee will focus on issues it believes to relate to central values of the University.

b. Pursue potential contracts with external support for the vetting process.

External support may be able to help the USG Social Committee with its newly implemented systematic vetting process. While thoroughly exploring such an external contracting relationship was not possible within the scope of this Committee, such a partnership could strengthen the vetting process and ground that work in an understanding of industry standards, in addition to its guidance by central values of the University. Implementing this recommendation would require setting aside funds within the Lawnparties budget for an external contractor.

c. Apprise the USG President and Vice President of potential headliner artists in advance of any bid being sent out, naming the USG President, Vice President, and Treasurer as ex-officio committee members.

Historically, the USG President and Vice President have not been privy to the artist selection process; the USG Treasurer has, in the capacity of authorizing budgetary outlays for bid contracts. While the artist selection is best left primarily to the Social Committee, large USG budget allocations and major USG programming are ultimately the responsibility of the administration as a whole and its leadership. Integrating the USG leadership into later stages of the artist selection process will align the process itself with the relationship between USG and the student body.

2. The USG Social Committee conduct a student-body wide Lawnparties experience survey after each semesterly Lawnparties event.

The Fall 2021 Lawnparties survey has proven valuable to this Committee as it has considered various aspects of the Lawnparties event, always with an eye to the ultimate goal of providing an enjoyable experience for the student body. Within a broader commitment to increasing USG's collection of student opinion data in order to make better decisions and plan better programming, this recommendation would systematize data collection after each annual Lawnparties to ensure that such a large and important USG-sponsored program is continually improved from semester to semester.

3. The USG Social Committee be empowered to be in continued dialogue with the University administration on supporting safety improvements to the day-of event management.

Day-of management complications that occurred during the Fall 2021 Lawnparties and were recalled throughout the qualitative responses to the Fall 2021 Lawnparties survey have also been the focus of USG and ODUS since the event. Committee members have been in dialogue with affected students, and the committee as a whole has considered these aspects of the event as well; however, these issues are being most directly addressed by risk and safety professionals at the administrative level. As this review is ongoing, we encourage the Social Committee to remain in dialogue with University administration to ensure that all recommendations are integrated into future Lawnparties events and to ensure that the student experience is central to this ongoing work.