Formal Minutes

USG SENATE MEETING
February 10th, 2012
Frist 309, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Statements

- Shawon Jackson calls the meeting to order. Luc Cohen, Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Princetonian, welcomes the new members of the USG senate and encourages a healthy relationship between the senate and the Daily Princetonian, noting that the "no email interviews" policy still stands. Shawon Jackson and Carmina Mancenon outline the administrative meetings that they have had and will have.

Approval of Project Board Chairs

- Jared Peterson and Eileen Lee have been nominated to be co-chairs of the Projects Board. They both give personal introductions, then are kindly asked to leave the room for an approval vote. Shawon Jackson outlines the reasons for their nominations, and calls a vote of approval. The senate votes to approve the nominees with 21 votes of approval.

USG Projects Presentation

- George Jian presents to the senate new changes in the organization of USG projects, including the implementation of advisory groups and consistent updates by project leaders. He will work with senators and u-councilors on projects, and Carmina Mancenon will oversee committee projects. Mr. Jian leads the senate in a discussion of how to increase transparency and student interest in USG projects.

Spring Semester Bagels Event

- 2016 Senators Ella Cheng and Eduardo Lima lead the senate in a discussion about the spring semester bagels event which took place on the first day of classes. Particular emphasis is placed on the addition of a bagel distribution location at Fine Hall to serve math and science students, and whether this change was effective. The senate also provides suggestions for how to improve the event in the future.

USG Budget Approval

- Christina Yu presents to the senate the proposed budget for the Spring 2013 semester. She specifically notes the funding available for pilot programs, the social committee budget, and USG office supply charges. She leads a discussion

with the senate in how to reduce unnecessary office supply charges. The motion passes with 0 against, 1 abstention, and 22 for.

Fund Request for Mental Health Week

- Elektra Alivisatos presents the proposed events and budget for USG Mental Health Week. Ms. Alivisatos, Farrah Bui, and Bruce Easop lead the group in a discussion about the appeal of the new ideas and where funding should come from. Greg Smith of the Undergraduate Student Life Committee makes the distinction between the Mental Health Week fitness classes and the free fitness classes hosted by USG, and where their funding differs. The fund request with 20 for, 1 abstention, 0 against.

Agenda Setting

- Shawon Jackson adds Tiger Universe, Lawnparties, and a tentative funding request for free fitness classes to next week's agenda. Zhan Okuda-Lim adds a recap of the CPUC meeting set to occur this week.

Informal Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.

Opening Statements

- Shawon Jackson:
  - Review of theme for the year, "to lead is to serve".
- Luc Cohen, Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Princetonian:
  - Prince will cover USG events
  - He is the point person for questions/concerns.
  - Exciting year for Prince – new website. Dedicated to transparency.
    - "No email interviews" policy still stands. Contact for misquote concerns.
- Shawon Jackson:
  - He and Carmina will be meeting with various administrators
    - Working with cultural student groups

Approval of Project Board Chairs

- The nominees, Jared Peterson and Eileen Lee, both give personal introductions, then are kindly asked to leave the room for an approval vote.
- Shawon Jackson:
  - Explains why Jared and Eileen have been recommended for approval. Jared was a committee co-chair last year, and has excellent technical ability. Eileen sat on a co-committee, asked great questions in meetings, and kept big picture in mind.
- 21 vote "For," both nominees are approved
  - Dillon Sharp makes a point of procedure, asking if approval votes are allowed during the open session or if they should be done during Executive Session.
    - Shawon Jackson will check the USG Constitution about procedures for approving appointed positions.
    - (*Secretary's note: Dean Dunne later confirms that approval votes should occur during Executive Session.*)

USG Projects Presentation

- George Jian:
  - This year there will be changes in the organization of projects, with the implementation of advisory groups and consistent updates.
  - Projects from the committees at-large will go straight to Carmina Mancenon, and George will work with senators and U-councilors. 3

different groups: internal projects, internal/external projects, and external projects.
    - George will send out more information in a later email.
- Discussion questions:
    - George Jian: How should project updates be presented to the student body?
        - Zhan Okuda-Lim: USG should improve on updating the list of ongoing projects on the USG website. Shawon should provide periodical links to the list in his school-wide emails.
        - Zach Ogle: Agrees that emails are more consistent reminders of the project list.
        - Sarah Wiley: Does the Prince take into account the weight of projects? Publicity from the Prince only on the most weighty projects may increase accountability.
        - Richard Lu: USG could create a listserv for students who want to be more "in the loop." This listserv could solicit ideas from the students and would by nature target students who are most involved.
        - Carla Javier: It is hard to find and target a "critical mass" of people who are interested in USG projects.
    - George Jian: Should the USG actively seek feedback on projects outside of USG?
        - Deana Davoudiasl: USG could provide a feedback box on the website. Notes that USG already solicits feedback from relevant administrators.
        - George Jian: We could get feedback more efficiently.

Spring Semester Bagels Event

- Ella Cheng: A major change to this event from last semester was adding a table in front of Fine Hall to accommodate math/science students. What were the effects of this change?
    - Zhan Okuda-Lim: He was a volunteer at Fine Hall, and the station definitely reached a different group of students. In the future USG should cut down on bagels at this more remote location, but overall it was a good change.
- Eduardo Lima: Should the quantity of bagels be adjusted?
    - Zach Ogle: We should distribute the quantity differently.

    - Sarah Wiley: Did bagels run out at McCosh Hall? If so, more bagels should be placed at McCosh than Fine, but the same amount should be ordered since there were some left over.
    - Shawon Jackson: Bagels did not run out at McCosh.
    - Dillon Sharp: Having only 50 bagels left over is very close to our target mark. This is an indication of efficiency, and he applauds the 2016 Senators for that.
    - Eduardo Lima: Extra bagels were taken to Frist Campus Center after the event.
    - Charissa Shen: One year, bagels were distributed at 1879 Arch. Should USG consider adding this location in future bagel events?
    - Dillon Sharp: Math and science students have provided good feedback about having a station at Fine Hall, so we should keep that location.
    - Zhan Okuda-Lim: Based on observation, cinnamon crunch bagels were the most popular this year.
    - Elan Kugelmass: Where did the student head count come from?
    - Ella Cheng: It is based on last year's numbers, and is therefore approximate.
- Ella Cheng: Was there enough help for each shift?
    - Dillon Sharp: There were three people for signed up for some shifts, which is unnecessary. There is virtually no work involved.
    - Charissa Shen: In the future, shift times should end 10-15 minutes before the next round of classes so that volunteers can get to class on time.
    - Zhan: Volunteers should be free 15 minutes before class. I was the last person at Fine Hall, and cleaned up mostly alone until more volunteers came. Coordination of cleaning-up after events should be better planned.
    - Deana Davudiasl motions to extend time by one minute, the motion passes
- Ella Cheng: Should USG consider other options for bagel suppliers in the future?
    - Carla Javier: Students may enjoy bagels from Einstein Bros. since they are more rare to acquire on campus than Panera.
    - Dillon Sharp: Other companies should be researched for a cheaper alternative, but Panera always meets the students' needs for quantity, quality, and variety of products. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

USG Budget Approval

- Christina Yu: Please note: USG has approximately $5,000 more to spend on pilot programs, which does not include carry-over from the fall. Dean's Date will have 50% less spending this semester than in the fall semester. $5,000 is allocated to Communiversity and $60,000 to Spring Lawnparties. Copier charges stand out because they exceed payrolls, and were $1,700 in October alone. Perhaps we can monitor printing spending more closely. Events such as Thanksgiving Buses and the Hoodie Allen Concert are encouraged because they are profitable. Haebin Kim has suggested having a specific goal (or specific percentage) to reduce spending. What should USG's goal be? How much should USG reduce by? Should USG add another big event - like the Silent Disco - since Communiversity and Lawnparties aren't until later in the semester? How can we reduce office fees?
    - Deana Davoudiasl: Who pays the office worker fees?
    - Shawon Jackson: Some money comes from Frist, and some from the USG budget.
    - Deana Davoudiasl: USG members should volunteer rather than paying a secretary – it would reduce charges.
    - Katherine Clifton: Perhaps we could have a code for which student groups are using it and we could see if any one student group's use is excessive.
    - Elan Kugelmass: Rather than make vague suggestions, the senate should get a tangible solution on the table.
    - Shawon Jackson: Amanda Zeltner has volunteered to track student group use.
    - Dillon Sharp: Even if USG saves money on office fees, what will the extra money be used for – is it really necessary?
    - Deana Davoudiasl: As of now, there is no way to track who uses the copier and there may be excessive use by students or student groups that is costing USG money.
    - Shawon Jackson: Each secretary has a log, and should be recording who uses the copiers. In the future there will be codes for the copiers.
    - Christina Yu: Personal use of the copiers is wasteful, and USG should want to prevent unnecessary costs. Any suggestions for goal-setting?
- Vote to approve Spring Budget
    - The motion passes. 0 against, 1 abstention. 22 for.

Fund Request for Mental Health Week

- Elektra Alivisatos: The activities of the USG Mental Health Week will stimulate the conversation about mental health throughout the campus and will appeal to

any student. One idea is to have "glow parties" – many fitness classes will be held in a dark room with glow in the dark wristbands. Would students attend this? Is it worth the funding?

- Carla Javier: The handout includes an estimate that 90 students will attend; where did that number come from?
- Bruce Easop: That number is an estimate from the group fitness coordinator at Dillon Gym. There are three different types of classes, and this will give Dillon staff the opportunity to try something new, which they may continue after the Mental Health Week.
- Elan Kugelmass: Is Undergraduate Student USLC sponsoring free fitness classes? Will they run this initiative as well?
- Greg Smith: The decision to fund free fitness classes at Dillon will be made after I meet with the staff, but as of now USLC is not inclined to fund the free fitness classes. The Mental Health Week classes should not replace free fitness classes, and it is redundant to do both.
- Bruce Easop: The glow party idea would be one specific class, but Dillon is interested in having this as a "Mental Health Day". It would raise an additional $140 that could go toward free fitness classes.
- Gavin Cook: The glow party event could be interpreted as a social event *only*, rather than having the intention of promoting fitness.
- Farrah Bui: If that's one way that it reaches out to students, that's fine. It will still accomplish the end goal of promoting fitness.
- Greg Smith: This event would also increase publicity.
- Deana Davoudiasl: Regarding website design, I don't understand where the projected $400 charges are coming from. The USG IT Committee is not in charge of it.
- Bruce Easop: By using a Wordpress template, the charges will be lowered.

- Motion to approve fund request.
  - 20 for, 1 abstention, 0 against.

Agenda Setting

- Shawon Jackson: In the next USG senate meeting, there should be an update on Tiger Universe, Lawnparties, and potentially a funding request for free fitness classes - pending Greg's meeting with Dillon Gym staff.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: There should also be a recap of the CPUC meeting this week.

After Executive Session, meeting is adjourned at 8:14pm.