

Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 5
February 27th, 2022
8:00 pm EST



Introduction

1. Question and Answer Session (5 minutes)
2. President's Report (Mayu Takeuchi, 5 minutes)
 - a. Debate and Dialogue
 - i. We are here as representatives of the student body but also as individuals
 1. We all know our *own* experiences better than anyone else
 2. Here to serve, learn, and grow
 - ii. Ongoing conversation with Varsity Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
 - iii. Perspectives
 1. We should be disagreeing during discussions
 2. Mental health discussion → good debate, want to see more of it
 - iv. Thinking about USG elections
 - v. Want to work with Transportation and Parking Services for the campus expansion
 - vi. Will meet with President Eisgruber and his VP this Thursday (3/3)
 1. Contact Mayu and Hannah with questions or concerns
 - vii. Revisit mental health discussion on April 3rd
 1. Will share updates and invite administration/faculty to share what's happening on their end
 - viii. (Q) Audrey: What are you talking to President Eisgruber about?
 1. (A) Mayu: Our priorities within USG, specifically prioritizing student well being
 - ix. (Q) Carlisle: What are the other points you will discuss?
 1. Main theme is mental health, academics, the longer term vision and how the conversation has evolved
 2. Hope to learn how he's thinking about the next 5 or 10 years of Princeton
 3. How can we learn lessons from the pandemic that improves experiences in the future

New Business

1. Budget Update (Adam Hoffman, 5 mins)
 - a. Good job for not going over budget and keeping Adam updated
 - b. Do have a lot of money to expand programming as weather gets better

- c. Significant percentage of the funds spent so far has been on TigerApps
 - d. Total spent has been a little under \$2500 in past few weeks
 - e. (Q) Audrey: Is our budget for this semester? Is there carry over if we don't spend it all?
 - i. (A) Adam: Budget is for this sem, if we have surplus t will carry over
 - ii. (A) Mayu: The carry over is for USG budget as a whole, not specific sections within USG. For example, money is not carried over from committee to committee
2. New Task Force (Adam Hoffman, 10 mins)
- a. Task forces can be proposed at any time and we can discuss them with the Senate
 - b. People associate with other people that share their backgrounds and perspective
 - c. Had to work against existing structures here to branch out
 - d. Proposal
 - i. Present a report to the Senate on the state of viewpoint diversity on campus
 - ii. Ensure that campus partners are aware and on board with our work
 - iii. Goal is not necessarily to come up with solutions rather we want to gather the pulse of the issue
 - iv. Conduct a survey and organize focus groups
 - v. Work with institutional partners such as the DEI Office, Initiative on Freedom of Thought, Inquiry, and Expression, or the Office of Institutional Research
 - e. (Q) Kanishkh: How will the survey lead to a celebration of diversity? It's very broad, how will a survey capture the nuances without boxing people in?
 - i. Adam: The survey is to understand where people are at and what's working and what isn't. It could ask about how often you engage with different perspectives and how comfortable you are with it. This is before trying to solve it, it's just to get a sense of what's going on. You need data to effect change and that's what this would be for. For the second question, a lot of the time spent from the task force will go into phrasing and dealing with the nuance of the issue, which is why we put the Office of Institutional Research to engage with survey experts and know how to deal with an issue like this
 - f. (Q) Stephen: Would you require funding in the survey?

Adam: Initially no, we do have a good central fund so we could have a couple 100 dollars that it could go towards, if we need incentive programs it could be there but not right now.
 - g. (Q) Walker: What barriers do you think exist for the diversity of Princeton?
 - i. It felt like there was some disconnect. It's not that the culture is fostered. The default is to engage with people of your background, but I don't really

know what causes this which is why the survey would be important. It could be systemic or cultural, the survey examines both.

- h. (Q) Riley: What does diversity mean to you or the task force?
 - i. Adam: Everyone comes with backgrounds and thoughts and experiences and it seems like people gravitate towards those with similar perspectives and within those groups some perspectives become the default. We want to figure out how we can promote people coming forward to create more conversation.
 - ii. Hannah: We want more skepticism rather than just agreeing and we want to make sure people are empowered to ask questions
 - i. (Q) Avi: Could we include a history of things in the report like how there might be polarization here at Princeton? Also, are there current things or people who are collecting data or is it a new thing?
 - i. Adam: There's not a clear precedent of people looking into this, it doesn't exist right now.
 - j. (Q) Braiden: Would focus groups be an extension, what is the role?
 - i. Adam: It's good to get a broad swath with the survey but we want to get some texture via conversations that might not come up from survey data. We need to figure out how to complement the survey with focus groups.
 - k. (Q) Dillion: You didn't quite have a pinpoint experience that made you think about why Princeton has this problem. Was it in the group most similar to you that you could raise issues or somewhere else? Where was this idea drawn from?
 - i. Adam: In my experience, I gravitated towards those with similar experiences and we shared the same backgrounds. There wasn't a lot of diversity in that group so I realized when I sought out other peers.
 - l. (Q) Ned: What do you see for the future of the task force?
 - i. Adam: It depends on the survey results and we don't know yet but the data could affect change and improve problems we see that come up from the survey
 - m. (Q) Audrey: What is the vision for the task force, what is the ideal situation?
 - i. Adam: We could add programs to encourage new perspectives. Princeton does a lot of great things but we could do more programs like that
 - n. (Q) Mariam: What would the content of the survey be?
 - i. Part of the task force is to think deeply about these questions which is why we can't just think of easy questions, it requires a lot of thought to build the survey, which is why the focus groups would help get data in real time
 - o. Isabella Shutt motions for a vote, Stephen Daniels seconds
 - i. Votes in favor: 12, votes against: 4, members abstaining: 4
 - ii. *The vote passes*
3. USLC QR Code Project (Avi Attar, 10 mins)

- 1. From USG, \$10500
 - iii. Carlisle: What is the money going towards
 - 1. Food trucks and set up
 - iv. Stephen Daniels motions for a vote, Mariam Latif seconds
 - 1. 20 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 0 abstentions
 - b. AKWAABA
 - i. Funding for Sankofa fashion show
 - 1. Had one in '18 and '19 but not '20 cause of the pandemic
 - ii. Goal is to celebrate African designers and bring their pieces to campus and have models from student body
 - iii. Received funding from other offices as well and the funding from Projects Board will allow them to create their vision of the show
 - iv. (Q) Stephen: How much are we approving?
 - 1. A: \$2000 from USG
 - v. Mariam Latif motions for a vote, Sean Bradley seconds
 - 1. 20 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 0 abstentions
 - 2. *The vote passes*
6. Spring Elections Overview
- a. Timeline
 - i. Released calendar yesterday
 - ii. Kickoff is general open house on March 14 (monday after Spring Break)
 - 1. Any student potentially interested in running for a position can/should attend
 - 2. Sponsors for referenda should attend
 - iii. Voting period is April 11th to 13th, will have open houses in the weeks following the general open house until elections-related deadlines
 - b. Establish role of USG and expectations of members
 - i. Here to build community as representatives
 - ii. Empower students to spark conversations and drive change
 - iii. Role is to be neutral facilitators headed by
 - 1. Kate Liu (Parliamentarian)
 - 2. Brian Li (Chief Elections Manager)
 - 3. USG Constitution
 - iv. Transparency, accountability, and engagement
 - 1. More open houses
 - 2. Expanded elections calendar
 - 3. 1 on 1 chats
 - 4. Partnership with Vote100
 - a. Want 100% voter turnout
 - v. (Q) Stephen: How will the vote100 program work?

1. (A) Mayu: We will take multiple approaches and I'm hesitant to share details but most of the engagement will happen during voting period. We want social media engagement but also in person activity
2. (A) Hannah: We are already committed to social media campaigns but USG and vote100 are navigating how it will be different
- vi. (Q) Mariam: What is the historical turnout and how does it compare to the fall?
 1. (A): Around 40-50%, not much difference between each election
- vii. (Q) Walker: Does in person engagement mean voting in person?
 1. H: No, we vote online, but campaigning would be more in person
- viii. (Q) Mariam: What is the petition process?
 1. (A) Kate: The handbook says petitioning has to be in person to get signatures, but past terms we had exceptions because of covid but since we are fully in person we will do paper petitions and you'll have to around to sign
 - a. Can't go door to door, use listserv or GroupMe
- ix. (Q) Audrey: Does the referendum happen this cycle, too?
 1. (A): Yes, there is a chance for sponsor referenda this semester
- c. Neutral facilitators
 - i. Do not make statements on behalf of the USG
 - ii. All hands on deck for 100% voter turnout
 - iii. (Q) Isabella: Can people campaign online?
 1. (A) Kate: Petitions cannot be online at all,
 2. (A) Hannah: Ask Brian, but we have rule specific meetings prior to elections to clarify these questions. Social media campaigns are fine but there are guidelines for listserv
 - iv. (Q) Isabella: Are there efforts for collecting referenda or clarifying deadlines?
 1. (A) Mayu: We avoided deadlines after spring break and the open house is a space for that. We will work with administration to spread word about elections
 2. (A) Hannah: We want to increase student engagement by having different students engage with USG beforehand and also the work that we do. The calendar is the first step and we've gotten it out sooner because of that. We have the open houses, 1 on 1s to learn more about USG, and Dillion is making posters specific to the referendum process for them to get more information out there
 - v. (Q) Audrey: Is the fall cycle just for freshmen?

1. (A) Mayu: USG has the fall, winter, and spring cycles. Fall is when freshman elections are held
- vi. (Q)Audrey: Does class of '25 council turn into class government?
1. Classes of '25, '24, and '23 elect class government representatives, that's why freshmen have a council not a structured government. We don't want them to take on those roles too early on

Adam Hoffman, Timeline: Report Published by Fall Break 2022

<p>Vision and Purpose The goal of this task force is to study viewpoint diversity on campus with an eye towards solutions. This task force hopes to support viewpoint diversity and foster an environment of open inquiry. We hope to raise awareness of problems and institutionalize changes.</p>	<p>Background Information Over half of college students in America fear expressing their thoughts, making viewpoint diversity deserving of its own task force.¹ This task force would study viewpoint diversity on our own campus and equip USG with data to affect positive change.</p>
<p>Deliverables for the Senate -Present a report to the Senate on the state of viewpoint diversity on campus -Ensure that campus partners are aware and on board with our work</p>	<p>First Steps -sending out a USG survey and conducting interviews on the state of viewpoint diversity on campus -Meet with Dean Buck’s office on the university</p>
<p>List of (Potential) Campus Partners/Contacts -LaTanya N. Buck (Dean, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of the Vice President for Campus Life) -Initiative on Freedom of Thought, Inquiry, and Expression (James Madison Program) -Dean Ian Deas of ODUS -Office of Institutional Research (for survey)</p>	<p>Funding Allocation Request & Misc. Information Funding request: N/A</p>

¹ <https://www.intelligent.com/college-students-fear-expressing-ideas-in-classroom/>