

Referendum Question No. 1

Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Spring 2019

Sponsored by CLAIRE WAYNER '22 on behalf of Princeton Student Climate Initiative

On March 24, 2019, the USG Senate approved the language of this condensation (ballot question) and referendum resolution as being neutral and clear (13 members in favor, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstaining).

Condensation (Ballot Question)

Shall the undergraduates call on Princeton University to take decisive action towards reducing carbon emissions by 1) establishing a task force to develop a strategy for tracking campus Scope III emissions, 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, and 3) actively including students in the decision-making process towards a carbon neutral campus?

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

Referendum Question No. 1 (Spring 2019)

Sponsored by CLAIRE WAYNER '22 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 II but not Scope III emissions;

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

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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ Task Force, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Public and International Affairs.
- (5) KyuJung Whang, Co-chair of 2015 CO₂ Task Force, Vice President for Facilities.

Approved April __, 2019.

LAURA ZECCA '20,
Chief Elections Manager

Attest:

CLAIRE MCCARRIHER '21,
Executive Secretary of the Senate.