

Princeton Tower Club

Report to the Princeton Prospect Foundation

February 23rd, 2022



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Princeton Tower Club has had to make several changes to adapt to the evolving circumstances and mitigation rules to ensure a safe, healthy, and compliant environment for its members and the larger Princeton Community.

Education

Tower has been supporting intellectual life at Princeton throughout the past year by providing a clean and well-maintained space for its members and guests to study. The Club is hoping to resume offering the clubhouse as a venue for academic gatherings in the future and has historically partnered with the History Department and the School of Public and International Affairs to provide space for precepts and seminars in the club's Woodbridge Precept Room.

Tower has been working closely with our resident SHARE peer, Dafna Yavetz '23, to educate the community about issues related to sexual assault and harassment and ensure a safe and comfortable environment while promptly addressing these issues if they arise. In the spirit of its emphasis on sexual harassment awareness and prevention, Tower also requires all its members to attend SHARE training. These commitments to building an educational, supportive, and safe environment are strengthened by GRSC resources within the club, including a GRSC intern in Josiah Gouker '22 and a GRSC peer educator in AJ Lonski '23, our current president.

Tower is hoping to resume its Roundtable Program in the future, which allowed members to meet important figures on campus and discuss various issues with them over a meal.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Princeton Tower Club is constantly working towards making the club one that is welcoming and inclusive to all. This includes implicit bias training from the Carl A. Fields Center that various members attended. The club has also worked to encourage strong affinity spaces within the club for various communities. In addition, over the past year, the club received continual guidance on ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment from our outgoing DEI chairs, Josiah Gouker '22 and Megan Pan '22, and we are looking forward to continuing this relationship with our future chairs. These chairs supported the Bicker Committee in organizing a pre-bicker DEI information session for potential members. However, one of the biggest accomplishments from this role was the organization of a listening session that allowed members to voice DEI based concerns to leadership and offer suggestions on making Tower a more inclusive community and we hope to expand these events and make them more frequent in the future.

Community Service and Civic Engagement

Community service on and beyond Prospect Avenue is organized by our Community Service Chairs, although this has been complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, our outgoing chairs, Joy Xie '22 and Casey Sims '22 supported the ICC in organizing the Fall Crawl, which raised money for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. The club also fundraised \$500 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness as a part of one of its annual members' events. Outside of organized activities, many club members participate in service off-campus and in the online setting, including volunteer EMTs, volunteer public school tutors, and mental health hotline workers.

Tower plans to continue its civic engagement mission by making its building available as a space for the use of Princeton's student groups, including the Woodbridge Precept Room which is often reserved for study groups by members when no precepts or meetings are occurring. Such spaces allow Tower to stay civically engaged and lead various civic engagement groups across the campus including Mock Trial, Model UN, and the Fed Challenge.

Sustainability

Our outgoing Sustainability Chair, Claire Wayner '22, reported the following: "Upon returning to an in-person experience in the clubhouse, Tower began re-implementing many initiatives that enhanced sustainability while promoting COVID safety. Reusable dishes and utensils were used and prioritized whenever possible. Members were encouraged to sanitize their hands prior to serving themselves, instead of using the optional single-use plastic gloves, to minimize plastic waste while maintaining sanitary conditions. Collection of food scraps for composting has been ongoing, with food waste delivered to Organic Diversion, a local composting vendor. Tower's sustainability chairs also reached out to the sustainability chairs of other eating clubs to assist with their efforts to enhance sustainability." Lastly, Tower has almost completed replacing its lighting system with energy efficient LED bulbs, and is looking in the future to further reduce plastic waste and possibly install rooftop solar panels.

Technology and the Virtual Setting

From our new Technology Chairs, Alkin Kaz '23 and Brian Tieu '23: "Tower will continue to maintain and update the club's technological infrastructure in both online and on-site fronts. The continuous transitions between the virtual and in-person modes of communication over the past year both enabled and necessitated a stronger club-wide digital presence. Use of instant messaging and other virtual community-building apps have matured over the past year with large-scale Tower GroupMe and Discord servers as well as more than a dozen smaller group chats on niche interests being initiated by the membership. Increased digital community engagement observed over this period has led the current Technology Chairs to set the project of renovating the club website with the state-of-the-art web development technologies, providing greater functionality and member experience as well as stronger cybersecurity, as one of the most important strategic priorities for their tenure. Furthermore, the Technology Chairs are also working on providing the Tower members with extensive guides on what technological resources Tower has to offer within the clubhouse and how to utilize them most effectively."