

Council of the Princeton University Community Minutes, November 12, 2018

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community held November 12, 2018 in Betts Auditorium in the School of Architecture. Present were Council members Mr. Bomparola, Mr. Brahaney, Ms. Capra, Ms. Carmen, Mr. Durkee, President Eisgruber (chair), Mr. Elzalabany, Ms. Faccone, Professor Finkelstein, Mr. Hale, Professor Harman, Ms. Hazen, Ms. Hutter, Ms. Klumpp, Professor Laffan, Mr. Lambert, Dean Leslie, Professor Lew-Williams, Mr. Lidow, Professor Link, Professor Marchesi, Ms. Morel-Kraepiel, Ms. Nguyen, Professor Ostriker, Provost Prentice, Ms. Pulaski, Ms. Romero, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Shah, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Lester Trevisan, Professor Vecchi, Ms. Vera, Professor Vertesi, Ms. Wegner, Mr. Wilson, Professor Wolff, Ms. Yee and Miss Zhao, Ms. Gage was secretary.

The President called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m., and after the roll call he requested and received approval of minutes of the September 24, 2018 meeting which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Service Focus Initiative

President Eisgruber introduced Kimberly de los Santos, John C. Bogle '51 and Burton G. Malkiel '64 Executive Director of the Pace Center for Civic Engagement to introduce the speakers for the discussion of the new Service Focus Initiative. Ms. de los Santos explained that this program, which runs from the spring of the first year through the spring of sophomore year, arose from the University's strategic planning process as a way to help students form their own commitment to service and to make service more integral to the undergraduate experience. She then introduced Yi-Ching Ong, the director of [Service Focus](#).

Ms. Ong provided a brief overview of the three components that comprise the core of the Service Focus program: a funded service summer internship; service related course work during the sophomore year; and membership in a Service Focus cohort, advised by a faculty member which culminates in a group project. She then introduced three current members of the Service Focus initiative, Tobi Ayeni '21, Kelton Chastulik '21 and Jimin Kang '21 who provided the group with information on their summer internships and the course work and cohorts they are each a part of.

Ban the Box Discussion

Next, the President invited Amanda Eisenhour '21, Nathan Polland '20 and Eric Periman '22, representatives from the Princeton Admissions Opportunity Campaign, who presented their proposal to Ban the Box on the Princeton undergraduate application. The students explained that Banning the Box is in reference to the question on the admission application that relates to prior conviction history. In 2018, the Common Application announced that it would no longer ask students about their criminal history, Universities will need to decide by the end of the current academic year if they will continue to address the question in supplemental materials.

The students [presented](#) a number of facts and statistics to support their argument that the University undergraduate application should not ask about an applicant's conviction status. They

cited research that indicates asking about criminal history deters applicants from completing the application and pointed out that the graduate school application does not currently include the question on its application. The students asked that the CPUC review this policy in anticipation of the changes in the 2019 Common Application.

A question was posed by an audience member about who would ultimately make the decision about keeping the question on the application? President Eisgruber explained that the decision lies with him, and that he was unlikely to remove the question. The President did express a willingness to explore how the University can “ask the question better so that it mitigates some of the detriments.”

Innovation at Princeton

President Eisgruber introduced Provost Deborah Prentice who presented on the topic of [Innovation at Princeton](#). She began by outlining the goals of the University’s innovation strategies, among which include facilitating innovation, entrepreneurship, and partnerships that will enhance the quality and impact of Princeton’s research and teaching. She expressed that it was important for the University to make sure the discoveries and insights gleaned on this campus are used to change the world.

Provost Prentice took the opportunity to highlight the various assets at the University’s disposal and outlined a number of lessons learned over the course of a year-long examination of innovation at Princeton. She cited the University’s world-class human capital and a growing interest in innovation among numerous sectors and stakeholders in the region as two of our greatest assets and that most of our innovation efforts are faculty driven. She highlighted a number of important corporate partnerships recently established and concluded with a series of questions about what the University can do going forward to enhance innovation efforts.

Campus Life Diversity & Inclusion Framework Discussion

For the last presentation of the meeting, President Eisgruber introduced LaTanya Buck, Dean for Diversity and Inclusion in the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life who presented the newly developed [Framework for Diversity & Inclusion](#). She began her report by explaining that this framework was developed as part of the recommendations outlined by the Report of the Special Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in May of 2015. The recommendations focused on learning occurring outside of the classroom.

Dean Buck took the group through the process the committee took to develop this draft framework and outlined a series of next steps that would lead to the official launch of the framework in the Fall of 2019. She also took the opportunity to introduce Brigid Dwyer as the new associate dean for diversity and inclusion.

The President thanked all those in attendance. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Gage
Secretary