

UPUA General Assembly
3 September 2008

- I. Call to Order and Opening Roll Call
 - a. Called to Order by Valarie Russell at 8:10
 - b. Opening Roll Call by Annie Fiscus
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Add Bryant Poland for ARSH liaison
 - b. Add Luke Pierce, Adam Verone, and Katelyn Holmes
 - c. Agenda Apopted
- III. Adoption of Past General Minutes
 - a. Past General Minutes Adopted
- IV. Open Student Forum (none)
- V. Report by the President- Gavin Kierans
 - a. We will accept applications up until Sunday. There are a lot of people applying, a lot of strong candidates.
 - b. Executive Appointments- All three people are great candidates. These people are bringing a lot of experience.
 - c. Spending the money that was allocated last week. Ex. Window icing
 - d. We appreciate Dr. Blood attending this meeting. Thanks to our new advisor Mary as well.
- VI. Special Presentations- Dr. Ingrid Blood, Chair of the University Faculty Senate
 - a. Faculty Senate is not a union, but more an advisory and legislative organization. Representatives from all 23 campuses. We also have student members as well.
 - b. Faculty owns the curriculum, 5500 full-time faculty. Many are elected to the senate. VOLUNTEER BASIS.
 - i. Elected by other faculty members.
 - c. Every six weeks on Tuesday, meetings in the Kern building.
 - d. "All of you have a world ahead of you, and so many exciting things that you can do."
 - e. Faculty Senate visits other campuses to speak with faculty and administrators to see what works, and what makes things better.
 - f. 15 standing committees that represent every aspect of student/faculty life.
 - i. Ex. Student Life- Student drinking; budget, scholarships
 - ii. Many security and privacy issues
 1. Next meeting there will be a robust debate on computer security vs privacy.
 - g. Questions/Issues
 - i. Andrew Karasik- Could you go over how many student senators there are? Do their votes count the name?
 1. Currently, about 23. When something is up for a vote, every senator's vote counts. There is a very active student group that meets.

- ii. Daniel Lersch- Can you give some examples of reoccurring issues that are brought up?
 - 1. Housing, tuition, graduating on time, curriculum, etc. Financial is always on the top of the list. The way we decide where to begin in a new year, is by looking at all the issues from last year and charging those issues to different committees. We try to meet the needs of all students.
 - 2. Many undergraduates have the issue that although they are doing very well, they are underachieving. We want to make sure that people are fulfilling their potential. Each class should bring the best out in you.
- iii. Valarie Russell- What would be one of the more active committees in the faculty senate?
 - 1. In reality, all of them have something to do. Last year, it was probably the library committee because they are always working on research techniques.
- iv. Dr. Blood- What are some of the issues that really nag you?
 - 1. Andrew Karasik- for this body I think one of our biggest issues is unifying the voice of student government.
 - 2. Dr. Blood- I believe this assembly is more active, and you do represent the students that voted for you. I think your structure has improved. I think student government is on the right track. We want you on our committees in the senate.

VII. Report by the Association Directors and Staff

- a. Chief of Staff- Mike Anderson
 - i. We have more applications than positions, so that is a pleasant sign.
 - 1. Especially freshman, so we can get them involved early, and create a legacy.
 - 2. Hopefully, applications can start being reviewed Sunday or Monday.
 - 3. Drafting of bylaws will also begin next week.
 - 4. Will begin contacting the organizations that are part of the facilities committee.
 - 5. Applications must be in by Sunday!
- b. Treasurer- Matt Sheroff
 - i. In terms of policy 2, we are working hard to spend that money.
 - ii. Hopefully we can get the copier soon.
 - iii. Email me for check reimbursement
 - iv. Questions
 - 1. Ralph Crivello- What's the timeline for the possible buying of the copier?
 - a. Matt Sheroff- UPAC gave us all the money, we just need to make contact to get it. Hopefully within the month.
- c. Director of Legal Affairs- Huzefa Mun
 - i. We have had a large increase in the number of cases thus far.

- ii. We have been working on tenant/landlord.
- iii. Also looking for new members. Accepting applications.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Steering- Ralph Crivello
 - i. At Sunday's steering committee we looked at possible changes to make the meetings quicker. We will have to amend bylaws, so we're working on that.
 - 1. We are trying to keep ourselves under the time limits. Please be aware not to enter debate unless necessary, and remember your time limits during debate. Please read the bylaws and helpful hints on the process.
- b. Internal Development- Chris Morell
 - i. Charged with expediting meetings- in the works.
 - ii. Interviewed new media director (Adam), staff assistant (Katelyn), Greek Life (Luke Pierce).
 - iii. We think the media director should hold a workshop on teaching people how and when to speak during meetings.
 - iv. We recommend that they are approved.
 - v. Questions
 - 1. Gupta- Why are you waiting until Sunday to decide on positions?
 - a. Chris Morrell- these positions will be voted on tonight.
 - b. Gavin Kierans- These were decided upon before the applications were put out.
- c. Programming- Hillary Gupta
 - i. Window icing was purchased.
 - ii. Gavel was purchased.
 - iii. UPUA signed up for homecoming.
 - iv. Questions
 - 1. Steve Lucas- How can we get involved in homecoming?
 - a. Hillary Gupta- We're just going to march with a banner.
 - 2. Sean Leonard- Have there been anymore THON developments?
 - a. Hillary Gupta- No, not yet, but there will be.
- d. Facilities- Nick Mance
 - i. Our committee will meet to work on legislation to improve football ticket lines during games.
 - ii. Expect to contact Judy Albin.
 - iii. Working on contacting Facilities Committee organizations.
 - iv. Hope to meet with Paul Ruscum, PR.
- e. Academic Affairs- Matt Smith
 - i. Held meeting on August 28.
 - ii. Amy Sanders will be replacing Erik Haussman.
 - iii. Antonia Houston has resigned.
 - iv. Questions
 - 1. Ralph Crivello- What is Sunday?

- a. Matt Smith- Senator Caucus on Sunday at 7 PM.
 - f. Governmental Affairs- Samantha Miller
 - i. Adopted 2 committee goals
 - 1. Service Nation
 - 2. Harrisburg Initiative
 - a. Will list serve info
 - ii. Working with programming to distribute Lion Survival Guide.
 - g. Diversity Campus Life- Steve Lucas
 - i. First Meeting next Tuesday
 - ii. Working on Student center at Penn State
 - iii. Working on representing underrepresented students.
 - iv. Looking for affiliate membership to the Diversity Committee.
 - 1. Especially those already involved in a student group that want their voice heard.
- IX. Liaison Reports
 - a. GSA- Joann Olson
 - i. Meets every other week.
 - ii. Planning to work on funding sources to have a steady stream of funding.
 - iii. Many housing issues for graduate students and international students.
 - iv. Need representation on UPAC, but isn't structured towards graduate life.
 - b. ARHS- Andrew Koontz
 - i. No approval needed to be a liaison.
- X. Old Business (none)
- XI. New Business
 - a. Encampment Presentation- Matt Smith
 - i. Spent summer researching for academic affairs committee in the archives.
 - 1. Encampment- tradition that dates back to the 1950s.
 - ii. What is the tradition?
 - 1. Started by Eisenhower. Idea that students, faculty, and administrators spent a weekend on retreat talking about issues and how to fix them. USG, CCSG, etc were in charge of starting it. Very high involvement rates. President always at encampment.
 - 2. No Titles Policy- nothing on their name tag but who they were. Brought down barriers.
 - 3. Once moved out of USG's frame, it was led by presidents of organizations.
 - 4. 2001- Overspent budget, so restricted from then on. Program collapsed due to this. Students were taken off the bill, simply administrators and faculty. Student beliefs were forgotten.
 - 5. 2004- Began as Leadership Summit.
 - 6. Problems- It was hard to keep it strong over time.
 - iii. How do we bring it back?

1. Careful planning needed.
 2. Don't go big- remember the issues that need to be solved.
 3. Go through archives.
 4. Be owned by student citizens.
 5. Bring together students, borough, faculty
- iv. This will bring UPUA to the lead of the student organizations. Student government brings it to administration.
 - v. Great way to build teamwork within student governments
 - vi. Questions
 1. Andrew Karasik- How many days and when?
 - a. Just prior to end of fall classes, and a full day.
 2. Benjamin Lombard- How many students and others will attend?
 - a. It used to be over 200 people.
 3. Joann Olsen- Were there connections with other campuses or just UP?
 - a. Everyone.
 4. Amy Sanders- Do you have proof that the leadership summit isn't working?
 - a. This year it was cancelled, and has been to a steady decline for years.
 - vii. Gavin Kierans- Matt spent a lot of time over the summer and on this presentation. It was a job well done.
- b. Resolution #7- Encampment
 - i. Andrea- prior director of encampment
 1. Back in the 80s worked to coordinate encampment, so I have experience there. I was there in the tail end of what it used to be. By then there was little student involvement. A lot comes out of this. How do you make it attractive to faculty, students, administrators? Now is a good time to have this conversation.
 - ii. Debate
 1. Ralph Crivello- I just want to reiterate that what did was very impressive. This policy doesn't bind the hands of anyone to define what encampment will be. This policy creates a board under Matt to get research going, and start thinking about ideas. This is a very worthwhile adventure.
 2. Sean Meloy- I believe that this is a very good policy, and I think we should pass it. Thanks to Matt Smith for all his hard work. We should work quickly to pass this.
 3. Richard Shermanski motions to end debate, Sean Meloy seconds.
 - iii. Policy #3 passes with a 2/3 vote of 30-0-0.
 - c. Confirmation of Executive Appointments
 - i. Luke Pierce

1. President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Until lately, my involvement with UPUA was very limited because Greek Life is very time consuming. In my second semester, I found that issues we face are often trivial compared to what is discussed here. Greek Life needs more of a voice here because there are many diverse leaders within Greek life. I hope to foster a better relationship between all the Greek communities. Although we choose to face trivial events, we also face many real student events. Greeks need more involvement in UPUA and student government. There is a very powerful, and unified Greek voice out there.
2. Questions
 - a. Andrew Karasik- How does your position differ from the past Greek chair?
 - i. Gavin Kierans- Will act as a direct aid to me, and the chief of staff. For instance, Luke was very involved in the Phi Delta Theta issue. He is a direct link to the Greek community that is different from the assembly seat.
 - b. Sarah Donnenberg- Is he the Greek Liaison?
 - i. He is the director to the presidential board.
 - c. Sarah Donnenberg- How will you work with Panhellenic?
 - i. Luke Pierce- I will have a Panhellenic counterpart.
 - ii. Gavin Kierans- The person we were supposed to have stepped down, so we're working on it.
 - d. Steve Lucas- What about MPC and MPHHC?
 - i. Gavin Kierans- We will work on that to reach out and fill those seats as well.
 - e. Bryant Poland- I understand what your role will be, but if we have that same role from every other council it would be too many seats. I think the other seats should be underneath him.
3. Discussion
 - a. Andrew Karasik- Luke seems more than qualified. It's an important community that we need to tap into.
 - b. Stephen Lucas- He is qualified, but I think we need to consider the voice of other communities on this campus. Maybe we could do a rotation to make each voice heard.
 - c. Ralph Crivello- There are 4 voting seats for the different Greek Communities. Luke is more of a liaison, but he is also making sure that we are interacting well. They serve us and we serve them.

- d. Gavin Kierans- That's definitely something we need to focus on. The rotating basis idea is not a bad one, but it would take 4 years for one rotation.
 - e. Sean Meloy- I disagree with the position, but he is well suited for the position.
 - 4. Vote
 - a. Approved by a majority vote of 29-0-1.
 - 5. Sworn in by Gavin Kierans.
- ii. Adam Ferone
 - 1. Previous Collegian staff member.
 - 2. I want UPUA to have a smooth relationship with the media. A workshop dealing with the media is a great idea. I know you put a lot of hard work in, and I want to make sure that that is put through.
 - 3. Questions
 - a. Andrew Karasik- How will you expand the reach of UPUA across campus?
 - i. I can look into sponsoring events and things like that to put ourselves out there well.
 - b. Matt Smith- Do you consider yourself to be more of an advisor or executive?
 - i. I'm more of a director, but I will do a lot of advising.
 - c. Ralph Crivello-Do you regularly plan to talk with us about press releases, etc.
 - i. Yes, so I can speak knowledgeably on each subject.
 - d. Steve Lucas- As a reporter, how are we perceived as a body? How did you become aware of this position?
 - i. I've known Gavin for awhile and UPUA has been in the spotlight for awhile. I used to work in the sports staff, but I believe that the reports look well upon this assembly.
 - 4. Discussion
 - a. Samantha Miller- Has this position been advertised?
 - i. Gavin- Executive board creates positions as we see fit, and fill them with people we find.
 - b. Sean Meloy- He understands what is needed of him, and the duties he is responsible for.
 - c. Mike Wallace- We should definitely approve him.
 - 5. Vote
 - a. Approved by a majority vote of 27-0-3.
 - 6. Sworn in by Gavin Kierans.
- iii. Katelyn Holmes

1. Started in student government as a secretary, and then a senator for on-campus students. Made the transition to UPUA. Ready to make the transition back to student government.
 - a. Ralph Crivello- What specific activities do you see yourself doing in the office?
 - i. A lot of the position will be formed throughout this body, what needs to be done. Cleaning the office, making copies, faxes, are all things I will do. The staff assistant needs to make contributions to the organization.
 - b. Gavin Kierans- What is the trustee scholarship?
 - i. It's not actually defined.
 - c. Kaitlyn Kunkle- What is your biggest contribution to student government at Penn State?
 - i. I have sat through a lot of meetings in our beginning phase. I didn't accomplish it by myself, but I can see the transition that has taken place. It is sad that in Argentina the student governments have such a say, and we have little voice.
2. Discussion
 - a. Ralph Crivello- She has been around the various elements of UPUA, and knows what needs done all around. On a note, this is a paid position. She will be paid on a per hour basis, typically ten hours per week.
 - b. Sean Meloy- I full-heartedly hopes we choose her as a staff assistant. She is a great precedence.
 - c. Andrew Karasik- She can deal with Ralph, so she has my vote.
3. Vote
 - a. Approved by a majority vote of 29-0-1.
4. Sworn in by Gavin Kierans.

XII. Discussion (None)

XIII. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Richard Shermanski- Congratulates John McCain and Sarah Palin for their Republican Nomination.
- b. Andrew Karasik- Moment of silence for Dan Lafontane.
- c. Sam Loewner- moment of silence for professor who passed while teaching today.
- d. Stephen Lucas- What applications are we still accepting?
 - i. Mike Anderson- available online at www.upua.psu.edu/applications. Executive positions and freshman positions.
 - ii. Ralph Crivello- There is a separate application for the representative seat.
- e. Ralph Crivello- Next week we have a work session, so there will not be a formal meeting.
 - i. Kaitlyn Kunkle please attend the ARHS meeting.

f. Annie Fiscus- Please sign up for office hours, and sign your name on the sheet.

XIV. Closing Roll Call and Adjournment

a. Meeting is adjourned at 9:53 PM.