

UPUA General Assembly Meeting  
19 November 2008

- I. Call to Order and Opening Roll Call
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
  - a. Agenda is adopted
- III. Adoption of the past general meeting minutes
  - a. Past General Meeting Minutes are adopted
- IV. Open Student Forum
  - a. Parker Trostoll- ARHS
    - i. Any initial questions on the basics of the fee?
      1. Steve Lucas- Did ARHS vote on the fee based on specific documents?
        - a. Based on oral presentation and now documentation.
          - i. Steve Lucas- Why wasn't UPUA given a memo?
            1. We had a meeting last week, but UPUA thought the meeting wouldn't be productive so it was cancelled.
      2. Andrew Karasik- Meetings were requested with specific members of ResLife, but those meetings were expanded to add many other people. Shouldn't all organizations be part of this fee?
        - a. The intention of the fee is to address a well voiced problem that there aren't enough study spaces or social lounges. These are not programming spaces. ARHS is allowing itself to make exceptions to be fair and equitable.
      3. Sean Meloy- Do you believe that provisional housing is inhibiting study spaces? Do you think a lack of housing is to blame?
        - a. Supplemental housing is not in social lounges. ARHS does agree that there is a housing problem.
      4. Steve Lucas- This fee is to limit quality organizational programs. It's the principal of the fact because certain groups cannot afford this fee.
        - a. We'd be heartless to not waive the fee if it's a quality program. We will have the right to choose.
      5. Sam Miller- Why did ARHS feel comfortable charging students when there was no awareness of the fee? Also why can't you have more stringent requirements to hold a program?
        - a. ARHS has been around for awhile. The administrators usually side with us. There is student representation because ARHS students will be monitoring it. If we think the fee is a problem it can be revoked.
      6. Peter Khoury- ARHS has had these documents for awhile, why haven't they been made available to UPUA?
        - a. We could have produced it, which was the point of the meeting. I apologize if I sound defensive, but no UPUA representatives attend ARHS which is in the constitution.

You would have known about it a year ago if people had come.

7. Daniel Lersch- You say you have a great relationship with the administrators and Spanier wants to get rid of wasted space on campus. Many times it's just one or two people using those rooms, wouldn't that be wasted space?
  - a. It could go totally against what we're intending. ARHS will watch this fee very closely. If we hurt on campus programming and hurting organizations we can revoke it. If you want us to report back to you guys, we will. Jeffrey of the culinary club was in The Collegian and I emailed him asking how we could help.
  - ii. Ralph Crivello- We've had a dialogue and I thank you for coming out to address and answer some tough questions. We added that provision to the constitution after this year.
    1. Parker- I think it's okay for us to disagree.

#### V. Report by the President- Gavin Keirans

- a. Refer to your report!
- b. Attending Alumni Council
  - i. Many questions about what was going on in UPUA.
- c. Legal Services brought out, and many people on board. We want this ready to go by end of academic year.
- d. Ralph will talk about SOCC
- e. Luke Pierce- Thanks for the opportunity to speak. I was elected IFC president last night, thanks for your support and encouragement. It was difficult to leave Director of Greek Life. I'll make sure I can help fill my position. Opportunities for UPUA and IFC are great. This is the first step in a great relationship.

#### VI. Special Presentations- Dr. Latta

- a. I'm passing around an organizational chart, but don't want to bore you with a lot of details. I think I have a very unique job by reporting to two people at the same time, business and student affairs. I work very closely with Chris Hurley. Dave is responsible for retail operations on campus, everything dealing with food sales. Lisa is the director of residential dining. Connell is the director of housing operations. Diane Andrews is the senior director for residence life. Lynn is the director for ancillary services, which is assignment, summer, and desk operations. Lee is in charge of physical plant issues.
- b. I worked in the HUB for a number of years. I didn't come to Penn State to be here, but Environmental Resource. Going Green is very important to me, specifically on campus. We recycle many things on campus and put them back into the campus. Penn State is trying to take a positive step. Put forth any efforts you can. It's a passionate area of mine.
- c. Questions
  - i. Amy Sanders- I think Penn State's green initiative is great, but why don't we have paper towels or hand dryers?
    1. We don't have them on the residence hall floors because we assume that student's will use their own issues. It's a sanitary,

- economic and environmental issue. Dorm floors are private areas so we assume people will use their own things.
- ii. Sarah Donnenberg- It's very hot during the winter, why is that? Can the temperature not be controlled?
    1. When they were built 50 years ago we put in steam heat. It's no longer a very efficient means. It's not easy to regulate. All of our new building have electric systems. It's a tremendous waste of energy.
  - iii. Chris Morrell- We all know that prices at Penn State will increase, but where does it stop? I don't know if ARHS's fee would have happened if Facilities Fee didn't happen. How can there be a dialogue if the fee is announced on a Tuesday and enacted on a Wednesday? Where does it stop?
    1. In 1999, no student groups could use space in residence halls. We went to ARHS because the HUB was under construction. Residents provide funds for all the upkeep of residence life, not the general student body. But eventually a problem arose because resident's based organizations were finding it hard to find space when they were the ones paying for it. We felt that a fee might help protect these spaces. This was proposed before the Facilities Fee was passed. Remember, if an organization pairs with an on-campus group the fee is waived. This fee is to clean up and use the space. I support what Parker said today. If it proves detrimental we can change it.
  - iv. Megan Quinn- I heard that students are giving compost trays in Redifer, but there were no compost bins so students were just throwing them away.
    1. We're trying to educate students. We need to figure out the best way to compost in residence hall dining areas. We've replaced Styrofoam with compostable plastic materials.
  - v. Andrew Karasik- My constituency is very opposed to this fee because there are members of groups that aren't considered on-campus who are hurting from this fee. How does money coming into HFS make up for students losing space and why did it take so long for our facilities chair to receive actual confirmation and documentation?
    1. In HFS we did what we always did and consulted ARHS. We thought we were doing what was best to do. I had a meeting with Nick and Gail last week, but could have met with him earlier. I got information here as quickly as I thought appropriate. If there is another way to suggest regulating, I think UPUA should bring it up with ARHS. The easiest way to fix it is no non-residence hall groups can use the space.
  - vi. Sean Leonard- How would you define a resident and non-resident organization? ATLAS started as a resident organization, but now isn't fully. On the other hand, Harry Potter club isn't considered on-campus.
    1. ARHS are the ones that advise us on the use of space and facilities. Groups can give evidence to make that determination.

- vii. Sean Meloy- A lot of students have seen a lot of buildings go up on campus, but what efforts are being made to build more residence halls and fix the housing problem?
  - 1. We're looking at ways to fund the renovations. The next place we're looking at is South Halls. We can't secure our own loans to build our buildings. We're about 3 or 4 years away from being able to borrow. We're looking at 3<sup>rd</sup> party ways to renovate. At IUP the foundation has loaned money to the residence hall.
- viii. Peter Khoury- You previously stated that some groups would be exceptions, such as student government, but Diane said we would pay. Any clarification?
  - 1. If you're sponsored you won't pay.
- ix. Ben Lombard- PA is taking off the cap on electricity fee, how will you work to fix this? Windmill power?
  - 1. The physical plant is looking at numerous ways to conserve energy. We buy 95% of our electricity because our plant cannot power all of campus. We're trying to make sure that the cap is not removed for Penn State. I haven't heard about windmills yet.
- x. Philip Slusser- Where does funding come from to fund the compost plant?
  - 1. University saves money by using the compost plant. We don't have to pay money to take it to the landfill. We're creating our own compost. We save money long-term. We're also taking cooking oil and converting it to bio-diesel fuel.
- xi. Steve Lucas- A lot of us are opposed to this fee, is it worth our time to pass a resolution saying we don't agree with this fee? Our voice hasn't been taken seriously thus far. Will this just get pushed through?
  - 1. Let me challenge ARHS. We worked with ARHS, as we always do. I would suggest that you suggest to Parker a way to rethink this fee. We didn't institute this fee to build new things on campus, but to cover costs for us. If we can do something that doesn't create a fee, we're fine with that.

VII. Old Business (none)

VIII. New Business

a. Resolution 14- AAC Council Conference

- i. Benjamin Lombard- Thank you for bringing this forward. Our council conference will be December 10. We bring all councils and talk about different issues in a networking atmosphere. We'll be catering food because there is greater attendance. We're requesting a little over \$600 to cover the cost of food.
- ii. Questions
  - 1. When are you sending out the invitations?
    - a. They were sent today.
  - 2. Sean Meloy- UPUA did something similar last year, correct?
    - a. Yes, last fall and spring.
- iii. Discussion

1. Ralph Crivello- Last spring it was a little bit more money, so Ben bargained with the catering service well. This is a really good opportunity for all the councils to come together. It's also very important. We can get feedback and the different councils can interact with each other.

iv. Vote

1. Resolution 14 passes by a vote of 35-0-0

b. Resolution 15 Reconsideration of Commons Area Rec Room Fees

i. Introduction to bring to the floor- Nick Mance

1. Describes commons area rec room fees as we know them. This calls for some urgency since it will be voted on Friday. It's asking for this fee to be delayed. Gavin says it is not being voted on Friday.

2. Questions- none.

ii. Introduction of Resolution- Nick Mance

1. Thank you Peter Khoury and Sam Loewner for writing this. The nature of the situation is self explanatory, especially after Parker and Dr. Lotta's presentations. We feel this fee is illegitimate. Enough groups have a hard enough time, a fee will not help. Has already been passed by controllers, as we understand it will be implemented in January. UPUA feels this fees is absolutely detrimental because many groups use these areas to voice information. We feel this language isn't too harsh on ARHS, we just think it is inappropriately charged. There is no real student oversight. We recommend that this be delayed and more consideration be put on this until proper documentation is provided. I was given documentation right before the meeting began, only one letter. We want to take precautions to make sure we can be proactive in preventing these types of fees. We charge that the executive board help us find out more about this fee, may not be necessary after tonight. We want to know why this fee is necessary. I have two sides either ARHS and students are trying to promote this for equality or it's part of cost-recovery.

iii. Discussion

1. Andrew Karasik- There are a lot of issues afoot here. I think I should represent 13,000 undergraduate students. UPUA is the official student government, that represents students on and off campus. ARHS only represents the issues of on-campus students. Many organizations with members who live on campus but are not affiliated with on-campus will be adversely effected. For cost recovery this is like \$35,000 a year. I applaud facilities for working on this issue. Nick has been given the run around. We're taking a stand here. I do not speak for ARHS, but I think ARHS is being used as a scapegoat. It's not really up to ARHS, but the administration. They are a great group of students who shouldn't be used in that regard.

2. Ricardo Torres- I come to you from the perspective of service organizations. We use those areas a lot. The administrative accounts in these groups are very low. Most students organizations wouldn't be able to use the area much. Also, I've been a check-in desk worker for 3 years and have never heard a student complaining about a program being there. Do not just stop at passing this, but offer an alternative solution. Maybe non-residence groups can reserve a group 1 or 2 weeks before an event, giving residence groups first dibs.
3. Samantha Miller- I feel that the recommended course of action is too vague. It's more philosophical, than action oriented. I think we need to offer an alternative option. I think there's a way to do this without the fee. They should have to produce an opinion.
4. Gavin Keirans- I agree that this is a step one. The recommended course of action should be stronger, and following conversations should be had. I think it's worth passing, but we can improve the process. This isn't UPUA vs ARHS but an understanding. This money isn't even going back to student but HFS.
5. Steve Lucas- I'd like to thank facilities for coming up with this document. But I would urge people to vote against this because it's trying to keep students out of this space. I think there should be no fee and space for all or keep people out. They need to do what they want to do, not use money. If this fee considers we should organize a boycott of these spaces.
6. Gavin Keirans- Steve I understand your passion, but I don't think voting no is necessarily the best course of action. It's a definite improvement. You have a strong stand but it's not solving much.
7. Sam Loewner- I feel that the crux of this is looking for the implementation of this fee to be delayed. This allows for time to come up with a plan. Time is of the essence. This fee is going to happen by January 2009. I think there was a lot of talk about ARHS being able to allow groups to not pay this, but we can't just base this off Parker's administration. Maybe down the line they won't partner with groups. Maybe it sounds good now, but forever?
8. Steve Lucas- I guess I just have a more radical stance. This is very personal to ARHS, we're going after them. For the sake of working with them and cooperation, I don't know if this is in our best interest.
9. Andrew Karasik- Steve, I agree there could be more forceful language, but the time as come for this. We're running out of time. Make an agreement if you think clauses need to be struck.
10. Megan Quinn- The matter which we're doing this is completely wrong. We're going into attack mode. I don't think this will help the issue. Passing this resolution in its current form could make

the situation worse. If we can't deal with small issues like this how will we deal with bigger issues?

11. Matt Smith- I've helped Nick with this a lot, but I'd support this more if we took out some language about ARHS specifically. I don't think this should be handled behind closed doors. The large HUB rental fees were reversed based on students.
12. Andrew Karasik- Remove from lines 49 to 51 up to the word entitled from the paragraph. Paragraph would begin with The money made. Also, to remove from 3 to 6 on second page and linking distributed to in addition. On line 7 adding the Association of Residence Hall Students (ARHS). The reason for this is that Parker was gracious enough to meet with us tonight. They have the goals in mind that are right for their constituency.
  - a. William Barr- Objection. I feel it accurately represents what happened.
  - b. Ben Lombard- Although it may be accurate, it's not in our interest to present it in that way.
  - c. Andrew Karasik- I'm a member of ARHS and a little bit bothered of this. One group of students shouldn't condemn another group of students. We both represent our constituents with the right goals in mind.
  - d. Gavin Keirans- The spirit of this is great and warranted, but it's not a smart idea to pit students against students. It doesn't make practical sense. I don't think the authors meant to go that far, but it wouldn't speak well for us as an organization.
  - e. Sam Loewner- As a co-author, I think this amendment is appropriate. I took it for granted that ARHS wouldn't be offended. I know it's harsh, but I think it's accurate.
  - f. Amendment passes.
13. Ralph Crivello- I have a few comments and then an amendment. It's sad that every time Stan comes before an assembly that he's defending a fee. I found it a little disconcerting that lately we've been directed to ARHS. I think this is a bait and switch attempt at ResLife. It took them two and a half weeks to set up a meeting. We've been batted around for a long time. There's no problem with ARHS. It's a fee affecting all students, the problem is on campus, so that's the role of this organization. We have the best intentions of working with ARHS. The concern raised by Lucas is justified. There should be no class system among groups. I would have less a problem if this fee was going to ARHS. We're starting to focus demand. I move to add line 31 the assembly charges the UPUA facilities committee in collaboration with ARHS to form a task force to address concerns in relation to this fee. During this task force UPUA calls upon ARHS to post pone the fee implementation in good faith negotiation.

- a. Andrew Karasik- Is this something ARHS would be able to consider?
  - i. Parker- I don't think this is the ideal solution. We can work with you as we go. If you're insistent. Let me first give you some background information. We decided to start in January because we thought it would look slimey to start it over the summer. We thought it would be best to get the word out while we're in session. I think we'd be up for it with the understanding that after the spring semester if we're still serious about trying that you give the autonomy to try.
- b. Sam Miller- I think with more time and a task force, and Dr. Lotta's word that administration would be up for this that would be good.
- c. Greg Plumb- Who you be up for an idea to non-residents organizations get 2 weeks and residents organizations get 4 weeks.
  - i. Parker- I think there would be unintentional harm because small groups would have a huge uncertainty. I don't think I would be in support of it.
- d. Steve Lucas- I commend Crivello and Karasik because the criticism of ARHS was unwarranted and ARHS can explain why they won't cooperate if they don't agree.
- e. Amendment passes.

iv. Vote

- 1. Resolution 15 passes by a vote of 35-0-0.
- c. Resolution 16 Funding Requests for THON Event Amenities
  - i. Introduction to bring to floor- Sean Leonard
    - 1. We're planning a Flag Football event. We haven't been able to advertise so no one has signed up yet. So far we've only gotten food and hot drink donations. We are asking for money for water and advertising. We will continue to seek donations for water and hand warmers. If we get these we will return money to the organization.
    - 2. Questions
      - a. Matt Smith- What was the committees vote?
      - b. It wasn't brought through programming.
  - ii. Questions after brought to floor
    - 1. Ralph- Who can participate?
      - a. Sean Leonard- We're looking for any person to get involved. That's why we want more advertising. We don't have a specific number of people. We're hoping at least 20 teams, which would be close to 200 people participating.
    - 2. Valarie Russell- Are we collaborating with THON?

- a. Sean- They love what we're doing, but the overall committee will be in Philly so they won't be able to attend.
- 3. Valarie Russell- Individual committees will be signing up?
  - a. Yes, hopefully.
- 4. Ben Lombard- It's been announced to some committees, but not all. A few overalls may be able to participate.
- 5. Chris Morrell- Did you create a facebook group?
  - a. Yes.
- 6. Sarah DONnenberg- Have you used Gavin as a resource?
  - a. We will be sending out list-servs, but not yet. It might not be totally effective.
    - i. Gavin- I think some people have a lot of contacts, and should further this along. Remember if this money isn't spent it will be given back.
- 7. Sam Miller- What would this small advertising campaign be?
  - a. Facebook ad campaigns? They're relatively inexpensive. It will be geared towards undergrads. I've contributed a lot of my own money.

### iii. Discussion

- 1. Sean Meloy- How many people in this group are in another organization. I urge you to get your groups to come together.
- 2. Chris Morrell- SOS will have a team.
- 3. Gavin Keirans- Sean has put a lot of time and effort into this. This is the UPUA name.
- 4. Sam Miller motions to end debate.
  - a. Ellie Okkelberg- objection I think we can pump more money into this.
- 5. Hillary motions to reconsider.
  - a. Passes.
- 6. Ellie Okkelberg- I motion to amend line 24 to read \$300.
  - a. Matt Smith- objection because we voted to close because \$100 can slide. There is no wording about where this money is coming from or anything. There are no prices. This isn't backed up.
  - b. Hillary Gupta- Huge difference is 1,500 and 300. \$100 isn't enough for advertising.
  - c. Sean Leonard- \$300 would allow us to buy hand warmers which is 24.99 for a case of 40. A case of water ranges from 3-5 dollars for a case. Plus this gives advertising. I lowballed hoping I'd get at least that.
  - d. Nick Mance- I'm in favor because Sean has put a lot of time and energy into this, and I'm sure he lowballed.
  - e. Hubert Hines- Can we get an announcement made during the football game?
    - i. Val- Yes we can.
    - ii. Sean- I'll work on it.



- i. Not in attendance
  - b. ARHS- Andrew Koontz
    - i. Not in attendance
- X. Report by the Association Directors and Staff
  - a. Chief of Staff- Mike Anderson
  - b. Treasurer- Matt Sheroff
    - i. I will be resigning at the end of the semester. If you have any suggestions let me know!
  - c. Greek Life- Luke Pierce
  - d. Media- Adam Ferrone
  - e. Business- Louis Orazio
  - f. Women's Affairs- Ruth Canagarajah
  - g. Multicultural Affairs- Cindy Wang
    - i. Ben Lombard- How is the Chinese Season going?
      - 1. She's not hear, but we've heard well.
  - h. Legislative Affairs- Ian Vickery
  - i. UPUA Legal Affairs- Huzefa Mun
  - j. Off Campus Student Affairs- Pat Gordon
  - k. Community Service- Ricardo Torres
    - i. I think it's a little bit insulting for us to sit here and not speak. It was insulting for you all to celebrate.
    - ii. Service Project for UPUA to complete- We'll either do Meals on Wheels or Tray Favors.
      - 1. Sean Leonard- I was clapping because we have full executive board and reports this week.
- XI. Committee Reports
  - a. Steering- Ralph Crivello
    - i. Constitutional amendment next week about ad hoc committee
    - ii. Working on budgeting procedures. Bringing to the floor by 2/3 should be emergent. Be diligent.
    - iii. SOCC- officially signed to merge with us as UPUA board of arbitration. This will empower them.
      - 1. We're working to transfer power over.
    - iv. Questions
      - 1. Nick Mance- Is taste of Penn State ran through Lion Ambassadors?
        - a. Sam Miller- Yes. It's to reach out to many different student leaders.
  - b. Internal Development- Andrew Karasik
    - i. SAFB- broke into subcommittees to address issues with UPAC and student funding. We're taking a proposal as a working document to propose that UPAC comes under UPUA and GSA. Funding for UPAC would be discharged by assemblies of the two organizations.
    - ii. Commend Ralph and Gavin about SOCC.
    - iii. Elections commission still going on.
    - iv. Questions
      - 1. Matt Smith- process of selecting commissioners? And proposal?

- a. We want to have the code passed when we come back and commissioners by the end of the semester.
  - c. Programming- Hillary Gupta
    - i. New vice chair is John King, he'll take over once I go abroad.
  - d. Facilities- Nick Mance
    - i. HUB Robeson Advisory- computer store wants to move to 104 HUB, ID office wants to move to STA office. We need more student representation there.
    - ii. Questions
      - 1. Pat Gordon- The computer store is already in 104 HUB.
  - e. Academic Affairs- Matt Smith
  - f. Governmental Affairs- Samantha Miller
  - g. Diversity Campus Life- Steve Lucas
    - i. We reviewed various resolutions and made amendments. We shared comments about rape and sexual assault module.
- XII. Comments for the Good of the Order
  - a. Ben Lombard- Let executive board know about the AAC Council Dec 5 at 6:30
  - b. Chris Morrell- Have fun abroad.
  - c. Sean Leonard- Thank you for passing resolution for money. We will spend as little as possible.
  - d. Richard Shermanski- Happy Thanksgiving! Go Penn State, we need this victory!
  - e. Nick Mance- Great to see everyone's enthusiasm about the Rec Room Fee legislation.
  - f. Matt Smith- It's awesome that everyone is here.
  - g. Ellie Okkelberg- UPUA has been against jackets, but you can get your own if you want.
  - h. Ralph Crivello- Happy Thanksgiving! Only one meeting left after Thanksgiving. Keep up the good work!
  - i. Pat Gordon- Holiday Tree Lighting at Allen St. gates. Lock your doors, windows, etc.
  - j. Ricardo Torres- Hunger Banquet tomorrow night. Will be presenting on 6 cents initiative.
    - i. Val- Do I have to do something with that this week only?
      - 1. Ricardo- If in town for break, come to the food bank.
  - k. Steve Lucas- Thanks for the discussion tonight. Tomorrow is Transgender
- XIII. Closing Roll Call and Adjournment
  - a. Meeting is adjourned at 10:40 PM.