

**Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 12
April 25, 2021
8:30pm EST**



**Undergraduate
Student
Government**

Introduction

1. Question and Answer Session (5 minutes)

New Business

1. Committee Reports (30 minutes)

Undergraduate Student Life Committee

Priority #1: Supporting students' virtual learning experiences

- Shared workspaces
 - Met with VP Calhoun to discuss options
 - Decided that signs would be a better option for classrooms than adding them to the reservation system.
 - Met with operations and implemented signage systems to indicate whether shared workspaces are in use.
- Virtual engagement opportunities
 - Planned a scavenger hunt through the Goose Chase App.
 - Discussed student fatigue with virtual programming, which was supported by data from Wintersession.
 - Given the plethora of virtual programming opportunities this semester, the scavenger hunt will be rescheduled for Fall 2021 as programming for first years who did not experience Princeton Preview and for second year students who have not yet had the opportunity to navigate campus.

Priority #2: Support students whose concerns are overlooked on campus

- Students expressed concerns about transportation for vaccination
 - Sent out a vaccine carpool spreadsheet across all listservs
 - Directed students in need of funding to VP Calhoun, and over 100 students were able to receive funding
 - Appointed a transportation liaison to USLC to attend monthly meetings and bring awareness regarding other student transportation-related issues.
- Will be working towards finding a more streamlined method of aggregating student concerns in the Fall.

Disability Task Force

- Worked with the Disability Collective on their guidebook
- Presented a disability awareness training to Eating Club officers

- Spread awareness about initiatives through the ASL Referendum
- Met with the Office of Disability Services to discuss ways of addressing disability more clearly during first year orientation
 - A Canvas module that will allow students to navigate campus with disabilities and support peers with disabilities is currently being developed.
- Finding ways to include more Disability Task Force members in initiatives is a goal for Fall 2021.

Sustainability Committee

Priority #1: Supporting student initiatives

- Step Up to the T.A.S.K. Collection
- Divestment Rally

Priority #2: Working with University administrators to amplify sustainability in University policy and decision-making

- Dining x Sustainability Report
- Sustainability Beyond COVID Town Hall that will connect with Campus Dining, the Office of Sustainability, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Campus Energy and Engineering, and the Office of Capital Projects with students to discuss initiatives, concerns, and goals for the future.

Priority #3: Coordinating University-wide communications and programming

- Environmental Justice Symposium which featured speakers who highlighted advocacy opportunities as well as current and future initiatives.
- Earth Month staff appreciation

Next steps

- Continued dialogues and programming that cultivate diverse, inclusive, and accessible approaches to sustainability
- Orientation programming for Fall 2021 aimed at targeting the Classes of 2024 and 2025
- Next Fall, the EcoLounge at Frist will be open, offering more opportunities for students to incorporate sustainability in their campus life.

Academics Committee

Semester goals:

- Mixed concentrations
- ASL programming
- Distance learning feedback
- Student summer opportunities
- New modes of communication to engage student input

Accomplishments

- First draft of mixed concentrations model
- Expanded ASL programming
- Initial conversations about summer student opportunities
- Highlighted student feedback and concerns over the course of the semester
- Advising programming through Open Houses

Next Steps

- Mixed concentration model revision and discussion with departmental directors to receive feedback
- Mental health and academics
- Summer session and opportunities
- Collecting student feedback
- Revisiting retroactive PDF
- New modes of communication

Campus and Community Affairs Committee

Priority #1: Maintaining a high level of commitment

- In the past, Princeton connections to the local community have failed in part due to the transient culture of commitment that exists at a college
 - How do we create a new culture of commitment?
 - Why would students buy into this new culture?

Priority #2: Creating layers of connection between students and the community

- Often, partnership gaps can form if the connections are too “thin”
- Contending with how to begin creation of these layers during a pandemic
 - How do we create more opportunities for students to engage with the local Princeton community?
 - How do we get the local community to want the layers of connection?

Priority #3: Institutionalizing new community building events for students

- What systems that are already in place can we leverage to have an outsized impact?
 - Wintersession
 - ODUS connections
 - Frameworks for future CCA chairs and committee members

Timeline

1. February: Managed an application process for students to join CCA. Once the team was selected, the committee worked to determine near-term and long-term goals.

2. March: Hosted the first USG sponsored Tigers in Town event for Princeton students during “Spring Pause,” and launched PUVAC with assistance from Ceon Sun.
3. April: Conducted a survey for Tigers in Town, and met with several potential community partners for the semester-internship program. Began the “Business of the Week” feature.
4. May: Will work with Judy Jarvis and members of CCA to flesh out the “Wintersession Short-Term Action Projects” idea.
5. Summer: Will stay in contact with potential partners for the semester-internship program and submit applications for CCA short-term action projects.
6. Fall 2021: Potential projects include a Paw Points Program, Tigers in Town partnerships, Semester Internship Program, planning for Communiversity, PUVAC 2.0, and Tigers in Service.

Programs and Initiatives

- Tigers in Town: Under the ODUS Tigers in Town banner initiative, a program meant to provide opportunities for students to eat on Nassau Street and support local businesses, USG and CCA has been sponsoring events.
- Princeton U. Virtual Arts Competition: PUVAC is an idea that was created due to the cancellation of Communiversity. We looked to provide artistic communities on campus with an outlet through which to display their art to their peers.
- Semester-Internship Program: This program aims to create stronger and deeper ties with the local community. High amounts of interest has already been noted from several government departments, local charities, and businesses.
- Wintersession Short-term Action Projects: This initiative is currently being workshopped with Judy Jarvis and will function similarly to the semester-internship program but on a shorter time-table.

Tigers in Town feedback

Main takeaways from survey (N=101)

- The overall response was overwhelmingly positive
 - When asked “on a scale of 1-5, how much did you enjoy Tigers in Town events?” survey respondents answered with a “5” 95% of the time.
 - When asked “on a scale of 1-5, how easy was the MyPrincetonU platform to use?” survey respondents answered with a “4” or “5” 75% of the time.
 - 91% of students felt as though they had been served in a timely manner.
 - 95%+ are interested in this program continuing into the Fall semester.
 - There is a strong interest in expanding Tigers in Town to books/records and incorporating it into a Paw Points program.
- Common criticisms
 - Many students found it difficult to secure a spot for a Tigers in Town event.

- None of the options provided were Kosher or Halal, though vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options were available at every event.

Social Committee

Accomplishments

- Designed and released the 2020 USG Spring Social Engagement Survey
 - Received 635 complete survey responses from March 3-16th
- Released the 2020 USG Spring Social Engagement Survey Report, which led to the decision to cancel Lawnparties this semester.
 - Other findings from the survey led to an expansion of Tigers in Town events, a focus on in-person events, and prioritization of free merchandise for Princeton students.
- Ordered Princeton-branded Frisbees in bulk from a local toy store on Nassau Street called Jazams.
 - Discussing more Princeton-branded water bottles, outdoor picnic blankets, and other items that allow students to socialize outside, but these products have been postponed to Fall 2021.
- Hosted two outdoor, in-person USG Movie Nights on April 23rd and 24th in the Mccosh Courtyard featuring Disney's SOUL.
 - Used Tigers in Town template on the MyPrincetonU platform to enable students to sign up for the event in order to maintain social distancing.
 - Worked with the administration to maintain social distancing guidelines. Steps that were taken to ensure safety include fencing to close the courtyard to the public and capping the event capacity at 100 students per night.
 - Distributed folding chairs for students.

Consent Agenda

1. TigerApps Chair: Charles An '22