

Referendum Question No. 1

Princeton University Undergraduate Student Government Election—Winter 2014

Condensation (Ballot Question)

Shall the undergraduates urge the administration to (1) publish the detailed and official policies for undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons; and (2) continue to work with undergraduates to ensure that these policies and how they are practiced are conducive to undergraduate wellbeing?

Explanation

The purpose of this referendum is to express that the undergraduates urge the University to publish the detailed and official policies for undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons and continue to work with undergraduates to ensure that these policies and how they are practiced are conducive to undergraduate wellbeing.

On May 15, 2014, the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life published *Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Withdrawals and Readmissions Related to Mental Health* (“FAQs”) in response to undergraduate concerns relating to these withdrawals and readmissions. The *FAQs* are a restatement of the policies for undergraduate withdrawals and readmissions for mental health reasons.

However, the *FAQs* are themselves not the authoritative and official policies, which remain unpublished and therefore unavailable in detail in any official University policy compilation, such as *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* or the *Undergraduate Announcement*.

The only publicly available description of these policies is in 4 paragraphs in the “Academic Standing and Regulations” section of the current edition of the *Undergraduate Announcement*. However, these 4 paragraphs do not explain in detail the official policies (e.g., topics such as confidentiality and limited authorizations to waive confidentiality in certain circumstances, required and optional paperwork for withdrawal and readmission, exit and readmission evaluations with Counseling and Psychological Services, how University administrators make their decisions, etc.).

Digest

- **Section 1** expresses that the undergraduates urge the administration to (1) publish the detailed and official policies for undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons; and (2) continue to work with undergraduates to ensure that these policies and how they are practiced are conducive to undergraduate wellbeing.
- **Section 2** directs the Executive Secretary of the Senate to transmit an official copy of this resolution to certain University officers.

The following is the full text of the referendum measure.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Referendum Resolution ___-2014

Referendum Question No. 1 (Winter 2014)

Submitted by ZHAN OKUDA-LIM '15, U-Council Chair and U-Councilor (on behalf of the Princeton Mental Health Initiative Board as Chair thereof)

Resolution

Urging the administration to publish the detailed and official policies for undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons, urging the administration to continue to work with undergraduates to ensure that these policies and how they are practiced are conducive to undergraduate wellbeing, and for other purposes.

Whereas on May 15, 2014, the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life published *Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Withdrawals and Readmissions Related to Mental Health* (“FAQs”) in response to undergraduate concerns relating to the policies about these withdrawals and readmissions;

Whereas the *FAQs* are a restatement of the official policies relating to undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons, and are not themselves the authoritative and official policies;

Whereas 4 paragraphs in the *Undergraduate Announcement* do not explain in detail the official policies about topics including—

- (1) confidentiality and limited authorizations to waive confidentiality in certain circumstances;
- (2) required and optional paperwork for withdrawal and readmission;
- (3) exit and readmission evaluations with Counseling and Psychological Services;
- (4) how University administrators make their decisions; and
- (5) other related topics;

Whereas except for these 4 short, undetailed paragraphs in the current edition of the *Undergraduate Announcement*, the official policies relating to undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons remain unpublished and therefore unavailable in detail in any official University policy compilation, such as *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* or the *Undergraduate Announcement*;

Whereas all members of the University community, and in particular the undergraduates, deserve access to the detailed and official policies relating to undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons; and

Whereas the University must ensure that these policies and the manner by which they are practiced are conducive to undergraduate wellbeing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the undergraduates of Princeton University,

SECTION 1. PUBLICATION OF POLICIES; PRACTICE.

The undergraduates urge the administration to—

- (1) publish the detailed and official policies relating to undergraduate withdrawal and readmission for mental health reasons; and
- (2) continue to work with undergraduates to ensure that these policies and the manner by which they are practiced by University administrators are conducive to undergraduate wellbeing.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Executive Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit an official copy of this resolution to each of the following University officers:

- (1) The President of the University (President Christopher L. Eisgruber '83).
- (2) The Vice President for Campus Life (Vice President Cynthia Cherrey).
- (3) The Dean of the College (Dean Valerie A. Smith).
- (4) The Senior Associate Dean of the College (Dean Claire M. Fowler).
- (5) The Dean of Undergraduate Students (Dean Kathleen Deignan).
- (6) The Deputy Dean of Undergraduate Students (Dean Thomas Dunne).
- (7) The Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students (Dean Michael Olin).
- (8) The Executive Director of University Health Services (Dr. John Kolligian).
- (9) The Director of Counseling and Psychological Services (Dr. Calvin Chin).

Approved _____, 2014.

*Executive Secretary of the Senate,
Undergraduate Student Government.*