



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

General Body Meeting

09/15/19

9:00 PM Benjamin Franklin Room

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Open Forum**
3. **Reports**
 - a. President's Report
 - i. Upcoming Administrator Meetings
 - b. Vice President's Report
 - i. UA Steering
 - ii. University Council
 - c. Speaker's Report
 - i. Associate Member Applications
 - ii. Member of the Week
 - d. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Funding Steering Assembly Membership Confirmation
 - ii. Budget and Finance Committee Report
 - e. Secretary's Report
 - i. Penn Labs Meeting
4. **Executive**
 - a. Bylaw Amendment Concerning Cabinet Members
5. **Discussion Papers**
 - a. Longitudinal Study for Student Wellness
 - b. Wharton ABCS Courses

Reports

President's Report

1. Upcoming Administrator Meetings
 - a. I am in the process of scheduling the Fall 2019 Cabinet meetings with administrators. We would like to get one additional UA member to attend the meetings if you are available and have a relevant project. The following meetings have been scheduled. Please reach out to me if you are interested in attending any meetings.

- i. President Gutmann - October 16 at 4pm
 - ii. Provost Pritchett and VP for Education Beth Winkelstein - November 1 at 2pm
 - iii. EVP Craig Carnaroli and AVP Tony Sorrentino - October 4 at 9am
- b. The following meetings have yet to be scheduled, but are planned to take place this semester:
 - i. Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs
 - ii. Business Services
 - iii. Student Registration and Financial Services
 - iv. International Student & Scholar Services
 - v. Vice Provost for University Life and SAVP University Life
 - vi. “Wellness Coalition”: Chief Wellness Officer, CAPS leadership, SHS leadership, Penn Recreation

Vice President’s Report

- 1. UA Steering
 - a. On Tuesday, September 10th UA Steering met to discuss goals for the year. We have also split into Advocacy Teams and exchanged contact information.
- 2. University Council
 - a. On Wednesday, September 11th University Council met to discuss focus issues for the year.

Speaker’s Report

- 1. Associate Member Applications
 - a. Applications will go live on next Sunday September 22nd and will close on Wednesday September 25th.
- 2. Member of the Week
 - a. This week’s member of the week is.....

Treasurer’s Report

- 1. Funding Steering Assembly Membership Confirmation
 - a. The Funding Steering Assembly (FSA) is responsible for facilitating constructive communication between all student-run funding sources on campus and for coordinating a cohesive timeline for student group funding request timelines. Membership is determined by the treasurer with the advice and consent of the UA. This year’s FSA will tentatively comprise of representatives of the following student organizations:
 - i. UA Budget Committee
 - ii. Student Activities Council (SAC)
 - iii. Social Planning and Events Committee (SPEC)
 - iv. Intercultural Fund (ICF)
 - 1. United Minorities Council (UMC)
 - 2. Asian Pacific Student Coalition (APSC)
 - 3. UMOJA
 - 4. Latinx Coalition
 - 5. Lambda
 - 6. Penn Association for Gender Equity (PAGE)

- v. Tangible Change (T-Change)
- vi. Faith Fund
- vii. Penn Traditions Alumni Engagement Fund (PTAEF)
- viii. Synergy Fund
- ix. Penn Wellness
- x. Assembly of International Students (AIS)
- xi. Penn Undergraduate Health Council (PUHC)
- xii. Student Sustainability Association at Penn (SSAP)
- xiii. Engineering Student Activity Center (ESAC)

2. Budget and Finance Committee Report

- a. In an effort to expand the role of the Budget and Finance Committee and to increase transparency, the BC will now report on the progress and projection of its initiatives on a regular basis.
 - i. Penn Park fee waived for SPEC Concert
 - ii. Reduced facility costs for Penn student groups

Executive

Bylaw Amendment Concerning Cabinet Members

Authored by: UA Cabinet

Background:

Over the past few years, there has been a large push to integrate Associate Members into the general body. In the spirit of this, we aim to include associate members as individuals who are eligible to apply to be Committee Directors and/or Communication Director. As always, the executive board reserves the right to determine who is qualified for these positions and will work to ensure that the most qualified members of the Undergraduate Assembly are appointed to these positions, regardless of their status as an associate member or elected member.

Enactment:

The Undergraduate Assembly hereby resolves to:

Add the following clause to Section I: Associate Members, Article 17

Associate Members may, at the discretion of the UA Executive, represent the UA on a university-wide committee or board *and apply for appointment to the role of UA Committee Director and UA Communications Director.*

Discussion Papers

Longitudinal Study for Student Wellness

Authored by: Dante Diggs

Background:

Following the recent tragedy surrounding Gregory Eells, the Student and Campus Life Committee brainstormed numerous ways to address the ongoing struggle of mental wellness on-campus. One of the many posited ideas was a longitudinal study tracking the number of students across the 4 schools during their 4 years at Penn.

In the long-term, this will help demystify many of the wellness issues that students face by identifying specific periods of stress (aka “pain points”) throughout the undergraduate experience and isolating the catalyst, allowing for more precise solutions to problems that Penn students face daily. This may begin with a cross-sectional study as a pilot and then shift to a longitudinal following a successful pilot.

As a world-class research institution, Penn has the obligation to utilize its resources to support the wellness of its students. Through this study, Penn can prove concretely that it is devoted to the long-term wellbeing of the student body.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are some pros and cons to this idea? Would it enhance wellness in the long run?
- 2) What are some incentives that students would need to be provided to participate in this study?
- 3) How do we administer survey-based study like this without making students feel like they are being “studied”?
- 4) What campus administrators would be particularly useful in pursuing this project?

Wharton ABCS Courses

Authored by: Dante Diggs

Background:

Academically Based Community Service courses offer unique opportunities to work together with the local community to solve pressing issues. While Wharton has been advertised as having ABCS courses, the school does not have any offerings this year.

There is amazing potential in allowing students to work with local businesses and learn more about commerce in an organic setting. Additionally, the resources that the school can utilize will allow students to discover more about the world outside of Penn. This will help to broaden their experiences and aid in their growth and development as a civic learner.

Additionally, considering that the school is in the middle of a living and breathing city, the Wharton school has an obligation to not only acknowledge the city, but to actively encourage students to engage with, learn from, and support it through civic engagement.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are some ideas that you have for a Wharton ABCS course?
- 2) Are there any businesses or organizations that you think would be great partners for a project like this?
- 3) How do you picture student involvement in regards to Wharton ABCS courses?

Minutes

6. Roll Call

7. Open Forum

Arjun: Penn Leads the Vote

- This Friday from 2 to 3 panel of people; maybe dunkin; will send out a sign-up form for speakers who will discuss youth in government

Chase: Elections Questions

- How can we encourage new Penn politicians to have a more tangible platform

Questions:

Natasha: Maybe we can stress during the PSG Info session to look into tangible projects

Kristen: Even though things may seem impossible, they can still be done with enough university push

- Chase: The broader issue is promising UA activities as a class board member

John: What's in the PSG info session now

- Natasha: We talk mainly about the general items, but the mandatory sessions can focus on these topics.
- Kevin: Mention these topics to clear things up
- Olivia: This is a responsibility of every branch of PSG

Chase: Does any event happen describing the branches?

- Olivia: These are mentioned in meetings, and Path to PSG is made to allow students to talk to others in the position

8. Reports

a. President's Report

i. Upcoming Administrator Meetings

Natasha: If you are interested in any of the meetings, please reach out

- b. Vice President's Report
 - i. UA Steering

Brian: Steering was held on Tuesday and focused on pairing up advocacy teams; next meeting is the following week

- Jude: What are advocacy teams
 - This splits the 35 groups into smaller teams that can collaborate, advertise together, and provide us with ideas for future work

- ii. University Council

Brian: Intro meeting on Wednesday September 11th;

- Jude: What is University Council
 - The highest deliberative body comprised of numerous high-ranking administrators; provides a direct link to underrepresented communities
 - Anyone can sit in the public section

- c. Speaker's Report
 - i. Associate Member Applications

Jude: AM members will open up next Sunday

- Elena: How many applications will you be accepting
 - Jude: There are currently 7 and I will be taking 9

Additionally, Mikayla has decided to resign

- ii. Member of the Week

The first member of the week is Ryan Bush

- d. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Funding Steering Assembly Membership Confirmation

Kevin: Funding steering assembly is a treasurer's feedback group for all treasurers to share best practices;

- Jess: What is the synergy fund

- ii. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Kevin: We will regularly be giving updates on the budget committees initiatives; these include Penn Park fee waiver for Penn concerts; reduced facility costs and transparency for these costs

- Elena: Reach out to us if you run any place on campus

- e. Secretary's Report
 - i. Penn Labs Meeting

9. Executive

a. Bylaw Amendment Concerning Cabinet Members

Natasha: After last week's discussion, we have decided to come to a group consensus

Brian: We hope to empower and engage associate members on the UA; it seemed natural to allow them to be on the UA as cabinet; We also saw a bylaw that allowed them on UA wide committees and boards

Natasha: In exec, we spend hours discussing these decisions in order to ensure that they are well-selected; this does not guarantee them a spot; Associate members can also represent underrepresented communities and ensure thta voices don't get lost

Q/A

Elena: If we allow this amendment to pass, what is the value to run for the UA; the only restriction is that AM's can't vote, which is negligible

- Brian: Two main reasons; we want to make a difference;
- Natasha: nothing is a guarantee; you won't necessarily be on cabinet
- Arjun: It would only be in the case where an associate member is

Cam: Would this be something that the body could vote on

- Natasha: We have put a lot of work into this decision
- Brian: We have been attempting to integrate them
- Natasha: This can result in a "slippery-slope"

Chase: Isn't there a difference between the learning process of an AM and an elected member

- Natasha: Associate members are meant to represent underrepresented members of the body; there is a higher vetting process and dedication is essential

Tori: Can AM's serve on EXEC

- Brian: In the bylaws, associate members are excluded from running on Exec; we are codifying the boards
 - Why is there a distinction
 - Natasha: Exec is an external facing body

Janice: Why shouldn't the body be trusted to choose an AM on board

- Natasha: This is a process chosen by Exec and we hope to increase bodies

Ryan: Is it stated that AM's represent underrepresented groups

- Yes

Jennifer: What kind of precedent does this set

- This does not prove the opposie

Simon: Why isn't legal services chosen

- Natasha: They can be added \

Tess: What are the qualities that you pick when appointing members

- Brian: We look for leadership experience, how you would work for the body
- Natasha: Nepotism is not an issue because the rubric is put in place

EJ: What's preventing AM's from running as elected members.

- Natasha: They may have run and lost; For nursing there is only one representative

Chase: The AM application is only sent out to people who lost?

- Jude: I gave it to returning members and those who lost

Tori: Why can't nursing have another seat

- Olivia: We guarantee one seat to each constituency

Pro/Con/Middle

Pro

Simon: I believe that this is an essential amendment; allows AM's to run on platforms they believe in

John: The Undergraduate Assembly is now a hybrid association; Cabinet is not just the committee director, but also a consultory group; We voted for them unanimously; this person is a manager; I trust exec and I am vehemently pro

Arjun: Exec can determine who is qualified; will only be a person who is the best chosen for the role

Tess: The nursing school does not have any representation on the UA

Con

Kristen: Dangerous precedent because the UA is an elected body; Associate Members were not chosen by the body and are privy to certain meetings that the body cannot go to; we are undermining the significance of these positions; This is about setting a dangerous precedent allowing for nepotism; we cannot predict the future

Janice: I am scared of the precedent; there are a lot of steps that we need to consider; there would need to be additional bylaws codified to ensure that the body in the future is not affected; it would be helpful because the student body did elect us

Tori: All of the arguments that we apply to committee directors could be applied to exec; we have to have a broader discussion about this; where is the line drawn; if we remove the check, then we will not be able

to have a broader conversation

- Natasha: This should be consistent and this is a culmination of the events of the past; Cabinet is internally appointed

Middle:

Cam: Exec could any person that they want to in cabinet; their voting is consent to us being in leadership positions; I would be more comfortable if the student voice is in this decision

10. Discussion Papers

a. Longitudinal Study for Student Wellness

Dante: School focused on undergraduate initiatives. Help the school focus on actual problem points

Ozi: I think this is an amazing idea. Valuable to have this data. Make new legislation and policy to prevent things from happening. Should the data be available publicly, it may have a negative impact on students.

Measuring markers might be an incentive to get people engaged

Simon: Great project and would love to see results. Long term study would provide a lot of insight. Give better insight into what it is like to be a student. Long term project and take a lot of commitment.

Natasha: This is somewhat already pursued, there was a wellbeing baseline commitment. Penn has an institute to study wellness so researchers can see the data. Send you contact information

Mary: Clarification on numbers

Janice: How would study be run? How would distinction between groups play in? How do we protect the students?

Dante: I think it should be narrow to start with basic information. Opt in opt out to protect information.

Jenn: I think the wellness assessment survey is not a great survey. A new survey that tackles specific things is too vague

Ryan: Psych department is always looking for research participants. You should reach out to them and ensure it is in a scientific manner.

Chase: Be careful about who the participants are. Survey causes people to just fill it out for incentives. Results skewed based on lifestyle and backgrounds. Important to have a conversation

Tess: I think you should look into the psych department. Some classes would help you out.

b. Wharton ABCS Courses

Dante: Penn offers courses in Philadelphia. Wharton does not have ABCS courses. Useful for Penn itself and the impact that students can have in the city.

Nikhil: Civic Scholars collaborate with community. Good way to engage with Wharton Student Groups like Wharton Asia Exchange may engage more students.

John: I brought this up to SCUE and she mentioned that there is a financial literacy course that is half credit. SCUE is a good avenue to explore

Ryan: Reach out to Penn abroad. Penn abroad works with entrepreneurial groups abroad and it can increase impact. They have big database to reach out to.

Tori: I work at the Free Library on 40th street and help people on daily issues. I think I can reach out to people in the library to see if they could be partner. Reach out to me.

Natasha: Great community organizations that could benefit from grant writing. Small businesses could be helped.