

Princeton Tower Club

Report to the Princeton Prospect Foundation

February 21th, 2021



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tower Club has had to make several changes to adapt to the fully virtual environment. We hope to continue and build on our previous endeavors when the club reopens, but until then, the club will be working diligently to provide a robust virtual experience.

Education

Tower plans to continue supporting intellectual life at Princeton, by both providing a clean and well-maintained space for studying and offering the clubhouse as a venue for academic gatherings. The club currently partners with the History Department and the School of Public and International Affairs in order to provide space for precepts and seminars in the club's Woodbridge Precept Room.

Princeton Tower Club will soon have new SHARE peers from the sophomore and junior classes. In the spirit of its emphasis on sexual harassment awareness and prevention, Tower requires its current officers, members of the Bicker Committee, and all future officers to attend SHARE training. In addition to our SHARE peers, members Daniel Liu '21 and Hana Hongying Jiang '21 serve as the club's Peer Health Advisors.

Tower plans to continue its Roundtable Program in a virtual setting, allowing members to meet important figures on campus and discuss various issues with them over a meal. Public Safety Officer Sergeant Sean Ryder continues to serve as Public Safety's Eating Club Liaison Officer for Tower.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Princeton Tower Club is constantly working towards making the club one that is welcoming and inclusive to all. Before the Bicker process this year, many club members attended an implicit bias training hosted by the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding. In addition, this year, the new officer corps will be introducing the positions of two DEI chairs in order to promote equality amongst club membership and ensure that the Bicker process is as fair as possible. In addition, these chairs will serve as liaisons between the club membership and the officer corps, bringing any underlying issues to light, and coordinate further trainings with the Carl A. Fields Center.

Community Service and Civic Engagement

Tower's Community Service Chairs have previously led club members to engage in service projects both on and beyond Prospect Avenue. Our community service chairs have in the past, as part of the Community Service Interclub Council, helped organize the annual TruckFest charity event, and organized a Tower member visit to a local animal shelter in the spring of 2019. Outside of organized activities, many club members participate in service off-campus and in the online setting.

Tower plans to continue its civic engagement mission by making its building available as a space for the use of Princeton's student groups. Tower members also have the opportunity to reserve the Woodbridge Precept Room for study groups when there are no precepts or meetings taking place, an opportunity of which the membership takes full advantage during reading, midterm, and final examination periods. The emeritus Intramural Athletics Chair, Maggie Baughman '21, led club members to engage with other clubs on campus and live up to the Department of Athletics' official motto: "Education Through Athletics."

Sustainability

Tower Club plans on picking up where it left off in our pursuit of sustainability when the clubhouse reopens. The club's commitment to pursuing sustainability involves an active approach. Our goal is not just to reform club infrastructure but also to create an ethos of sustainability within the club and thereby encourage long-term behavioral change for our members. Projects undertaken by the club to encourage sustainability include encouraging the use of reusable cups and utensils, as well as composting food waste. In addition, Tower has continued to replace old fluorescent light bulbs with LEDs around the club as a measure to reduce electricity consumption. The new sustainability chairs will be working on projects to help encourage sustainability, both inside and outside the clubhouse. We plan to encourage an ethos of sustainability within the club and encourage large-scale and long-term change.

Technology and the Virtual Setting

Our new Technology Chairs, Mason El-Habr '23 and Haller Rice '23, will continue to update the club's technological infrastructure. In addition, due to the virtual nature of the year, technology at Tower will play a crucial role in keeping club members connected. The current officer corps plans to host at least two virtual events per week in order to encourage socialization within the club membership and allow new members to meet the older members. Furthermore, the use of several online platforms has allowed for Tower to stay connected while avoiding "Zoom Fatigue". For example, the use of a Tower Discord and smaller group chats have allowed for members to communicate with one another, and coordinate safe, socially-distanced interactions with one or two other members. The Technology Chairs are also working on setting up various gaming and entertainment servers to allow for more creative interactions amongst club members.