

UPUA General Assembly Meeting  
17 September 2008

- I. Call to Order and Opening Roll Call
  - a. Meeting is called to order at 8:12 by Valarie Russell
  - b. Roll call taken by Annie Fiscus
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
  - a. Andrew Koontz added to ARHS
  - b. Executive Appointments scratched
  - c. Agenda is adopted.
- III. Adoption of the past General Meeting Minutes
  - a. Adoption of past general meeting minutes.
- IV. Open Student Forum
  - a. Norie Ryland- Teach for America
    - i. At State College High School many students graduate, however in Philly a much smaller population graduate. Every major is accepted for 2 years of service. Paid a teacher's salary, Deferment of loans, \$10,000 scholarship. Many professions are interested in teach for America graduates. Contact [lmr5044@psu.edu](mailto:lmr5044@psu.edu).
- V. Report by the President- Gavin Keirans
  - a. Executive appointments have to go through ID first.
  - b. Directors are filled for executive appointments, as long as they go through ID and assembly. Each committee will also have 3 members.
  - c. Reached a decision on facilities fee- 6 undergraduate students (1 UPUA pres, and 5 appointments), 2 graduates, 4 faculty members, 1 faculty senate member. Chaired by UPUA and GSA president.
  - d. A lot of new business next week.
  - e. Peter and Colleen shined in their interviews, and will make great members.
- VI. Special Presentations- Dr. Robert Orndorff
  - a. Former UPUA advisor. Make it out to the career fair tomorrow, it gives you a great idea for opportunities. Today I want to go through the career planning steps. The single biggest need amongst college students is exposure to career options. Most college students can only talk in depth about ten occupations. In career services, we have great assessments to help you narrow down careers that are interesting to you. We want you to acquire knowledge, skills and abilities that employers are looking for. The top skills and qualities that companies seek in college graduates are enthusiastic, dedicated, leadership, writing ability, communication skills, interpersonal skills, motivational initiative, honesty and integrity. They're looking for person skills and character. These are above technology because those skills can be taught. Leadership initiative is huge, this experience is huge. It is important to market yourself, so you can sell yourself. You must be able to articulate your skills on a conscious level. What you are doing here is wonderful.
  - b. Questions
    - i. Nick Mance- Can you explain a little bit about LionLink?
      1. These are alumnus all over the world that are happy in their professions and want to mentor others. You can call them for internship help, questions about your position, etc. You can come over to our center for career counseling. Career counselors will meet for you for an hour, as frequently as you wish.

- ii. Mike Wallace- Can we just walk in?
  - 1. We have drop in career advising- 8:30-5. You can schedule an hour appointment after that initial meeting.
- iii. Samantha Miller- Do you have any graduate school testing prep?
  - 1. Yes, GRE prep, LSAT prep. We have a lot of information in our career library.
- iv. Andrea- can you tell us about your online modules?
  - 1. You can do online workshops where we can help you. We also have a certificate program that carries some weight on your resume.

#### VII. Report by the Association Directors and Staff

- a. Chief of Staff- Mike Anderson
  - i. We have done over 20 interviews since we met last.
  - ii. We have 8 directors so far, they need to be confirmed.
  - iii. We want you to have go to people for anything you would legislate.
  - iv. You will be very impressed.
  - v. Questions
    - 1. Ralph Crivello- Are we looking for a webmaster?
      - a. Yes, we are in the process of looking for one.
- b. Treasurer- Matt Sheroff
  - i. \$50 was transferred for homecoming registration.
  - ii. We are looking into copiers, but we have to go through a specific vendor.
    - 1. We have \$100 purchase order out of Copy Central until then.
  - iii. Questions
    - 1. Ralph Crivello- Can you provide a budget for everything spent out of the UPAC order.
    - 2. Sean Meloy0- How much is in our accounts
      - a. UPUA balance= 1,900
      - b. Unrestricted= 1,800
      - c. FAB money is spent
- c. Greek Life- Luke Pierce
- d. Business- Adam Ferone
  - i. Questions
    - 1. Steve Lucas- How would you like us to submit press releases?
      - a. Talk to me about what you want, and I'll get it together
      - b. Amf5064- email

#### VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Ralph Crivello- Steering
  - i. We are switching to an assigned seat idea. We are trying to encourage debate.
  - ii. This is our first time in room 129 HUB. We'll be down here for most of the semester to see if this is more convenient for students and us.
  - iii. During questioning, please wait to be recognized by the chair.
  - iv. Refer to 6 points.
  - v. Questions
    - 1. Sean Leonard- Are we paying for this?
      - a. Student Government meetings are usually waived. No money is being spent for us.
    - 2. William Barr- Can we get a microphone next time because it's hard to hear people on the other side of the room.

- b. Chris Morell- Internal Development
  - i. Last report as chairman. New chair will Andrew Karasik.
  - ii. Refer to typed report.
  - iii. Questions
    - 1. Richard Shermanski- Why are you resigning?
      - a. I am the new Executive Director of SOS.
- c. Hillary Gupta- Programming
  - i. The gavel came in today.
  - ii. We are registered for homecoming and are working on a banner.
  - iii. We are also registered for THON.
  - iv. We are planning a social event. More updates to come.
  - v. Questions
    - 1. Mike Wallace- Are we having a float?
      - a. No.
    - 2. Mike Wallace- What might the social event be?
      - a. Laser Tag? Bowling? Dinner? Appetizers? Email me suggestions.
    - 3. Sean Leonard- Will help with THON if needed. First canning trip= October 11.
    - 4. Adam Ferone- What is the lowest amount we must raise?
      - a. \$2,200. We will be put into a lottery for the chance to have a dancer. We have the chance to get at most 2 dancers.
    - 5. Sean Meloy- Is the gavel engraved?
      - a. University Park Undergraduate Association, Pennsylvania State University
- d. Nick Mance- Facilities
  - i. I apologize for not having a committee report in front of you.
  - ii. Meetings with be Thursdays in HUB 111 at 7:30.
  - iii. Resolution 8 about football gate system is still within committee. Reevaluation at Temple Game.
  - iv. There is a supposed new policy that charges student groups to use common area in Resident Halls/Commons.
  - v. Upcoming HUB-Robeson meetings and Take Charge meetings
  - vi. Questions
    - 1. Sean Meloy – There are benches from class of 1900, could you find out what will happen with them? The wood was ripped out.
    - 2. Hillary Gupta- Do we have to pay for room space?
      - a. I am researching.
- e. Matt Smith- Academic Affairs
  - i. Keeping active.
  - ii. Meeting with Jeff Koonz to talk about Lion Cash printing issues.
  - iii. We passed a report to get senate alternates in order to have better senate representations.
  - iv. Questions
    - 1. Richard Shermanski- Faculty Senate legislation windows?
      - a. It's a formality. Dependent on when issues are sent out.
- f. Samantha Miller- Governmental Affairs
  - i. Harrisburg Initiatives

1. Starting to research how student friendly our representatives and senators are.
2. Talked to CCSG to start a coalition of Pennsylvania Schools to keep 365 watch on tuition.
- ii. CCSG wants to work with us to make a tuition documentary.
- iii. Service Nation- Took place September 11. Watch it on CNN. Day of action on September 27.
  1. In contact with Civic Enterprises.
- iv. Approached by PSU Vote to do a voter registration.
- v. Questions
  1. Sam Loewner- DO you think the score card will be proactive or a reference toll?
    - a. It can work as both. I'm working to get representatives in the same room to hold a forum about their votes.
  2. Andrew Karasik- Is this public school coalition for all PA school?
    - a. I think it's best if we use every PA school.
  3. Sean Meloy- Can we use all Centre County Representatives?
    - a. Yes, this is for all PA representatives.
  4. Valarie Russell- Have you been collaborating with other political organizations on campus?
    - a. Not yet, but I plan on getting there and creating a timeline since CCSG is definitely on board.
- g. Steve Lucas- Diversity and Student Life
  - i. Refer to typed items.
  - ii. We have been doing a lot of brainstorming.
  - iii. We are planning to do a networking event with school leaders.
    1. Thursday, November 13 at 6 PM.
    2. If you want to get involved come to our meetings Tuesdays at 5:30 in 314 HUB.
  - iv. Questions
    1. Ralph Crivello- Do you have any idea where it will be and send something out on the listserv?
      - a. The Life Sciences Bridge or Heritage Hall/Alumni Hall. We want it to be later so we have more time to plan.
    2. Gavin Keirans- I don't think you need a contract so you should only need 20 days.
    3. Andrew Karasik- Put refreshments as UPUA covering so it goes to your 20%.
    4. Mike Wallace- Who will you invite?
      - a. Student Governments on campus, Diversity Clubs, Political Groups. We should get to inviting them by next week.
    5. Gavin Keirans- Can your committee help us looking for a LGBTQA director?
      - a. Sure. I'll find someone.

## IX. Liaison Reports

- a. GSA- Joann Olsen
  - i. We passed the facilities fee resolution and a resolution calling for 5% of student activities fee collected from graduate students to go towards GSA.

- ii. We are looking to do some community service events, probably starting with the Red Cross. "Donate a pint and get a pint."
    - iii. Questions
      - 1. Andrew Karasik- How much would that 5% come to?
        - a. Approximately \$50,000.
  - b. ARHS- Andrew Koontz
    - i. Planning Race Against Racism- October 4. We are having a parents special since it's during parents weekend.
    - ii. Casino Night this Friday night at LateNight HUB.
    - iii. Free HUB movie is Incredible Hulk.
    - iv. We're working on improving the Nittany Guide which is a freshman survival guide.
  - c. ARHS- Kaitlyn Kunkle
    - i. ARHS meetings are similar to ours. They get right to the point and down to business.
    - ii. At the end of the meeting, please give your email addresses and names. I just want to make sure that you get on the listserv. I only need On-Campus representatives.
- X. Old Business (none)
- XI. New Business
  - a. Election of Freshman Assembly Seats
    - i. Peter Khoury
      - 1. I have been living on-campus since the summer and have gotten a lot of feedback from the freshman. I want to sit on this assembly so I can represent freshman. We need to facilitate the goals of UPUA. I want to work on legislation to Disassemble UPAC. We are the student representatives and I think we can set up a committee to handle these issues in a better manner. I also want to work on legislation to give UPUA a set budget.
      - 2. Questions
        - a. Sam Loewner- On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate your knowledge on how the university works?
          - i. I am a freshman so I don't have as much experience as you, but I have a pretty decent understanding. I'd maybe say a 5, which has room for improvement.
        - b. Sean Meloy- What is the one issue students are most concerned about?
          - i. Many have problems with their teachers or TA's. I don't know how much we can do here on that topic.
        - c. Andrew Karasik- What plans do you have to solicit freshman input?
          - i. I plan to send out flyers and put up posters in East Halls. They can come somewhere to ask problems to myself and Colleen.
        - d. Kaitlyn Kunkle- What is your best achievement?
          - i. I achieved a presidential gold service award. I have put a lot of time and effort into helping others.

- e. Gavin Keirans- If you were part of a bike, which part would you be?
  - i. The handle bars because I like to direct things and be in control.
- f. Sean Meloy- Can you elaborate on your ideas about UPAC.
  - i. I think it isn't fair that an organization that isn't directly representing the student body is dealing with these issues.

### 3. Discussion

- a. Ralph Crivello- The steering committee went through many applicants, 16. He is an excellent candidate, and it was a unanimous decision of the committee. He's willing to tackle issues, and has great ambition. He can handle himself very well.
- b. Sean Meloy- I find his views on UPAC as concerning. He has a lot of drive and a great understanding for a freshman. He's slightly controversial, so we can help educate him further.
- c. Andrew Karasik- He has an opinion about the issue, which is very comforting. He has some good programs to bring the freshman view to us.
- d. Daniel Lersch- He said he actually has sat down and talked to students. He started his job early.
- e. Matt Smith- The opinion of the steering committee wasn't exactly unanimous, but if you're voting to approve them then you are voting to teach them.
- f. Richard Shermanski motions to end discussion.

### 4. Vote

- a. Peter Khoury is confirmed by a vote of 26-0-1

### ii. Colleen Smith

1. I would like to express my most sincere gratitude for this experience. I served as my high school's and junior high school's president. I planned events and served as a voice for students. I have a lot of experience, but have a lot of room to grow. It will be my responsibility to effectively represent the freshman. I would like to get involved with the programming committee to help people get acclimated. I want to help motivate people to live up to their potential.

### 2. Questions

- a. Andrew Karasik- What plans do you have to solicit freshman?
  - i. I think facebook is a great outlet for communication. We could have an interactive website. We could also have monthly forums. Involvement is key in the first year.
- b. Daniel Lersch- What was your greatest accomplishment as president of your student council?
  - i. I put together a Susan G. Komen fundraiser that was school and community wide. We raised a couple of thousand of dollars.
- c. Mike Wallace- If you were a part of a Big Mac, what part would you be?

- i. I would be the buns because it is the comforting outside that holds everything together.
  - d. Adam Ferone- How did you hear about the position, and what made you want to pursue it?
    - i. I received a flyer in my mailbox, went on the website, and believe that freshman need to be represented. I thought if I could be that voice, I would love that experience.
  - e. Sean Meloy- Do you have any specific initiatives?
    - i. I don't have anything concrete, but I'm a very passionate person. Once I get more involved I will surely find something I can better.
  - f. Steve Lucas- We're trying to work on getting the word of UPUA out. How can you work to educate freshman?
    - i. I think flyers are always good. I think a monthly forum meeting would be great. Students could come and we could explain how student government works, which will hopefully encourage them to get involved.

### 3. Discussion

- a. Ralph Crivello- We are looking for leadership potential, and she has it. She is very open-minded and personality driven.
- b. Richard Shermanski- she thinks it's a get campus, and I agree.
- c. Gavin Keirans- She is very qualified. I have no doubt.
- d. Sean Meloy motions to end debate.

### 4. Vote

- a. Approved by a vote of 24-0-1.

iii. Peter Khoury and Colleen Smith are sworn in.

## XII. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Christopher Morell- Check out SOS website.
- b. Richard Shermanski- Happy Constitution Day.
- c. Kaitlyn Kunkle- There will be a traditions of Penn State program in Lyons hall tomorrow at 7PM.
- d. Andrew Karasik- Any student can submit a policy change to UPAC.
- e. Nick Mance- Renewal of 5 Year Strategic Plan?
  - i. Ralph Crivello- No, it will happen later.
- f. Steve Lucas- I encourage members who don't always speak to speak your voice. It will foster better discussion.
- g. Jim Byrne- Maybe we should do calisthenics in the beginning?
- h. Samantha Miller and Christopher Morell- See committee briefly after.
- i. Matthew Smith- Friday is Board of Trustees at 8 AM.
- j. Gavin Keirans- 5 at University Health Services Dedication. If anybody wants to sit on Student Leadership Scholarship, please let me know.
- k. Ralph Crivello- Be a deliberative body. Everyone should ask questions. Next meeting, each representative needs to have one goal to present to assembly.
- l. Valarie Russell- I had a meeting with Joe Batista. ARSH's race against racism.
- m. Sean Leonard- THON 5K, October 26.
- n. Valarie Russell- Remember meetings are now taped.

## XIII. Closing Roll Call and Adjournment

- a. Meeting is adjourned at 9:53 PM.