

Formal Minutes

USG SENATE MEETING

April 7th, 2013

Frist 309, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.

President's Report

- In the next meeting, Carmina Mancenon will present on the one-on-one meetings that USG members have been attending. Shawon Jackson updates the Senate on administrative meetings, shares that nominations have been submitted to the Priorities Committee, and discusses his meeting with the Yale Student Body President. Mr. Jackson will be attending a meeting of all Ivy League Student Body Presidents soon. During Preview Weekend, Molly Stoneman and George Jian will be running a USG open house, and there will be a USG booth at the activities fair.

Projects Board Funding Request

- Projects Board Co-Chair Jared Peterson requests \$3,091 for an upcoming Dodgeball Tournament, which is approved.

COMBO IV

- Zhan Okuda-Lim, Zach Ogle, and Farrah Bui have been finalizing the upcoming COMBO IV survey, which has been approved by Jed Marsh. They lead a discussion with the Senate on whether student or professionals should be hired to analyze the results of the survey, and what compensation should be. The project leaders are encouraged to find ways to shorten the project timeline and to make sure that the analysis is released on time.

Summer Storage Project

- Deana Davoudiasl leads a discussion with the Senate on potential improvements for the Summer Storage Projects. The Senate suggests providing orange carts for each residential college so that students can move their boxes more easily.

Food Committee Update:

- Ella Cheng leads a discussion on improving eating options at Princeton, including providing takeout containers as an incentive to decrease traffic in the Wilcox/Wu dining hall. There is also a discussion on whether the Food Committee should look into providing meal exchanges for RCAs to Frist late meal, which the Senate encourages.

New Senate Projects

- George Jian presents upcoming projects to the Senate, including a USG Office re-vamp in coordination with the Class Governments. He leads a discussion on whether the current projects system is working, and the Senate suggests pursuing an independent student

life project in the next semester. The Senate discusses how many projects should be required of each member, and how much flexibility members should have to take on new projects.

Agenda Setting

- Shawon Jackson takes suggestions for agenda items for the next week's meeting, including presentations on the Frist ad-hoc committee, SCORE, ALTA, Communiversity, and April elections.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Informal Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.

President's Report

- Carmina Mancenon: She will be presenting on one-on-one meetings next week
- Shawon Jackson: He and Carmina sent in nominations for the Priorities Committee, there will be 4 undergraduates chosen. He met with the Yale SBP, learned about how their student government runs, which is more focused on policy than services. He'll be going to a summit soon with other schools' SBPs. Preview weekend is coming up, and Molly and George will be running the open house – will contact the Senate about it. USG will have a booth at the activities fair

Projects Board Funding Request

- Jared Peterson: PB is requesting \$3,091, most of which would go toward pizza which will be delivered throughout the night, as well as referee payments.
- Dillon Sharp: The total budget is \$17,182, and so it is a large event.
 - *Vote to approve:* 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

COMBO IV

- Zhan Okuda-Lim: Zach, Farrah and I have been working on this survey. There was a meeting with Jed Marsh who approved our timeline and questions, they're excited to move forward, administration is in support. What do you think about paying undergraduate students to punch the numbers?
- Farrah Bui: While meeting with the staff they were interested in a multi-variable analysis. It was suggested that someone with advanced knowledge of stats programs should take on the program. How much could we pay them?
- Elan Kugelmass: While talking about COMBO III, student processing delayed the process quite a bit.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: One of the reasons we want students to crunch the numbers is because we want this project to be completed by undergraduates for undergraduates.
- Dillon Sharp: The point is to get our own data that the university doesn't provide, and as long as we get it, it does not matter who crunches the numbers.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: That's how it's been done in the past but we will look into other means.
- Elan Kugelmass: I'm concerned about moving demographic information to the end, because not everyone finishes the survey. If we are contracting the survey out to students, we should put a cap on how many hours are payable – so that they have a deadline to complete the project.
- Charissa Shen: What if they don't complete the project? It's an unexpected workload.

- Elan Kugelmass: Then they won't get paid until they finish. They have incentive to finish the project or their hourly rate will go down.
- Charissa Shen: You should look into ways to shorten the timeline. Each question was very intentional, and the timeline should be shorter than last year.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: We have demographics at the end so that it doesn't bias response.

Summer Storage Project

- Deana Davoudiasl: This is the third year of SSP, and we've made some great progress. What do you think of the drop off/pick up dates? The week of Dean's Date we had the Monday and Friday of the last day of school, but this year we want one day before Dean's Date and one during the second week.
- Gavin Cook: Have you considered people who do OA or RCA doing earlier storage?
- Elan Kugelmass: OA offers limited storage.
- Sarah Wiley: People can decide to put their additional items in storage when they come back.
- Farrah Bui: RCAs get some storage. Have you considered having people come to pick up boxes for a fee?
- Deana Davoudiasl: We are talking about that right now and I'll bring it up again. Last year we volunteered to give empty boxes to students. Any feedback? Can people comment about the specific dates, which have been changed from last year? I didn't use this service last year, any general feedback?
- Carla Javier: One difficulty was actually bringing my boxes to the site. I grabbed an orange cart, but if there was a way to organize the orange carts that would be helpful and people can team up.
- Gavin Cook: I second that, there was a secondhand market for carts toward the end.
- Dillon Sharp: I've rented a storage locker with friends, and we had a box or two completely lost from student agency.
- Deana Davoudiasl: USG never lost a box.

Food Committee Update:

- Ella Cheng: We met with Orifice this weekend and went through many of the projects they're floating around. I've been working on takeout containers and have looked into what other schools have been doing. The main problem is overcrowding in Wu/Wilcox and the CJL areas, so any food-related idea should be tied into that. Another idea is for one of the RCA meals per week to be in Frist. What initiatives can we launch to reduce traffic? How can other projects be justified this way?
- Eduardo Lima: Take out containers in only some of the dining halls would encourage people to go to those dining halls.

- Ella Cheng: The idea of the takeout containers is for people to go to their own residential dining hall. One option is to only implement it in Forbes, or Mathey/Rocky.
- Elan Kugelmass: Maybe we can hear from an RCA on the meal exchange switch?
- Charissa Shen: This is definitely worth pursuing. Most of my “zees” eat at late meal, so when we have one-on-ones it would be convenient to be able to meet them there. We could link up with Mike Olin, because there’s a committee of RCAs which could give feedback.
- Ella Cheng: Orifice suggested one out of the two meals being transferrable to Frist, would you suggest two?
- Charissa Shen: Yes, two.
- Dillon Sharp: How does getting takeout in Forbes help with overcrowding?
- Ella Cheng: admin thought that it would bring more traffic, but the better location would be Mathey/Rocky. There’s also a problem of seating at Frist.

New Senate Projects

- George Jian: We are also pursuing a USG Office re-vamp with the class councils. Are there any areas of attention that new projects should be directed toward? What sorts of new projects should we focus on? Short term vs long term, policy vs services.
- Deana Davoudiasl: I want to emphasize the independent student life project, that’s worth pursuing.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: I think we’re doing well for the end of the semester, but that question should be brought up at the beginning of next year.
- Elan Kugelmass: This semester 2D started buying groceries wholesale for independent students.
- George Jian: Has the new limit on the number of projects per senate members helped or hurt? The cap is 2 projects per member.
- Gavin Cook: It has been great because it’s more focused. Last semester people were spread thin, but now people can get more done and with a better job.
- Ella Cheng: It’s good in general, but some projects take longer than expected. There should be room for flexibility if some projects are slower or they take a less active role.
- Deana Davoudiasl: we should look at the long-term longevity of projects. There has to be transferrable information.
- Dillon Sharp: Has anyone been hindered? It seems silly to put a limit if people want to do more. We shouldn’t limit productivity.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: If people are willing to take on more and have demonstrated capability they should. In general 2-3 projects is a good benchmark.

- Shawon Jackson: The 2 project limit was delegated at the beginning of the semester, but you can always take on more.
- George Jian: Does anyone want to take on more?
- Ella Cheng: It depends on the type of project.
- Farrah Bui: How many people is suggested per project?
- Shawon Jackson: That's a good question, we tried to keep groups small (2-3 people) so that they could meet more often.
- Eduardo Lima: During spring break Shawon asked us to join a committee for the Labrynth bookstore.
- Shawon Jackson: That was an external committee, not a USG project. I only passed along the names of students who applied.
- Deana Davoudiasl: Is there a minimum amount that people need to be involved in?
- Shawon Jackson: Yes, 1 project.
- George Jian: Do you have any feedback on the way projects are organized?
- Ella Cheng: The food committee might team up with the independent student life committee, so there will be a collaboration.
- Eduardo Lima: George is a wonderful projects manager.

Agenda Setting:

- Shawon Jackson: Are there any projects that are ready to present?
- Ella Cheng: The Frist ad-hoc committee can present.
- John McNamara: Zhan and I can present on SCORE. ALTA has been a logistical hurdle and is not ready to present.
- Shawon Jackson: Is the mental health initiative ready to talk about our survey?
- Farrah Bui: It's pretty much set, but we may present.
- Shawon Jackson: Does CCA want to present on Communiversity?
- Trap Yates: It's already rolling, Senate input wouldn't affect.
- Shawon Jackson: Any other committee updates? Is it worthwhile to bring back Rachel?

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.