Constituency Update

1. UA Annual Budget 2012

On Sunday, February 26th, the UA passed its budget for 2012-2013 academic year. This year, the UA received a 3.9% increase, which amounted to $2.04 million in total. Some key features of the budget are highlighted below.

- A major increase of 7.49% in student group funding, which means near $70,000 extra for SAC in response to the increase in SAC recognized groups.
- The new $39,950 Skimmer Fest budget consolidates collaboration between the Class Boards and SPEC in organizing a campus-wide event centered around athletics and class spirit.
- A 16.7% decrease in the UA’s budget due to cost-savings in administrative expenses and PennApps Labs, allowing money to be channeled directly into programming for students.
- A 35% decrease in the UA’s Contingency Fund given the availability of leftover funds to be rolled over from the past year’s allocation.
- A 26.7% increase in PennCORP scholarship to meet the demand of student financial need.

The entire budget can be viewed on the UA website at [http://pennua.org/2012/02/ua-passes-2012-2013-budget/](http://pennua.org/2012/02/ua-passes-2012-2013-budget/).

2. Launch of PennCycle

After several meetings over the past two years with Neighborhood Bike Works, the Office of the Executive Vice President, Facilities and Real Estate Services, Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition, Business Services, Office of Risk Management, Hill College House, Housing Services, Penn Student Agencies, Eastern Mountain Sports, and the Department of Public Safety, the UA finally launched PennCycle on Friday, March 16, 2012.

PennCycle – a novel bike rental program – will run out of Hill College House with a fleet of 15 bikes open to the entire Penn Community. Over 50 Penn students and faculty have already signed up for the program! The program has also been fortunate to gain publicity
from the Daily Pennsylvanian, UndertheButton, Generocity, Penn News, and Philadelphia Inquirer. Moving forward, the program is seeking further funding from the Greenfund, and is discussing expansion into Rodin and the Quad. In addition, due in part to increased bicycle use, safety of both riders and pedestrians will remain a top concern. Learn more and sign up at PennCycle.org!

3. **Creation of Tech Office Hours**

The UA has created a new service for students called Tech Office Hours. Tech Office Hours will be provided as a free service to Penn student groups to enhance their growth and productivity by providing short-term advising and basic assistance with technical issues related to the promotion of the student group’s mission. The UA plans to use the remaining weeks to study the results of the pilot program in order to optimize the offering for a full launch in the fall. Many thanks are owed to the Weiss Tech House, the Weigle Information Commons, and VPUL Technical Services for their input into this project thus far.

4. **NYPD Surveillance Resolution**

The UA issued a response to the February 18th report that the NYPD monitored Muslim student groups on Penn’s and other campuses. The resolution was intended to show that the UA as a body both opposes the actions taken by the NYPD and supports the work Penn Muslim Students’ Association does on Penn’s campus. The full text is available in the UA document archive on [http://pennua.org](http://pennua.org).

The Undergraduate Assembly:

1. **Condemns** the NYPD’s action of targeting Muslim students on the basis of their religious affiliation;
2. **Supports** the important work that the Penn MSA does for both the Penn and the West Philadelphia communities;
3. **Acknowledges** the need to reassure prospective students of Penn's commitment to its Muslim community;
4. **Encourages** the administration to proactively reach out to student communities whose rights to free speech and thought may be threatened;
5. **Calls upon** the administration to proactively and publicly defend its students in future times of need.

5. **PNC Mountain Top Removal Resolution**

The UA passed a resolution introduced by the Penn Community against Mountain Top Removal to express its position on Penn’s relationship with PNC bank. The full text of the resolution is available in the UA document archive on [http://pennua.org](http://pennua.org).

The Undergraduate Assembly Hereby:
1. **Affirms** the University’s commitment to environmental sustainability as a defining issue of this century;
2. **Affirms** that Penn’s financial involvement with mountaintop removal is in contradiction to the values put forth by this commitment;
3. **Calls upon** the Office of the Executive Vice President to issue a public statement to PNC Bank stating that the financing of mountaintop removal contradicts Penn’s commitment to environmental sustainability;
4. **Calls upon** the Office of the Executive Vice President to condition the renewal of the contract with PNC upon the bank’s commitment to issue a plan for reducing its financing of mountaintop removal with the goal of sector exclusion in the near future in mind;
5. **Recommends** future Requests For Proposals make more explicit Penn’s commitment to and guidelines for environmental stewardship;
6. **Commits** to further work on Penn’s environmental commitment as it relates to the University’s business partners and financial decision-making;
7. **Commends** the Office of the Executive Vice President for working to address the concerns of its and our constituents on this matter.

### 6. Online Syllabi Resolution

Increasing the number of course syllabi posted on Penn inTouch has been a longtime priority for the Undergraduate Assembly. During the Fall 2010 semester, the Academic Affairs committee sent a letter to individual professors encouraging them to post their syllabi online and instructing them on how to do so. The letter was extremely effective, almost doubling the number of online syllabi. With that in mind, we recently passed a related resolution and distributed a letter to faculty. The full text of the resolution and the letter are available in the UA document archive at [http://pennua.org](http://pennua.org).

The Undergraduate Assembly hereby:

1. **Authorizes** the Undergraduate Assembly to distribute the letter attached in Appendix A to the comprehensive list of faculty members;
2. **Recognizes** the undergraduate need for syllabi to be posted online in advance of formal registration for courses;
3. **Commends** faculty who choose to post their syllabi online; and
4. **Strongly urges** faculty who do not historically post their syllabi online to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tyler Ernst**
*UA President (president@pennua.org)*

**Faye Cheng**
*UA Vice President (vp@pennua.org)*