Princeton USG Senate
Meeting 4
March 24, 2019
8:00 PM Lewis Library 138

I. Updates and announcements: Zarnab and Chitra (5 mins)

II. Referendum Approval for Clear and Concise Language: Jonah Hyman '20 and Laura Zecca '20 (1.5 hours)
   A. Sibley Referendum
   B. Umanzor Referendum
   C. Macedonian Association Referendum
   D. Haile Referendum
   E. Wayner Referendum

III. Consent Agenda
   A. Graphic Designer Confirmation
      a. Raya Ward '21
         i. My name is Raya, and I am a sophomore from Atlanta, GA. I am an Independent Concentrator in Human-Computer Interaction and Design which combines computer-science, design, and sociology in a study of technology's effects on us as both individuals and as a society and how to mindfully design and engineer technologies. Additionally, I will be getting a certificate in visual arts. On campus, I am heavily involved with the Art Museum and club swim. My hobbies include visual art, outdoor activities, and keeping up current tech and design trends.
Resolution
Submitting Referendum for Language Approval

Section I: Referendum Petition clear and concise language

In accordance with Section 1002(b), Procedure for Referendum Petition, of the Undergraduate Student Government Constitution, the Senate shall prescribe the proper form and style of a referendum petition.

Section II: Referendum submitted for language approval

a. Sibley Referendum
   i. Shall the undergraduates call on the University administration to (1) establish and execute an annual health awareness initiative educating students on the serious health threat that computer and other screen use poses, and how to protect their eyes from these dangers; and (2) install on campus computers and screens, blue light protection software for use if desired.

b. Umanzor Referendum
   i. Shall the Honor Constitution be amended to change the composition of the subcommittees which select the Clerk of the Honor Committee and other appointed Honor Committee members? Under these changes, future Honor Committee Clerks would be selected by (1) the current Honor Committee Chair, (2) two USG Executive Officers and (3) the two longest-serving elected student representatives on the Honor Committee. Other appointed Honor Committee members would be selected by (1) to (3) above, as well as (4) an additional senior member of the Honor Committee and (5) an additional USG Executive Officer.

c. Macedonian Association Referendum
   i. Shall the USG Senate Constitution be amended to replace “Undergraduate Student Government” with “Government Club”?

d. Haile Referendum
   i. Shall the Honor Constitution be amended to remove standard penalty and
e. Wayner Referendum
   i. Shall the undergraduates call on Princeton University to take decisive action towards reducing carbon emissions by broadening its emission assessments and involving the student body in decision-making and reporting?
Referendum Question No. X
Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Spring 2019
Sponsored by AJ Sibley ’19

Condensation (Ballot Question)
Shall the undergraduates call on the University administration to (1) establish and execute an annual health awareness initiative educating students on the serious health threat that computer and other screen use poses, and how to protect their eyes from these dangers; and (2) install on campus computers and screens, blue light protection software for use if desired.

Explanation (submitted by the Sponsor)
The sponsor’s explanation is due Monday, April 8 and can be revised before that time.

The purpose of this referendum is to express that the undergraduates call on the university administration to bring awareness to a health threat to which Princeton students in particular are vulnerable given typical study habits.

Modern screen use habits particularly those employed by princeton students threaten eye health and can potentially alter life prospects. Ophthalmologist and medical experts are only just beginning to understand the damage being caused to our eyes/eyesight by blue light and screen use. Long hours of screen use, especially when reading text on a white background (eg. typing on a word doc or reading a webpage) has been linked to severe eye strain, Computer Vision Syndrome and Meibomian Gland Disorder.

It is typical for a Princeton student to spend hours in front of a screen each day often intensely staring at said screen without break. It is common that this heavy use will continue late into the night thereby compounding the strain on exhausted eyes due to a high contrast between bright screens and a dark environment.

Currently there are a number of simple steps princeton students could take to protect themselves from the harmful effects of blue light, however there is considerable lack of awareness preventing action from being taken.

Referendum Resolution
Calling on the administration to establish and execute a comprehensive eye health initiative to educate and protect students on the threat that screen use poses and to install blue light protection software on all campus computers.

Whereas computer use poses a significant health threat to current and future Princeton students.

SECTION 1. ADMINISTRATION
The undergraduates call on the administration to establish and execute an annual health awareness initiative educating students on the serious health threat that computer and other screen use pose, and
offering solutions on how to protect their eyes from these dangers; and install on campus computers and screens, blue light protection software for use if desired.

SECTION 2. USG SENATE
The undergraduates direct the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government to form an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of exploring options for eye health awareness campaign initiative.

SECTION 4. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION
The Executive Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an official copy of this resolution to each of the following university officers
1. President Christopher L. Eisgruber ‘83, President of the University
2. Provost Deborah A. Prentice, Provost and Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs
3. Vice President W. Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Campus Life
Referendum Question No. X
Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Spring 2019
Sponsored by Christopher Umanzor ‘19, Honor Committee Member

Condensation (Ballot Question)
Shall the Honor Constitution be amended to change the composition of the subcommittees which select the Clerk of the Honor Committee and other appointed Honor Committee members? Under these changes, future Honor Committee Clerks would be selected by (1) the current Honor Committee Chair, (2) two USG Executive Officers and (3) the two longest-serving elected student representatives on the Honor Committee. Other appointed Honor Committee members would be selected by (1) to (3) above, as well as (4) an additional senior member of the Honor Committee and (5) an additional USG Executive Officer.

Referendum Resolution
Resolved by the undergraduates of Princeton University,

SECTION 1.
Article I, Section B of the Honor Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Composition
1. The members of this Committee will be the presidents of the sophomore and junior classes, former sophomore and junior class presidents, two members of the freshman class, and members to be appointed from the student body at large until the Committee consists of fifteen members.
2. Appointed members.
   a. The freshman first-year class members will be appointed in the fall semester by a subcommittee comprising four members of the Honor Committee and the Undergraduate Student Government president, the Honor Committee Chair, an additional senior class member of the Honor Committee, three voting members of the Undergraduate Student Government Executive Committee as selected by the Undergraduate Student Government President and Academics Chair, and the two longest-serving elected student representatives on the Honor Committee.
      i. In the case that one or more of the elected student representatives on the Honor Committee is unable to serve on the subcommittee, two other positions shall be allocated corresponding to an additional member of the Honor Committee and an additional voting member of the Undergraduate...
Student Government Executive Committee. Under these circumstances, the additional member of the Honor Committee should be a senior class member if at all possible.

b. Following spring Undergraduate Student Government elections, the Honor Committee will solicit applications from the student body at large.

i. The same subcommittee that selects freshman class members will select the other appointed members as well.

c. Appointed members will serve one-year terms, but may seek reappointment thereafter. Committee members seeking reappointment may not participate in the selection process. All members of the Committee excluding the members up for reappointment will reach consensus on whether to retain appointed members or to replace them with a new applicant.

d. All appointments are subject to approval by the Undergraduate Student Government.

SECTION 1.

Article I, Section D of the Honor Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Clerk, Chair and Chair Emeritus

1. Clerk. Every academic year, after the first of December, a subcommittee comprising the senior class members of the Honor Committee, the Undergraduate Student Government president, and the Clerk the Honor Committee Chair, two voting members of the Undergraduate Student Government Executive Committee as selected by the Undergraduate Student Government President and Academics Chair, and the two longest-serving elected student representatives on the Honor Committee will select a sophomore member of the Committee to serve as Clerk of the Honor Committee during the following spring and fall semesters. This subcommittee will interview all interested sophomore members of the Committee and appoint one sophomore by a majority vote. This sophomore member will automatically become a member of the Committee the following year. In the event that the Clerk withdraws from the University, or is otherwise unable to serve as Chair, the subcommittee described above will convene to select a new Clerk from the Committee members in the spring semester of their sophomore year or fall semester of their junior year.

a. In the case that one or more of the elected student representatives on the Honor Committee is unable to serve on the subcommittee, two other positions shall be allocated corresponding to an additional member of the Honor Committee and an additional voting member of the Undergraduate Student Government Executive Committee. Under these circumstances, the additional member of the Honor Committee should be a senior class member if at all possible.
Referendum Question No.
Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Spring 2019
Sponsored by the Princeton University Macedonian Association

Condensation (Ballot Question)
Shall the USG Senate Constitution be amended to replace “Undergraduate Student Government” with “Government Club”?

Explanation (submitted by the Sponsor)
The sponsor’s explanation is due Monday, April 8 at 12PM EDT and may be revised before that date.

The Undergraduate Student Government has the potential to act as the most diverse and representative student organization on campus. However, we believe that USG is currently struggling to attract a culturally and socioeconomically diverse range of candidates, in part because of a reputation for inaccessibility and inefficiency. We believe that it is essential that USG pursue any avenue that may lower the barrier of entry for students who would have previously been deterred from becoming involved in the organization.

Our proposed solution, and the purpose of the referendum, is to change the name of the organization from USG to Government Club. Not only does the name Government Club succinctly convey the what the organization is, but it also comes with a far more approachable connotation. By moving from a very impersonal “USG” acronym to a far more relatable “Government Club”, we seek to lower the barriers to entry and encourage students with less experience with elected politics to join the club.

In frequent meetings of the Princeton University Macedonian Association, concerns have been brought up that students who wish to be involved with USG need to be part of an exclusive group. To remedy that, the university’s leading south-eastern european slavic cultural organization is proud to propose a more inclusive "Government Club".

Referendum Resolution

Amendment to the Constitution of the USG Senate:

Section 101: Name

The name of this association is “Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government Government Club of Princeton University”.
Condensation

Shall the Honor Constitution be amended to remove standard penalty and increase the range of available penalties for Honor Code infractions? After this change, the Honor Committee would be able to recommend penalties from a range of options. In addition to the existing penalties of disciplinary probation, one, two or three-year suspensions, and expulsion, one new penalty would be added and the duration of existing penalties would be expanded. First, a “Reprimand” would be established for minor first offenses, in particular for most overtime violations. Reprimands would not appear on a student’s permanent disciplinary record unless a student committed a second infraction. In addition, an increased range of probationary periods – in increments of months – with a maximum of probation until graduation, and a one-semester suspension would be available. In most cases involving a one-semester suspension, a student's suspension would be followed by a one semester leave of absence, as departmental sequencing and other course requirements necessitate that a student return in phase. The Honor Committee will continue to strive to issue penalties that are fair and consistent and will treat like cases in a comparable manner.

Explanation

Under the current system, a first offense of the Honor Code results in a “standard penalty” of suspension of one year from the University, but the Committee may exercise the option of suspension for two or three years or suspension with censure in particularly egregious cases. In the case of an overtime violation, the Committee typically recommends a penalty of disciplinary probation until graduation. A second violation of the Honor Code typically results in expulsion from the University.

In response to concerns raised by the student body, an academic integrity review process began in the spring of 2017 that resulted in the release of the Academic Integrity Reconciliation Report in February of 2019. This report recommended changes to the penalty structure of the Honor Committee in order to create a wider range of available penalties for violations. This referendum seeks to address the need for a shift from a “standard penalty” framework to a graduated penalty structure in the Honor Constitution. Three specific changes would be made to the Constitution. First, a “Reprimand” would be established for most first overtime violations; this penalty would not appear on the student’s disciplinary record unless the student committed a subsequent violation. A reprimand would include a teaching moment for the student, which would generally come in the form of a meeting with a dean or a member of the student's residential college staff.

Second, the range of available probationary periods would expand from a standard four-year probation to a range (3 - 48 months).

Lastly, the Constitution would establish a one-semester suspension as a possible penalty for violations. Currently, many academic departments' requirements prevent students from taking only one semester away from the University for any reason. Nonetheless, allowing the Honor Committee to note for the record that the disciplinary sanction in certain cases is only for one semester, allows them to adjust the penalty in accordance with the seriousness of the violation. In these cases, a student would take a
subsequent leave following their one-semester suspension. Their disciplinary record would appropriately indicate their penalty of a one-semester suspension followed by a one-semester leave of absence. The Office of the Dean of the College, the Honor Committee, and USG are working with academic departments to identify and address the structural barriers that make one-semester suspensions and leaves challenging at this point in time. Overall, this referendum allows for a wider range of penalties for violations of the Honor Code, allowing for fairer and more commensurate responses to infractions.

Constitutional Amendments

Article 4, Section 4 of the Honor Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

A. Penalties
Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will receive penalties in accordance with Rights, Rules, Responsibilities as follows:

1. Normally, the first offense will result in a suspension of one year from the university. In all cases, the Committee may exercise the option of suspension for two or three years. This rule is subject to the following exceptions: Typically, Undergraduate students are subject to the following penalties for a first violation of the Honor Code: disciplinary probation, suspension for one semester, and suspension for one, two or three years. These guidelines are subject to the following exceptions:

2. Where a student is found responsible for writing overtime on an examination or otherwise gaining a time advantage, the Committee will normally recommend a punishment of disciplinary probation that the student be issued a reprimand and recommend that the student receive a zero for the examination. However, in especially egregious cases of writing overtime, the Committee may recommend a punishment of a one-year suspension may exercise the option to increase the penalty.

   a. Where there are extenuating circumstances, the first offense may result in a penalty of disciplinary probation a reduced penalty. Extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, situations where there was a substantial, material error on the part of an agent of the university, and situations where the Committee fails to conclude that a student should reasonably have understood that his or her actions were in violation of the Honor Code.

   b. A reprimand may be taken into account in judging the seriousness of any future violation.

   c. If perjury occurs, the Committee may impose a penalty of two years for the first offense exercise the option to increase penalty.

1. Normally, a second violation of the Honor Code, or a violation of the Honor Code following a suspension for a violation of the University’s academic integrity regulations, will result in expulsion from the University.

2. Students whose first Honor Code or academic integrity violation resulted in a penalty of probation may face either suspension or expulsion should they be found responsible for a second violation of the Honor Code.

1. In cases adjudicated prior to the last day of classes, if the final decision is a separation from the University (e.g., suspension or expulsion), the student will normally not earn credit for the semester in which the infraction occurred. If the case is adjudicated during reading or exam period or if the student has essentially completed course requirements
while awaiting the final disposition of the matter, obtaining credit for the semester will be at the discretion of the Committee. In such cases, the Honor Committee will normally recommend that the student receive a failing grade in the course in which the violation occurred.
Referendum Question No. x
Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election – Spring 2019
Sponsored by: Claire Wayner on behalf of Princeton Student Climate Initiative

Condensation (Ballot Question)
Shall the undergraduates call on Princeton University to take decisive action towards reducing carbon emissions by broadening its emission assessments and involving the student body in decision-making and reporting?

Explanation (submitted by the sponsor)
The purpose of this referendum is to demonstrate the commitment of the undergraduate student body to rapid, effective climate action and to call on Princeton to strengthen its carbon reduction efforts. We ask for three major actions from the University: more comprehensive emissions assessments to further reduce the campus carbon footprint, a clearer implementation timeline, and better engagement of the student body.

The first priority is the expansion of Princeton’s carbon emissions tracking. The University’s current goal is to reach carbon neutrality by 2046; however, this doesn’t include certain “hidden” emissions, known as Scope III emissions. In order to truly minimize our contribution to climate change, Princeton must start quantifying Scope III emissions. We therefore call for the assembly of a new task force to study campus Scope III emissions and to develop comprehensive reduction strategies.

Our second ask is for the University to set a more detailed timeline for meeting the 2046 goal. We specifically request the establishment of public benchmark dates for reaching 100% renewable electricity purchasing, fully converting the University’s heating/cooling systems to electricity, and electrifying the entire fleet of campus vehicles (categories obtained from the forthcoming 2019 Princeton Sustainability Plan). Public benchmark dates should be used to keep the University accountable in reaching carbon neutrality.

Finally, we believe that the administration can do better at actively including students in the decision-making process. Despite the majority of undergraduates being in favor of strong climate action, students lack awareness of the University’s commitments to carbon neutrality. We thus ask for the administration to send an annual progress report to all undergraduates containing emissions data, status on reaching carbon neutrality, and future decarbonization steps. The administration should also solicit student input, including through a series of public forums, and incorporate feedback into future strategies.

THE UNDERGRADUATES OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Princeton, New Jersey
Referendum Resolution —2019
Potential Referendum Question No. _ (Spring 2019)
Sponsored by Claire Wayner on behalf of Princeton Student Climate Initiative

Referendum Resolution
Calling on the administration and faculty to take firm action towards reducing carbon emissions by broadening its emission assessments to include Scope III emissions and involving the student body in decision-making and reporting.

Whereas the University’s actions are tied to climate change that will increasingly affect its own students, the local community, and all of humanity,

Whereas recent climate research (e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2018 report and the United States’s 2018 National Climate Assessment) illustrates the necessity for more immediate climate action,

Whereas the University, in setting an example for peer institutions and the state of New Jersey, has a responsibility to its students and the world at large to set and achieve a comprehensive goal for carbon neutrality as efficiently and quickly as possible,

Whereas the Princeton University 2019 Sustainability Action Plan outlines a current commitment for carbon neutrality by 2046, established by the 2015 CO₂ Task Force convened by President Eisgruber,

Whereas we value the University’s renewed commitment to carbon neutrality which takes into consideration the ethical and moral obligations intrinsic in Princeton’s powerful influence and resources,

Whereas Princeton’s current carbon neutrality commitment is incomplete, incorporating only Scope I and II¹ but not Scope III emissions,²

Whereas the student body as a whole lacks awareness of the University’s commitment to carbon neutrality, despite a broad consensus among undergraduates in favor of strong climate action because of climate change’s current and projected impacts on future livelihoods and global equity,

Whereas Princeton must accelerate and strengthen its efforts towards carbon neutrality by assessing Scope III emissions and engaging with its undergraduates in implementing its carbon neutrality goal,

Now, therefore, be it

¹ Scope I emissions come directly from sources burning fossil fuels, like the University’s natural gas-powered cogeneration facility. Scope II emissions come indirectly from sources burning fossil fuels off-campus, including infrastructure owned by PSE&G, the University’s local utility.
² Scope III emissions are those associated with indirect activities not directly linked to fossil fuel incineration. Examples include transportation to and from campus, product procurement and purchasing, and food purchasing.
Resolved by the undergraduates of Princeton University,

SECTION 1. FACULTY, DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND ADMINISTRATION
The undergraduates call on the faculty and administration to strengthen and accelerate the University’s carbon neutrality goal by:

(1) Establishing a task force to develop a strategy for tracking campus Scope III emissions. This task force should be comprised of past CO$_2$ Task Force members, as well as other relevant faculty, staff, and administrators. The primary goal is to regularly quantify campus Scope III emissions as well as develop and implement comprehensive reduction strategies. The task force should widely disseminate emissions reports to the student body, invite students to periodic public presentation of findings, and seek student input on emissions reductions strategies.

(2) Setting a clearer timeline for meeting the 2046 carbon neutrality goal by establishing public benchmark dates for the strategies outlined in the 2019 Sustainability Action Plan. These dates should incorporate both faculty and student input and should include deadlines for reaching 100% renewable energy procurement from the grid, fully electrified heating/cooling, and an entirely electric fleet of campus vehicles. We believe that benchmark dates will be a critical indicator of Princeton’s progress towards carbon neutrality and will help ensure that Princeton meets or exceeds its current goal of 2046.

(3) Actively including students in the decision-making process towards a carbon neutral campus. On an annual basis, the administration should send a progress report directly to all undergraduates containing the carbon emissions data for that year, the status of efforts to reach carbon neutrality, and the future steps for decarbonization. This process should solicit student feedback, including through a series of public forums and an online survey form, which should then be incorporated into future strategies.

SECTION 2. USG SENATE
As per Section 8 of the Referenda Handbook, the USG Senate will write a position paper detailing action items to be taken by the administration, as laid out by this referendum. The position paper must be written and sent to the administration by no later than the end of spring 2019 final exams on May 25, 2019.

SECTION 3. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION
The Executive Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an official copy of this resolution to each of the following university officers:

(1) President Christopher L. Eisgruber ’83, President of the University
(2) Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President for Campus Life
(3) Shana Weber, Director of the University Office of Sustainability
(4) Denise L. Mauzerall, Co-chair of 2015 CO$_2$ Task Force, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Public and International Affairs
(5) KyuJung Whang, Co-chair of 2015 CO$_2$ Task Force, Vice President for Facilities