UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

THE SENATE

An overview of the new faculty USLC subcommittee: The New Student Orientation Task Force

SECTION 1. Background

On Sunday, November 1, the USG Senate adopted Resolution 24-2026 as a response to the changes announced on October 27 to the small-group Orientation experiences — Outdoor Action (OA), Community Action (CA), and Dialogue and Difference in Action (DDA). Backed by over 1,200 undergraduate signatures and more than 250 testimonials, the resolution called for the changes to be reversed and for a formal consultative process before any future modification.

Following two weeks of intense backlash from students and the broader Princeton community, on Monday, November 9, Vice President for Campus Life W. Rochelle Calhoun announced a "pause" to the changes and communicated an interest in further consultation with the community in reimagining *new student Orientation* as a whole and the role the small-group experiences play within it. Motivated by the resolution's call to place decision-making in the hands of students, USG President Quentin Colón Roosevelt, Vice President Anuj Krishnan, and USG Student Life Committee Chair Oscar Barrios met with Vice President Calhoun, Assistant Vice President Chris Burkmar, and Dean of Undergraduate Students Regan Crotty to discuss next steps. The meeting proved effective in establishing the utmost need for student representation in future decision-making, and ultimately concluded with the agreement to institutionalize a new body, not merely consultative but decision-making. This body will be composed of administrators, faculty, undergraduate students and will take on the responsibility of discussing the current state of new student Orientation programming, including the small-group experiences. It will be responsible for responding to financial pressures to reduce the costs associated with the small-group experiences; the need, backed by years of student feedback, to shorten the Orientation window; and the demands of the undergraduate community.

SECTION 2. Mandate and scope

The New Student Orientation Task Force will be established as an ad hoc subcommittee of the faculty University Student Life Committee (USLC), with membership presented at the USLC meeting on Monday, November 16. Its members, listed below, will work hands-on with the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of the College, and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students to weigh alternatives and formalize a plan by the end of the fall semester on December 22, 2026.

Under the *Task Force's* purview are the length of Orientation and the order and timing of its events; the future of each event — whether preserved, shortened, moved to online training over the summer, or carried into the academic year; and the small-group experience, including their mandatory nature, their duration, and their timing within the larger Orientation programming.

SECTION 3. Process

The *Task Force* is set to meet weekly for 90 minutes through December 22, with additional meetings as needed. Members are expected to attend every meeting and review circulated materials beforehand.

The construction of the plan will be grounded in the financial state of the University as presented by Office of the Vice President for Campus Life, post-Orientation survey results, the testimonials already submitted through the USG feedback form, and further feedback to be collected by the *Task Force* in collaboration with the USG. A vast share of the material to be presented to the *Task Force* is confidential, as it delves into University financials. Members are expected to exercise the utmost discretion.

In addition to its regularly scheduled meetings, the *Task Force* is expected to hold dedicated meetings with offices and groups across campus to diversify the voices represented in the redesign of Orientation programming. These include, but are not limited to, staff at Outdoor Action, the Pace Center, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion-Campus Life; OA, CA, and DDA student leaders; the Davis International Center on the state and timing of International Orientation; and Princeton Athletics on Athlete Orientation. The *Task Force* may consult any other stakeholders, including student groups, as its work requires.

Throughout the following weeks, members will revise the core components of Orientation and the small-group experience within it. They will be responsible for deciding which components must be kept in their current form, and which, backed by feedback, offer room to be redesigned or rethought. The Office of the Vice President for Campus Life will take the lead in drafting proposals ahead of meetings, and the meetings will serve as valuable spaces for members to introduce revisions informed by the students they represent. Once

the *Task Force* settles on the final version, members will be responsible for socializing it with the broader community.

SECTION 4. Charge

The following language was provided by the Vice President for Campus Life. It represents the official Charge of the Task Force to be presented in the November 16 USLC Meeting.

With an interest in furthering consultation with the community in reimagining New Student Orientation (NSO) as a whole and the role that small group experiences play in this experience specifically, I [W. Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President of Campus Life] am charging the New Student Orientation Task Force of the University Student Life Committee—a standing committee of the faculty—to do the following:

1. Review core New Student Orientation programs and consider whether programs can be reimagined and/or shifted to other formats (for example, online summer programs or FYRE), with the goal to shorten New Student Orientation and consider the role that small-group experiences can play within it.
2. In the consideration of options, review student feedback from Orientation evaluations, recent student surveys, recent student and alumni testimonials, Orientation leaders focus group feedback and any other relevant feedback.
3. Examine the financial costs associated with the small group experiences in the context of University cost reduction efforts.
4. Weigh alternatives and make a recommendation regarding a plan by the end of the fall semester, December 22, 2026.

SECTION 5. Membership

The New Student Orientation Task Force will be composed of administrators, faculty, and students. The criteria for selecting student members were grounded in their direct experience with Orientation including as Residential College Advisers (RCAs), OA/CA/DDA leaders, logistics planners for the small group experiences (CA Fellow, OA Trip Coordinator), Orientation Welcome Committee members, and Summer Engagement Coordinators. **Membership will be finalized following the November 16 USLC meeting.** Current membership stands as follows:

Administrative / Faculty Membership

1. W. Rochelle Calhoun, Vice President of Campus Life
2. Christopher Burkmar, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Administration
3. Regan Crotty, Dean for Undergraduate Students
4. Amanda Zeltner, Senior Associate Dean and Director of Orientation

5. Rick Curtis, Director of Outdoor Action
6. Sara Gruppo, Senior Associate Director of Engagement and Programs Director for Community Action
7. Karin Firoza, Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Campus Life
8. Anne Caswell, Senior Associate Dean of the College
9. Stacey Sinclair, Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs; former head of Mathey College
10. Heather Howard, Professor of the Practice, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs

Undergraduate Membership

11. Oscar Barrios ’27 — Co-Chair of the University Student Life Committee; OA Leader and Leader Trainer; OA Trip Coordinator (Summer 2024)
12. Quentin Colón Roosevelt ’27 — USG President; Former CA Leader
13. Anuj Krishnan ’27 — USG Vice President; Former International Orientation Leader; Residential College Adviser, Rockefeller College
14. Alejandra Ramos ’27 — CA Fellow (Summer 2024)
15. D’Schon Simmons ’27 — Class of 2027 President; Residential College Adviser, Mathey College; Former Orientation Welcome Committee Leader
16. Grace Brantley ’28 — Former CA Leader; Residential College Adviser, Butler College
17. Maddie Feldman ’27 — Community Living Adviser (CLA); Former Orientation Summer Engagement Coordinator