

Formal Minutes

USG SENATE MEETING

March 24th, 2013

Frist 309, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm

President's Report

- Shawon Jackson and Carmina Mancenon have met with President Tilghman, who would like USG to build a relationship with the ICC. President Tilghman affirms USG's Arts initiatives, Frist programming reform, and Carl A. Fields Center reform. Ms. Mancenon reminds the Senate to bring \$20 for a USG shirt to the next meeting.

Student Groups Committee: New Groups on Campus

- Benedict Wagstaff, the Chair of the SGC, introduces three new student groups on campus to the Senate: Princeton Latinos, Princeton Muse, and Princeton Talks.

SGC Charter and Constitution Changes

- The SGC's roles as defined by their Charter does not align with their roles as outlined in the USG Constitution. Mr. Wagstaff outlines these changes to the Senate, and led a discussion on how much autonomy the SGC should have. The Senate voted on a number of changes to the SGC Charter and USG Constitution in an effort to align the two, and a follow-up vote will take place at the next meeting to finalize changes.

Turbovote

- Greg Smith has been working with Turbovote, an organization which would like Princeton to institutionalize voting for all students. After a discussion by the Senate, it was decided that Princeton already provides the services which Turbovote would offer.

Frist Ad-Hoc Committee

- Ella Cheng leads the Senate in a discussion of how Frist programming can be improved, including ideas to promote Frist to incoming freshmen during orientation week and a survey that will be released to all undergraduates.

Tiger Universe Fund Request

- In an effort to increase efficiency and transparency, Deana Davoudiasl presents a fund request to the Senate for \$2500 for Tiger Universe activities. Previously, Tiger Universe made multiple requests for smaller amounts, and by asking for a final budget they will limit their spending of USG funds. Eventually, Tiger Universe might merge with the Social Committee or Athletics Department. The fund request is approved with 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Budget Proposal for Office Fees

- Christina Yu presents an itemized breakdown of the USG Office Fees to the Senate, and leads a discussion on how fees can be reasonably decreased. Some items which should be looked into are the technology fees, coffee expenses, and staff salaries.

CPUC Update

- Elan Kugelmass updates the Senate about the CPUC's discussion on the benefits and risks of Coursera, an online teaching tool. The Senate gave praise to the program, and also raised some concerns including the potential for lecture courses to become irrelevant to the academic experience. Zhan Okuda-Lim emphasizes that Cousera should supplement, *not supplant*, traditional learning.

Agenda Setting

- Next week, the Senate will re-visit changes to the SGC Charter, hear from the Summer Storage Project, receive an update on April USG elections, and hear about new student groups from the SGC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Informal Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

President's Report

- Carmina Mancenon: Senate members who ordered a USG shirt should bring \$20 to our next meeting.
- Shawon Jackson: He and Ms. Mancenon met with Shirley Tilghman, who wants a relationship built between USG and the ICC. She is "peeved" that the big sports are often recognized and would like smaller sports to be highlighted/promoted. She is excited about our Arts initiatives, Frist programming reform, and Carl A. Fields Center reform.

SGC New Groups

- Benny Wagstaff: There are three new groups on campus. Princeton Latinos has been approved, and is a consolidation of multiple Hispanic groups into one group. Princeton Muse is a one-on-one dialogue group with a menu of topics, and encourages people to have meaningful conversations. Princeton Talks is similar to TEDTalks; people tell stories (not just students) at Talks hosted on a bi-annual basis.

SGC Constitution Changes

- Benny Wagstaff: The SGC in practice is very different from how it is outlined in the charter, and we would like to be able to assist student groups if they need it. In the original charter, certain USG members are obligated to attend meetings (including the President and Vice President), and those people have not been to meetings in the committee's history; we would like them to be invited but not obligated, and not voting members. Would the Senate agree to a 2/3 repeal vote for student groups, rather than a majority? We would like to remove the limit to the size of the committee, which has never been respected in practice. We would like the Chair to set the size and objectives of the committee.
- Elan Kugelmass: Your concerns about the overlap between the charter and constitution can be reconciled without changes to the constitution. As of now the constitution doesn't seem to require the President, VP, etc. to attend meetings.
- Benny Wagstaff: In the constitution, these USG members are required to attend meetings, with penalty of being removed from office if they do not attend.
- Elan Kugelmass: These executive USG members have never had to attend core committee meetings.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: As a practical matter the SGC is autonomous.
- George Maliha (*substituting for Dillon Sharp*): Dillon Sharp was concerned that these changes were giving too much power to the SGRC. At the moment, the Senate can overturn decisions by a simple majority, and these changes would require a 2/3 vote. If

there's a problem with coordination and lack of communication, there could be an overlap in efforts.

- Benny Wagstaff: If the executive USG members are attending every meeting, then they should have a vote, but they only come when they have an interest, it's unfair to regular members for them to vote. We also don't approve every committee's projects, so SGC should be aligned with these standards. If this is a USG committee then it should be treated like one; if it's not, then it should be independent of USG rules. The 2/3 vote is in the charter, not the constitution, but it's what we've been respecting.
- Elan Kugelmass motions to split the question according to the three discussion questions. Greg seconds, motion passes with 14 votes.
- *Changes to the Constitution*: Discussion Question 1 vote: 18 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. Discussion Question 2: 14 in favor, 3 against, 2 abstentions. Discussion Question 3: 17 in favor, 0 against, 3 abstentions.
- *Changes to the SGC Charter*: Discussion Question 1: 17 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions. Vote in bulk on all changes to constitution: 13 for, 3 opposed, 4 abstentions.
 - Elan motions to the question to exclude the last sentence in Article 1. Approval of all changes to charter except final sentence of article 1: 16 for, 0 opposed, 5 abstentions. Last sentence of Article 1 on Charter: 10 for, 6 opposed, 4 abstentions.
- Approved: Constitution Discussion Questions 1 and 3; Charter Discussion Question 1 and 2; And the changes to the Charter without the last sentence of Article 1.

Turbovote

- Greg Smith: Turbovote wants large numbers of college students to vote, and Mr. Smith was the lead contact. Turbovote wants voting to be institutionalized at Princeton, and easily accessible.
- Carla Javier: There are voting registration tables at a required orientation event. What would Turbovote offer that is different?
- Greg Smith: They want us to go further and make more efforts. We can add any items we want to this letter.
- Dean Dunne: We considered this in the fall, and we already currently offer everything that they provide.
- Ella Cheng: The biggest difference is that they want a staff member to be appointed to drive efforts. If we don't see a benefit in that, then Turbovote is not necessary.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: Are there already employees who work to improve voting registration?

- Dean Dunne: Yes. It's probably a better system for schools that don't already provide materials.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: While it's a nice thought, it's not necessary for Princeton.
- Katherine Clifton: Do we know how many students vote?
- Dean Dunne: It's much higher for presidential elections. Students from swing states vote in larger numbers than students from non-swing states.
- Sarah Wiley: Is Turbovote bipartisan? If they're not encouraging debate but just the act of voting itself, it seems like an effort to increase liberal voting since that is more common on college campuses. Turbovote doesn't provide political education.
- Zach Ogle: The main question is should we send this letter to administration? Since it seems that they already provide all of these services, we should not.

Frist Ad-Hoc Committee

- Ella Cheng: The committee has met once with all members and with many administrators, and we'll have weekly meetings. We will be sending out a survey to grad and undergrad students does the Senate have ideas for questions for the survey? Any areas of major interest?
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: When will the survey be sent out?
- Ella Cheng: Ideally, in 3 weeks.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: Keep in mind timing with the COMBO survey so that students aren't overwhelmed with USG surveys.
- Carla Javier: How will you incentivize students to answer surveys?
- Ella Cheng: We will discuss that in our next meeting. It's also not harmful for the students who care most about Frist to answer the survey.
- George Meliha: You can offer a reward like senior theses surveys do.
- Ella Cheng: There is also a possibility of formally introducing freshman to Frist during orientation, and potentially on princeton2017.com.
- Elan Kugelmass: At some point orientation will be shorter because of changes to the academic calendar.
- Deana Davoudiasl: How do people get introduced to resources on campus? We should look into how students learn about resources.
- Elektra Alivisatos: As an RCA, we do talk a lot about resources. That's definitely a central way of learning.
- Zach Ogle: What do you mean "introduce them to Frist"? As in an introduction to which organizations are housed in Frist?
- Ella Cheng: Yes.

- Benny Wagstaff: If you hype up the first late meal and have cool intros to other parts of Frist, freshmen will go.
- Eduardo Lima: That is a good idea.
- Elektra Alivisatos: Not everyone gets late meal.
- Sarah Wiley: But it would spread the word.

Tiger Universe Fund Request

- Deana Davoudiasl: We want Tiger Universe to be transparent, accountable, and give the committee a long term range of our budget. In the past we would request a couple hundred dollars every other month. This encourages small spending, but we want a bulk \$2500 amount that is feasible and reasonable within the USG budget. It would hold TU accountable to spend below a certain amount. I will have the discretion to reallocate funds but not ask for more.
- Zach Ogle: Are you giving yourself wiggle room? Don't sell yourself short.
- Deana Davoudiasl: This is a true pilot program, so I don't want to get too carried away.
- George Meliha: Mr. Sharp had a concern about why we are funding what is essentially additional advertisement for sports games. Why are we spending this money when it can be used for other purposes?
- Deana Davoudiasl: There is a concern on campus about school spirit – it's not necessarily about athletics, but rather experiences on campus and bringing students from all classes together. The university athletics budget was set before Tiger Universe could request funding, and they wanted to see how student grassroots movements could encourage students to attend. It's impermanent. It may eventually become part of the social committee.
- Benny Wagstaff: How did you choose which games to promote?
- Deana Davoudiasl: Sports representatives chose – the team itself chose which few games they want to be promoted. That way there's team buy-in.
- Eduardo Lima: I appreciate that rugby is included.
- Elan Kugelmass: The athletics budget is \$25 million, why aren't they contributing? I'm sure they have \$500 floating around.
- Motion to approve \$2500: 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Budget Proposal for Office Fees

- Christina Yu: This is to settle the debate on office fees once and for all. Each type of fee has been itemized. It boils down to whether we would like to continue offering coffee/tea in the office or if there are other ways of welcoming students. Amanda Zeltner is trying to implement copier codes for the USG copier.
- Benny Wagstaff: The phone doesn't work, why are there charges?

- Christina Yu: I don't know why they're not working, most of the technology charges are for the IT committee, which we pay for.
- Elan Kugelmass: Can the IT committee elaborate?
- Adam Suczewski: I've never heard of Tiger Net...
- Elan Kugelmass: The budget is down 15%, can we think about getting class government to pitch in for our shared space?
- George Meliha: Mr. Sharp wants to continue offering coffee, and believes USG should buy its own Keurig coffeemaker since it will pay for itself.
- Benny Wagstaff: You may want to consider putting a water pipe into the machine – filling it up is annoying and campus club did it inexpensively.
- Deana Davoudiasl: How come we have to pay the staff salaries? Why do we need the staff?
- Shawon Jackson: We pay the staff salaries because they primarily monitor student groups. They make sure we have enough supplies and monitor the DVD service. We'll talk more about that at the end of the year. For clarification, this is a recommendation from Christina, we will not be voting on this budget. If you have changes, talk to her after the meeting.

CPUC Update

- Elan Kugelmass: At the last meeting, CPUC talked about the Resources Committee and Coursera. What does the Senate think about Coursera? What do the students think about it?
- Deana Davoudiasl: I love the idea of the “flipped classroom” – using class time to engage with students rather than listen to a lecture.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: The professors talked about a “flipped” lecture, and one professor noted that many students did not watch the recorded lecture which means they can easily fall behind.
- Elektra Alivisatos: I caution against online lectures replacing real lectures. Perhaps they could be recorded and posted online as an additional resource.
- Deana Davoudiasl: Sometimes I can't type as fast as the professor speaks, so I record lectures.
- George Meliha: We pay a lot of money to be here, and some of it is going toward hearing world class lecturers.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: I don't see Coursera replacing traditional lectures, but supplementing them (particularly for lectures with a lot of technical/background information).
- George Meliha: Medical schools have done this for years, and people just don't go to class anymore.

- Zhan Oluda-Lim: That's what the university is worried about. They want to use the technology to supplement, *not supplant*, traditional learning.

Agenda Setting

- Shawon Jackson: We'll have the second part of the SGC voting next week. Is summer storage ready for presentation? (yes). Food Committee? (in two weeks). COMBO 4 committee? (not yet).
- Benny Wagstaff: I may have groups to approve – two are presenting this week.
- Elan Kugelmass: Will we hear from Rachel Nam?
- Shawon Jackson: Yes. Carmina and I will finalize agenda items this week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

