Formal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting
Frist MPR B
Sunday, March 6th, 2016 4:00 pm

Mental Health Initiative Board Update
Mental Health Initiative Board Chairs Nathan Yoo and Sarah Sakha spoke about plans for the coming semester. In collaboration with the CONTACT program, which is a suicide hotline run through PACE, MHI plans to provide a night time hotline called Peer Nightline for people who want to talk about personal issues in cases where they do not feel comfortable speaking to someone face to face. The group is also looking into orientation programming and seeing if there are ways to create a stronger tie between the SHARE play and MHI activities as well as incorporating MHI programming into Dr. Chin’s report. Although there are no specific recommendations in regards to CPS reforms as of yet, major policy goals have been listed out, which include reducing CPS wait times, creating an online platform to sign up for appointments, reducing the stigma associated with CPS, assessing the leave of absence policy, and better programming for students transitioning into and out of the school as a result of mental health issues.

President’s Report
President Aleksandra Czulak gave her weekly President’s Report, updating the Senate on the meetings she has been involved in over the week. The Diversity and Equity Committee applications closed on Friday and out of the 13 applicants, the chair of the committee will be selected within the next two days. Czulak recently met with the UMatter staff and the transportation meeting with USLC Chair Jenny Zhang. There are plans to have Kim Jackson from the Transportation Office come to a meeting in April to speak. The referenda open houses are this week and the deadline is March 14th. Czulak hopes to meeting with Career Services.

Attendance Policy Recap
President Aleksandra Czulak and Vice President Jeremy Burton gave a recap on the Senate attendance policy, reiterating its importance and placement in the Constitution. Czulak is interested in the possibility of changing one aspect of the policy, where voting members who are going to absent are required to have a substitute, preferably someone in their class year. Czulak plans on looking in to change that policy in terms of who can become a substitute because this could be a good opportunity to get other students who are already USG members to be more involved in the Senate, as opposed to someone who is not involved in USG. Communications Committee members also may not be required to come to all meetings in the future. A final comment made was that missing two meetings consecutively or four in total will subject a member to be put up for assessment.

Constitution Recap
U-Counselor Ethan Marcus gave a recap of important aspects of the Constitution. The Constitution is very long and reading it all would be unnecessary for most. However, the Senate rules, regulations, and expectations sections are very important. The focus for today is revising the standing rules for resolution writing and passing. Marcus is the appointee designated as the
Constitution point person and as it stands, anyone can write resolutions, which take 50% +1 majority to pass. From here on out, to bring a resolution to the floor in a specific week, let Czulak and Marcus know at least a week beforehand and meet with Marcus to draft the resolution to ensure it is being drafted with the correct language. Any passed resolution will be uploaded with the full vote onto the website. Seeing as these are new standing rules, it requires a vote by the Senate. With no abstentions and 22 in favor, this resolution passes.

Committee Updates
CCA Chair Michael Cox reported about Communiiversity and Restaurant Week, which are the main activities being planned right now. Over 30 booths are signed up for Communiiversity, including non-student groups like Public Safety. Another side goal is to try and diversify the performance groups at the event and trying to have non-dance groups. CCA is also starting to reach out to restaurants for Spring Restaurant Week, which will be the third week after spring break. Academics Chair Shannon Osaka reported on the current status of the Academics Survey, which is still open. So far, 1861 undergraduates have responded, which is 31% of the undergraduate student body. It is a good figure, but the aim is a 50% response rate. Dean Marsh will send out two more emails as a reminder to students. All Senate members are encouraged to tell their friends about the survey. Social Chair Rachel Park spoke a lot of programming that Social Committee has been working on, including Lawn Parties. The website for the event will launch after spring break. The group is organizing the food vendors, especially because the day is longer and more vendors are needed. The Committee is also actively looking for student DJs as of now to go on before the headliners come on. Other events include a speaker series and Battle of the Bands, set for April 15th at Colonial. The group is also aiming to have 2 student arts collectives, which will be arts nights held at Campus Club. USLC Chair Jenny Zhang is working on a project called Career Closet and is working with Career Services to see if students can have a way to borrow formal attire for interviews, since some students might not have some of these clothing items already purchased. Zhang also has a meeting lined up with Dorian Jackson, the head of housing, to discuss the idea of temporary proxes or unlocking all first floor bathrooms for all buildings. A last point brought up is the idea for a photo campaign focused on insecurities, titled Love Yourself. The goal is to have it be an outlet to destress during reading period and a way to publicize student photographers.

Agenda Setting
At the next meeting, which will be held after spring break, topics for discussion will tentatively include a big projects review, especially focusing on recent surveys that have been sent out (specifically the pequod and RealWorld Princeton surveys). Bike Accessibility will be discussed as well as the budget for February/March, the Timeline project, and the Diversity and Equity Committee activities.
Informal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting Notes
Call to Order 4:03

MHI

- Nathan Yoo, Sarah Sakha
- Got board approved, one of the larger boards
- Peer Nightline, collaborating with CONTACT (hotline run through PACE, suicide hotline), provide a night time hotline for people who want to talk about personal issues who don’t feel comfortable speaking to someone they know face to face, something that has been done at other schools, idea came from Ivy League Mental Health Conference
- Orientation programming, Matt is reaching out to different bodies that have programs during orientation, stronger tie between SHARE play and MHI, tie between sexual health, assault, and relationships with mental health, also incorporate MHI initiatives in Dr. Chin’s report
- Dinner, media campaign on the biochemical and psychological effects of mental health
- How the mental health policy works in terms of CPS and time off, detailed report on those operations
- Meet with Calhoun on March 30
- No specific recommendations yet, but have major policy goals listed out
- Reducing CPS wait times discussed, create an online platform to sign up for appointments, reduce the stigma associated with CPS, campaign and awareness projects, assess the leave of absence policy, smooth out the kinks in the policy, how to help students transitioning out and into the school as a result of a mental health leave of absence, emergency campus response
- Reassessed Mental Health Week, drew many people to apply to the board, planning for the next MHW which will be in April
- Dallas: can you speak to the state that reducing CPS wait times/online platform creations, how that has improved
  - Sarah: spoke to Dr. Chin, implementing a formal system is difficult, no formal online scheduling system that can accommodate informal meetings/meetings that are squeezed in, possibly make a system that allows people to leave their names and CPS can get back to them, reducing wait time will require student testimonies and take those to administrators so that CPS can get more funding to hire more counselors, CPS does not want to make it seem like there is ever appointments available which might come from an online scheduling system
- Shannon: the graduate student government is also interested in mental health issues, so maybe you could reach out to them

President’s Report

- Aleksandra Czulak
- Diversity and Equity Committee applications closed on Fridays, new chair will be someone brand new, someone that has not been on the committee, 13 applicants, will have chair selected in the next two days, work with the chair to select the committees, 7
individuals who applied to be the chair, will look more closely at the applicants and assess if one or two chairs will be appropriate

- Met with UMatter staff, website has a lot of great content
- Went with Jenny to a transportation meeting, presented at the USLC meeting, have Kim Jackson come to a meeting in April, regular meetings with her
- Referenda open houses are this week, deadline is March 14th, hard deadline, Senate-approved changes to the referenda process from last semester, interesting learning experience
- Hoping to meet with a few administrators on Friday, will be on campus for the second half of break, hopes to meet with Career Services
- CPUC March or May meeting, transportation will present there, let Naimah know if anyone has any questions/topics of discussion regarding that and they can bring it up

Attendance Policy

- Aleksandra Czulak, Jeremy Burton
- Attendance Policy has stayed the same, attendance policy in the Constitution is very clear about those guidelines
- Concern of Czulak’s, thinking very seriously about changing it
- Best practice, sometimes difficult to get a class officer to come, other students in your year to come, good way to get other students involved, encourages students to run
- Looking to change that policy in terms of who can be a substitute
- Under Shawon’s term, all communications committee members also had to come to meetings, Czulak will talk to Cion about if their attendance is mandatory
- Work with Burton to change the structure of USG Senate meetings
- Missing two meetings back to back or four in total subjects a member to be put up for assessment, any comments?
  - Brandon: has seen non-class officers at meetings, what’s up with that?
  - Jeremy: first step is class officer, second step is anyone in your year, thinking about just scratching that first step in general
  - Naimah: might be ideal to have other USG people here, like other committees, are they aware they are ideal candidates to be substitutes? Should we let them know that they are good candidates and that they should strongly consider being a substitute if asked?
  - Aleks: good point, we will definitely talk about that later

Constitution

- Ethan Marcus
- Constitution is very long, no one has to read it all, unnecessary
- Read the Senate portion, Senate rules and regulations and expectations
- 23 voting members of the Senate, 6 class senators, 10 UCouncilors, 4 standing committee chairs
- Constitution has provision that Senate can make standing rules for Senate procedures
- Today will be for revising the standing rules for resolution writing and passing
- Anyone can write resolutions, resolutions take 50%+1 majority, the budget and new committees typically require resolutions to approve
- Ethan is the appointee designated to be the Constitution point person
To bring the resolution to the floor in a specific week, let Aleks and Ethan know at least a week beforehand, meet with Ethan to draft the resolution with the correct language, then submit and vote

- Uploaded with the full vote onto the website

Myesha: what is the procedure when you have a proxy?
  - Ethan: tell them to use their judgment, tell them how to vote, or tell them to abstain

Streamlining of the process
Shannon: this is a lot of work for Ethan, wondering if it is necessary/would it be more streamlined if the person who wants to bring up the resolution writes it themselves and then just sends it over to Ethan to proofread
  - Ethan: people have a lot of difficulty in the structure and language of Senate resolutions, would be easier for him to meet the interested parties, not restrictive, if you want to write it on your own, you can do that, but Ethan is just there as an assistant in drafting

Aleks: statistically, resolutions during Shawon’s term were presented once every other month, administrator opinion was that they were useless without an active dialogue on the issue, working more on discussion before passing resolutions, trying to make resolutions meaningful, keep in mind who it is being communicated to

Ethan: can see examples in the packet

- 2/3 majority vote on the resolution that is in the agenda today, we actually have to vote on these new standing rules

Aleks: can you touch upon who you represent when you sit on the Senate?
  - Ethan: always keep in mind your constituency, Senators your Senate and then the university at large, UCouncilors have to keep in mind undergraduates and then university at large, put student interest ahead of your own conscience/interest

Resolution 1-2016
- No abstentions
- 22 in favor, none not in favor

Committee Updates
- Michael, CCA
  - Mainly working on Communiversity and Restaurant Week,
  - Rapid response for Communiversity, 30 booths signed up, including some that aren’t student groups like PSafe
  - Not working specifically on performing groups, but it is either maxed out or they are still waiting to close it to diversify the groups, lots of dance groups that responded right away and they might want to try to get other types of performance groups
  - Starting to reach out to restaurants for Spring Restaurant Week this coming week
  - Meeting on Wednesday for all interested

- Shannon, Academics
  - 1861 undergraduates, 31% of the student body
  - 300 faculty, 25% of the faculty
  - 25% of the graduate students
  - Dean Marsh will send out two more emails
Technically closes on Thursday, but actually closes on Monday
Aiming for 50% response rate, can definitely get there at the end of the week
Bug your friends to take the survey
Will pass out a link to be shared this coming week
Katie: in advertising the survey, emphasizing the fact that this is something that can genuinely have impact, some people were confused about if this survey is just to gauge student opinion or if it is actually something that bears weight in action moving forward
50% just undergraduates, not entirely focused on graduate students and faculty, optimistic that 50% will be reached for faculty, no way to gauge interest of graduate students,
Brandon: has GSG been publicizing the survey as much?
Michael: breakdown per class? Seniors might not really care?
  - Aleks: that is something we assume so often, over the last couple of years, the seniors have been pulling more and more of the weight
Jacob and Kishan: positive feedback
Social, Rachel
  - Lot of new programs that they are working on right now
  - Lawn parties website looking to launch after spring break
  - Organizing the food vendors, looking to add two more vendors just because of the longer day
  - Someone is spearheading the dining hall swipe option, Lavinia is working on it, outside brunch options
  - Looking for student DJs for right before the headliners come on, not really sure how to go about accepting applications for that, any ideas about that, contact Rachel
  - Speakers and events, Lyon is working on that
  - Battle of the Bands for April 15th, big event for the spring at Colonial
  - Aiming to have 2 student arts collectives, arts nights at campus club
  - Naimah: in contact for social chairs at eating clubs? They have lots of contact with student DJs, would be a good place to get people
  - Brandon: with the dining hall thing, might be a potential opportunity to collaborate with the 2019 class government because they might be the ones without eating club dining options
    - Rachel: would like to have the voice just be from the undergraduates as a whole, Lavinia working with coops, not just for students in dining halls, for everyone
USLC, Jenny
  - Working on a new project called Career Closet, working with Career Services for students to borrow formal attire for interviews, some students might not have a blazer purchased, looking to have this option for students to be able to access on Handshake, so when people sign up for interviews, they can check a box if they want to borrow clothes
  - Concern by Jenny is that other schools is that the clothes need to be dry cleaned before being returned, but that might not make sense here where there are so few services
- Meeting with Dorian Jackson, head of housing, to discuss temporary proxes or unlocked first floor bathrooms for all buildings
- Photo campaign focused on insecurities, good way to link into reading period, outlet to distress during a time of stress, titled Love Yourself, use student photographers
- Shobhit: Career Closet, have you already talked to Career Services? Will different sizes be available?
  - Jenny: working with FSI and Career Services, not too sure if we will purchase the clothing ourselves, but the idea has been discussed, looking to have all sizes available, everything is still in discussion stage
- Naimah: idea to have students donate clothes? Have current students add to this closet?
- Dean Dunne: human resources does that every year, basically work clothes for people in need, have been doing it annually for a decade, the recipients aren’t necessarily Princeton people, but is a community organization, targeted at work interview clothing, will contact Jenny

**Agenda Setting**
- Idea to have a meeting on the Sunday, gauge everyone’s availability, working with members of ExComm now that we have all of our appointments through, survey sent to all of Senate
- Big review of all the projects that the Senate has been doing, committee projects reviewed more in ExComm, two things on the agenda for sure
- Miranda’s pequod survey
- Cailin’s survey also got a lot of responses in its first few hours, RealWorld Princeton
- Bike Accessibility, just met with Kim Jackson, soft launch on March 31st, actual bike stalls at 8 different locations on campus, will explain, the town got a grant for the state of NJ
- Next chair for Diversity and Equity should come in
- Budget
- Timeline Activity