

UPUA General Assembly Meeting  
5 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 minutes
  - a. Adoption of the past general minutes
- IV. Open Student Forum
  - a. none
- V. Report By the President- Gavin Keirans
  - a. Still waiting on stop gap funding, it should be here very soon.
  - b. Friday is SAFB meeting, not sure about all the topics to be discussed. Will email you all.
  - c. Ralph will talk about the SOCC merger.
  - d. Tenant Landlord is moving along.
  - e. Legal services is being talked about. Hopefully it'll be on the floor by next Wednesday.
  - f. Questions
    - i. Andrew Karasik- When and where is SAFB?
      - 1. Gavin- I'll let you know once I know.
- VI. Special Presentations
  - a. UPUA Legal Affairs Overview- Huzefa Mun
    - i. Main goals are counseling and advising. When a student gets in trouble with judicial affairs, we go in with them as an advisor to make sure everything is going smoothly. We also peer counsel. Students deserve an advisor who isn't a university employee, in other words- independent advice.
    - ii. Relationship with UPUA- liaison with UPUA Legal Affairs. Power of the purse.
    - iii. 30 trained members. Selective admissions process.
    - iv. Town affairs- landlord-tenant mediation center, legal services for students.
    - v. Community Service- Pen pal program with an alumni's Teach for America class.
    - vi. We need to improve on PR.
    - vii. Goals- increase caseloads, increase cooperation with JA, funding
    - viii. Questions
      - 1. Sam Loewner- Do you have an approximate number for the volume of cases you see a semester?
        - a. Huzefa- Less than 5% of the cases that come in.
      - 2. Andrew Karasik- How many hearings are you invited to by students?
        - a. Huzefa- 97% of students elect not to go to a hearing. Of that 3%, we probably see half of those.
      - 3. Matt Smith- What is the cap amount of students you can currently take? And what is the ideal number?

- a. Huzefa- Ideal, 200 cases a semester.
  - b. Matt- We could easily expand our membership and training. We'd like to take care of as much as the demand as we can.
4. Michael Smith- Do you approach students or do they approach you?
- a. Huzefa- We don't go to them. But judicial affairs gives students a list of advisors that we're on.
5. Ralph Crivello- How many open positions do you have a year? Why do you turn 50% away?
- a. Huzefa- Our admissions is based on how many people we're going to lose the next year. Next year we'll lose 10 to 12 people. When people aren't accepted, we encourage them to apply next year.
  - b. Matt- We're selective because we're working with very confidential information.

VII. Old Business (none)

VIII. New Business

a. Confirmation of Executive Board Nominations

i. Director of Community Service- Ricardo Torres

1. I am a 5<sup>th</sup> year here. I've been with student government and community service since day 1. My service is done through Circle K. For student government I've been involved with USG and UPUA. I took a break to focus more on community service. I figured this is a good fit for me. We currently have 3 members with great ideas. I have 5 years of experience and 5 years of knowledge at Penn State.

2. Questions

- a. Richard Shermanski- What would you like to see UPUA heavily involved in?
  - i. There are over 60 service organizations on campus. The government can show people how to get involved. UPUA should be able to provide students with service opportunities.
- b. Ralph Crivello- How do you view your department in terms of facilitating opportunities for students?
  - i. We need innovative ways to serve the Penn State community. We need a good communicator to follow through. We've already started working on ServiceNation.
- c. Greg Plumb- Do you have one single initiative?
  - i. My main goal is to make sure that Alex, Brandon and Lauren are well equipped for when I leave. Beyond that I'd like to have UP kick off The Big Ten service initiative. I think it'd be cool for UPUA to spearhead it and leave its mark.

3. Discussion
  - a. Andrew Karasik- I don't think there's any question that he's qualified. The committee was extremely impressed with him. I don't think we could find anyone more qualified on this campus.
  - b. Richard Shermanski- I couldn't agree more. I think he is incredibly qualified. He's already been to 3 meetings without having the job, this shows that he's very driven.
4. Vote
  - a. Passes by a vote of 28-0-1.
- ii. Director of Off Campus Student Affairs- Pat Gordon
  1. I've been with UPUA for 2 ears. This is the first year I haven't been connected. Currently, I'm the Off-Campus Student Union President. I work with the borough a lot. I want to be a connector. I will be a liaison, but don't want to step on anyone's toes. I will aid where I can.
  2. Questions
    - a. Ralph Crivello- What parallels do you see between Student Affairs and Off Campus Student Union. How will they work together?
      - i. The more students you get together and the more organizations, the more success. We can support you, and it should be vice versa. It will be a parallel, team-like strategy.
    - b. Richard Shermanski- What would you like to do in this position?
      - i. I'd like to be a connection and a liaison. I will help any off campus organization, not just the off campus student union. As you need me, I will be there.
  3. Discussion
    - a. Andrew Karasik- I think he's very qualified. He does a very good job with the off campus student union. He doesn't have any intention of stepping on the toes of off-campus reps. He wants to get back involved with UPUA. We should welcome him back.
    - b. Christopher Nock- Will there be a director of on campus student affairs?
      - i. Gavin- No because last year we had a 5 year plan to take over off campus student affairs. I'm not planning on doing this, but rather building a better relationship. It's good for them to have an impact on us.
    - c. Ralph Crivello- Did Pat Gordon talk about recruitment at all?

- i. Andrew- No. It sounded more like his goal was to advise the executive and off-campus reps. He didn't mention anything like that. He views this more as a liaison position.

4. Vote

- a. Passes by a vote of 27-1-1

b. Policy #7- Facilities Fee Board Internal Policies

i. Introduction- Nick Mance

1. Lines 23-24: We think there should be 5 members from UPUA as a whole, not necessarily just Facilities. Strike the words members of the UPUA Facilities Committee.
2. The 5 students will help to create a very thoughtful and forceful opinion. It will be beneficial to have 5 members of UPUA, so there will be no special interests.
3. I know there has been argument in the past about who should make up this subcommittee. Anyone can be involved that would like to be. They will be an open student forum and work on research.
4. Administrators should have staffs and have agendas ready before the meeting. They should also be open to student's opinions.
5. Clause 4.8.5 should say 5 members of UPUA.

ii. Questions

1. Matt Smith- If there aren't 5 members of the committee how will you address that?
  - a. Nick Mance- Based on these amendments it would be any 5 members of UPUA. Ideally they should be facilities, but they don't have to be.
2. William Barr- How will we pick them?
  - a. Nick Mance- We didn't want to specify that at this point.
  - b. Ralph Crivello- It will be the facilities committee that elects or appoints those 5 people. That's what's in the legislation.
3. Daniel Lersch- To diversify, will you be looking at if their on-campus or off-campus?
  - a. Nick Mance- That's a really good point. I think that can be something based on who should be appointed. I think that should be under the jurisdiction of steering.
4. Andrew Karasik- Are there any safeguards to make it such that the facilities committee does not just appoint itself?
  - a. Nick Mance- That is originally what was in there. We thought it would be more of a safeguard if we open it up to all people. I guess they could appoint themselves.
5. Steve Lucas- I supported that so anyone in UPUA could be a member of that committee. It's leaving discretion to members of facilities and steering. As a body we should have as many voices on every board as possible. On this committee they should be

looking to other committees as well. We want more and more representation down the line.

6. Hubert Hines- If people join facilities committee to join this board, why would people join if no one from their committee is actually on the board?
  - a. The logical choice is to appoint everyone from the facilities committee as possible. We thought just in case people don't want to do this to make it UPUA members. I'm hesitant to put anything in to bind facilities too close to this board.
7. Christopher Nock- Do you think it would be more appropriate if the board was confirmed by the steering committee? This would provide a check.
  - a. Nick Mance- Maybe we could have them approved by the entire assembly. Does steering committee has the authority to approve people?
  - b. Ralph Crivello- You can charge steering committee to do anything. Members are assigned to committees based on their interests. So people would be put on the facilities committee that were interested in the facilities fee board. I mean you could amend the bylaws though.
8. Matt Smith- Clause 4.8.7.1 is that the facilities committee or the board?
  - a. Nick Mance- I think it should read the subcommittee.
9. Andrew Karasik- We might want to consider having facilities screen and send to the assembly. Do you agree?
  - a. Nick Mance- I think it should be brought up, but I'm not totally sure. I'm leaning towards the assembly confirming.

iii. Debate

1. Sam Loewner- I move to make the recommended amendments.
  - a. Ralph Crivello- It's just changing language in two places.
  - b. Motion passes.
2. Ralph Crivello- We're trying to streamline bureaucracy. To answer some of the questions, the steering committee has already elected these people. We're putting people on this committee that are already interested in facilities. There could be people in facilities that are interested in other facets. I think the steering committee provides enough check and so do your interests. I think it's unnecessary to have them go through assembly.
3. Daniel Lersch- The facilities committee should appoint 5 UPUA members as members of the facilities fee board so that no representative position shall represent 2/5 of the committee makeup except on occasion when such diversity is unattainable.
  - a. Objections
    - i. William Barr- What is the point of that?
      1. Daniel Lersch- We have on and off campus reps. There are only 5 positions, so we don't

want the board being overly represented. It's to make sure that we can not overly influence another.

- ii. Benjamin Lombard- I worry that people would be forced into the position. It allows people that are truly interested to serve.
- iii. Greg Plumb- I completely agree. It's unnecessary. What issues to you foresee that would split the committee so strongly that they couldn't figure it out.
  - 1. Daniel Lersch- The fee is only benefitting on-campus students.
  - 2. Greg Plumb- The fee will be spent only on things like gyms and other things that would benefit all students.
    - a. Daniel Lersch- I think it's good to take a safeguard now.
- iv. Steve Lucas- People on the facilities committee will have the interest and the approval of the steering committee. Also, it's an overly bureaucratic request. Like Rep. Lombard said, people could be forced in.
- v. William Barr- I think we're just adding more hoops to jump through.
- vi. Andrew Karasik- Does steering take into account off-campus on-campus?
  - 1. Ralph- It's based on interest, knowledge base, and committee chairs reference. There's three levels. Usually when elected, you know what you want to be.

b. Vote

i. Motion fails

- 4. Matt Smith- What does this have to pass by?
  - a. Ralph Crivello- 2/3
- 5. Matt Smith- I move that on line 38 the word taken be changed to considered. I feel that this subcommittee should be a widely diverse committee and not be allowed to order it be taken my members of our facilities fee board.
  - a. Motion passes.

iv. Vote

- 1. Policy passes by a vote of 27-0-0.

IX. Liaison Reports

- a. GSA- Joann Olson
  - i. PSU/MSU Challenge is tomorrow. Can sign up at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)
- b. ARHS- Andrew Koontz
  - i. Not in attendance.

## X. Report by the Association Directors and Staff

- a. Chief of Staff- Mike Anderson
  - i. Can we submit our reports to Ralph?
  - ii. Thanks to ID for getting appointments through.
  - iii. We'll have someone for religious affairs next week.
- b. Treasurer- Matt Sheroff
  - i. Refer to report.
- c. Greek Life- Luke Pierce
  - i. Submitting resignation because is new IFC president-elect.
  - ii. Gavin- I want to wish Luke the best of luck. He finished the goals that he set out for. Good luck.
  - iii. Questions
    - 1. Steve Lucas- Are there any replacements in order?
      - a. Gavin- No, but Luke will be helping us.
      - b. Luke- I will remain in this position until there is a suitable replacement.
- d. Media- Adam Ferrone
  - i. Not in attendance.
- e. Business- Louis Orazio
  - i. Pursuing Flower Sale (Wed-Friday during last week of finals)
  - ii. Pursuing T-Shirt Sale, should make between 2 and 3 thousand dollars. Will enter into a contract. We're trying to advertise in stall stories
- f. Women's Affairs- Ruth Canagarajah
  - i. Getting more into specifics of Women's Symposium. I've moved it to January. I've met with some people that have provided me with a wealth of information. I will inform the diversity committee next Tuesday.
  - ii. Considering to see Dammon Sims.
  - iii. Questions
    - 1. Gavin- I want to commend Ruth on doing a great job so far.
    - 2. Valarie- Have you gained members?
      - a. I got 1 person and she's bringing people in.
- g. Multicultural Affairs- Cindy Wang
  - i. Not in attendance.
- h. Legislative Affairs- Ian Vickery
  - i. Multicultural Affairs for getting money for a Chinese Student Assembly Event.
  - ii. T-Shirt Sale Contract

## XI. Committee Reports

- a. Steering- Ralph Crivello
  - i. Want to thank Mary for bringing in the candy 😊
  - ii. Reminder that all committee chairs and directors are required to submit a written report to expedite things. Send them by Monday morning.
  - iii. Trying to get in contact with people in ResLife.
  - iv. SOCC Merger- their advisors have seemed to talk them out of it. We're meeting next week.
  - v. Questions

1. Christopher Nock- Why did the resolution about the rec room fee not pass steering?
  - a. Ralph- It was called for us to do more investigation. It was voluntarily recalled. There's no documentation so nothing to investigate. We can investigate without a resolution.
    - i. Christopher- Media Pressure? Have any steps been taken?
      1. Ralph- The idea is that no one knows about this. We need to circulate information. The policy has been approved but not developed. We want to have a press release.
  2. William Barr- What is SOCC?
    - a. Ralph- Student Organizational Conduct Committee
- b. Internal Development- Andrew Karasik
  - i. We interviewed Mary and she was passed. She'll come in front of us next week.
  - ii. Questions
    1. Sam Loewner- Before you get involved in the elections code, maybe you should consider an attendance report published at the end of the year.
      - a. Val- Annie can do that.
    2. Nick Mance- Is Andrea stepping down?
      - a. Andrea- I'm not stepping down. It would be helpful to have one official advisor and she reports to me. I serve for GSA so I want to keep it clean. I'll serve in the same capacity.
  - c. Programming- Hillary Gupta
    - i. Planned a social event for next Wednesday night.
    - ii. Have been planning Elections Palooza. Let me know if you need help.
    - iii. Questions
      1. Andrew Karasik- What is elections palooza?
        - a. Hillary- It will promote elections.
      2. Mike Wallace- Why was the name changed?
        - a. Hillary- It wasn't appropriate.
  - d. Facilities- Nick Mance
    - i. Thanks for passing policy 7.
    - ii. Point 2 was recommitted.
    - iii. In correspondence with Adam Ferrone for a press release about Rec Room Fees.
  - e. Academic Affairs- Matt Smith
    - i. AQ Tomorrow
    - ii. VP McLucas and I will lead a discussion about revamping the learning centers. There's an idea to move from peer tutoring to group based discussions.
    - iii. Drafting some legislation
  - f. Governmental Affairs- Samantha Miller
    - i. Committee is working to bring Legal Services as quickly as possible.

- ii. Results of local elections- both incumbents were reelected.
- iii. Questions

- 1. Chris Nock- What about the referendums?

- a. Loan was approved. Term limits was no.

- g. Diversity Campus Life- Steve Lucas

- i. Started a template for the Legislative Quarterly.

- 1. Attendance and Voting Record will be published in here. This increases accountability and transparency. If you'd like to get involved, let me know!

XII. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Sean Leonard- We are having the THON meeting tomorrow at 6 in the UPUA Office. Flag football will be in December. Majorettes will be performing. Will talk to Daniel Lersch about Blue Band. We are canning this weekend in Altoona.

- b. Valerie Russell- We had a good time when we went canning before. Make sure signup sheets are passed up front.

- c. Valerie Russell- I'm taking up the website. I will be the acting webmaster until we get someone to take that job.

- d. Richard Shermanski- Yesterday America put country first and voted for change. Congratulations to Barack Obama and Joe Biden. It was 4 years ago today that I took my name out of the hat for United States of America. Expect me on the ballot for 2034. God Bless America.

XIII. Closing Roll Call and Adjournment