

Introductions & Logistics

Committee members introduced themselves (Kevin is chair).

New members were onboarded and added to the Teams channel.

Overview of the initiative tracker (color-coded for status: green = active, blue = on hold, red = stalled or dropped).

Key Ongoing Initiatives

Textbook Access:

Effort to secure more physical copies of hard-to-get textbooks (starting with “Transport” textbook for a 10B class). They discussed pushing professors to make digital resources available or request more copies via the library.

Transfer Student Curriculum Access:

Transfer students can't register for certain required classes (e.g. writing seminars) due to registration restrictions. Committee discussed lobbying Dean Rowe to address this.

Class Registration Conflicts for Peabody Students:

Peabody music students face scheduling conflicts due to long classes and strict SIS (student info system) rules. Admin workaround required.

Study Spaces & Technology Issues:

Technical problems with the screen-sharing systems (Zoom vs. CoRespond).

Proposal for loaner tech accessories (HDMI, USB-C, etc).

Credit Overload Advocacy:

Students want flexibility to take heavier course loads. This initiative had mixed success due to administrative resistance.

Student Feedback Initiative (via Pancake Event):

Academic Affairs collaborated on an event to collect feedback via a QR form. Unfortunately, it didn't yield much actionable input. They plan to revise the approach for the next semester.

Course Manual Project:

Based on Princeton's “Principedia” – a peer-sourced class guide. Discussions with deans are ongoing about implementation, but sustainability is a concern.

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Brainstorming New Ideas

Members were encouraged to either join existing initiatives or propose new ones.

The team agreed they needed a second batch of ideas for the rest of the semester.

Ongoing Tagging & Essay Credit Issue

Dean Rowe is working to retroactively apply “essay” tags to qualifying classes. Students might suddenly see added credits if it goes through.

More on Textbooks

Discussion continued on distributing limited textbook content under copyright rules (e.g., 10% of the book).

Highlighted that textbook access is often seen by admin as a financial aid issue.

Powers of the Committee

Committee can propose and advocate, but real implementation usually needs admin cooperation. Nothing is fully student-led.

New Idea: CO₂ Monitoring in Lecture Halls

Proposed testing air quality in buildings like Ames, which is supposedly sustainable but reportedly has poor ventilation.

This sparked discussion about facilities and the limits of student influence.