Formal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting
Frist MPR B
Sunday, March 27th, 2016 4:00 pm

Diversity and Equity Committee Update
The Diversity and Equity Committee Chairs, Adetobi Moses and Taylor Branch, spoke about the recent formation of their committee and activities they have planned for the rest of the semester. The new committee consists of many freshmen, one sophomore, and one junior, and they see it as a good way to start the committee off with members of younger classes. Many of the events currently being planned will be for the fall semester of the 2016-2017 year. Current project ideas include gap year advising for students who are transitioning back to Princeton, whether they are a freshman or an upperclassman. They plan to take a collaborative role with other student groups which include, but are not limited to, Latinx groups, LGBT groups, the Office of Religious Life, and the Women’s Center. The focus is for the committee to be very personable and to have more active events, as opposed to just surveys. The Senate voted and approved both the new chairs as well as all members of the committee.

Graduate Student Government Update
Graduate Student Government Communications Director Jonathan Balkind sat in on the meeting and provided a GSG update. A new executive team was set up and they are in a transition period for everyone to get adjusted into their roles. Ideas coming from GSG include having a graduate student center or space in the center of campus, more resources from Career Services and fellowship advising, getting more involved with the administration, McCosh immunization services, and getting more involved with Mental Health Week, with the possibility of hosting their own. Balkind will serve as the liaison to the Undergraduate Student Government and is especially looking forward to working with undergraduates on how to better increase awareness of GSG initiatives.

Projects Board Fund Requests
Projects Board Chair Naman Jain had two separate fund requests to present. The first was from the Princeton Texans Club who was looking to host a barbecue for the afternoon of April 2nd. The group recently held a similar event this past fall and it was a really big hit where food ran out within an hour. The event will be held in the Campus Club backyard and with the nicer weather in the spring, the group is expecting a larger turnout and is thus requesting more money. Jain explained that with this unique club identity, it was difficult to think of other funding possibilities and the Projects Board was the most appropriate. With no abstentions or votes against, this proposal was approved. The second group was the Princeton Film Festival group who have an upcoming festival. This is the second year of the festival and it is scheduled for April 15th through April 17th. They will screen films from across the world including those from student filmmakers. They currently also have funding from the Alcohol Initiative and the Lewis Center for the Arts, but they still need some funding for the guest speakers, the director of I Smile Back and a University of California Northridge screenwriting professor. With no abstentions or votes against, this proposal was approved.
President’s Report
President Aleksandra Czulak explained that a few updates were taken out of the agenda to accommodate for the upcoming executive session. Vice President Jeremy Burton will set up a form soon to collect feedback on the Timeline program, which all Senate members are required to test. Czulak recently met with Sergeant Ryder from the Office of Public Safety with concerns about the Washington Street cross walk and is currently in communication to improve that system. There is a possibility that the Senate will be invited for a tour of the Public Safety office, separate from the fall’s emergency preparedness presentation. Czulak also recently met with University Service Administrators and the Senate helped brainstorm ways to reach out to students who stay on campus during the summer and/or in the area but do not physically live on campus.

Bike Share Program Update
U-Councilor Ethan Marcus gave a short update on the recent implementation of the Zagster bike share program. With 10-15 bikes at each of 8 locations spread across campus, the Zagster bike share program is officially open. There is a one time $20 registration fee and students can use bikes for up to 2 hours for free (after that, every additional hour is $2). The system will be implemented throughout the entire town by the fall and all residential colleges will have them, among other buildings, when the second phase rolls around. Zagster is coming twice a week to move bikes back to appropriate locations, but they are looking towards the university to do that eventually.

Budget Report
Treasurer Hunter Dong presented the February budget and expenses to the Senate. The month’s budget is visible in the packet and is relatively straightforward, simply displaying all the expenses that hit the USG Senate account this past month. There were no issues. Dong stated that if anyone has any questions, they can direct them to him privately.

Project Updates
Vice President Jeremy Burton gave a short update for all the current Senate projects. The Staff Appreciation Event project will have something going out this week looking for volunteers and securing a banner. The Housing project is the only one having a little bit of trouble and is going through restructuring, with the possibility that members will be placed onto different projects. RealWorld Princeton had their first event this past week and had really good feedback. They had a representative from the Financial Aid office come in to talk about budgeting and tax returns. 30-40 students were in attendance and they will continue with this project in the future. Burton emphasized that in the future, when emailing administrators, first contact Burton and Czulak beforehand to make sure that administrator has not already been contacted and cc them in the actual email as well.

Executive Session
As per the handbook, which was recently revised at the end of last year, the referenda process includes a step where the wording of each of the referenda has to be sent to the Institutional Research Office to ensure neutrality in the wording and a lack of bias. However, this office was not aware of the role they were meant to play in the referenda process when the handbook was revised, and thus, when the proposals were submitted this year, they stated that they were not
comfortable being involved in the referenda process at all. They held that administrative involvement in any way could sway the process. The Senate voted to approve the movement of the meeting into executive session and all non-Senate members were asked to leave the room. According to the handbook, there is no alternative way to move forward. The Senate needed to find a way to deal with this situation because the start day to begin collecting signatures for the referenda was to start the next day, so this was a time-sensitive situation. A Senate resolution was voted on and passed that stated that for this one time, the Senate will act in place of the IRO, authorizing the Senate to approve the wording of the 2 referenda questions. The handbook will be revised at a later date in time for the next referendum timeline. The Senate will now be responsible for approving the wording of the language of each referendum. Issues that came up in the discussion of the wording included how in Question 3, there is no distinction made between domestic and international corporations and how there should be more clarification there, in Question 1, part 3, it is unclearly worded how we are trying to mitigate the degree to which mental health affects the choice for students to take a leave of absence and how the words “mitigating” and “taking into consideration” have very different implications, and how the review of standard punishment should be clearer. The final consensus is that the groups that submitted each of the referenda should be notified and they should change the language themselves after hearing the Senate’s comments. Vice President Jeremy Burton will later send out an email and the Senate will conduct a final vote online with the final wording of the referenda.

**Agenda Setting**
Topics for next week will include a CPUC update from the upcoming CPUC meeting, a presentation on the new Ask Me Anything feature, a Timeline update, and a project workshop that will be held popcorn style.
Informal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting 3/27/16
Frist MPR B
Call to Order 4:02 pm

Diversity and Equity Committee
- Chairs Tobi and Taylor
- Students that were added to the committee
  - Lot of freshmen, one sophomore, one junior, 8 students (including Jeremy)
  - Good way to start with students in younger classes
- Started the committee late, a lot of planning for events are going to be for fall semester of 2016-2017
- Gap year advising who are transitioning, either as freshmen or older
- Collaborative role with other student groups
- Working with different centers, Latinx groups, LGBT, ORL, Women’s Center
- Pushing for this committee to be very personable, topic that requires a lot of face to face interactions
- More than just surveys about feeling marginalized, shooting for more events where students can come to work with other leaders and get their concerns and ideas in person
- Approval of chairs: no abstentions, 19 for, no against
- Approval of nominations for their committee: no abstentions, 19 for, no against
- Brandon: any returning committee members?
- Aleks: three are seniors, two will be helping out with COMBO report, the one junior will be studying abroad in the fall, opportunity to revamp and start fresh, working on newer initiatives as well as building off previous ones

GSG Update
- Jonathan Balkind, communications director
- Executive team set up just before spring break, transitioning
- Number of things that they want to discuss with USG
- Would like to have a graduate student space/center in the center of campus, kind of like the USG space
- More help with Career Services, fellowship advising
- Getting more help from the administration
- Getting more involved with Mental Health Week, have a time that they can get involved
- As communications director, he is the liaison to USG, have someone from USG come to GSG meetings
- Lots of issues that overlap
- Upgrading lighting and other safety options, working with PSafe
- Didn’t consult graduate students about immunizations, GSG does not have access to all of them
- Pushing for calendar reform, has been working with Shannon on that
• Increasing awareness of GSG initiatives, USG recently has done something like that, so they are looking for advice
• Can contact Jonathan, jbalking@princeton.edu, or gsg@princeton.edu if there are any pieces of advice or areas of collaboration or questions
• Shannon: working with GSG, especially with meetings with administrators, enhances the process so that admins know that something is important, has had a great experience with collaboration, bridging the gap between undergraduate and graduate students draws a lot of attention
• Naimah: co-sponsoring and co-advertising events for MHI in the past has been effective, but there could be better opportunities for co-hosting MH week in the future
• Katie: communications director for USG, open to communication with GSG
• Aleks: will be going to two more meetings this semester, connecting more

Projects Board
• Naman presenting
• Princeton Texans Club barbecue
• Princeton Film Festival
• Presidents of Texans Club, this coming Saturday, had one in the fall, really big hit, ran out of food within an hour, asking for a little more money to accommodate the bigger turnout, nicer weather, will be in Campus Club backyard
• Shobhit: how much did you request last time?
• Meredith: last time, $2000
• Ethan: are we the only source of funding?
• Meredith: yes, we haven’t really contacted other groups for funding
• Naman: given that this is a unique club identity, it was difficult to think of other funding possibilities, Projects Board was the most appropriate
• Aleks: what else does Projects Board expect for the rest of the semester?
• Naman: spring usually has more requests than fall, $10,000 extra just from USG funds this spring that were leftover, funding Night Market was a lot but now that Night Market will be during Preview, $10,000 in Preview funding, 29 applications came in this week, at least 6 or 7 of the big ones, they are using separately sequestered campus funds, money set aside specifically for innovative events, we’re probably going to be close and use up all the money, but no shortfall is expected, better events are coming in with more engagement with the student body
• Approval: no abstentions, 19 in favor, no not in favor, approved
• Princeton Film Festival President, Emma, Treasurer Emma
• Second year, 4/15 – 4/17, 54 films from across the world, including student filmmakers, short film and screenwriting competition and festival
• Funding for guest speakers, director of I Smile Back and UCNorthridge screenwriting professor, giving advice and some of the work they have done in the industry
• Funding from the Alcohol Initiative (midnight films on Friday, opening concert and horror movie screenings), and Lewis Center for the Arts
• Extended time by 3 minutes
• Hunter: what funding did you get from the other groups?
Emma: from Lewis, paying for some of the honoraria, and for the flights, from Alcohol Initiative is for publicity and food, Projects Board is funding the rest
Approval: no abstentions, 19 in favor, no not in favor, approved

President’s Report
• Taken a few updates out of the agenda to accommodate the executive session
• Jeremy will set up a form to collect feedback on Timeline
• Shannon: USG endorsing Timeline is worrisome because it’s really bad
• Aleks: that’s something for later on in the semester, now it is just time to give feedback and find the bugs, we are only one of three departments piloting the program
• Shannon: can we get responses to our feedback?
• Aleks: we can get a second demo person come in and they can give some responses to the feedback we give
• Referenda timeline is available
• Met with Sergeant Ryder, concerns about the Washington cross walk, in communication about that, is USG interested in going for a tour of PSafe?
• Knowing that calling PSafe is acceptable for friends that are in trouble
• Ethan: didn’t we already have one?
• Aleks: that was an emergency preparedness presentation, this would be more of a study break at the PSafe building, Jeremy will put it in the weekly email
• Met with University Service Administrators
• How can we reach out to students who stay on campus during the summer but don’t actually live on campus?
• Aileen: reach out to natural sciences departments specifically
• Naimah: CBLI
• Shannon: PICS internships in the area

Bike Share Program
• Ethan Marcus
• 10-15 bikes at each of 8 locations
• one time $20 fee
• up to 2 hours for free
• every additional hour is $2 more
• coming to the town
• all residential colleges will have among other buildings in the second phase
• Zagster is coming twice a week to move bikes, moving towards getting the university to do that
• Bikes can be taken back to anywhere
• Time extended by two minutes
• Brandon: what if a bike rack is full?
• Ethan: they can lock it to any pole if they are going to use it afterwards, could add on slots in the future
• Miranda: how many students are signed up?
• Ethan: not sure on the number, but lots are signed up
• Cailin: is this permanent? Or is it just a pilot?
• Ethan: this is permanent

Budget Report
• Hunter
• Relatively straight forward, expenses that hit our account in the past month
• No issues this month
• If there are any questions, you can direct them toward Hunter

Timeline Activity
• Get Matt to come in instead to have another info session

Projects Updates
• Good progress for all of them
• Staff Appreciation will have something going out this week for volunteers and getting a banner
• Housing project is having a little bit of trouble, going through restructuring
• RealWorld Princeton had their first event this past week, heard really good feedback
• Kishan: had someone from the Financial Aid office come in to talk about budgeting and tax returns, lots of questions being asked, really good event, 30-40 students in attendance, will continue with this project in the future
• Jeremy: side note, when emailing administrators, email Jeremy and Aleks beforehand and cc them in the email
• Jonathan: Passport to the Performing Arts Report, someone suggested the idea of being able to swap tickets between students, the idea was well-received, to make sure tickets are all being used, will talk to Kishan about that, project leader
• Jeremy: will send a more in-depth email later, in Monday’s Senate email

Executive Session
• Motion approved, 19 in favor
• About the referenda process, a couple of groups proposed referenda
• Those proposals are meant to be sent to the IRO, Institutional Research Office, they were meant to review the wording to ensure neutral wording and no biases, the proposals were submitted and Jeb Marsh said that they did not feel comfortable being involved in the referendum process, did not want administrative involvement that could sway the process in any way
• Executive session convened because we need to pursue some options on how to move forward, because according to the handbook, there is no way to move forward
• The referendum process was changed last semester
• Signatures can start tomorrow, Dr. Marsh’s response is appropriate
• Ethan: we got notification from Marsh on Friday evening, in order to stay on schedule, we are going to a parliamentary method, this one time, we are going to pretend the IRO clause does not exist and we are going to move on, have the Senate act as the IRO for this one time because the IRO approval was supposed to happen this week
• Sung: the referendum submitted by the Princeton Anscombe Society has been redacted, these groups have to start collecting signatures tomorrow
• Jeremy: what happened was that when the handbook was voted on last semester, the IRO was not notified, they did not know
• Dunne: internal miscommunication, our own doing that got us into this situation
• Shobhit: the resolution is allowing us to authorize this?
• Jeremy: the resolution says that for this one time, we will act as the IRO, authorizing us to take their place and approve to approve or reject 2 referenda questions (1 and 3)
• Jacob: what has the communication been like with the groups that submitted referenda?
• Sung: have been communicating for the past week, to ensure clear language and effective communication
• Ethan: we are now concerned with changing the language, assuming we approve the resolution
• Approval of Resolution: no abstentions, 19 in favor, no not in favor, approved
• Jeremy: we will revise the wording of the resolutions as we see fit, then the groups will be notified and can start getting signatures tomorrow
• Jacob: for question 3, no distinction between domestic and international corporations, provide more clarification there, unsure of how broad this was designed to be
• Shannon: question 1, part 3, unsure of the clarity in how it is worded, are we trying to mitigate the degree to which mental health affects the choice for students to take a leave of absence
• Miranda: mitigating and taking into consideration have very different implications
• Shobhit: change the language to “the role of academic violations”
• Jenny: is standard punishment a suspension?
• Sung: it’s either suspension or probation or even expulsion
• Jenny: one part says standard punishment and then it later says finer gradation of the punishment, confusing
• Shannon: review of standard punishment should be clearer
• Jeremy: if we do change the wording, we can’t just assume what the groups mean
• Aleks: if we can get as many comments now/by emails, these groups should be notified of the comments we made and the language has to be set with their approval as well, this might have to be voted through email
• Ethan: our idea is to reduce the bias in the wording of the referenda
• Shannon: assuming we will change the process for this in the future considering IRO’s response, in the week that we have blocked out that IRO has to approve the wording, the groups themselves could come into the Senate so they can talk about it themselves
• Jacob: for question 1, unsure if the goal is to create change or introduce discussion on campus, it might be better for them to list out specific recommendations
• Sung: the original idea was to create a task force and to rewrite this in the handbook, he redacted the second part, so now it the goal is to create a discussion group
• Ethan: asking for clarification on the domestic vs. international aspect of question 3 and for goal clarification of question 1
• Aleks: not comfortable voting on a tentative referendum, go back to the groups and have an online vote
• Ethan/Sung: recommended that we reach out to the groups and tell them that we will take
  on online vote given the situation for the final text of the two referenda
• Motion: no abstentions, 19 in favor, no not in favor, approved
• Motion to end executive session

Agenda Setting
• Mostly moved to core committee
• CPUC update
• Brandon: submit videos for staff appreciation, lets do a study break for that
• AMA – ask me anything
• Timeline
• Big project workshop