Constituency Update

1. UA Allocates $1.97 million for 2011-2012 Budget

Key features of this year’s budget include:

- **Block grant funding for MERT**, allowing increased flexibility and freedom from the constraints of SAC.
- **Increased flexibility within SPEC**—more money in contingency and Fully Planned, allowing SPEC the freedom to find and put on the best events for students.
- **An 18.7% decrease in UA Administrative expenses**, allowing money to be channeled directly into programming for students, rather than office supplies.
- **$1500 in scholarship monies for the PennCORP** pre-orientation program, enabling many students to engage in this valuable community service opportunity.
- **A 7.77% increase in funding for SPEC**, increasing the amount of programming available for all students on campus.
- **A 5.31% increase for the Student Activities Council**, allowing students to continue to engage in their all-important student groups.

2. Penn Rec Privacy and Gender Equality

After working with Penn Rec and VPUL, installing shower stall dividers in the men’s restrooms appears to be on track for execution in May.

The official enactment as passed reads: *The Undergraduate Assembly hereby:*

1. **Supports** the right of the Penn community to utilize recreational facilities such as the David Pottruck Health and Fitness Center in a comfortable manner, regardless of sex, gender identity, or level of modesty;
2. **Calls Upon** Penn Rec to enforce its own mission of adding value to the community’s recreational experience and to apply the University’s nondiscrimination policy to its own facilities; and
3. **Strongly urges** the Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics to provide or otherwise secure the resources necessary for Penn Rec to move forward with the completion of this project.
3. **UA Establishing a Dining Advisory Board**

The UA has been working with various student groups and Dining to establish an Advisory Board. The creation of the Dining Advisory Board is part of the Undergraduate Assembly’s efforts to strengthen the voice of students and student groups in the various actions and responsibilities of the Penn administration.

The mission of the Dining Advisory Board shall be to engage with Penn Business Services and Penn Dining in a regular forum on all dining-related topics. This board will benefit Penn Dining by providing a consistent source of diverse student opinion and by consolidating many of its meeting obligations into one body. For undergraduate participants, the Dining Advisory Board will serve as an arena to voice concerns on behalf of all undergraduates, as an innovative environment in which to propose ideas, and as a means for undergraduate representatives to be formally and regularly included in the developments of Penn Dining and its providers.

4. **UA Endorses MERT for Collegiate EMS Organization of the Year**

Just last week, MERT won the Collegiate EMS Organization of the year award! This award recognizes an EMS organization that has demonstrated outstanding service to its campus.

A few weeks prior, the Undergraduate Assembly to:

1. Continue to affirm the contributions of MERT, via emergency medical responses and public health awareness, to student life at Penn.
2. Sign and sends the attached letter to the NCEMSF, endorsing MERT for the Collegiate EMS Organization of the Year award.

5. **Intramural Score Coverage**

Roughly 10% of the undergraduate population participates in the intramural basketball league through the college house system and Penn Rec. This crucial component of student life provides an outlet for non-varsity students to participate in fun and competitive athletic events, which has great benefits for both mental and physical health. Penn Rec brought to the UA's attention on behalf of the college house system, that many students expressed interest in seeing the scores of these highly contentious games made publicly available. Since this affects such a broad swathe of the student population, we were happy to lobby for coverage of the scores by the Daily Pennsylvanian. Accordingly, we are happy to report that the results of the intramural basketball league will be posted online at [www.thedp.com](http://www.thedp.com).

6. **ADA Compliance in the Greek System**
The Student Life Committee has been working over the course of the year with the IFC (Mo Haider), VPUL, Student Disabilities Services, and OSA to bring Penn’s campus reality up to par with its nondiscrimination statement, as well as national Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

We are happy to report that meetings with Housing Corporations have been scheduled and will be underway throughout this semester and into June, with the ever-capable Associate Vice Provost Ajay Nair at the helm of these sessions. While the list of upgrades is still very much in progress, there is an exciting new development that may lead to a shorter term access solution. Mo Haider’s research over break led him to the discovery of Roll-A-Ramp, a company that provides ramps that may meet the needs of the difficult Locust-walk area terrain. Facilities experts are currently investigating the feasibility and ADA-compliance of these solutions as a potential short-term alternative to full-on ramp installation. Most importantly, however, the long-term solutions are still being developed.

7. UA Authors Letter of Support to Provost for Penn Apps Labs

From 2007-10, the Undergraduate Assembly funded $12,400/year for the New York Times Readership Program. Since the program’s inception, the Provost’s Office has “matched,” or provided an equal amount of funding to the program, each year. In 2010, the UA General Body moved to suspend the funding previously apportioned to the New York Times Readership Program, and the Provost Office match was subsequently withdrawn. Since then, the UA has not received any funding from the Provost’s Office towards any of its programming set forth in the annual UA budget.

Recently, the UA approved $10,000 for PennApps Labs in its 2011-2012 budget. A Provost match of this request would provide PennApps Labs enough resources to work at full capacity, or $10,000 per semester, next year. The UA supports a match of the UA’s PennApps Labs budget request as per a separate letter.


Respectfully submitted,

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