Undergraduate Assembly
Constituency Update

UA Leadership, Committee Structure for 10-11

The Undergraduate Assembly finished assembling its elected leadership following its 4/11 Transition Meeting. The 2010-11 UA Executive Board is as follows:

President: Matt Amalfitano (C ’11), president@pennua.org
Vice-President: Mark Pan (C ’11), vp@pennua.org
Speaker: G.J. Melendez-Torres (W/N ’11), speaker@pennua.org
Treasurer: Ryan Houston (W ’11), treasurer@pennua.org
Secretary: Cynthia Ip (SEAS ’12), secretary@pennua.org

The UA has already completed its annual reorganization with the creation of four standing committees and four Directors to lead those committees and the students who serve on them. Our committees and Directors are:

Academic Affairs, with cognizance over academic policy and technology, directed by Faye Cheng (W ’12), academics@pennua.org

Housing, Sustainability, and Facilities, with cognizance over the aforementioned areas, led by Amanda Young (SAS ’12), hsf@pennua.org

Civic and Philadelphia Engagement, with cognizance over all university-community relations and public safety, led by Jake Shuster (SAS ’13), civic@pennua.org

Student Life, with cognizance on dining and those areas covered by VPUL, led by Tyler Ernst (SEAS/SAS ’12), studentlife@pennua.org.

Chris Cruz (SAS ’13) will be the UA’s first full-year Communications Director, working with Secretary Cynthia Ip on:

1. The management of the UA’s website/blog at www.pennua.org, which is updated
daily with news about Penn and UA work,
2. The weekly launch of *The Assembly Line*, a newsletter to 1000+ undergraduates who have opted in to news about student government and Penn administration,
3. Extensive use of social media including Twitter and Facebook,
4. The development of more sophisticated “targeted” communications systems aimed to direct information to the constituencies in the undergraduate studentry that would find it most relevant.

Directors will be reaching out to administrators and constituency leaders within their area of consequence shortly. Please feel free to reach out to them to get grassroots consultation and support on any initiative concerning undergraduates!

Please reach out to me (president@pennua.org) if you have an announcement relevant to undergraduates you would like to send to the student body.

I also strongly encourage you to check out our website. Not only will you find detailed descriptions of our projects, past and present, but many useful contact details for student leaders right across the undergraduate community.

**UA takes a stance on Muslim Chaplaincy**

On Sunday, 4/25, the UA voted on a resolution concerning the creation of a full-time Muslim Chaplaincy position in the University Chaplain’s Office. The resolution recognizes the contributions of the current Interfaith Fellow and Representative to the Muslim Community Adnan Zulfiqar and asks for an extension of his position to a full-time staff member. The UA voted 18 PRO—1 CON with 4 abstentions. The enactments are as follows:

1. **Recognizes** the need for an Interfaith Fellow and Campus Minister to the Muslim Community.
2. **Commends** the Chaplain's Office for its strides towards meeting the needs of Muslim Students.
3. **Calls upon** the University to establish the Interfaith Fellow and Campus Minister to the Muslim Community as a permanent, full time position.
4. **Strongly Urges** the University to expand the benefits and Institutional Support of the Interfaith Fellow and Campus Minister to the Muslim Community.
5. **Supports** the incorporation of as diverse a range of views and opinions into the University as possible.

**Partnering with Interfraternity Council on Textbooks Exchange**

Partnering with Interfraternity Council (IFC) Vice President for Academics Jeff Lipman,
the UA unanimously passed a resolution in support of a joint IFC-UA Textbooks Exchange. The on-line model will allow students to purchase and sell textbooks with other members of the Penn community without a “middleman.” The enactments from the resolution are as follows:

1. **Requests** the creation of a website for Penn students, and Penn students only, to exchange, buy, and sell, textbooks with no middleman.

2. **Requests** the implementation of a system similar to the one at Princeton which identifies books using ISBN number or course number and compares book prices to the buyback price and sale price (both new and old) available at the bookstore.

3. **Suggests** that the UA promote the new trade via all-school emails and other marketing techniques.

4. **Encourages** professors to post book lists by the beginning of add/drop period to ensure that the book exchange is a viable option for students.

5. **Will work** in conjunction with the IFC to set up and manage the website.

Respectfully submitted,

*Matt Amalfitano*
*UA President* (president@pennua.org)