

The April 10, 2008 University Park Undergraduate Association meeting was called to order by Ralph Crivello.

TEMPORARY secretary Hillary Gupta took roll call.

John Richter expressed his concern about the bylaws...he doesn't like the way representatives were put in committees. He also is not pleased with the resolution and would like us to NOT pass it

Thomas Shakely does not agree with the Student Activity Fee. He thinks that we do NOT need it.

Gavin expressed how the reason we need this meeting is because we need to know how our assembly feels about the student activity fee because the way we feel is how he will be voting tomorrow.

The presentation of Gail Hurley was moved to the end of the meeting.

Ralph Crivello (Chair of the Assembly) spoke about the first steering committee meeting that we had this past Sunday. If anyone has any questions/concerns for him- please let him know. He stressed that all of us should try to at least make an appearance tomorrow at the meeting to show that we care. The meeting is at 3:30 pm in 233 HUB. He also spoke about how we want to move these meetings downstairs to the first floor and change the seating arrangement to make a more formal setup. Sean Meloy questioned him about this. (rightfully so...) Then he asked him about receiving the resolutions earlier than the day of. Sean was assured that they will be presented to the assembly prior to all meetings.

Chris Morrell (Internal Development) spoke about the ID committee. His first meeting will be Friday at 4 pm. He welcomes any opinions but those who are not actually on the committee cannot vote. He met with John Lozano about the Elections Code and he will be meeting with Justin Waddell because he was the former chair of this committee.

Nick Mance (Facilities) spoke and told us how there is a UCIF meeting next Wednesday. He is trying to figure out how he is going to elect a vice-chair for his committee.

Samantha Miller (Governmental Affairs) had Ralph tell everyone that her primary objective is to increase our voice in on Borough Council. Her committee is meeting on Wednesdays.

Matt Smith (Academic Affairs) told everyone how last Friday he went to a meeting for the Arts and Architecture College with Ralphie for Student Council. They haven't heard back from them yet. They haven't been able to have a meeting yet because of the dinner but he will figure that out soon with the delegates. Gavin asked how the arts and architecture college meeting was. Ralphie then spoke about this and said that he was surprised that there wasn't any student representation from that college. This is the reason they are meeting with them about forming a student council.

Hillary Gupta (Special Events and Programming)

Steve Lucas (Diversity) told us how he is going to continue Nicole's idea to improve campus climate.

Ralphie introduced Gail Hurley to give us a presentation about the Student Activity Fee.

Gail Hurley started off by congratulating us on winning the election for UPUA. She apologized for not bringing us a better presentation because she didn't have enough time to prepare something. Then she started apologizing about a lot of things. Hillary Gupta was not recognized when she asked a question. In 2005, a study was done about recreation space. There had been many concerns expressed about this. They talked to a number of students, student organizations, faculty members- and they found that they had a deficit in recreation space: fitness space, aerobics space, and wellness space. A suggestion was that they could start charging a fee to the students to pay for additions to the recreational students. When they did a renovation in 2000, there was still not enough space. What we may not know is that this new fee would not only pay for some renovations to the recreational facilities but also to the new wellness center. In February, Dr. Latta and Gail sat down with some of the Presidents of some organizations.....TIME OUT.... So they met with the Presidents and they were not very comfortable with charging the students more money. They put a slide show together of what other universities did and then they presented it to the Student Activity Fee Board. They didn't want to make a new fee...they wanted to just add onto it...make it apart of the Activity Fee. They heard from students that they liked the transparency of the fee. They talked to any group that wanted Gail and Stan to talk to them so that they would understand what they wanted to do. She told us the time again and said that there is an open "public" comment period in the first ten minutes of the meeting. She said that some common concerns are that students feel like they are rushing this. Also, people have asked about having all of this money but not having a plan. The way that student leaders and administrators have a partnership is through dialogue. What they are going to do is look at the HUB expansions, do some more renovation to the Natatorium, do something with swimming and aerobic space, and with Intramural space. She stressed about how the way we are going to have a partnership- is by hearing our student voice- our opinions. She passed around a couple of pictures to show us of what this new fee COULD get us. Then she gave us examples of what else we could renovate. Representative Christopher Nock asked Gail a question.

Representative Sean Meloy asked to extend questioning to Gail Hurley to ten more minutes. It was then seconded.

Representative Sean Meloy then asked Gail a question. Representative Michael Wallace then asked a question. Representative Kaitlyn Kunkle then asked a question. Representative Richard Shermanski then asked a question. Representative Nick Mance then asked a question. Representative Steve Lucas then asked a question. Representative Andrew Karasik then asked a question. Representative Mathew Smith then asked a question. Andrew Karasik moved to extend the time by two minutes but it was rejected.

Ralphie moved to allowing the GSA liaison to speak. GSA President Mendoza spoke. Gavin asked him what he felt about this fee. Representative Chris Morell asked what his position on the fee was. Mr. Mendoza said that he thinks it is very rushed. Representative Karasik asked him another question. Liaisons do not vote.

Representative Karasik moved to take a 5 minute recess BUT it was rejected.

Ralphie introduced Representative Morell and President Keirans introduced the resolution of the Facilities Fee.

Representative Morell read the resolution to everyone. Representative Matt Smith asked a question about the Plan of Action. He wanted to add an amendment. Representative Karasik asked about rephrasing the document given what Ms. Hurley said. Gavin answered and said that this was told that this was going to be a new fee and did not know that it was an extension to the fee. Representative Meloy asked what line 29 meant. Representative Nick Mance asked about the presidential commission. Representative Steve Lucas asked Gavin a question. Andrew Karasik had a point of order. If there is a concern- when can we express it. Representative Meloy said that this language does not really make sense. Representative Morell stressed that this is OUR money that will be spent. In his opinion, consider that we are paying this out of our pocket to pay for something that we do not know what it is going toward. Representative Karasik stated that this is the first time that he heard that Gail said that this fee is part of the student activity fee. Before, it had always been thought that it was a SEPARATE fee. In his opinion, "this is TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION." He recommends that we look at if this fee gets passed, we still are contributing money. He thinks that we should have complete say of where this money goes. We should have the option to opt out at any time. This fee could increase at any time. In section, 4, line 19- He thinks that we should make that part a little more specific.

Steve: Administration wants to do this and will go through. They are not going to let this fail. WE need student representation on the board. There needs to be a plan.

Gavin: Where you aware about the HUB plan?

Gavin: I was. Why did they not make it a separate fee.

Amend: The administration must consent to a Presidential Commission of the UPUA that will provide as planning guidance as to specifically what this fee will be used for in perpetuity.

Representative Karasik wants to make an amendment to the amendment. Gavin proposed that we say "planning guidance and oversight as to specifically what this fee will be used for in perpetuity."

Representative Meloy does not think that having a campus-wide referendum is not worthwhile.

"To educate the students of University Park on the proposed fee and its repercussions for at least one week." Strike number 1 and replace it with this. This is what Representative Meloy moved to do.

Representative Kunkle said that she thinks it's a good idea that we do a referendum because we need to know what the students think even though it takes a lot of work from us.

Representative Karasik reiterated that students are NOT going to want to pay more because we already have the highest tuition in the country.

Representative Morell motions to amend the document:

Line 16- from "oversee" to "control". IT PASSED

The resolution passed by a roll call vote.

Representative Karasik spoke about how we need to make sure we devote as much time as it takes to go through meetings every time we meet no matter the circumstance.

The meeting was called to an end by Ralphie after a whopping two and a half hours.

Next meeting will be next Wednesday at 8 pm.