Formal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting
Lewis Library Bowl 138
Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 5:00pm

*Session began with Senate singing Happy Birthday to Ruby Guo, Class of 2019 Senator

Princeton Private Prisons Divestment Group:
The Princeton Private Prisons Divestment Group (PPPD) sent spokespeople Daniel Teehan and Eliot Callon to speak to the Senate about their movement. Teehan began with an overview, stating that the group started with eight members last spring with the goal of getting the University to consider divestment from private industries including private detention centers and services contracting exclusively to carceral states and charging exorbitant fees. The Group began meeting with the Resources Committee of CPUC last year where they were instructed to meet three primary goals before the Committee would consider their proposal. These included proving campus consensus, demonstrating sustained support for their cause, and ensuring that their overall goal fell into the University’s core values. Teehan and Elliot felt these were met with an Undergraduate referendum passing with 89% voter turnout and a Graduate student referendum passing with 85% voter turnout as well as widespread faculty report. According to spokespeople Teehan and Callon, despite fulfilling the requests asked for by the Committee, the Resource Committee ended up rejecting PPPD’s proposal. As a result PPPD made the decision to lead a walkout at the CPUC meeting taking place on March 27. Teehan and Callon stated that because PPPD had sufficiently presented their case, they were now moving to reject the legitimacy of the University’s approval process as a result of Administration dishonesty and lack of transparency.

President’s Report:
President Myesha Jemison presented meetings she attended over the previous week with former USG President Aleksandra Czulak and Dean Dolan and Dean Cologniuri. Czulak and Jemison discussed future meetings with Administration that would benefit USG. Additionally, Jemison, alongside Academics Committee Chair Patrick Flanigan and former Academics Committee Chair Shannon Osaka, discussed with Deans Dolan and Cologniuri, mutual goals and how they would play out in PathToPrinceton. A key issue discussed was prospective students’ lack of information on academics at the University prior to matriculating. A major push would be to increase access to that information earlier on. Jemison also met with Honor Committee Chair Carolyn E. Liziewski to discuss diversity in upcoming spring recruitment, and to ensure steps would be taken towards concrete action moving forward. After presenting meeting updates with Caillan Hong about the Independent Students Advisory Board and with the Service in Civic Engagement Steering Committee, Jemison concluded by announcing a new non-voting USG position for an official parliamentarian that would be knowledgeable about the Constitution and Helios system. The application would be going out in the next USG email and would only be open to students outside USG.

CPUC Update:
U-Councilor Nicholas Wu presented an update from the March 27th, 2017 CPUC meeting. Wu first briefed the Senate on University-Town relations stating that the amount of funds towards the Princeton
Township had increased over the past years and would continue to increase slowly at a rate of 4% annually. Twenty-two million dollars had been spent over the past 7 years. This increase could be attributed in part to the agglomeration of Princeton Borough and township as well as neighborhood restoration, funding to the PFARS facility and firefighters, and money spent on Tiger Transit and Bus Share. Wu also reminded the Senate about Communituniversity which would be coming up later in the month. Wu went on to discuss Divestment as the second major event of the CPUC meeting. Wu provided information on the events transpired at the meeting including the PPPD walkout and the Administration’s belief that PPPD had not provided enough empirical evidence to warrant approval from the Resources Committee. The Administration further stated that PPPD had presented an incomplete proposal, failing to look at the broader pictures and mention private prison accreditation.

**Project Team Position Paper - Eating Club Referendum:**
U-Councilor Olivia Grah presented an Eating Club Referendum Position Paper to the Senate whose responsibility was to reject or support it and provide the paper to University Administration. Throughout the writing process, Grah along with Class of 2019 Senator Andrew Ma, Class of 2018 Senator Eli Schechner, and Public Relations Chair Maya Wesby met with the author of the referendum and other pertinent parties to aid in background research. Included in the paper was a history of the eating clubs as well as arguments in favor of and against the Referendum. The paper recommended the Interclub Council (ICC) to adopt a statement of principles for eating club transparency and to pursue the collection of demographic information of each eating club. The Position Paper was approved by the Senate on the vote of 19 for, 0 against, and 1 abstaining. As a result of its passage, the Project Team would move forward to draft a charter.

**USLC Update:**
University of Student Life Committee (USLC) Chair Tania Bore updated the Senate on a meeting with Vice President of the University Calhoun and on the status of projects being pursued by USLC. An important point addressed was a presentation by Executive Director of Public Safety Paula Minsky on non-uniform building hours across campus. USLC would be working to change the hours alongside the University. Bore followed up with Director Ominsky to inquire if the list of all registrar classrooms posted along with building hours information could be published on the University website. Bore also met with Cailin Hong to discuss the completion of the Menstrual Product Initiative. Bore announced the possibility that the newly chartered health subcommittee would help the initiative in launching a medium sized trial run. Bore concluded by stating that the USLC would no longer be handling “The Other Side of Me” photo campaign as Jenny Zhang former USLC Co-Chair, would work separately with Vincent Po. This drew questions from the Senate and would be brought up later after Senate members contacted Zhang and Po about the issue and change in plans.

**Social Committee Update:**
Social Committee Chair Lavinia Liang announced the release of an April 5th teaser video for Spring Lawnparties, along with digital and physical announcement of the Headliner for the event. Liang asked Senate members to change their Facebook cover and profile pictures to advertise the announcement, and provided an update on the Battle of the Bands event which would be completely digital this year. The student act would be announced Monday, April 18th. Liang further reported that the Coachella on the
Lawn event was in its planning stages and would take place on Friday, April 21st. The alumni arts mixer was scrapped as the Social Committee realized it would be spending more time and resources on other events. Liang stated that the Social Committee would possibly be asking for more funding for Coachella on the Lawn in the near future.

**CCA Committee Update:**
Campus & Community Affairs Chair Christine Jeong provided the Senate with updates on Restaurant Week and Communiversity. Jeong estimated that 30 groups would be participating in the flag parade at Communiversity this year. Jeong further met with the Arts Council who suggested changing Communiversity booth locations. A specific application for student groups and final performance schedule had also been secured and could be accessed by Senate members upon request.
[Informal Meeting Minutes]

Start Time: 5:04pm

Sang Happy Birthday to Ruby Guo Class of 2019 Senator

Princeton Private Prisons Divest Group
- princetondivest.com
- Overview: (spokespeople not formal representative)
  - Started as a group of 8 last spring to get princeton to consider divestment from private industries, this also includes private detention centers and services that contract exclusively to carceral state (health care providers that target, etc. other people that charge exorbitant fees)
  - Began meeting with Resources Committee of CPUC
    - Started process last year
  - 3 primary “must meets”
    - 1) campus consensus
    - 2) demonstrated and sustained support
    - 3) falls into University’s core values
- Undergraduate referendum passed 89%
- Grad student referendum passed 85%
- Also had faculty support so felt that demonstrated what the resources committee asked for
- Committee said that despite that we had fulfilled all of those requests, would be rejecting the proposal (“had individual reasons from the committee but none that they were willing to provide publicly)
  - That is why the event at the CPUC meeting happened last monday
- Invoked public concern now, so PPPD expected them to present the decision on Monday which they did
  - PPPD presented their case, and rejected the legitimacy of the process as it had been going on so far and then led a walkout
- Questions:
  - Q: Could you address why you left the meeting before the Q&A period, because that would have helped make their lack of transparency apparent and possibly provide reasons?
  - A: inside the room was filmed afterwards and that video was watched and PPPD still rejects their reasons. The reason we left the room is because the baseline of this is that we are refusing to interact with the resources committee any longer… may sound inflammatory but this is after a year of interacting with them, and that has come down to them not engaging themselves fully with our proposal and with our meetings. They have not fulfilled the role they are supposed to which is to vote and have unanimous decisions which is something that when they rejected our proposal they told us they did not have. There was consensus that they wanted to reject the proposal but not for any specific reasons they would give us.
- A: the broader point as well is that we weren’t walking away from the discussion. The problem is that when we’ve been engaging with terms they put forward, they’ve been interacting with us dishonestly. They have violated their own procedures, they haven’t followed their own standards and we felt that the CPUC was another one of those spaces. We wanted to demonstrate that we could converse on our own terms and in our own spaces. The simple fact is that the University and administrative bodies have not been dealing with us honestly.
- Q: What are your next steps if you refuse to deal with the resources committee?
- A: We are in an active process of moving forward what we started Monday was a change of tactics. What makes it difficult about engagement is that when we met with the committee, they said that that was their decision for the year. We asked how they expected us to proceed and they said that we could put it forward again last year. That’s not what the said at the CPUC meeting because we demonstrated public interest. We will only get the university to change their terms by explaining the diverse forms of power we have on campus and that’s already started happening.
- A: Just to explain the process of approval - the resources committee has to recommend divestment to the financial part of the board of trustees and then the board votes on it. So in saying we are no longer interacting with the committee we are not saying we are not interacting with Admin, we want it to go immediately to the Board of Trustees
- Q: The resources committee conceded they were willing to look at redone proposal what it lacked in the first proposal? If you’re not going through the resources committee do you want to be there advocating yourself and if you’re willing to look at second version are you not considering that either?
- A: the broader issue we’re trying to get at is that the admin has not proceeded articulately with their own procedures. Extremely frustrating to be met with a brick wall after a year of hard work. The resources committee has changed their own procedures several time through this process. We’re not yet convinced that they’re taking this seriously enough that we’re publicly willing to re engage with them. Our goal is to get the University to divest from the private prisons industry.
- Q: what has the admin done in response to what has been done Monday?
- A: the administration hasn’t done anything. The most apparent reaction so far is how the U has been dealing with the press. We expect more interaction this week.
- A: The ways in which the admin has been done has been through the press and it’s been trying to streamline the narrative of the admin about what happened at the CPUC meeting, saying stuff like “well it hasn’t been rejected yet.”
- A: We care about getting the university untangled because it’s unethical. The way the U has responded has only been semantically and on smaller aspects that are irrelevant and hindering the long-term goal.

President’s Report
- Met with Aleks for future meetings with admin that would be beneficial to USG
- Dean Dolan, Cologiuri, Aleks, Patrick, Shannon → talked about mutual goals and how that would play out in path to princeton
- Students don’t have that much information on Academics, don’t see how they will engage with that until they’re on campus
- One of the things we’re pushing for is that they will have access to that information much early on
- Looking at calendar reform working group
  - Connor Pfeiffer
  - Vilches Santiago
  - Will meet to discuss the history of the calendar so they have good foundation
- Met with honor committee
  - Talked a lot about how to look at diversity in upcoming spring recruitment
  - Making sure we’re actually putting in work to make sure it will happen
- Cailin Hong
  - Independent students advisory board and independent students project to see the
distinction between groups and how they’ll play in ODUS side and USG side
- Service in Civic Engagement Steering Committee
  - Eisgruber placing more emphasis on service through different centers and activities
  (ROTC) that aren’t traditionally linked to the idea of service and making sure that
students are doing service
- Next CPUC meeting = May 1st
  - Encourage senate to promote people to vote and increase the voting turnout
- Lawnparties Launch week
- New non voting position
  - Official parliamentarian that works with USG
  - Knowledgeable about Constitution and Helios system
  - Application will be going out in the next USG email (one of the requirements is that the
person be a figure outside USG
- Questions
  - Q: is that one or two positions?
  - A: one position
  - Q: the u trying to increase service focus, but how exactly is the PACE center going to
support ROTC etc?
  - A: they’re extending their definition to include people who engage in different types of
service not housed by the center. Working to launch service in the classroom course.
Asking how they will engage with students to want to take the course.
- Q: Is the order for new furniture following through?
- A: Yes that’s happened. The furniture is for the lounge side and is coming in before end
of this month. But in addition also focusing on other side of office (more storage space
and ways to make office more able to transform for various needs)

**CPUC Update**
- **Two Main parts**
  - University Town Relations
- Amount of money towards princeton township has increased a lot and will increase slowly at rate of 4% annually
- 22mil over 7 years
- Now that princeton borough and township agglomerated the numbers look higher
- Restoring neighborhoods, building housing (affordable housing units)
- PFARS facility and firefighters, and both are in conjunction with princeton students
- Had someone come in to talk about what he did in Tiger Challenge
- Money also goes into tigertransit and busshare
- Lots of community development projects
- Communiversity coming up later this month
- Divestment
  - Laid out history of what’s happened in the past
  - Only time princeton divested was with Apartheid and with Genocide gov in 2006
  - Struck down movement to divest from companies
    - Sandy hook, gun companies
  - 4 main pillars you have to reach, and even if you have met with all four they still reserve right not to go through with the proposal
  - One of the more important one is that it must have a direct contradiction to one of Princeton’s core values
  - Admin → not enough empirical evidence, also not complete proposal
    - Not specific enough proposal
    - Not looking at broader picture
    - Didn’t mention private prison accreditation

**Project Team Position Paper (Eating Club Referendum)**
- Recap
  - Our responsibility as usg is to write a position paper and to reject or support and then provide position paper to the Administration
  - History of eating clubs
  - Met with author of referendum and other pertinent parties to aid in background research to aid with the issue
  - This paper summarizes arguments in favor and against and then recommendations
  - Recommend: ICC adopt statement of principles for eating club transparency, recommend pursuit of demographic information
- Questions:
  - Q: USLC subcommittee by USG or by VP Calhoun?
  - A: We just mean within USG.
  - Q: What is my (Tania) responsibility for this committee?
  - A: Specifics would come under the charter and amendment of the charter, so that part has not really been established yet, and steps moving forward would be to talk to you (Tania).
  - Q: are we going to make any recommendations about the data collected?
  - A: that is something that will be discussed in the actual charter of the committee.
- Q: in terms of addressing the previous question, when you draft a charter, will it be specific questions and demographics or will that fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction?
- A: we are not in a position to say at the moment. What’s critical for now is what’s in the paper and those recommendations.
- Once we vote if it is approved the project team will
- Move to add “USG” in front of “USLC Charter”
- Second to last word is “eating”
- Vote: 19 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining
- Request to not Publish the position paper on the website until after submitted to the committee
- The charter will also have to be worked on by the senate

USLC Update
- General big meeting with VP Calhoun
  - Paula Minsky gave a presentation on non-uniform building hours across campus
  - Info kept within USLC but looking to share with Executive Committee
- Be SHAQ goal is to collect data it falls under them instead so Cailin will be more so following up with that instead
- Q: Treasury Budgeted other side of me but we won’t be funding anymore?
- A: Yeah, we won’t
- Q: What’s the reasoning that there can’t be the same intent but different people etc.??
- A: They want to have it start right now, and we were thinking May so calendar is strange.
- Q: Strange that someone no longer on USG wants to work on it separately? Larger reason why?
- A: Did reach out and inquire and the general reasoning was that she and Vincent were the main people working on it.
- Q: Haven’t other Universities done it? It wasn’t her original idea?
- Response: Vincent probably wants to take it on as his portfolio project so he would be the affiliation.
- Moving forward by meeting with Jenny and Vincent.

Social Committee Update
- April 5th Teaser video
- Digital as well as physical announcement
- Meeting with main artist may happen as well (not confirmed)
- USG Changing cover photos
- Battle of the Bands will be completely digital
  - People apply up to this Friday
- Student act will be announced on Monday April 18th
- Coachella event also in planning stages (Friday, April 21st)
  - Please bring preview frosh!
- Scrapped alumni arts mixer because realized didn’t have time and resources for that
- May have to ask for more money for Coachella on the lawn so might have a proposal later
CCA Update
- Restaurant Week
- Communiversity Updates
  - Talked to psafe
  - Reserved front lawn
  - Estimate ~30 groups will participate in flag parade
- Met with arts council
  - Suggested change of communiversity (booth location etc.)
- Will have sports clinic for children
- Passed application for student groups and finalizing performance schedule (let Christine know if you want a specific list)

Q: Could we make clear that businesses were seeing a return in restaurant week?
A: Difficulty is that it’s hard to track down who came and where they went so we haven’t thought of any other ideas yet to track down how many students go to what restaurant and how much they save.

S: Maybe have restaurant check.
  - Kevin from PPP is sponsoring event