Referendum Question No. 4
Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Spring 2019
Sponsored by CHRISTOPHER UMANZOR ’19, Honor Committee Member

On March 24, 2019, the USG Senate approved the language of this condensation (ballot question) and referendum resolution as being neutral and clear (11 members in favor, 0 members opposed, 1 member abstaining).

Condensation (Ballot Question)
Shall the Honor Constitution be amended to (1) change the composition of the subcommittee which selects the Clerk of the Honor Committee and (2) change the composition of the subcommittee which selects the appointed membership of the Honor Committee? Under these changes, the Clerk would be selected by 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. Also under these changes, the appointed membership of the Honor Committee would be selected by the Honor Committee Chair, an additional senior class member of the Honor Committee, one to 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.

Explanation (Submitted by the Sponsor)
This reform seeks to 1) democratize how the membership and leadership of the Honor Committee are selected, and 2) create a more transparent, inclusive, and representative selection process.

As stated in the Constitution, the Honor Committee as an institution is designed to “represent the student body.” However, today’s selection process—as formalized in the Constitution—does not necessarily reflect this important objective. This referendum addresses this issue in two ways.

First, it formalizes the process by which several elected representatives from USG Senate are invited to join selections. This has increasingly become the practiced norm, but is not explicitly stated in our Constitution. Formalizing this process would ostensibly prevent this important accountability feature from being forgotten in the future.

Second, it specifies that the student committees presently responsible for selecting the membership and leadership of the Committee ought to be modified to comprise primarily elected student representatives. This includes the aforementioned members of USG as well as the members of the Honor Committee who are also elected student representatives: currently, the Class Presidents. These students are not only elected by the student body but have Honor Committee experience and training, both of which are helpful to ensuring that the students selected for the Committee are able to do the job. With these elected students joining the Chair for selections, the representativeness of the selection process decidedly increases without detriment to the level of Honor Committee experience useful for promoting high recruitment standards.

As Recruitment Coordinator for the Honor Committee for the past two years, it has been my pleasure to sit on various selections, and I am proud of the work we have done. Notwithstanding, I believe that these changes entail an important step toward ensuring accountability on the Honor Committee remains a vital precept.
Resolved by the undergraduates of Princeton University,

SECTION 1.

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

B. 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 \textit{freshman first-year} class, and members to be appointed from the student body at large until the Committee consists of fifteen members.

2. Appointed members.

   a. The \textit{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 \textit{the Honor Committee Chair}, an additional senior class member of the Honor Committee, one to 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. \textit{Under these circumstances, the additional member of the Honor Committee should be a senior class member if at all possible.}

      ii. In the case that a senior class member is unable to serve on the subcommittee, the Honor Committee chair shall select another member of the Honor Committee.

   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 first-year 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.

3. Ex officio members. The newly elected sophomore and junior class presidents and the newly appointed members will normally become members of the Committee at the beginning of the fall term following their election/appointment, but, if needed, can serve on the Committee immediately after their election.

SECTION 2.

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

D. 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.

   b. In the case that a senior class member is unable to serve on the subcommittee, the Honor Committee chair shall select another member of the Honor Committee.
2. **Chair.** The Clerk will become the Chair of the Honor Committee at the beginning of the spring semester in their junior year. In the event that the Chair withdraws from the University, or is otherwise unable to serve as Chair in the spring semester of their junior year, the Chair Emeritus will serve as Chair until they graduate, at which time the Clerk will become Chair. In the event that the Chair withdraws from the University, or is otherwise unable to serve as Chair, in the fall semester of their senior year, the Clerk will become Chair.

3. **Chair Emeritus.** The former Chair will take on an advisory role, in addition to their responsibilities as a committee member, as Chair Emeritus during the spring semester of their senior year, to guide the new Chair. The Chair Emeritus may serve as acting Chair if needed.

4. **Evaluation.** Each Honor Committee member that is not currently nor ever has been the Clerk or the Chair will be afforded ONE opportunity to "evaluate" the Clerkship or Chairship. The evaluation process will proceed as follows:
   a. A member of the Honor Committee will initiate the process by providing a statement outlining their reasons for the evaluation to both the Undergraduate Student Government Senate President and the sitting Chair of the Honor Committee. The member should declare upon submission of this statement whether or not they plan to continue with the subsequent steps of the process, keeping in mind that they are allotted only ONE opportunity to conduct an evaluation.
   b. If the member chooses not to continue with the subsequent steps of the process, the evaluation ends here. If the member chooses to continue with the process, both the member that has submitted the evaluation and the Clerk or Chair then under evaluation will interview before an independent committee. This will only take place provided that the member belongs to the constitutionally appropriate year for the position under evaluation.
   c. The independent committee will be selected by the Undergraduate Student Government President and composed of nine students. Three of these students must have at least one full semester on the Honor Committee, at least one of whom must be a current member of the Honor Committee. The remaining students must be elected Undergraduate Student Government Senate officials.
   d. The independent committee will then determine by a two-thirds vote whether the sitting Clerk or Chair will be replaced in their executive capacity by the member submitting the evaluation.
   e. Should the independent committee choose to change the Clerkship or Chairship, such a change is only to take place the following semester, thereby providing a period for transition during the recess.
   f. The independent committee will release a statement outlining the criteria upon which the outcome was decided, regardless of whether or not there was a change. This will be done with due consideration for confidentiality for all those involved in the process.
Laura Zecca ’20,
Chief Elections Manager

Attest:

Claire McCarriher ’21,
Executive Secretary of the Senate.