Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community held December 9, 2013 in 101 Friend Center. Present were Council members Ms. Banks, Mr. Brannon, Professor Braverman, Mr. Brown, Ms. Buff, Ms. Cherrey, Ms. Clifton, Ms. Dressel, Ms. Dromboski, Ms. Du, Mr. Durkee, President Eisgruber (chair), Ms. Funk, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Johnston, Mr. Kugelmass, Provost Lee, Ms. Lv, Mr. McDonough, Professor Morel, Mr. Morrell, Mr. Robertson, Ms. Shahbender, Professor Starr, Ms. Wright, Professor Wysocki, Mr. Zhu. Ms. Halliday was secretary.

Approval of Minutes; Question and Answer Session

The President called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and after the roll call he asked the Council for approval of the minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2013 which had been distributed in advance of the meeting. The minutes were approved.

Ms. Funk, GSG president, asked questions regarding the future of graduate student housing. She described the benefits of being able to live in University housing for graduate students including the proximity to campus and lower costs than in the regional rental market. She asked first “to what extent might the University potentially start thinking about increasing the percentage of graduate students they commit to house? And…when does the University expect to develop a plan for what happens with the Butler site, e.g. after the demolition of the current Butler Apartments, and would it generally be possible that such a site could be considered for graduate student (and post-doc) housing?” The President placed the question in the context of the broader strategic discussion about the graduate school’s future. The support that housing gives graduate students is well recognized and accounts for the University’s commitment to new housing under construction (over $100 million being invested for Lakeside graduate housing). But housing has to be considered in the larger context of graduate student support related to stipends; the size of the school; time to degree, etc. These are fundamental questions that the new dean will have to consider. With respect to Butler Apartments, the long-term plan is to develop faculty/staff housing on the site. Housing on University land is extremely expensive to build and maintain, and there are choices about priorities for funding. In terms of the percentage of graduate students to be housed in the future, the answer is difficult to know since the numbers of enrolled graduate students can change and these answers depend on further discussion with a new dean. He thanked Dean Russel for his letter regarding graduate student housing and efforts to communicate effectively with the students about housing. One of the undergraduates suggested that the University continue to include options for graduate students and undergraduates to reside together noting that both student bodies benefit.

Report of the Special Committee on Classroom Design

Mung Chang, Arthur LeGrand Doty Professor of Electrical Engineering, reported for a committee he recently chaired whose goal was to examine the effectiveness of classroom design for teaching needs in both traditional and emerging modalities of learning on campus. The committee sought to learn from both global best practices and local expertise, and to provide long shelf-life...
recommendations on principles and process. A copy of the committee’s report is on the Provost’s Website at [http://www.princeton.edu/provost/space-programming-plannin/](http://www.princeton.edu/provost/space-programming-plannin/). Professor Chang described the process used by the committee to inform themselves about the current state of classrooms and emerging trends. He discussed the committee’s recommendations which include: equip classrooms with user-friendly, always available, digital A/V technology; early involvement of all stakeholders in the process; centralized, accessible feedback-enabled databases for an inventory of classrooms; experiments with flexible, configurable space; careful planning of space outside of the classroom.

During the discussion that followed his report, members of the audience underscored the importance of making students and faculty aware of the resources that classrooms offer and the assistance new technology can offer as teaching tools. Professor Chang remarked on the important role that the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning plays in making faculty aware of these tools. While resources are needed for upgrading physical classroom spaces, resources must be devoted to training of faculty. Professor Chang noted that some of the recommendations are already being implemented and one member of the committee has volunteered to experiment with some of the advanced options. The President thanked Professor Change and his committee.

**Update on Meningitis B**

He then introduced Executive Vice President Treby Williams to lead a discussion of the University’s response to a recent outbreak of meningitis B and to answer questions. He noted that this is the first opportunity to introduce Ms. Williams in her new role which she assumed after serving as director of development priorities then director of planning and administration.

With Ms. Williams were Dr. Tom Clark from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Ms. Robin Izzo, Director, Environmental Health and Safety; and Dr. Peter Johnsen, Director of UHS Medical Services. Dr. Johnsen provided the context for undertaking the vaccination program noting that the first outbreak was reported in spring of 2013 and even after the summer dispersement of students additional cases were reported. The current total of 8 confirmed cases is high for a community this size and suggests sustainable transmission in the community. Dr. Clark described the process by which the CDC concluded that a vaccination was appropriate. He and colleagues had spent considerable time on campus to understand how we live; CDC had also determined that the strain of this serious disease in this outbreak is B for which no vaccine is approved in the U.S. However Europe, Australia and Canada have approved a vaccine for this strain, and after careful deliberations, the CDC had decided to recommend that the vaccination be made available on campus. Today is the first day of the vaccination process which is going extremely well. (Information about meningitis B and the University’s response to the outbreak is available and updated on the Website [http://web.princeton.edu/sites/emergency/meningitis.html](http://web.princeton.edu/sites/emergency/meningitis.html).)

It was noted that the CDC has approved offering the vaccine to all undergraduates, graduate students living in undergraduate dormitories, the Graduate College and annexes, and other members of the University community with certain medical conditions, and there was discussion about the choice of these populations. Dr. Clark explained the epidemiological characteristics of the disease and of this outbreak which focus attention on individuals between 16 and 22 who interact closely, especially living in dormitories. He reviewed past experiences here and elsewhere with outbreaks. Ms. Izzo described communications tactics including a video made by students. She noted that the
review process for this plan included the University Office of the General Counsel, outside counsel, and the N.J. department of health. The effectiveness of the vaccine was discussed, and Dr. Clark and Dr. Johnsen reminded the audience that the best protection requires both doses of the vaccine (the second dose will be offered in February) as well as continued vigilance and adherence to the health steps promoted among the student body. The vaccination is offered at no charge, and costs to the University are not great. The President thanked University staff and members of the CDC as well as students and other members of the community who have helped address this serious disease and to communicate effectively with students about the vaccination program.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Halliday
Secretary