

Formal Minutes

USG Senate Meeting

April 28th, 2013

Frist 309, 8:00pm.

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

President's Report

- Shawon Jackson acknowledges Christopher Eisgruber as the next president of Princeton University. Mr. Jackson discusses the State of the Ivy Conference and reminds Senate members to prepare for the Midyear Report and Playbook. Elections will begin tomorrow. USG is collaborating with the Earth Day project, and is preparing for Communiversity.

Honor Committee Referendum

- Antonia Hyman and Luchi Mmegwa from the Honor Committee present to the Senate their referendum which will be present on the ballot in the upcoming USG election. This referendum provides a new standard penalty for test takers who go over time, and will require the Honor Committee to produce a report once a year with statistics from the last 5 years. The Senate asks questions and commends the Honor Committee for working to be more transparent and accountable.

Projects Board Fund Request

- Jared Peterson presents a fund request for \$2,000 for an annual kite-flying festival hosted by Pechaan and SASA over the 2nd Preview Weekend. The Senate encourages fund requests to come sooner in the future. The request passes.

Mental Health Initiative

- Farrah Bui and Bruce Easop present on the progress of the Mental Health Initiative and the potential for a new committee to be formed to ensure its completion and growth. They lead the Senate in a discussion of how feedback can be collected and how the committee should be organized.

Mattress Rental Proposal

- Eduardo Lima presents his proposal for an air mattress rental system run by USG. The Senate gives feedback on how the program should be organized both short-term and long-term if the pilot program is successful.

Agenda Setting

- Shawon Jackson takes suggestions for agenda items for the next USG meeting, reminding Senate members that there will be only one more meeting on May 12th. The Senate will hear about COMBO IV, SHARE relations, and a re-cap of the CPUC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Informal Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Substitutes: Jameil Brown subbing for Paul Riley. Olivia Bradley-Skill subbing for Carla Javier, and George Jian subbing for Katherine.

Present are Antonia Hyman and Luchi Mmegwa on the Honor Committee, Jared Peterson from the Projects Board, Bruce Easop for Mental Health Initiative, and a representative of the Varsity Student Advisory Committee.

President's Report

- Shawon Jackson: Provost Eisgruber has officially been approved as the next president of the university. If you have ideas for what USG should work with him on, reach out to him and Carmina Mancenon. Mr. Jackson went to the State of the Ivy Conference with student body presidents from all ivy leagues. Went over general overview of the senate and committees. Received good feedback on Mental Health Week and the What I Be Project. Harvard has an online petition forum – IT committee is working on a suggestion app. Cornell has held campaigns for sexual assault awareness. Yale has grading policy and alcohol policy initiatives. Reminds senate members to prepare for Midyear Report and Playbook. Elections begin tomorrow, campaigning has been going smoothly. USG is collaborating with the Earth Day project on April 26th on the Frist South Lawn. Trap Yates is getting ready for Communiversity as the culmination of Arts Weekend.

Honor Committee Referendum

- Antonia Hyman: This referendum stemmed from conversations that started last year; students expressed concern about transparency within the Honor System. We've seen a rise in reports of writing over time, and the Honor Committee feels that a one-year suspension is inappropriate. After focus groups, we made some changes. The first year is that every year the Honor Committee will produce a report on the last five years. This will give the student body a better sense of what the Honor Committee is up to. For reports concerning writing over time, the new standard penalty will be academic suspension.
- Charissa Shen: Is writing over time the only issue that was of concern?
- Antonia Hyman: That was the primary concern after talking to students. We are open to conversations about other issues.
- Elan Kugelmass: This is a good move to combat the "culture of passivity" on campus. Why this time frame?

- Antonia Hyman: Some of the Committee cases can be crazy, and the five-year time frame ensures that students would no longer be at the university and maintain anonymity, but the student body still gets a sense of the outcomes. You absolutely could still figure out who the students were, but it would be more difficult. We used to put out statistics and release them with the Committee on Discipline, but that has been lost by tradition.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: When we got word of the referendum, I suggested an easy summary be put out. Thank you for adding a “track changes” version.
- Antonia Hyman: The Honor Committee is not scary, we want to be approachable.
- Dillon Sharp: Thank you for coming in, we hope the student body supports these changes and we look forward to working with you.

Projects Board Fund Request

- Jared Peterson: Pechaan and SASA want to host a Pakistani and Indian celebration that is typically held the second Preview Weekend. This will occur on Poe Field, there will be vendors and kites. We gave \$4,000 total with \$2,000 coming from the USG budget for a DJ, henna supplies, and kites.
- Dillon Sharp: Why do they think that 3,650 will come?
- Jared Peterson: It should be 250.
- Zach Ogle: Does that include prefrosh?
- Jared Peterson: Yes - this is happening tomorrow, for preview weekend.
- Charissa Shen: How many kites are being ordered?
- Jared Peterson: They are expensive because they are handmade and authentic, they are \$6 each and are given out to groups. We’ve discussed getting Walmart kites with them.
- Elan Kugelmass: This comes out to \$16 per students, does Projects Board have a limit on per student spending?
- Jared Peterson: Typically we cap it at \$10 per students but we get more money for Preview Weekend from administration.
- Dillon Sharp: How much money are we getting back from this?
- Jared Peterson: We will not be reimbursed from admissions. They give us \$10,000 for both preview weekends, so the rest of the costs will be from that account.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: Have they already spent this money?
- Jared Peterson: The organizing groups would be in debt to the university if we don’t approve the fund request.

- Charissa Shen: If you have that much money for preview weekend you should encourage other groups to host events.
- Jared Peterson: We're giving \$2,000 from USG but still spend money across the other two weekends. Having large events like Night Market are more memorable than small events.
- Haebin Kim: The range of events for this preview weekend will be more limited, so we should not judge this event under the same lens of the first preview weekend.
- Ella Cheng: And we spent \$2,000 last year? With the same number of students?
- Jared Peterson: Yes. This has been approved for the last 4 years. The kites are not reusable because they're made of paper. The total per student cost of USG funds is \$8 per student.
- Christina Yu: Will this come out of Project Board's account?
- Jared Peterson: Yes.
- Christina Yu: The Project Board is responsible for their own budget. Does Joe approve these projects?
- Jared Peterson: No.
- Christina Yu: Given the urgency of the project I recommend that it passes.
- *The motion passes 22 in favor, 0 objections, 1 abstention.*

Mental Health Initiative

- Farrah Bui: Last week Bruce and I met with UHS and got approval for the survey. Students will get individual links with a 2 week time period to complete it and a poster will be sent to the student body by email. We have professional analysis for this for free, though the results will be delayed until late May or next semester.
- Bruce Easop: How can we continue to have a high-impact Mental Health Week balanced by long term initiatives? How can we institutionalize this focus on Mental Health? We can create an executive board focused on planning future Mental Health Weeks. This would allow more time and flexibility for USG to focus on policy initiatives. Also, this would generate buy in and new ideas from the new student representatives. We'd like to have seats reserved for specific stakeholders as well as at-large student representatives, and a liaison from CPS. How should the selection process work? Should we allow these organizations to nominate their own members? Or should we do applications and prioritize stakeholders?

- Jack, a representative of the Varsity Student Advisory Committee: I like the idea of the Executive Board, and this is prevalent for athletes, so I would recommend having an athletic representative on the board.
- Greg Smith: Is this extra layer of bureaucracy necessary?
- Bruce Easop: This will be a USG committee and report to the Senate to maintain accountability. We've held 2 successful Mental Health Weeks with a good response from students, and this would work to maintain the initiatives while making sure it evolves in a way that stakeholders approve on.
- Ella Cheng: This model is similar to the Frist ad-hoc committee and it worked well. Having people of different expertise makes it easier administratively but attendance is an issue. However, nominations mean that it's not their first priority and attendance is an issue. Applications are better for attendance and members will be more invested.

Mattress Rental Proposal

- Eduardo Lima: Are there any concerns with this program?
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: Why wouldn't they pay upfront? This would ensure financial stability.
- Eduardo Lima: In case they bring the mattress back late.
- Charissa Shen: We should have a higher deposit.
- Eduardo Lima: J-Street runs a similar rental system based on honor and they don't have many problems.
- Richard Lu: If the mattress is lost or damaged what would happen?
- Eduardo Lima: They would sign an agreement that they'd replace it.
- Dillon Sharp: Having the office workers run the program wouldn't work because there are so many and it would be easy to lose track of blame. Someone in USG should run the program.
- Zach Ogle: What about an air pump?
- Eduardo Lima: It's included.
- Elan Kugelmass: We could use a similar system as the silent disco headphone rental.
- Haebin Kim: We need to have a more formalized way of ensuring quality. Rather than the student replacing a mattress they should just be charged for it.
- Ella Cheng: There could also be an online ordering form.
- Charissa Shen: People will want to reserve the mattress in advance.
- Eduardo Lima: That would be great for the future, but in the short term we should try a simpler version and get feedback.

- Haebin Kim: What is the time limit?
- Eduardo Lima: Only when the USG office is open.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: We could use a similar system as a car rental service to ensure quality.

Agenda Setting

- Shawon Jackson: We have 2 senate meetings left and we'll meet after Communiversity. We will not have Senate on May 5th, so the final meeting will be on May 12th. We noticed some cosmetic changes that need to be made to the constitution and because they need 2 meetings we will have a bulk change made. Some clarifications will also be made under the Elections Handbook. I strongly urge committee chairs and projects to present before the Midyear Report.
- Farrah Bui: COMBO should be set to present.
- Trap Yates: I'll have something from SHARE.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim: CPUC re-cap.
- Dillon Sharp: I may have something.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.