

UPUA General Assembly Meeting  
27 August 2008

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- 4 I. Call to Order and Opening Roll Call
- 5 a. Valarie Russell calls the meeting to order at 8:10 PM.
- 6 b. Annie Fiscus conducts opening roll call.
- 7 c. Valarie Russell speaks about Big Ten Sportsmanship Conference. Student leaders
- 8 and student athletes came together from all the schools to speak about various
- 9 sportsmanship topics. Email Valarie for more information about attending future
- 10 conferences.
- 11 II. Adoption of the Agenda
- 12 a. Changes- no faculties committee. Change should be made to facilities committee.
- 13 b. Agenda adopted.
- 14 III. Adoption of the Past General Meeting Minutes
- 15 a. Past general meeting minutes adopted.
- 16 IV. Open Student Forum
- 17 a. Tom Shakely addresses assembly.
- 18 i. He is part of the Lion radio station. He urges that we consider our greatest
- 19 impact is not advocacy, but rather leaving a legacy and tradition. Think
- 20 about what is best, ideal, for the students. We can create a new, better
- 21 Penn State. He also offers that we can promote on the Lion at any time.
- 22 V. Report by the President- Gavin Kierans
- 23 a. He thanks the assembly, Dammon Sims, student trustees, and Graham Spanier for
- 24 attending.
- 25 b. Association of Big Ten Conference- The conference was held at Penn State this
- 26 year. We had a low turnout, 4 schools, but a lot came out of the conference.
- 27 Speakers included Dammon Sims, trustees, etc.
- 28 c. Legal Affairs- A lot of initiative was taken over the summer to solidify legal
- 29 affairs. Much talk was done on the topic of tenant/landlord rights.
- 30 d. Freshman Convocation
- 31 e. Two Goals- Each committee needs to focus on two goals, not stretching ourselves
- 32 too thin. We are all capable student leaders, but with fewer goals more concrete
- 33 goals can be made and accomplished. Focus is the key to this year.
- 34 f. Message to the Assembly- He is very impressed with the assembly as a whole,
- 35 many are willing to help and be involved. He hope his involvement can continue
- 36 throughout the year.
- 37 VI. Special Presentations- Graham Spanier
- 38 a. Spanier thanks us for coming tonight, and being involved in the student
- 39 government. As an undergraduate, he says it was the most meaningful part of
- 40 college.
- 41 b. Dammon Sims- President Spanier is very excited that Dammon Sims has chosen
- 42 to be involved with UPUA. A national search was done, and he was highly
- 43 recommended. Sims is extremely student oriented.
- 44 c. The Year Ahead- We have a very full university, in terms of enrollment. This
- 45 summer many projects were done- student centered research project, scholarships,
- 46 landscaping, etc. He wants to make sure that no one is unable to attend Penn

47 State due to financial reasons. We are continuing to roll out new academic  
48 programs- security, risk analysis, law school, international affairs. The new  
49 student health center is open.

50 d. Question Forum

51 i. Samantha Miller- As you said this is supposed to be a student centered  
52 university, but it feels like sometimes that is more rhetoric rather than  
53 philosophy. What can we do to make it more student centered?

54 1. Spanier- Ultimately, I have to make the decision. We try to get  
55 input from every direction to make informed decisions. However,  
56 we have 42,000 employees of Penn State, and 90,000 students, so  
57 it is hard to make everyone agree. The facilities fee, for example,  
58 was under discussion for many months, even years. Many had  
59 different opinions on this issue. We did what we thought in the  
60 end was the right thing, and best decision. It was approved with a  
61 commitment of Spanier to make sure there will be input on it  
62 throughout its duration.

63 ii. Richard Shermanski- Are you in close contact with Governor Rendell to  
64 make sure how much funding is allocated to Penn State?

65 1. Spanier- I am in contact with him throughout the year. It is  
66 actually this time of the year that he starts to formulate  
67 recommendations for legislation. I will make a recommendation  
68 on how much money we should be allocated, and then he presents  
69 to the legislature his beliefs on education and educational funding.  
70 Rendell is very busy with many different budget needs, but I stay  
71 in contact.

72 iii. Richard Shermanski- Do you ever speak personally with any of the state  
73 general assembly members to persuade them not to cut funding to Penn  
74 State?

75 1. Spanier- I do so regularly. I have conversations with a half to two  
76 thirds of them throughout the year. A number them are on campus  
77 and nearby for different events yearly.

78 iv. Andrew Karasik- Looking on a national scale, what steps do you think we  
79 should take to make sure that we are at the top of the universities in terms  
80 of being student centered?

81 1. Spanier- Student government is a part of it, but Penn State  
82 probably has more student groups (approx. 700) than any other  
83 school. It's not just student government who is involved. One of  
84 the most important things we can do is to be good citizens. With  
85 90,000 students it is inevitable that someone does something stupid  
86 daily. This is an area where all students can help us out. Some  
87 believe that students care about the students, but the administrators  
88 do not, which is completely erroneous. The administration is very  
89 much on the same wavelength as students. A lot of it is about  
90 communication.

91 v. Andrew Karasik- How can we strengthen our ties with the administration?

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1. Spanier- Anyone can contact me through email, but I don't necessarily encourage everyone to contact me or the system will overflow. However, some students do not realize that there are other people to speak to besides me. I have many constituents. My advice is that the way to be most effective is to plug-in to the administration at the place where you can make the most difference. For example, if you have advice for health services, contact them.
  - vi. Daniel Lersch- Many other Pennsylvania schools are facing budgetary issues. Have you met with other Pennsylvania schools to fix some of these issues?
    1. Spanier- We meet regularly. In fact, in the spring, lobbying is done as a group since we all have similar issues. Historically, Penn State receives far less than the other Pennsylvania schools. We are a stronger voice together.
  - vii. Christopher Nock- What efforts is your office making to gauge student input in being a student centered university?
    1. Spanier- It's hard to measure, but we ask everyone appropriate (student affairs, physical plant, alumni). Across every area of the university there is an interest to connect better. Most colleges have student councils or ambassadors, but there is variation in how much happens.
  - viii. Nick Mance- Do you think is a good idea for UPUA to try to centralize governmental councils?
    1. Spanier- We've been through so many ups and downs with student government over the years, so I think everyone should get stronger first. Other groups may think you're trying to tell them what to do and take them over. If you look at all the editorials in The Collegian over the past years, people were more likely to attack the president of USG than the president of the university. That is very rare in a student paper. Good things are happening right now, so stick to what you're doing and trying to do. What you can do is provide leadership to open up the lines of communication better. There is a difference between opening up communication and acting as the general of the army. You need to make sure that you let people know that you're looking for middle ground.
  - ix. Matthew Smith- What is your leadership philosophy as the president of the university?
    1. Spanier- I don't think that can be summarized briefly. I don't have a simple, articulated leadership philosophy. My theme is, "Put People First". Mya Angelou said that people will not remember the specific decisions that you made, but they will always remember how you made them feel. A university is not bottom-up and top-down. Most of what is decided here is from input of many. By putting people first and listening to people, success is much more likely. 70% of our budget is tied up in the people.

- 138 VII. Report by the Association Directors and Staff  
139 a. Chief of Staff- Mike Anderson  
140 i. We are working to full other excutive seats (freshman seats and arbitration  
141 chair). Many applications have been filed.  
142 ii. Elections Commission- it's never too early.  
143 iii. We are looking to create Executive Bylaws.  
144 b. Treasurer- Matt Sheroff  
145 i. Refer to summer spending report.  
146 ii. All of the money has already been allocated. We have to make a separate  
147 allocation for travel expenses.  
148 iii. Restricted funds do not include outstanding purchase orders. Less than  
149 half of that money actually remains.  
150 iv. Unrestricted funds- ABTS funds are not added. More money is there now.  
151 v. Gavin Kierans- We need to work with student activities fee board for the  
152 status of our budget for next year. The Ramada Inn expense will be cut  
153 down. Payments from the ABTS conference will increase our funding.  
154 vi. Ralph Crivello- What is the speaker expense?  
155 1. Gavin Kierans- Adam Kissel  
156 VIII. Committee Reports  
157 a. Ralph Crivello- Steering  
158 i. I will make corrections to this list to make sure that the committees are  
159 placed on the agenda in alphabetical order.  
160 ii. It is the first time on record that there is a functional student organization  
161 over the summer.  
162 iii. Introduces Joann Olsen from GSA. She is the new UPUA/GSA liaison.  
163 iv. Legal Affairs is making a lot of progress.  
164 v. Budget was given to Gavin to spend money over the summer.  
165 vi. Video minutes were decided. This will provide an accurate record of our  
166 meetings. It provides a unique prospective.  
167 vii. Steering Committee will meet at 8:30 on Sunday night.  
168 viii. Ian Kellogg was recommended as the intern for the student book  
169 exchange. A meeting will take place to finalize details on this project.  
170 ix. Resolution 5- Reducing Student Sentences: the issue has been resolved.  
171 UPUA supported the students.  
172 x. Resolution 6- Governance of the facilities fee  
173 xi. ABTS funding and fall speaker series. Pick an issue and take ownership  
174 of it.  
175 xii. Office Hours- If you miss office hours without a valid excuse, it counts as  
176 half an absence.  
177 xiii. Make sure that you are attending your appropriate meetings as per your  
178 position. Try to spread yourself out so someone is at meetings at all times.  
179 You must attend two a semester.  
180 xiv. Okay room layout?  
181 xv. There are several vacant representative positions. Feel free to encourage  
182 people to apply.  
183 xvi. Questions

- 184 1. Richard Shermanski- Which positions are open?  
185 a. Crivello- Arts and Architecture, Communication Science  
186 and 2 freshman positions.  
187 b. Chris Morell- Internal Development  
188 i. Budget was approved by committee.  
189 ii. Freshman seats are open.  
190 iii. 1,200 dollars was given from UPAC to fund the commissioner.  
191 iv. Possible new nursing seat?  
192 c. Nick Mance- Facilities  
193 i. Communication was still there with parking office.  
194 ii. Communication with Take Charge/UCIF.  
195 iii. Legislation began for lack of parking spaces, but it is no longer an issue.  
196 iv. Legislation began for control energy usage on campus.  
197 d. Samantha Miller- Governmental Affairs  
198 i. Will be meeting in 321 HUB at 1PM every Friday  
199 ii. Service Nation Initiative  
200 iii. Dr. Burlingame meeting about our role in the university. It was a very  
201 productive conversation.  
202 iv. Preliminary planning for some conferences to take place this year.  
203 v. Questions  
204 1. Gavin Kierans- How do you plan to work with the cabinet in the  
205 area of service? How will it effect us?  
206 a. Service Nation isn't about doing actual service, but using  
207 service to solve national problems. Hopefully there will  
208 become a time when it's not a sacrifice to give up a year for  
209 service, but rather a honor. Now is the time to latch on.  
210 e. Matt Smith- Academic Affairs  
211 i. Sat in on various meetings regarding student academic life.  
212 ii. Assured that preliminary research will take place on different issues that  
213 the committee hopes to accomplish.  
214 iii. Questions  
215 1. Ralph Crivello- Would you mind contacting Patty Forman for a  
216 room reservation for student caucus?  
217 a. Matt Smith- I can do that, but I believe it's already  
218 reserved.  
219 f. Hillary Gupta- Programming  
220 i. As events come up, that is when we get involved.  
221 ii. Have already started planning for participation in the homecoming parade.  
222 We can make a float if you want, but it will take a lot of time.  
223 iii. We NEED to be involved in THON.  
224 iv. Community Service- we need to start giving back to Penn State.  
225 v. Questions  
226 1. Gavin Kierans- What do you think about working with Phi Delta  
227 Theta?

- 228 a. Hillary Gupta- I don't think it's a good idea because they  
229 are not recognized. They could help us make a float, but  
230 not officially.
- 231 g. Steve Lucas- Diversity Campus Life  
232 i. Not in attendance due to participation in democratic national convention.
- 233 IX. Liaison Reports  
234 a. GSA- Joann Olsen  
235 i. GSA moved over the summer to 312 HUB. Currently in the process of  
236 designing committees. Looking to do a web based survey to see what it is  
237 students want.
- 238 X. Old Business (none)
- 239 XI. New Business  
240 a. Resolution #6- Plan of Governance for the Faculties Fee  
241 i. The document will not be read in it's entirety.  
242 ii. Introduction: Nick Mance-  
243 1. There is a new per semester fee, and there needs to be a Board to  
244 give input and regulate this fee. Commonwealths will have no  
245 influence on how our facilities fee is spent, and vice versa. We  
246 will make sure that the needs for all students are met, and no  
247 specific group abuses their privileges. The fee is prorated based on  
248 the number of credits. We need to make sure that we know where  
249 all of the money from the facilities fee is going.
- 250 iii. Introduction: Ralph Crivello-  
251 1. We need a plan for how this money will be spent; the lack of plan  
252 is why we were initially opposed. This helps to support our  
253 position. CCSG is glad that UPUA is trying to create a board  
254 where students can voice their position. This is a student tax, and  
255 therefore it should be a student board. We are creating a combined  
256 approach with the other governments, so we have a unified plan to  
257 present to the administration.
- 258 2. Questions  
259 a. Richard Shermanski- Line 37: regulated and managed.  
260 i. Ralph Crivello-The president has ultimate authority,  
261 but students will recommend what should be built.  
262 Students will regulate which projects are acceptable  
263 to be presented to the president. However, the  
264 university will manage specific projects.
- 265 ii. Megan Quinn: Should some other groups be added  
266 to this board, specifically Women Advisory Board?  
267 1. Ralph Crivello- The idea behind it is that  
268 groups are selected based on their vested  
269 interest.
- 270 iii. Samantha Miller- Does the Women's Resources  
271 Center use facilities on campus?  
272 1. Megan Quinn- Yes.

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- iv. Valarie Russell- Does Women’s Resources Center use a large portion of Penn State resources?
    - 1. Megan Quinn- Yes, it is very marginalized.
  - v. Daniel Lersch- In the future, can we add groups to this list?
    - 1. Valarie Russell- It is final until it is brought to the board again.
  - vi. Matthew Smith- These are not bylaws, but an outline that strengthens our position.
  - vii. From the Gallery: We should ask for everything and then concede from there, rather than going in low and having to concede from there.
    - 1. Gavin Kierans- this is middle ground.
  - viii. Andrew Karasik- ARSH has a voice, should an off campus member?
- iv. Debate
- 1. Andrew Karasik- Should there be an off campus voice? This would allow for equal and appropriate representation.
    - a. Daniel Lersch- That would be unnecessary because if we pick one off-campus person, they will be presenting a distorted opinion.
    - b. Ralph Crivello- There is a very large chance that a UPUA member of the facilities board of UPUA will be an off-campus representative.
  - v. Amendment: and/or an off-campus UPUA member of facilities board or OCSU.
    - 1. Andrew Karasik- I do not like to leave it up to chance that there is some off-campus representation on the facilities committee.
    - 2. Gavin Kierans- This is simply cosmetic.
    - 3. Chris Morrell motions to end debate to amendment.
    - 4. Amendment passes by a majority vote of 23 to 3.
  - vi. Return to Debate of Resolution
    - 1. Megan Quinn motions to add a bullet point after line 15 to add a member of the women’s resource center. Will become line 19 of the resolution.
      - a. Ralph Crivello- We have to prioritize which voices are heard at the table since there are many student groups on campus. Why is it imperative to give this one center a voice.
      - b. Megan Quinn- This center represents a huge demographic of the population.
      - c. Ben Lombard- Has the Women’s Resource Center asked for a voice on this board.
      - d. Andrew Karasik- LGBTQA needed a voice for things such as unisex bathrooms. There should be women on this board, and the center only represents one side of our population.

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- e. Gavin Kierans- There could be women issues too that may be addressed. I agree with Megan on this issue.
  - f. Ralph Crivello- All the groups on this list were contacted and asked if they would see a benefit to act on this board. This is why THON and homecoming believed they should be non-voting.
  - g. Megan Quinn- I can definitely email them.
  - h. Joann Olsen- Then what to you say to all the other centers and services that want to be added?
  - i. Megan Quinn- I think that at some point we can add more groups to this list.
  - j. Matthew Smith- We must be very careful to notice the fact that we should contact people before adding them to this list.
  - k. Gavin Kierans- Would anyone object to keeping the groups as is now until the Women's Resource Center is contacted?
  - l. Richard Shermanski- I think it would be best for groups to make a presentation to this council before adding them to the list.
  - m. Samantha Miller- Then I think all of the other groups should make a presentation to us as well.
  - n. Andrew Karasik- UPUA represents all undergraduates, so we can represent every aspect of this campus.
  - o. Daniel Lersch-The list is very unrepresentative and now there will be too many voices with different opinions arguing against each other.
  - p. Ralph Crivello- How big are we going to grow this? This is just the beginning of the list of key, major players. Later we may realize that a better format is available for this.
  - q. Vote to end debate on amendment passes by a majority debate.
  - r. Amendment to include the Women's Resource Center to line 19 fails.
- vii. Return to debate
    - 1. Motion to end debate. Debate is ended.
  - viii. Vote on Resolution #6
    - 1. Passes by a majority vote of 22-1-1
- b. Policy #2 Spending of Fee Allocation Board Funds
    - i. Introduction: Ralph Crivello-
      - 1. We either spend this money or use. So I motion to put this in as emergency legislation.
      - 2. Motion passes.
    - ii. Introduction: Gavin Kierans-
      - 1. We have approximately \$1,200 in surplus. Refer to Policy #2-08 for specific items. The Red Cross asks that we sponsor the

364 Michigan State Blood Drive, and we have nothing else to spend the  
365 money on.

366 2. Questions

367 a. Hillary Gupta- Does this money have to be spent by  
368 Friday?

369 i. Gavin Kierans- yes.

370 b. Matthew Smith- New banner/decal?

371 i. Gavin Kierans- Icing of the door, new banner,  
372 decal. We have extra money so these cosmetic  
373 issues can be addressed.

374 c. Richard Shermanski- What will these shirts look like?

375 i. Gavin Kierans- UPUA with boxing Nittany Lion.  
376 "Fight for the Student Voice".

377 d. Matthew Smith- What office supplies do we need to buy?

378 i. Gavin Kierans- pens, paper, stapler.

379 e. Matthew Smith- Would you oppose to stipulations?

380 i. Gavin Kierans- These are just ideas.

381 f. Chris Morrell- For the Blood Drive are we represented at  
382 all?

383 i. Gavin Kierans- We would be in every list.  
384 Otherwise we lose this money.

385 g. Andrew Karasik- If we're going to lose the money, spend  
386 it.

387 iii. Debate

388 1. Ralph Crivello- Add a line item for a gavel.

389 2. Amendment passes.

390 3. Debate is ended.

391 iv. Vote

392 1. Policy #2 passes with a majority vote of 23-1-0

393 XII. Discussion (none)

394 XIII. Comments for the Good of the Order

395 a. Gavin Kierans- thanks to the freshman who came out, Andrea, Tom. This  
396 meeting was far too long because there was not good discussion. It needs to move  
397 faster and more swiftly. Changes need to be made to the agenda. We need to  
398 give people the chance to talk and get their items out.

399 b. Richard Shermanski- Congratulations to Barack Obama on his nomination.

400 c. Ralph Crivello- We have a lot of kinks to work out. This layout seems better.  
401 We're trying very hard to stick to bullet points, and not go off topic.

402 d. Nick Mance- What is a Town hall meeting?

403 i. Ralph Crivello- We have 3 types of meetings: general, town hall, and  
404 work session. In a town hall meeting more students are able to participate.

405 XIV. Closing Roll Call and Adjournment

406 a. Next week 302 HUB at 8 PM.

407 b. Meeting is adjourned at 10:33 PM.