

# Formal Minutes

## **USG SENATE MEETING**

April 7th, 2013

Frist 309, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm.

### President's Report

- Shawon Jackson gives an overview of USG events during the first Preview Weekend, including an open house and an activities fair booth. He acknowledges the elections managers for hosting open houses regarding spring elections. He also gives an overview of administrative meetings and reminds the Senate the his Office Hours have changed.

### SGRC Update

- SGRC Chair Benny Wagstaff presents four new groups on campus: The Princeton Pre-Dental Association, German Association, Spoon, and the Princeton Gates Millennium Scholars.

### Elections Update

- Rachel Nam gives an overview of the candidates for spring USG elections. The Senate raises concerns that all but one class government elections are uncontested, and discuss strategies for encouraging more candidates to run in the future.

### SCORE Re-write Project

- Zhan Okuda-Lim and John McNamara present to the Senate on their progress working with OIT and administrators to re-design SCORE and integrate it with ICE. The Senate discusses issues of design, accessibility, and security, and suggests reaching out to other schools to learn more about their format for class registration. The project leaders also get feedback on how to host focus groups.

### Frist Ad-hoc Committee

- Ella Cheng leads a discussion on an upcoming survey to evaluate how students learn about resources within the Frist Campus Center. The Senate discusses reaching out to residential colleges, and timing the survey with the upcoming Mental Health Survey.

### Communiversity Fund Request

- CCA Chair Trap Yates proposes a fund request for an additional \$5,000 for Communiversity (total cost is \$7,600) and explains the cost breakdown of the funds. Christina Yu recommends the funds be granted, but warns that there would not be funds for additional requests before the end of the year. The Senate discusses the future of Communiversity, and the possible expansion of its budget.

### March Budget Update

- Executive Treasurer Christina Yu presents a budget update to the Senate and answers questions. The Senate raises concerns about office technology charges.

Agenda Setting:

- Shawon Jackson takes input for the next Senate meeting, including Mental Health Initiative, a Dean's Date fund request, and a proposal for a new USG service.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

# Informal Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm.

## President's Report

- Shawon Jackson: Acknowledges George Jian and Molly Stoneman for organizing the USG Open House for preview weekend, and those who attended to give advice for prefrish. Encourages people to attend the next one. Acknowledges Rachel Nam, Sarah Wiley and Greg Smith for hosting elections open houses. Overview of administrative meetings, with special attention to new website on eating clubs. Met with Fields Center ad-hoc committee working to improve presence on campus. Office hours are on Mondays 8:30-9:30pm instead of Tuesday.
- Elan Kugelmass: Can we get a copy of the ICC survey and results?

## SGRC Update

- Benny Wagstaff: Four groups have been approved: The Princeton Pre-Dental Association, German Association, Spoon, and the Princeton Gates Millennium Scholars.
- Sarah Wiley: Is there a precedent for other scholarship programs having groups?
- Benny Wagstaff: Yes, QuestBridge exists. This group was not accepted at first because it is exclusive, but their new framework attracts guest speakers and hopes to inform people about graduate opportunities. The SGRC cannot reject groups unless they are offensive.

## Elections Update

- Rachel Nam: We have 18 candidates for U-Council, 11 from 2016, 5 from 2015, and 2 from 2014. Gives an overview of class government elections. Are there any questions about elections and computer voting stations?
- Charissa Shen: It's alarming that so many elections are uncontested. What are we doing to encourage candidates to apply?
- Ella Cheng: The class councils work closely together, and people may not want to run against them because they work efficiently. Many people from class council ran for positions they think they would be best run for.
- Elan Kugelmass: This is similar to Julian Dean's notion of "internal primaries" – the 2016 class councilors definitely planned ahead to not run against each other.
- Eduardo Lima: To contest that, they may have simply fallen into the roles that they felt most comfortable with.
- Ella Cheng: Also, one member is not running for re-election.
- Deana Davoudiasl: Will there be voting stations in Frist?
- Rachel Nam: We will most likely hold them. Since candidates can't set up their own, there is a concern that they will bring voters to Frist. Is email the best way to discourage this?

- Ella Cheng: The wording should be revisited to make it clear that candidates can encourage people to vote but not physically bring them to voting stations.
- Carla Javier: What about candidates asking their friends to hold voting stations?
- Shawon Jackson: There is a difference in the type of space. Candidates cannot hold voting in a public space.
- Charissa Shen: There is also a difference of candidates asking directly and in person versus voters casting their vote in a public space.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: Candidates can tell people to vote in Frist but not bring people there; will there be a rule for how close candidates can get?
- Rachel Nam: This is not in the elections handbook and would be difficult to police, so there will not be a rule.
- Deana Davoudiasl: There shouldn't be a "restraining order" but candidates should not be able to stand near the voting stations.
- Elan Kugelmass: Candidates cannot "operate and provide" voting stations, and candidates bringing voters to voting stations would not violate either. We cannot punish candidates for an unwritten rule.
- Rachel Nam: Bringing voters to the stations would count against them.

#### SCORE Re-write Project

- Zhan Okuda-Lim: John and I have been working with the registrar's office to clean up SCORE and hopefully integrate ICE. We have been with the team a few times. What other considerations are there for the new SCORE system?
- John McNamara: There have been some initial brainstorming meetings and there are representatives from a lot of different stakeholders. Shawon Jackson and I met to talk about implementation. Now admin wants a broader student perspective. There will be an informational session and we hope to question the student body more broadly.
- Zach Ogle: Keep direct deposits in mind.
- Elan Kugelmass: Stability.
- Ella Cheng: Will the sharing feature still be a part of it? It may cause security concerns.
- Wesley Cao: Making SCORE accessible more often.
- Shawon Jackson: It closes at 2am due to an OIT policy for maintenance.
- John McNamara: There are initial focus groups and will be a broader survey. How else can we ask for feedback?
- Sarah Wiley: Ask graduate students what the systems at their undergraduate university did, and what was effective, and possibly reach out to those universities.
- Elan Kugelmass: Does OIT keep logs of the website use?

- John McNamara: I'm not sure. I reached out to USG earlier in the week regarding the focus groups, if you would still like to participate see me after the meeting.

#### Frist Ad-hoc Committee

- Ella Cheng: Any feedback on the survey questions?
- Katherine Clifton: Revisit question 11.
- George Jian: Perhaps ask which facilities and services students are *not* aware of.
- Shawon Jackson: It would be useful to see who gave students an orientation to Frist. You could also look into how student groups use Frist, as well as room reservation facilities.
- Deana Davoudiasl: Are you considering asking for feedback on the room reservation process?
- Ella Cheng: We don't have control over that, we can only make recommendations.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: When will the survey be sent out?
- Ella Cheng: In the next few days.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: Mental Health Survey is coming out soon, so we should communicate about that.
- Ella Cheng: Only undergraduate students will see the residential college options. Any advice on how we can hold focus groups? Perhaps in Frist?
- Katherine Clifton: The residential college focus groups work well too, over meals.

#### Communiiversity Fund Request

- Trap Yates: We will be using \$5,000 from the CCA budget but because it's on a Sunday we will have to pay overtime. We also need to cover costs from last year, and we always seem to go over. We just want to make sure that we don't go over again.
- Deana Davoudiasl: So we've already approved \$5,000?
- Shawon Jackson: No, we will be approving about \$7,600 for the total.
- Christina Yu: This may affect the budget for Academics and USLC. We have enough to cover it, but we need to be careful because there is now only a \$1,000 buffer.
- Katherine Clifton: what would those funds go toward?
- Shawon Jackson: USLC and Academics don't have anything that they would need that much funding for.
- Carmina Mancenon: Do you think next year CCA will need to expand the budget?
- Trap Yates: Yes, but we'll know at the end of this year's event how Sunday events affect the budget. I'm not sure why it was moved since that happened before I was on the committee, but it probably has to do with the town. This budget does not include posterage. Our co-sponsor is the Princeton Arts Council and they have not shared the full budget.

- Carmina Mancenon: This budget funds the university's contribution, not the town's contribution.
- *17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.*

#### March Budget Update

- Christina Yu: \$700 still needs to come in for the invoice and the custom ink t-shirts still need to be repaid. Any questions?
- Elan Kugelmass: What are "USG Class Dues"?
- Christina Yu: It's on the budget every month, we can follow up on that.
- Elan Kugelmass: There was a question last month about Tigernet charges. There is a new item for website updates, is that the IT committee's budget?
- Christina Yu: Yes, and the Tigernet charges are unknown and we believe OIT is responsible for it. It's for an alumni network. The telephone charges refer to intra-telephone charges.
- Zach Ogle: What is the charge for "Cake"?
- Elan Kugelmass: So is Tigernet an alumni council charge? We don't have a working telephone.
- Shawon Jackson: Amanda Zeltner is in charge of the USG office and there is not a student representative.
- Dean Dunne: There are telephone ports that are being charged whether or not they are being used.
- Shawon Jackson: I'll follow up with Amanda so we can manually turn them off.
- Sarah Wiley: We should appoint Elan to inspect abnormalities in the budget.

#### Agenda Setting:

- Shawon Jackson: Is Mental Health Initiative ready to present?
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: I'll check with Farrah Bui and Bruce Easop.
- Shawon Jackson: Carla, will the fund request for Dean's Date be ready for next week?
- Carla Javier: Sure.
- Shawon Jackson: Any projects ready to present? Committee chairs?
- Eduardo Lima: I'm waiting for approval to bring the mattress rental system to the Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.