Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 3
February 26, 2018
4:30 Lewis Library 134

Attendance
- Diego
- Nate
- Rachel
- Brad
- Tania
- Liam
- Sarah Schneider
- Pooja Patel
- Sydney Jordan
- Kevin Zheng
- Samuel
- Chitra
- Wendy
- Elizabeth Bailey
- Caleb Visser
- Olivia Grah
- Nick Wu
- Kade’s Substitute (Juston)
- Olivia Ott (Nick Ritter)
- Miranda’s Substitute (Todd)
- Dean Dunne
- Preeti Iyer
- Michael
- Ruby
- Alison Shim
- Laura Zecca
- Isabella

Introduction
1. President’s Report (5 minutes)
   a. Thank you!
      i. Thank you to Nate, Olivia and Rachel for planning the retreat!
      ii. Thank you to Kevin and Liz for being present at the events this weekend!
      iii. Thank you to Tori for our new communications strategy!
      iv. Thank you to Brad for setting up a TigerCard meeting!
      v. Thank you to Dora for showing up to the retreat on short notice!
      vi. Thank you to Liam for passing on information about a possible breach in security from ODS!
      vii. Thank you to Diego for today’s resolutions!
   b. This Week
      i. Monday - Meeting with Dr. Calvin Chin
      ii. Tuesday - Finalized details for transition training
      iii. Wednesday - Worked with photographer to finalize website information
      iv. Thursday - Meeting with Dean Dunne, Communication with GSG about Helios, Communications Strategy
      v. Friday - Transition Dinner, Ethan Marcus stepped down
      vi. Saturday - Transition Retreat
1. Retreat included workshops on design thinking, leadership, history of USG, etc.

vii. Upcoming Week
1. Ivy League Mental Health Conference
2. Honor Committee Selections on Tuesday and Thursday (12 applicants)
   a. Voting will occur next Sunday.

viii. Action Items
1. 10 prefer e-mail to GroupMe.
2. We will create an application to fill out U-Councilor Ethan Marcus’ position.
3. USG Involvement in Ivy League Mental Health Conference.
4. Powerpoints from the retreat will be sent out soon. Unfortunately, the presentations were not recorded.

2. Feedback Session (5 minutes)
   a. Question: Was there a benefit to having the retreat off campus?
      i. Having the retreat off campus helped ensure the success of the retreat. Moving forward, we need to be held accountable for showing up to these events because they are costly and are held off campus.
      ii. Three Groups from Retreat
         1. Brad and Tania (Transparency):
            a. Tania and Brad established a new section of the website for each committee.
            b. There was discussion about tabling hours in Frist discussing what USG does.
         2. Diego and Olivia (Accountability within USG):
            a. The discussion centered around the following ideas:
               i. Project team updates during the meetings. Let’s have 2 project teams present updates at each USG meeting.
               ii. Publishing a USG Volunteer spreadsheets. This will show us who is involved and who is being responsible.
               iii. If you are unable to commit fully, don’t be afraid to open a frank conversation with Nate and Rachel about your time commitments and your honest ability to commit.
               iv. More social events can foster bonding and help promote accountability.
v. Suggestion: There should be regulations about how many events per semester you are expected to volunteer at.

vi. Suggestion: Committee chairs should present monthly updates.

New Business

1. **USG Spring 2018 Budget: Alison Shim (10 minutes)**
   a. The total balance remaining from the fall semester is about $280,000.
   b. TigerApps: We are adding a new service subscriptions so this explains the increase in cost.
   c. Senate Retreat: This is a new cost.
   d. Senate Projects: All projects were given 500$ of allocation. A little bit more was provided ($700) to Sexual Health and Misconduct because they did hold an event that requires more funds last year.
   e. The $1500 listed under projects is a mistake and will be fixed.
   f. Office Renovations: We will be changing the USG Office.
   g. Projected General Funds Remaining: These funds could be used for events or groups that need more funding than the original allocation. If there are large events, we have the funds to hold these.
   h. Projects Board: The $40,000 will be $45,000. This correction will be made.
   i. Question: Can there be funds for Alumni Affairs and Communications?
      i. Alumni Affairs could receive approximately $500. There can also be funds allocated under a Communications Committee.
   j. Question: Can USG Office Repurposing be part of a Tiger Challenge team?
      i. Yes, there will be a Tiger Challenge team working on USG Communications so this can easily fall under their jurisdiction.
   k. Question: Are Alumni Affairs and Communications chairs going to be considered core chairs? Will they be attending ExComm meetings?
      i. As of now, no.

   **Voting (Spring Budget Approval)**
   i. Yes: 18
   ii. No: 0
   iii. Abstain: 0

2. **Freshman Advising Proposal: Sarah Schneider (5 minutes)**
   a. Based on her experience as a Peer Career advisor and a lacking freshman advising experience, the idea focuses not on finding better advisors but on educating freshman to make better choices.
   b. Part #1: Academic Focus Groups
i. A group of 10-15 freshman would be led by a PCA, PAA, a student with the same major. This would allow people to learn about what the major is like specifically at Princeton. This would allow them to gain immediate immersion into Princeton’s resources and to establish a relationship with an upperclassman.

Part #2: Modified Career & Life Vision Workshop- Led by PCAs, this could help reach more students on campus. This workshop would be focused on the career journey itself. It would have two goals: 1. Form a better understanding of their values and strengths and 2. Establish how they can use these strengths to shape their Princeton experience. Freshman can also be more open with themselves.

i. Suggestion: There is an auxiliary team that can help you with this. Diego also has a team working on this; Sarah is welcome to attend the meeting.

d. Question: Would these groups be supplementary or would they replace advising groups?

i. They would be supplementary. The workshop would be during orientation or during shopping period in terms of the timeline. In terms of the academic focus groups, ideally, they would meet once during orientation and then several times during the fall semester. If they see fit, these relationships can be extended into the spring.

e. Question: As far as implementation, are you looking to have this implemented by residential colleges during the first year?

i. This would be implemented on a community-wide level. Although it is important for freshman to have these community experiences in their residential college, this would enable freshman to have more breadth in terms of academics. This would be more of a collaborative partnership between USG and Career Services.

f. Suggestion: BSE advising groups are intended to be similar. As a freshman, it may not be sustainable to have so many “support groups” and be committed to each one. It would also be a great idea to have a group for people who are still exploring majors.

g. Academics Committee Concerns

i. Artificial pressure to stay in major
ii. Displace the actual advising structure
iii. Academics Committee will be meeting with Directors of Studies to improve the current system

3. Princeton Rally for Gun Reform Project Proposal: Diego Negrón-Reichard and Caleb Visser (10 minutes)

a. The proposed rally would be on March 14 at 12:00 outside Frist. It is a non-partisan event.
b. This is an opportunity to engage the community to open up a better dialogue.
c. This will also involve working with local high schools such as PHS and community allies.
d. Today, we will discuss USG’s possible endorsement of the event. A formal vote will occur.
e. Concern: Although this can be recognized as a non-partisan issue, it can easily be misconceived as a partisan endorsement.
f. PSafe stores rifles on campus for cases of emergency. This is a change in policy from President Tilman’s ideology that this campus would have no guns.
g. Concern: It is great to bring people into the discussion, but could this be made as an environment where people are able to share their ideas in an open environment?
   i. Answer: Yes, hopefully, there will be space for sharing.
h. Suggestion: This doesn’t necessarily need to be partisan, but rather, we could look at this from the perspective that this affects campus life and policies.
i. Suggestion: This event should be modified to make it more non-partisan-- perhaps planning a vigil for victims.

j. Question: Has USG endorsed events like these in the past? A rally isn’t necessarily the place for conversations.
   i. Zhan-Okuda Lim mentioned that we have an advisory power that allows this to fall under our jurisdiction.
k. Question: Could you tell us about the groups that are participating next week?
   i. Yes.
l. Suggestion: If USG were to sponsor something, would it be helpful if we sponsored a debate with Whig-Clio?
m. Suggestion: We should craft a USG statement regarding the event about our endorsement.

n. Question: What is the benefit for USG to endorse the event?
   i. The benefit is that this would be a legitimate event that would involve more about the student body.

4. USG Budget Audit Proposal (Financial Report Team and Treasury Committee):
   Diego Negrón-Reichard, Brad Spicher and Alison Shim (10 minutes)
   a. In terms of the specific manner in which this project will pan out, in this upcoming week, we will recruit auditors (students).
   b. Starting next week (the week of March 4), with two weeks off for midterms and spring break, there will be 3 weeks of auditing.
   c. There will be an internal USG report and a public report as well.
   d. The idea is to expand the scope of the Treasury Committee. Recruiting someone for this task will help ensure efficiency.
e. Feedback: There is importance in having someone independent to do the audit because it promotes credibility.

f. Question from Dean Dunne: What is the goal of the project?
   i. Come every semester, we are unaware as to how budgets change over the years. Only the treasurer can speak to this. This project will help us communicate to the student body how we are spending the money.

g. Feedback from Dean Dunne: The USG budget falls under ODUS; there are non-USG people that help with transactions. If USG is interested in looking at how we spent our money in the past 5 years, it might be better for us to look at the budgets ourselves and hold ourselves accountable for budget reports.

h. The University views the treasurer position as a one-person job. An outside person would really have to learn a lot in order to properly understand the budgets.

i. Feedback: Lawnparties has a specific breakdown. This is mainly tracked by Diane in Campus Club. There are outside people working on USG finances in addition to the treasurer. There is concern with putting this power to a student because this is a complicated analysis to complete; this audit could be paired between a student and a professor.

j. Question: Did you consider hiring a professional auditing company?
   i. Audit is a strong word; there is nothing inherently wrong currently. The idea is to get a student involved. A professional auditing company was not considered.

k. Motion to vote has been objected. This vote will be tabled.

5. Preview Revamp Project: Diego Negrón-Reichard and Caleb Visser (10 minutes)
   a. USG can be a resource to make preview better. The CCA will make an open call for projects and the Projects Board funding will be expedited for Preview events.
   b. This will encourage student groups to apply to the CCA chair, and the CCA Chair can vet the projects.
   c. Question: Why does this fall under the CCA’s position and not the USLC?
      i. This will help us bring in the community a little more.
   d. Suggestion: CCA should work with USLC as well to account for internal and external community.
   e. Question: What are the standards for a strong preview event?
      i. The event should be inclusive of everyone.
      ii. It will enhance the diversity of events that will be offered. There should be performance events, cultural events, religious events, etc.
      iii. Logistically, an event should be performed during both Preview events.
   f. Question: What is meant by “joint venture”? 
This is a joint venture in that the CCA chair will be streamlining the process.

g. Suggestion: There is concern about calling this a Preview Revamp. Preview is not under the USG’s jurisdiction; it falls under the University’s responsibility.

h. Question: Can a group decide to apply directly to the Projects Board instead of going through this process?
   i. Yes, absolutely.

i. Question: Why should this be passed as a resolution?
   i. Resolutions are public documents. This will help us be more accountable and will increase transparency.

j. Voting (Preview Resolution):
   i. Yes: 16
   ii. No: 1
   iii. Abstain: 1

6. Confirmation of Chief Elections Manager: Laura Zecca (3 minutes)
   a. “As a new member of USG, I look forward to the opportunity to help further our agenda and maintain open communication with the rest of the Princeton student body. I believe by creating this transparency and increasing the clarity of election procedures to ensure fair and smoothly-run elections, more students will be encouraged to participate. In addition to my new position on USG, I am also a member of the women’s varsity lightweight crew team and a Communications officer for the Entrepreneurship Club. I grew up in West Chester, PA, just an hour drive from Philadelphia, though now I go home to Vero Beach, FL.”
   b. Laura believes transparency of USG is really important.
   c. Expectations of positions in USG should be made clear to people running.
   d. Question: What is your vision for the elections process this year? There tends to be more people who apply than people who run. What are your ideas on that?
      i. The campaigning process is unclear and ambiguous, so there should be more clear descriptions about the responsibilities of a position.

   e. Voting (Confirmation of Chief Elections Manager)
      i. Yes: 18
      ii. No: 0
      iii. Abstain: 0

7. Class Senator Engagement: Kevin Zheng and Elizabeth Bailey (5 minutes)
   a. There is little distinction between the position of U-Counselor and Class Senators.
   b. These measures will make senators more accountable to their classmates.
   c. The 2021 class senators are seeking access to class listervs and seeking access to funds for Class Senator study breaks.
d. Question: Is it possible that your efforts can address 2019 and 2020 instead of 2021?
   i. Yes.

e. Question: What is the goal of having access to the class listerv?
   i. This will help serve specifically the interests of the class that the senators are representing.

f. Suggestion: Class Senators can focus on ideas, dates and deadlines affecting a class specifically.

g. Feedback: The social aspect of this should be kept in mind because there is already little distinction between class council and class senators.

h. Feedback: Make sure that information is not repeated to classes between senators and class officers.

i. Moving forward, the class senators may provide a resolution to seek funding for events.

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Action Items

1. E-mail Brad your bio for the website ASAP if you haven’t already done so!