Formal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting
Frist MPR B
Sunday, February 26th, 2017 5:00pm

President’s Report:
President Myesha Jemison gave her weekly President’s Report, updating the Senate on meetings she attended over the course of the week. These included the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC) Meeting that took place on February 20th where President Christopher Eisgruber presented his annual letter and students and faculty asked questions, and a PUBRC Co-Chairs meeting with Dean Avens and Smitha. President Jemison also reminded Senate members to keep in touch with issues happening around and on-campus by studying the current events at sister universities as well as those featured in the Daily Princetonian, the Tab, and the University Press Club. As for further action, President Jemison will be meeting with Dean Dolan and Dean Dunne to discuss social action on campus. The Senate will be proceeding with the Social Action Committee and continuing with next steps with the Eating Club Referendum Team.

Update on Eleusis Approval Process:
After receiving Senate feedback, a couple of weeks ago and working with the Center for Interdisciplinary Psychedelic Study, the student organization re-proposed their group under the name “Eleusis.” SGRC Co-Chair Emily Chen presented the group’s updated proposal to the Senate. Chen clarified “Eleusis” to be a reference to a ritual in Greek mythology and not a reference to a famous underground psychedelics producer. Chen further clarified that University faculty members had already discussed and concluded that the group would be discussion and education oriented. Initially 11 Senate members voted to approve the club, 1 voted against, and 1 abstained, which would have barred the officiation of the group, as the Constitution required fifty percent of Senate members present to vote in favor. However, after passing a motion to revote, the Senate approved the group with a vote of 15 to 5 to 1.

Budget Update:
Treasurer Alison Shim presented the budget breakdown for the semester. Allocations for Communiversity and were kept the same at $8500. A change was made to budgeting for IT which was given $1250 as compared to previous allocations of $700. The change in IT funds was due to additional domain expenses due to a change in IT. The Undergraduate Student Life Committee was allocated $1700 to support the free fitness classes program and an additional $500 to fund the Other Side of Me photo campaign which will be brought back this year. Each Senate project was allocated $500 with the exception of a project concerning sexual misconduct
which was given $700. The Movie Committee was given $18000 which Shim clarified was subject to change, as the Committee is aiming to host more current showings in the Garden Theater which will cost more.

**CPUC Meeting Recap:**
U-Councilor Wendy Zhao presented a recap of the CPUC Meeting that took place on February 20th. At the meeting President Eisgruber went over the contents of his annual letter and discussed the role of the University as a platform for rigorous debate. A notable example of the University’s continued role in the social and political arena included Eisgruber’s signing a letter in opposition of President Trump’s executive order to ban students from visa access. Further points addressed the Class of 2020’s exceptional socioeconomic diversity compared to previous classes as well as a strategic 3-step framework that would enable the University to continue reaching out to the rest of the world.

**Academics Update:**
Academics Committee Chair Patrick Flanigan presented a committee update regarding calendar reform, the role of USG in discipline review on-campus, and the Academics Committee application process. Flanigan reported that the Committee was waiting to hear back from Dean Prentice and President Eisbrugger, and would be unable to move forward with calendar reform for the time being. Flanigan also provided updates on the Discipline Review Committee, stating that proceedings were kept confidential and to keep in mind that the Senate should take an active role in examining the honor roll alongside the four sections of the Disciplinary Committee (Honor Committee, Committee on Discipline, RCBD, and Sexual Misconduct).

**Eating Club Referendum:**
U-Councilor Olivia Grah presented updates and led discussion on the role of USG in moving forward with the Eating Club Referendum from fall semester. Grah stated that the Referendum made clear that the writer intended for a committee to be established stating “Establish standing committee that works with ICC annually to collect demographic information on the eating clubs.” Grah further noted that response to the Referendum would be made in three phases after interviews with the members of ICC, which were currently taking place, were completed. The Eating Club Referendum Team would later write a position paper for the Senate to vote on and a charter for the committee as well as commence data collection. Questions and answers clarified that constitutionally, the Senate was bound only to approve a position paper. Possible avenues of data-collection included race, gender, and academic major. Grah stated that the primary goal was to work in conjunction with ICC, as USG has no authority over ICC.

**Informal Meeting Minutes**

USG Senate Meeting Notes
President’s Report

CPUC Meeting last monday
- More of a town hall
- Eisbruger did presentation and then student faculty asked questions

Dean Avens and Smitha - committee looking to launch survey to see what students want to change esp East side of campus
- Help them recruit that information

Be sure to know what’s happening around campus
- Useful to read the Daily Prince and the Tab/Press Club
- Know what’s happening at different universities
  - Lots to gain

Action Items
- Dean dolan and dean dunn
- Continue with eating club referendum

Dan Updates
- Hit Hotspots bc prox access
- Emails to project leaders so can meet and discuss and move forward w/ projects

Emily Chen Update
- Lots of feedback for the center of psychedelic study
- Eleusis (check sp)
- Focus on academic discourse and interdisciplinary discussions
- Q → under description still says CIPS? → A still going by Eleusis
- Q → explanation of name?
  - A it’s supposed to be a reference to something in greek mythology that relates back to psychedelics, not offensive
  - Q → name famous as underground psychedelics producer. University rights and responsibilities says that groups can associate w/ anything but the U doesn’t condone the use/possession of drugs etc.
  - A → every meeting will start with “we do not condone the use of illegal substances in any way”
  - A → professors have been talked to and concluded that group is very discussion oriented
  - Q → correction to Eleusis
  - The background of the name → one of the rituals was done in Eleusinian mysteries/rituals, broke fast by taking psychedelic drug (alluding to this myth)
  - Q → able to vote on group w/o name
- A → no. have to vote on group WITH name.
- Q → can we invite group to explain if we vote to rename again?
  - A → yes
- Vote “Eleusis” 11 for, 1 against, 11 abstain (does not pass, bc must have 50% of people present that are for it to pass)
- Motion to vote again
  - More than ⅔
- Vote “Eleusis” 15 for, 1 abstain, 5 against
  - Approved

Budget Update
- The total ~$200,000 (173,600 allocated for this semester… about 44,000 about how much we have as a buffer for the semester)
- Things todo this semester
  - Communiversity budget kept same (8500)
    - Took note because communiversity sometimes has last minute funding requests
  - IT: because of how IT is now operating, there are more domain expenses (1250, in the past was 700)
  - USLC: Other Side of Me photo campaign will be brought back (+500 for photographer and location
    - Free fitness classes kept the same
  - Senate Projects (each project gets $500)
    - Sexual misconduct will get 700, but everything else is 500
  - Movies Committee: the budget has always been 18000, but LaLa Land cost more than typically. More current showings for this semester which would cost more, but because movies are current and unpredictable as well as garden theater negotiations, subject to change later in semester
  - Everything else the same with office allocation and social allocation
- This year we will not be ordering placards, so will decrease the office funds
- Waiting for approval from Dean Dunne, before budget 100% approved
- Q → “based on the way IT is operating now,” what does that mean?
  - A → we use a lot of different domains, and what Maxine has said is that they are trying new/different domains. Bc we spent more last semester we are anticipating for this semester
  - A → IT now goes by TigerApps, providing more funds for Apps created by students (HackPrinceton)
    - Would give students small budget to develop their apps
- Vote: 23 approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

CPUC Meeting recap
- Eisgruber went over contents of annual letter
  - U continues to be the platform for rigorous debate
    - signed letter in opposition for Trump’s executive order to ban students from visa access
    - this year’s freshmen class has more socioeconomic diversity than other classes
    - strategic framework 1) access 2) continuing liberal arts 3) princeton being research U and reaching out to world)
  - Questions are what people asked during town hall

Academics Update
- Calendar reform: committee stuck until hear back from Dean Prentice (Dean of Faculty) and Eisgruber
  - Will move forward after hear back
  - Afterwards 2 Committee on course of study and committee of faculty schedule
- Discipline Review Committee
  - Proceedings kept confidential
  - Review disciplinary practices across all four boards on campus
  - USG should take active role in examining honor roll
- One of the members of committee working with mcgraw to do digital learning initiatives
  - Mcgraw willing to work w/ professors
- Reviewing apps M, W and interviews Th, F
  - Reading the apps only by the application (blind reading)
  - And then bringing in the major demographics etc.
- Q → (calendar reform), if disapproved what steps could the academic committee take?
  - A → stuck if “red light”, but rn looks like it’s set to go
- Q → have all committee members read applications, has this been done before?
  - A → yes
- Q → 4 sections of Disciplinary Committee? What are they?
  - Honor Committee, Committee on Discipline (COD), RCBD, Sexual Misconduct
- Q → lobby faculty support? Academics committee or senate?
  - A → everyone. Flanigan most interested in Graduate student election, and frontrunning candidate is very focused on calendar reform

Eating Club Referendum
- “Establish standing committee that works with ICC annually to collect demographic information on the eating clubs”
- All USG has to do is position paper
- Referendum makes clear that the writer intended for a committee to be established
  - Interviewing with ICC to get information right now
  - Phase 1: come back with position paper ready for senate vote
- Phase 2: to write charter for the committee
- Phase 3: committee commences and data collection begins

- Recommendations Senate have/collected?
  - Q → constitutionally we are only required to respond to position paper?
    - A → Yes, when referendum is passed to binding, Senate must take response to a position paper. Right now, we just need to investigate to come up with this position paper. Likely that Senate will consider the establishment of the committee.
  - Q → even though the referendum intended to establish a committee, do we actually have to create a committee?
    - A → any referendum just “asks”
    - A → constitutionally, the effect of the referendum is that we issue a position paper… that paper may compel us to enact certain things, but we don’t have to create a committee
    - It may be that this is a project and something that doesn’t carry the weight of the committee
  - Q → Where is the authority of USG over ICC?
    - A → USG has no authority over ICC, the goal is to work in conjunction with them. USG can in no way force/prompt them to do this. Just as the referendum does not force USG to form a committee, USG cannot force ICC to collect data
  - Q → Is it possible that USG considered that this was not something USG had to undertake?
    - A → this is just something to consider right now
  - Q → what’s the difference of the rolls ICC plays in the eating clubs?
    - A → the ICC can’t really do much, but the main power goes to the GICC (graduate college). ICC transition as well as semiannual meetings of GICC take place in March
  - Q → what demographics looked at?
    - A → race, gender, academic major. We are looking for what demographics to look for during interviews. Maybe income, but that’s pretty charged right now.
  - Q → do eating clubs collect demographic information right now?
    - A → most do not.
    - A → TI released gender breakdown (possibly) a couple years ago
  - Comment from Senate (CFS) → the income demographic wasn’t asked for by the student body, so consider not pursuing that in the letter
  - Q → how would the data be presented? Outliers? Variation? Average skewed? (ex: income)
A → we are not in a position to say because it is so early in the process.
A → giving medians would be most accurate potentials, also giving quintiles and quartiles
A → in terms of data collected/presentation of data, ultimately an agreement reached by all members of established standing committee
CFS → Potentially consider the “are you on financial aid or not?” question instead of the raw numbers
Q → what about non-politically charged demographics (%athlete, %international, etc)
CFS → report from eating club task force has some of that information (available online), which would be a good place to start
Q → when would the data be collected? Pre-post-bicker? When is the appropriate time?
A → the referendum says that it would be bickerees as well as members of the club
Q → 2-part demographic process, would you only do a demographic of those that are accepted who bickered or only those who bicker and those who are already in the club?
A → not sure. But potentially forms to fill out every year for all current members

Close Time - 5:54pm