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## Princeton USG Senate Meeting

June 26, 2022

7:00 PM EST

### Consent Agenda

#### Director of Communications - River Reynolds

- Hi, I'm River '24. I'm excited to further USG's goal of transparency and accountability as your Director of Communications and Public Affairs. I look forward to serving the student body and the senators. I'm a SPIA concentrator pursuing certificates in Global Health and Health Policy and Spanish. Volunteering on a crisis line during the height of the pandemic motivated my initial interest in mental health policy and sparked my interest in international health systems and social determinants of health. Outside of USG and academics, you might see me in the theater: stage managing or performing. I also enjoy singing, playing piano, and writing my own songs. On weekends or breaks, I like to escape to the trails to backpack with OA or friends. Reach out to discuss what you'd like to see from USG Communications and Public Affairs, help me practice Spanish/German/Chinese, or talk about books, podcasts, or yoga!

#### Committee on Discipline Member- Georgia Souleles

- Hey my name is Georgia and I was born and raised in Chicago, IL. I'm a junior in the psychology department aspiring to be a clinical psychologist similar to my mom. In addition to being on the Committee on Discipline, during the school year I will be volunteering regularly as a big sister and at a suicide hotline. In my free time, I love watching Netflix, cuddling with my dogs, going for walks, and laughing with friends.

#### Movies Committee Chair - Addele Hargenrader

- Hi everyone! My name is Addele, and I am a junior in the ORFE department. I am originally from a MD suburb of DC and I spent my gap year in Tulsa, OK and NYC. In USG, I am the Chair of the Movies Committee. We coordinate free movies at the Garden Theatre and free outdoor screenings around campus. Outside of USG, I dance with Triple 8 and am an RCA in Yeh College. I also love karaoke, cooking, and crossword puzzles. Reach out if you wanna chat :)



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### TigerApps Chair - Nicholas Padmanabhan

- Hi everyone! I'm Nick, and I'm from the SF Bay Area. On campus, I major in COS and am the classical guitarist in Opus, a chamber-music group. I perform with fellow musicians in our end-of-semester concerts – if you want to hear some ~quality~ classical music, please come! I'm also a developer for TigerApps, the group that brings you apps like PrincetonCourses, ReCal, and TigerSnatch. In my free time, I love to lie in bed and rewatch movies for the fourth time :)

### Sustainability Committee Member - Kutorkor Kotey

- Hello Everyone! My name is Kutorkor(Kuu-tour-core) Kotey, a rising junior from New Jersey! I am concentrating in Sociology, with a certificate in Spanish. I am excited to serve on the sustainability committee this year, and I look forward to working with you all. Outside of USG, I am involved in Christian Nova, Dorobucci Dance Company, and SIFP! Feel free to reach out to me about anything at [kotey@princeton.edu](mailto:kotey@princeton.edu).

### Sustainability Committee Member - AJ Lonski

- Hi everyone! My name is AJ Lonski and I am a senior from Franklin Lakes, New Jersey. I am concentrating in Neuroscience and earning certificates in Statistic & Machine Learning, Cognitive Science and Medieval Studies. On campus, I am a SHARE Peer, GSRC Peer Educator, Literary Editor for Arch & Arrow and act in PUP musicals! I was a varsity athlete for Princeton, and now work with the GSRC and SHARE office for DEI advocacy across campus. During my time as President of Tower and on the ICC, I began work on eating club sustainability, which I hope to continue as a member of the USG sustainability committee. Please feel free to reach out to me whenever, for anything, at [alonski@princeton.edu](mailto:alonski@princeton.edu)

### Sustainability Committee Member - Cindy Li

- Hello, this is Cindy from the Sustainability Committee, I am a class of 2025, planning to major in Art History with a certificate in archeology and bioengineering. I work closely with Princeton Art Museum as a gallery attendant and a student docent. I love the idea of using art to raise students' conciseness to protect the environment. I have been researching indigenous art in the past few years to absorb the Native American



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community's wisdom to live reciprocally and sustainably with the natural world. I am also part of the Service Focus education cohort with Pace center. I enjoy cooking, photography, and badminton during my free time.



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### USG Reform Project Guidance

#### **Guiding Principles**

Throughout the process of reform, this project should:

1. Not only not hinder existing USG work and commitments, but also actively complement this portfolio
2. Facilitate numerous, regular, and meaningful opportunities for input from the USG Senate and the student body
3. Identify problems, both constitutional and cultural, that limit USG capacity and/or restrict its potential and develop specific, concrete solutions to address them
4. Implement all reforms in a timely manner, consistent with our commitment to the student body following the Spring 2022 USG Election
5. Establish working rules which facilitate the above goals and set lasting precedent for future reforms

The product of this reform process should be a USG that:

1. Benefits from immediately enhanced capabilities and functions and better chances of success with future endeavors
2. Commits itself to work that is meaningful to the student body
3. Represents the student body in all their diverse experiences
4. Confidently expresses student concerns and voices to the administration
5. Respects and empowers members

#### **Project Team**

The project will be split into two teams of three: Stephen, Mariam, and Braiden are Team 1 and Walker, Isabella, and Sean are Team 2. These two teams are responsible for identifying problems in the constitution and/or culture of the USG and proposing specific solutions; presenting these proposals to the full project team to be critiqued and revised; and iteratively refining these ideas until final submission to the Senate and student body. Dillion will be responsible for engaging in discussion and debate around reforms, responding to team needs, setting the agenda for full project meetings, and coordinating with the rest of the Senate.



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### *Basic Workflow*

The full project team will plan to meet for at least 1 hour/week over the summer break. The basic workflow followed by teams and the larger project team is as follows:

1. Teams meet individually to discuss their assigned issue areas, identify problems, and brainstorm concrete solutions.
2. Teams generate a brief and save their distinct issue area briefs for the week into the “This Week’s Briefs” folder in the Shared Drive **at least 72 hours before the full group meeting**. A template for this 1-2 page brief can be found in the “Templates” folder in the Shared Drive.
3. Project group members review, comment on, and criticize briefs a few days before the full group meeting.
4. The project team meeting follows the structure below; we will use this time together to resolve larger conceptual disputes and/or contradictory proposals in the briefs.
5. Dillion will assign both teams the issue areas to investigate for the next meeting; move the week’s briefs into their respective issue area folders; update the Priority Queue (see below) with progress on the issue areas; and set plans to get both teams any information they need going forward.

### **Deliberation to Delivery**

The reform project will likely contend with numerous substantive reforms across many or all aspects of USG structure and culture. In order to ensure this team manages this workload adequately, the full project team will follow a “deliberation to delivery” model that progresses through the following steps: identify and prioritize problems; suggest and deliberate on specific solutions; refine these solutions to be consistent with USG functions, precedents, regulations, etc.; propose refined solutions for feedback from the full Senate and the student body; meaningfully consider this input; and, finally, present final reform packages for implementation.

Dillion will be responsible for maintaining the Priority Queue for all reforms. This is a running list of major problem areas identified by the team which require attention. Rather than working on each item until it is complete and then progressing to the next, the queue will allow the team



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to make substantive progress on several problem areas at any given time. As items receive deliberation and attention, Dillion will set a date by which point deliberation on the larger conceptual issues rests, and the project team agrees to a package of reforms which they then refine for proposal to the Senate and student body. At or before this date, Dillion will begin assigning teams to work on new items in the Queue. That is, as issue areas receive more work and attention, they are moved to the bottom of the Queue and other issue areas are considered.

Issue areas with more constitutional infrastructure or implications for USG work (i.e. referenda) will require more time and attention, but the Priority Queue ensures this problem will eventually be settled within the project team and other valuable areas will still receive adequate attention. Additionally, because this reform project values input from both the Senate and student body, the date mentioned above does not represent an arbitrary cutoff after which all suggested reforms are simply codified for proposal; the refinement process should meaningfully consider any feedback from peers. Dillion retains the sole right to reopen discussion of an issue area should feedback or developments necessitate a new conceptual approach.

Problem areas will follow the following process:

1. Team members identify a real, specific problem with the constitution or culture of the USG which limits USG capacity and/or restricts its potential. For example, “elections” is not an acceptable problem, but “the majority of elected offices in the USG run in uncontested elections” is.
2. Team members meet to discuss the full contours of the problem and design specific solutions which are included in a brief for the project team to read.
3. Each member of the full group reviews the briefs a few days before the full group meeting, leaving comments and discussing with one another.
4. The full project team meets and continues discussions started on the briefs, finding conceptual consensus on problems and debating the effectiveness and merits of the potential reforms included in the team’s brief. (Steps 1-3 can be repeated as teams see fit until consensus is reached on the problem.)
5. Once consensus on the problem exists and potential reforms are accepted to reasonably and specifically address a given problem, the team proposing it will work independently to incorporate feedback from the full project team and write a draft proposal. A template for this proposal can be found in the “Templates” folder in the Shared Drive.



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6. In addition to briefs on issues under consideration, teams should include draft proposals in the “Proposals in the Works” folder in the Shared Drive for the full project team to view before the next full meeting.
7. The full project team will critique and revise the draft proposal, and Dillion will set a date by which the proposal should be finalized. Some draft proposals will incorporate feedback from the Senate and student body.
8. When finalized, the draft proposal will be presented as part of a package of reforms to the Senate and/or student body for notification or implementation.

### *Tentative Project Team Meeting Structure*

- 10 mins (5 mins/team): Updates
  - Use the brief submitted to the full group to guide discussion, including progress
  - Raise larger, unresolved questions/disagreements from team discussion
- 45 mins: Group discussion and brainstorm
  - Use the unresolved questions and feedback from updates to spur conversation
- 5 mins: Wrap-up
  - Dillion will provide advice, guidance, and assign each team their issues for the next meeting

### *Expectations for the Project Team*

- Keep detailed digital records of all project work: This includes noting the original date of composition and the “last revised” date on documents; preserving brainstorming documents in original condition and creating new files for drafts and proposals; and creating at least summaries of team meetings, etc.
- Work independently as a team: Because of the condensed timeline for reforms and project team members’ other commitments to summer activities, it is crucial that Teams 1 and 2 spend adequate time meeting and working together, consistently following the “deliberation to delivery” process outlined above.
- Make the most of full project team meetings: Because of conflicting schedules and commitments, full project team meetings represent a valuable opportunity to get feedback from the entire group. Be sure to complete briefs and procedural documents on time, raise larger unsettled questions in meetings, and keep discussions centered on real problems.
- Identify real problems and design specific solutions: The aim of this project is to identify and solve problems, both constitutional and cultural, which limit USG capacity and/or



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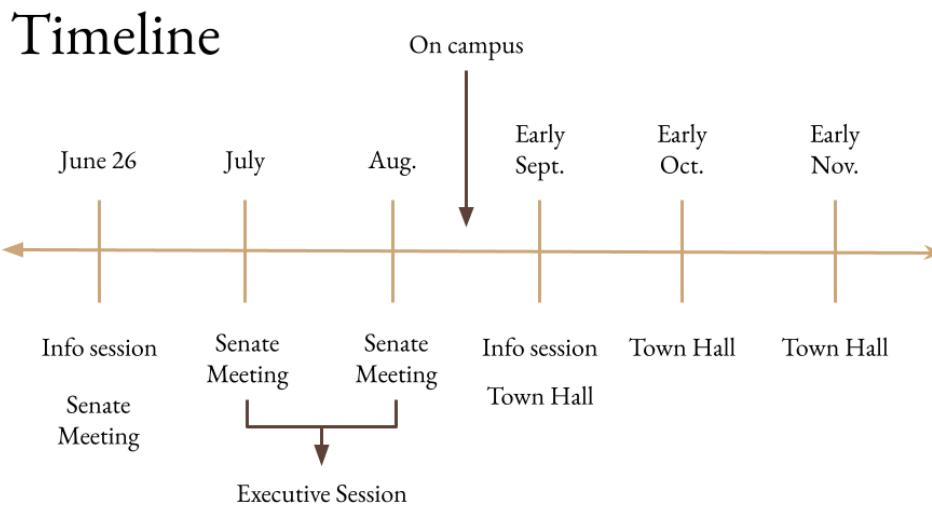
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restrict its potential. Solutions should address all aspects of a given problem, and indicators of success will be supplied to the Senate and student body.

- Be proactive in addressing problems and requesting information: This work will be difficult, and team members should be as proactive as possible in addressing problems within teams, settling conceptual debates, and requesting additional information from Dillion.

**Tentative Timeline**



The timeline above is the most current vision for facilitating feedback on reforms from both the Senate and student body. The full project team plans to reserve time at the last six full Senate meetings for reform project materials which require constitutional amendments. This allows us to divide the reforms into three smaller packages, all of which will require passage at two consecutive Senate meetings to be implemented.

Reforms will be approved and implemented in Fall of 2022, and constitutional reforms will tentatively take effect in Fall of 2023.