



Undergraduate Assembly

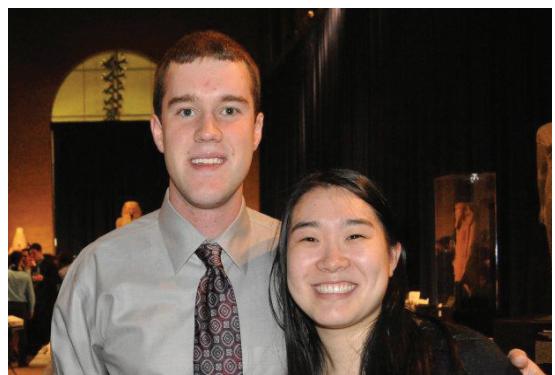
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Undergraduate Assembly is the elected, representative branch of student government at Penn, charged with improving life for all students through funding, services, and advocacy.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UA EXECUTIVE BOARD (exec@pennua.org)

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUMMARY IS TO PROVIDE A BROAD AND INCLUSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE UA'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR IN ITS THREE MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY: FUNDING, SERVICES, AND ADVOCACY.

EXECUTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ The UA for the first time *funded PennApps Labs*, a student organization devoted to the goal of improving, maintaining, and creating student-run technology at Penn.
- ❖ The UA participated in an *alcohol policy review* along with administrators and other students with the goal of making the policy less burdensome on students while improving the safety of events with alcohol.
- ❖ The UA planned a *September 11th Memorial* in conjunction with UA Steering and University administrators that brought together the entire campus to commemorate and remember the 10 year anniversary of September 11th.

BUDGET ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ The 2011-2012 budget *cut cost-prohibitive funding items* like the New York Times, and used the money to fund PennApps Labs and other projects.
- ❖ The UA *funded the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT)* for the first time with a grant of \$13,875.
- ❖ The UA also decided to *fund for the first time the PennCorp Pre-Orientation Program* to provide scholarships to students who could otherwise not afford to attend.

SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ The UA has *successfully run its Legal Services program* for another year, providing over 60 undergraduates and graduate students with free access to legal advice.
- ❖ For the sixth year, the UA *provided its trademark airport shuttles* to the Philadelphia International Airport at spring, Thanksgiving, and winter breaks. This year's shuttles served over 1,400 students.
- ❖ The UA *revived the dormant Penn Mentoring Program* in collaboration with GAPSA and the Penn Graduate Student Center. The program aims to connect undergraduates with graduate mentors in specific career fields.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- ❖ The UA is working with student groups to voice undergraduate priorities as *Faculty Diversity Action Plans* across all of Penn's schools are developed, in order to ensure Penn is building the best, most diverse faculty possible.
- ❖ The UA is working with the Council of Undergraduate Deans to

raise awareness of Penn's *Holiday Absence Policy* among the faculty and students. Both parties benefit from the knowledge of their rights and responsibilities under the policy - crucial to balancing academic and religious obligations.

- ❖ The UA, in conjunction with the Provost's Office, *gathered student input for the new academic calendar* being put in place for the 2013-2014 academic year.

CIVIC & PHILADELPHIA ENGAGEMENT

- ❖ The UA passed a resolution regarding *International Student Financial Aid* that committed the body to working with University administrators to increase financial aid for international students and eventually move towards a need-blind policy for international students.
- ❖ The UA partnered with Penn Environmental Group to *launch PennCycle*, an innovative bike share program that will be piloted out of Hill College House in spring 2012.
- ❖ The UA worked with student groups to lobby the Pennsylvania legislature to *accept student ID's as a valid form of identification to vote* in the state of Pennsylvania.

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND FACILITIES

- ❖ The UA has worked with administrators to place *motion sensors in the college house hallways* in order to save electricity and promote Penn's image as a leader in sustainability.
- ❖ The UA, along with VPUL, is working to *find more student group space on campus* by creating new space, and re-purposing and making more efficient use of current space.
- ❖ The UA, in collaboration with the Lambda Alliance, *increased the accessibility of gender neutral housing for exchange, transfer, transgender and first-year students*.
- ❖ The UA worked with the University Architect's office and the Lambda Alliance have worked to *increase the number of and access to gender neutral bathrooms* around campus.

STUDENT LIFE

- ❖ The UA has *passed a resolution regarding CAPS* that recognized the importance of this service to the mental well-being of students and encouraged the University to provide CAPS with more resources.
- ❖ The UA worked with Student Health Service to examine ways to *maximize the efficiency and safety of condom distribution on campus*.
- ❖ The UA helped on the *establishment of the Dining Advisory Board*, a new board designed to promote dialogue between students and administrators on dining issues and to provide a direct method for student dining concerns.

INTRODUCTION

"The Undergraduate Assembly shall speak as the one representative voice of all undergraduates on affairs of their concern, and shall express its views on any matter, which its members deem of general University interest, passing resolutions and making recommendations thereto."

The UA Constitution and the Statutes of the Trustees provide us with a formal definition of our organization, but what does it mean in practice? Simply put, we work to improve and sustain student life through advocacy, funding, and services.

As a body of advocates, our 35 representatives work through four project committees to shape policy and practice at Penn. The approach we take is one of problem-solving. In some cases, we hear from individual students and partner with them to address specific issues, like the Hamlin Tennis Court Fees (p. 20). In other instances, we are able to partner with undergraduate organizations, either one-on-one, or through UA Steering. A great example of a problem addressed in this manner is the Alcohol Policy Review (p. 7). Finally, one of our most appreciated means of advocacy is through direct partnership with administrators and staff throughout many campus offices. The academic calendar (p. 14) and background check initiatives (p. 20) are just two examples of the progress undergraduates have enjoyed thanks to close working relationships with our University leaders.

In some cases, however, advocacy proves not to be the solution. We've seen with increasing frequency over the years issues arise that require direct action, rather than policy recommendations. We welcome such instances as very tangible opportunities to fund worthwhile initiatives, collaborate with novel partners, and create beneficial services. In the past, these opportunities led to the creation of the UA Airport Shuttle Service, the Penn Mentoring Program,

and the UA's Legal Services (p. 12). Over the past year, we've seen an increased emphasis on technology and innovation. This includes the creation of PennApps Labs and the various projects it launched (p. 6), as well as burgeoning initiatives like the Entrepreneur's Guide to Penn (p. 17) and Tech Office Hours (p. 15), which we hope will take shape this spring.

While the UA has seen innumerable changes since its establishment in 1972 - and while 2011 has been as exciting a year as any in our history, the one constant throughout our successes, our challenges, our advocacy, and our services has been collaboration. Collaboration is truly the crucial ingredient that gives our work purpose and direction. And it is exactly the reason for creating this annual report. In these pages, you will find accounts of our current projects and collaborative successes, as well as the challenges we face and the areas in which an innovative collaborator is exactly what we seek to move forward.

Finally, many thanks to you, our community members, colleagues, and counterparts for providing the support and inspiration to maintain progress through difficult times and challenging projects. We look forward to continuing our work with you!

With thanks for 2011 and excitement for 2012,

The UA Executive Board



TYLER ERNST M&T'12
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SPECIAL REPORT

9/11 10-YEAR MEMORIAL

FAYE CHENG W'12 (vp@pennua.org)

“From the wake of a disaster stands a community stronger than ever in the face of adversity, a nation continuing to promise liberty and justice for all, and a world that recognizes its coexistence and interdependence.”

At the beginning of the fall semester, the UA and UA Steering had the unique opportunity to bring together the entire campus to commemorate the Ten-Year Anniversary of 9/11. The event, hosted the evening of Sunday, September 11th in Houston Hall, Hall of Flags, saw support from about 500 students, faculty, and members of the community in attendance.

The event was collaboratively sponsored by the Undergraduate Assembly; the Penn College Republicans; the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly; the Muslim Students Association; the Penn Democrats; Penn Political Review; Programs in Religion, Interfaith and Spirituality Matters; the South Asia Society; and the United Minorities Council. Planning for the event began in May, and preparations continued throughout the summer. The event, which took place the first week of the fall semester, was originally planned to be an evening vigil outside of College Hall, but was moved indoors due to weather concerns. Nonetheless, attendance was significant and allowed for meaningful reflection and discussion.

The event began at 7:30 PM with a performance by the Quakernotes, followed by performances by the Glee Club. The Reverend Charles Howard began the program with opening words. He was followed by Dr. Amy Gutmann, who spoke of the significance of the event and its enduring effects on the Penn campus. Finally, the UA presented a joint statement on behalf of all the collaborating student groups, commemorating the ten-year memorial.

The speeches were followed by a reception in the Hall of Flags, where those in attendance could reflect on the statements and thoughts presented that evening as well as their personal experiences with the event.

Planning and implementation of the event received tremendous support from the Office of Student Affairs, Perelman Quad and Bon Appétit, the Chaplain's Office, the President's Office, and the Office of the Vice Provost of University Life.

ALCOHOL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (president@pennua.org)

Alcohol plays a large role in undergraduate social life at Penn and, naturally, the policies governing it and its use are of interest to the UA. For quite some time, students have raised concerns that the current policy is too expensive, too restrictive, or otherwise too burdensome. Concurrently, there appears to have been an increase in the number of unregistered events - events considered more risky than registered events due to the lack of supervision and communication. In order to address the above concerns, the UA formally undertook a review of Penn's alcohol policy as a project, forming a partnership with the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Program Initiatives in August. The goal of the review was to explore the alcohol policy and associated event registration processes in order to determine what deters student organizations from registering events or from otherwise complying with the policy. Once identified, adjustments to those problem areas could be recommended with the ultimate goals of minimizing possible harm to the Penn community and of distributing social capital more equitably.

In order to execute the review most effectively and thoroughly, a broadly representative group of staff and students was necessary. For that reason, AOD convened the alcohol policy review committee. This committee consists of representatives from the Drug and Alcohol Resource Team, the Interfraternity Council, the Lambda Alliance, the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Program Initiatives, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Office of Student Affairs, the Panhellehnic Council, the Penn Consortium of Undergraduate Women, the Performing Arts Council, the Social Planning and Events Committee, and the Undergraduate Assembly. Observers and other advisors include the Assembly of International Students, the Class Board of 2012, the Division of Public Safety, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and the Medical Emergency Response Team. To gather still more input, AOD led a focus group and UA Steering discussed the topic on several occasions.

The committee is reviewing its final draft of recommended changes. Once announced, the UA plans to debate whether to endorse them and pass a related resolution.

PENNAPPS LABS

MATT ROSENBERG E'13 (rmat@seas.upenn.edu)

PennApps Labs (PAL) is a non-profit, student-run organization, with the goal of improving, maintaining, and creating student-run technology at Penn. It is a Dining Philosophers project, funded by the UA, the Provost's Office and VPUL. PAL is given \$10,000 per semester from both the UA and VPUL. These funds support one major project as well as the maintenance and adoption of smaller projects each semester. Semesters begin with an open house where students are given the opportunity to pitch ideas to the PAL team. A board consisting of the UA President and Speaker, two representatives from VPUL, and a representative from ISC selects the main project for the semester and provides guidance and approval for other projects. Throughout the semester, the UA's Online Services Coordinator liaises with PAL and its leadership, the Technical Lead and the Operations Lead.

This semester, the board decided to pursue the Common Funding

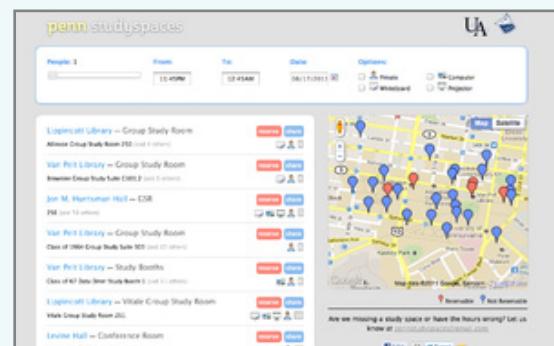
Application as PAL's main project. The app will streamline the funding application process, educate event organizers about relevant funding sources, and enhance financial efficiency by increasing transparency of event applications and budgets. This will both serve student groups seeking to organize events and the groups responsible for allocating money to these groups. This project has consumed approximately 10-15% of developer hours and is expected to be completed in February.

Projects currently being maintained by PAL include Penn Study Spaces, Penn Book Bazaar, and Penn Course Review.

Projects that were not chosen this semester will be considered in addition to any new submissions at next semester's board meeting. It is hoped that PAL shall continue to receive funding for next year.

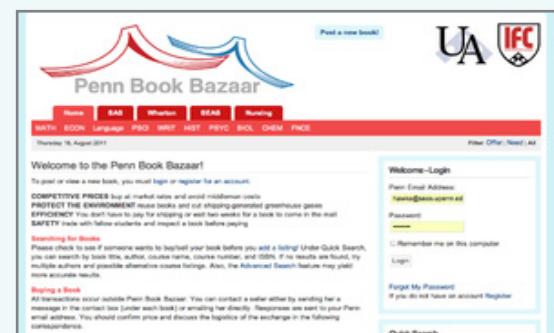
PENN STUDY SPACES

Before the advent of StudySpaces, any student seeking to reserve a room on campus for a group meeting or a library study session would have to navigate through building and department specific websites in order to make the reservation. StudySpaces centralizes all campus room reservations in one place. Developed by Labs and currently maintained by Labs. Currently PAL is moving forward with improvements including adding spaces more suited to large events to simplify reservations for student groups. This project consumed approximately 5% of developer hours.



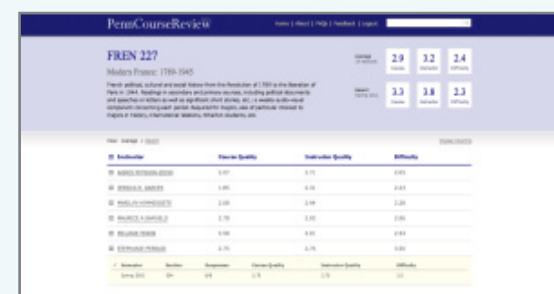
PENN BOOK BAZAAR

Book Bazaar is a student marketplace for buying and selling of textbooks and other course books exclusively within the Penn community. The Bazaar removes shipping costs, allows books to be listed at market prices without "middleman" mark ups, and provides access to used copies of Penn-specific course materials. Improved and maintained by Labs using open source technologies. Currently moving forward with open sourcing their code, specifically in response to requests by other (non-Penn) university groups interested in implementing similar sites. This project consumed approximately 10-15% of developer hours.



PENN COURSE REVIEW

The Penn Course Review is a student-run publication that provides numerical ratings and written reviews for undergraduate courses taught at the University of Pennsylvania. PCR has a long history of being a valuable and influential guide for course selection. PAL was responsible for a complete overhaul of the website, bringing it up to date with current standards. The new site launched this November. This project consumed approximately 60-70% of developer hours.



STEERING REPORT

FAYE CHENG W'12

UA Vice President (vp@pennua.org)

The undergraduate experience at Penn is distinguished by the variety and vibrancy of its student groups. The UA is dedicated to supporting student groups and facilitating communication and collaboration between them in an effort to build a more cohesive, integrated, and supportive network of campus communities.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

This year's under- and/or mis-represented student group seatholders were:

- ❖ Civic House Associates Coalition (*Pallavi Podapati*)
- ❖ Lambda Alliance (*Victor Galli*)
- ❖ Latino Coalition (*Angel Contrera*)
- ❖ Penn Consortium of Undergraduate Women (*Meg Hlousek*)
- ❖ Penn Vegetarian Society (*Ian Penkala*)
- ❖ Programs in Religion, Interfaith, and Spirituality Matters (*Mo Shahin*)
- ❖ UMOJA (*Victor Scotti*)

The UA also continues to work with the Nominations and Elections Committee to promote more student awareness of and involvement in University Council.

STEERING SPOTLIGHTS / STEERING SPEAKERS

UA Steering is another venue through which the UA supports student groups. UA Steering is a body comprised of the major umbrella and policy-focused student groups on campus. This year, UA Steering welcomed the Green Campus Partnership Students Association (GCPSA) as its newest member, increasing the number of UA Steering seatholders to thirty-six. A list of all UA Steering groups can be found on page 32.

UA Steering meets biweekly to discuss campus-wide issues and to direct initiatives towards the UA. The body serves as a source of information and education for Steering leaders and student representatives, hosting administrators such as Provost Vince Price, Dean of Admissions Eric Furda, and Director of the Office of Student Affairs Karu Kozuma.

The UA also hosts "Steering Spotlights" at UA General Body Meetings, in which UA Steering groups are invited to present general information about their organizations and programming and field questions from UA members. This initiative is meant to promote a greater understanding among UA members of the variety of UA Steering groups and their activities and vice versa. Facilitating such communication better educates UA members on ways they can advocate for student groups on campus.

SEX CAMP

The UA partnered with Student Health Service as well as a number of UA Steering groups to host an informational "Sex Camp" event in the fall semester. The event included an informational circuit in which student participants could learn about different sexual health topics. Participating student groups hosted various booths and related activity tables.

We were happy to see such a great turnout from student groups supporting this event, the first of its kind in scale and scope. Participating groups included One in Four, the Daily Pennsylvanian, Drug and Alcohol Resource Team, Lambda Alliance, Latino Coalition, Male Association of Nurses at the University of Pennsylvania, Minority Association of Pre-Health Students, Penn Consortium of Undergraduate Women, Penn Democrats, Student Health Advisory Board, Sigma Lambda Upsilon / Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Student Nurses at Penn, and the United Minorities Council.

The event saw more than 100 students in attendance, and we are excited to collaborate further with Student Health Service and student groups on campus to promote student collaboration!

INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

CYNTHIA IP C'12

UA Speaker (speaker@pennua.org)

With over 70 on-going projects and an unprecedented number of Associate Members, the UA has literally and figuratively grown as an organization this year. As you can see in other parts of the Annual Report, we are expanding our reach and tackling issues in new areas of university life, which is only possible with strong management of our members and projects. Thus, we have made a number of institutional improvements (detailed below) to strengthen our internal operations and to ensure the highest quality of student activism on campus.

Changes to the UA By-laws (actual text is available to the public on our website):

- ❖ **CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENT POLICY (SECTION VI):** Prompted by the UA's increased interaction with both start-ups and major corporations, we created a new policy that formally guides our promotion of and interaction with for-profit entities. The policy regulates UA members' involvement in projects or lobbying, while acting on their official capacity, that may affect a for-profit entity in which they have a financial or governance interest. It also establishes the terms of our partnership with external entities when providing services to the student body. It is our hope that the creation of an explicit guideline would bring transparency and accountability to our existing practice.
- ❖ **UPDATED ATTENDANCE POLICY (SECTION I, ARTICLES 6-8):** Changes to the Attendance Policy were made to address concerns over the ambiguity of a member's status after reaching the absence limit: Instead of being automatically and immediately removed from the body, thus resulting in a temporarily vacant seat, the member in question will now keep his seat until the hearing. We also amended the policy to be more forgiving in case of extenuating circumstances, such as severe medical conditions and religious commitments.
- ❖ **BUDGET AND FINANCE (SECTION VII):** A number of changes were made to the Finance Section to give us more flexibility in the budgeting process. The UA decided to lower the minimum percentage of our Annual Budget added to the UA's Contingency Fund, giving us the option of allocating more funds to other branches of student government if needed. Another amendment allows us to move the Budget Committee elections to the fall, as our first meeting in the Spring often coincides with religious holidays.

Improvements to Membership Management

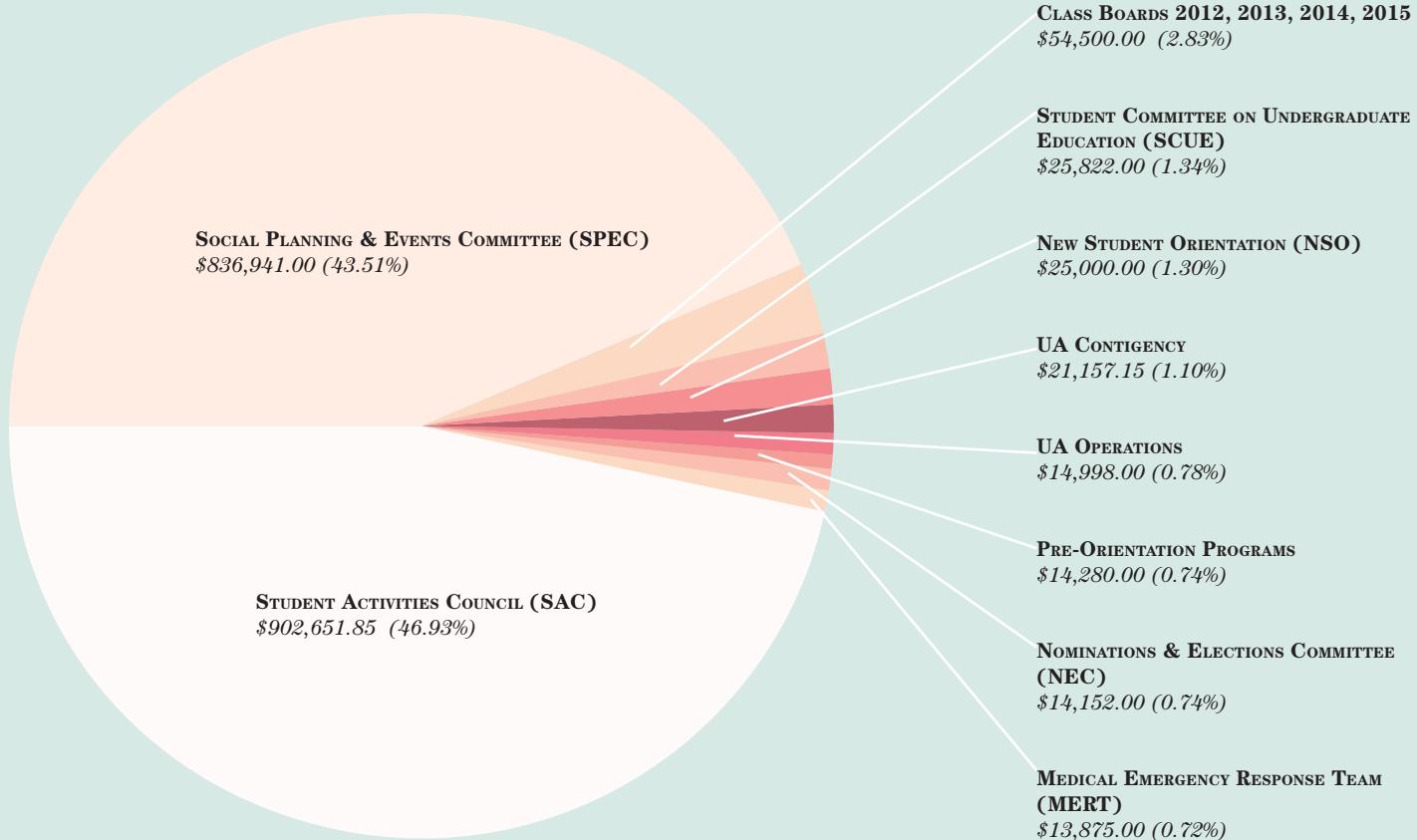
- ❖ **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Associate Members (AMs) are unelected UA members who cannot vote and have less responsibilities in comparison to our 35 elected representatives. This year we have drastically increased our efforts in recruiting and educating AMs. As a result, we now have over 20 active AMs (see Appendix I), which greatly enhances our overall project output as well as our ability to work on issues that relate to typically underrepresented communities.
- ❖ **EDUCATION:** We created an online membership handbook with over a hundred pages of documents and educational material to transmit knowledge to younger members. We also increased our focus on problem-solving and project simulation, such as through case studies, to give members more experience before working on actual projects.
- ❖ **EXTERNAL COMMITTEES:** We centralized coordination of over 40 external seats (see Appendix III) by soliciting issues to bring up before meetings and obtaining reports from seat-holders afterwards. We hope that by integrating these seats into our project processes, we will be able to fully realize our role as student representatives in these committees.

FUNDING STUDENT GROUPS

JAKE SHUSTER C'13

UA Treasurer (treasurer@pennua.org)

Every year the UA receives almost \$2 million to allocate to the branches of student government for the upcoming year—money that funds Spring Fling, major speakers, Hey Day, Sophomore Skimmer, and, of course, every student group on campus. Our budget is allocated by the Trustees, and is pegged to the General Fee.



UA BUDGET ALLOCATION

For the 2010-2011 academic year, the UA's budget rose by 4.01%, meaning the UA was given an extra \$74,194 (for a total of \$1,923,377) to distribute to the other branches of student government, student groups and various other stakeholders. The actual distribution is done in a two-step process: the Budget Committee issues a recommendation, which is then considered by the entire UA in a lengthy public process that culminates in a Budget Decision Meeting where the UA at large can amend the Budget Committee's recommendation before a final vote.

The new budget provides for some exciting increases in funding:

- ✿ **MERT:** received funding from the Undergraduate Assembly for the first time. They received a block grant of \$13,875
- ✿ **PennCorp:** received scholarship funding for the first time. They received a block grant of \$1,500
- ✿ **SPEC Fully Planned:** received an additional \$48,000 to cover co-sponsorships
- ✿ **SPEC Jazz and Grooves:** received over a 100% increase in funding to allow for additional fall and spring shows
- ✿ **SAC:** received a record \$902,652, which has permitted the funding of more student groups than ever, and has allowed for increased programming for the undergraduate population
- ✿ **SPEC Sound:** received a 149% increase in funding between its annual allocation and contingency funding
- ✿ **PennApps Labs:** received funding from the Undergraduate Assembly for the first time. They received a block grant of \$10,000, which was generously matched by the Provost's Office

To fund these significant changes, the UA benefited from a generous allocation from the Trustees and found meaningful cost savings in several branches' operations costs.

PROJECT WORK

This year, for the first time, the budget committee has also made project work a priority. Recognizing that student groups face many financial and bureaucratic hurdles when it comes to funding, the UA has approved the following projects this semester in an effort to make the funding process easier on groups.

COMMON FUNDING APPLICATION

At the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester the Budget Committee decided to address concerns regarding the various funding sources available to student groups across Penn's campus. After conversations with several groups, it became apparent that one of the largest challenges for funding events is identifying the appropriate funding sources and applying to receive finances. As such, the Budget Committee has been working with Penn Apps Labs to create a Common Funding Application that will permit student groups to submit one single application to apply for event funding. This application will then be sent to all of the potential funding sources. The new application will bring together multiple SPEC committees, Tangible Change, the Intercultural Fund (ICF), and UA Contingency. This application will streamline the funding process for student groups, increase transparency, and reduce fraud in the funding process. We anticipate the Common Funding Application to be completed in Spring 2012.

MOBILE PAYMENT SOLUTIONS

Student groups collect cash from undergraduates for various purposes—ticket sales, merchandise sales, club dues, etc. The Budget Committee recognized that cash collection has multiple problems. First, this practice is unsafe, as cash can easily be stolen or lost. Second, as our generation moves away from cash transactions and towards digital payment methods such as credit cards, debit cards and Venmo, students often do not have cash on hand to pay for their various expenses related to student groups. As such, the Budget Committee is working with VPUL, the Treasurer's Office, and ISC to bring a mobile payment solution to Penn's campus. More specifically, we have identified Square as a perfect solution to this problem. With Square, student groups will be able to collect money from group members and students via credit and debit cards in a secure manner, by attaching a miniature card reader to an iPhone, iPad or Android. Students will be able to pay for tickets and merchandise simply by swiping their cards on this apparatus on Locust Walk and sign with their finger on the touch screens. Money that groups collect will then flow directly into student groups' SAC Online Accounts. In summary, this new system will increase efficiency and safety for student group transactions.

PROVIDING SERVICES

WILL SMITH C'14

UA Secretary (secretary@pennua.org)

One of the most tangible ways in which the UA improves student life is through the many services it offers to the student body. Our goal is to offer valuable and efficient services that address real student needs. With respect to this goal, we are always looking for student input on ways to improve our current services or create new ones. We currently run or help run eight services, the most popular of which can be found below.

❖ LEGAL SERVICES

Coordinator: INIGO RUMAYOR C'14 (rumayor@sas.upenn.edu)

Legal Services is a collaboration between the UA and GAPSA that contracts with a local attorney, Jim Higgins, to meet with students for a half hour and give advice on a wide variety of legal matters, ranging from criminal cases to intellectual property issues. If our attorney is not able to help the student, they are referred to other local attorneys. This is one of our most consistently utilized services; in the semester between January and May of 2011, there were 29 requests for legal service help, which included 17 undergraduates and 12 graduates, and in the semester between September and December of 2011, there were 25 requests submitted, with 17 of those being undergraduate students and 8 being graduate students. In the next year, we hope to continue to work with GAPSA to publicize and expand the program. Legal services has proven to be an invaluable service to the student body, and should ideally be utilized by as many students who have the need.

❖ AIRPORT SHUTTLES

Coordinators: JOYCE KIM C'15 (joycek@sas.upenn.edu), GABE DELANEY C'15 (delaneyg@sas.upenn.edu)

The UA was proud to continue offering its trademark airport shuttles for a sixth straight year at 2011 spring, Thanksgiving, and winter breaks. The purpose of the shuttles is to provide a safe, efficient, and cheap method of transportation to the airport for students. At \$5 per ticket and just 15-30 minutes travel to the airport, airport shuttles are extremely popular among the student body. This year, 565 students were served at spring break, including a community service trip, 630 at Thanksgiving break, and 305 at winter break. While we are proud of how many students we serve, we are always looking into ways to improve our shuttle service and we welcome feedback. In the future, we are looking at implementing a cab share system for students who are leaving at times that our shuttles do not serve. We would like to thank John Gustafson and Penn Transit, Quran Fulton and the PennCard Office, and Melissa Dunlap, Paul Forchielli, Sarah McFarlane and Residential Services for all of their assistance. Without the help of these administrators and their offices, we could not provide this service to the student body.

❖ PENN MENTORING PROGRAM

The Penn Mentoring Program, sponsored in part by the UA, GAPSA, and the Penn Graduate Student Center, pairs undergraduates with graduate and professional students to help undergraduates learn first-hand about the student experience in graduate school. The program currently has mentors in a wide array of fields, including architecture, biology, business, education, engineering, law, medicine, political science, psychology, sociology, and more. Moving forward, we hope to continue publicizing this service and to increase its use among undergraduates. This includes expanded publicity on our website and the use of all-school emails. The advice provided by the mentors in this program is incredibly useful for undergraduate students, and this program should reach



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ABE SUTTON C&W'14

Committee Director (academics@pennua.org)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

* FACULTY DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

CHRIS CRUZ C'13 (cruzch@sas.upenn.edu), **ABE SUTTON C&W'14** (academics@pennua.org),

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (president@pennua.org)

In July 2011, the University released its Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence, in which it gave each school the task of developing its own Diversity Action Plan. While each school develops its own Diversity Action Plan, the UA is partnering with the United Minority Council, the Latino Coalition, the Lambda Alliance, the Asian Pacific Student Coalition, UMOJA, Programs in Religion, Interfaith, and Spirituality Matters, and the Penn Consortium of Undergraduate Women to identify areas of concern to the student body and to make sure student voices are heard in this process.

Our purpose is to encourage each school to continue to work with students on Diversity Action Plans and to ensure the creation of a system of accountability. We are considering the anti-unconscious bias training, offered by the Provost's office, as a positive step and may recommend that the chairs of all search committees undergo this training. We are also considering recommending that pipeline programs such as the Fontaine Fellows, McNair Scholars, and Mellon Mays Fellows programs be expanded. A resolution to this effect will be brought before the UA in the Spring.

* RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY POLICY AWARENESS

JOSH KAMINETSKY C'14 (joshka@sas.upenn.edu), **LISA XU W'14** (lisaxu@wharton.upenn.edu),

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (president@pennua.org)

The University has a detailed policy on secular and religious holidays, which can be found on the Provost's PennBook website. The policy identifies three types of holidays and describes the student absence policy for each.

Another component of this project is a letter being drafted by the UA that will be sent to the student body to inform them of the policy. While the means of conveying this message to students is still being discussed, the aim of the letter is twofold. First, students should be aware of their rights regarding religious absences. Being informed of what does and does not constitute a violation of the policy will enhance communication between students and faculty and avoid any undesirable disagreements. Second, students should know their responsibilities regarding the religious absence policy. Professors are expected to uphold their duty of providing other options to students who miss class and/or an exam for religious reasons. As such, students are also expected to fulfill their responsibility to notify a professor well in advance, specifically in the first two weeks of the semester, that they will be missing a particular class to allow the professor to prepare accordingly. We look forward to continuing our work with CUD and the faculty, and we hope this project contributes to improved communication between professors and students over religious holidays.

Unfortunately, some professors are unfamiliar with the University's holiday policy. As a result, students have difficulty obtaining excused absences for religious holidays that are not recognized officially by the University, which means that these students may not have the opportunity to make up missed work or examinations. This leads to a number of problems, including but not limited to: academic disadvantage, tension between professors and students, and perceived disregard or disrespect for students' religions.

Accordingly, the UA passed a resolution encouraging the Council of Undergraduate Deans to communicate with their respective faculties on this issue. The aim is to raise awareness of the University policy, of difficulties that can surround it, and of faculty and student rights and responsibilities.

* ACADEMIC CALENDARING

ABE SUTTON C&W'14 (academics@pennua.org), **TYLER ERNST M&T'12** (president@pennua.org)

The Provost's office, in its efforts to create a new academic calendar for the 2014 academic year, reached out to the Undergraduate Assembly for input on how to improve the calendar. We took this opportunity to reach out to the student body for recommendations via a survey sent out in April. The responses we received guided us when setting our priorities for the new calendar. Our first priority, one shared with the Student Committee on Undergraduate Education, was the preservation of Fall Break. We feel this break is vital to the mental health of the student body, and therefore advocated for its preservation. Its inclusion in the new calendar is

wonderful news. Another priority is an earlier start to Winter Break, and we look forward to advocating for this in the future. The main benefit we see in the new calendar is that it adds more instruction time to the fall semester, thereby balancing with the spring semester. Our hope is that this time will result in more time spent on each topic in a course, spreading out the workload for students and reducing pressure. We consider the new academic calendar to be a positive step and appreciate being consulted in its development.

ATHLETE ADVISING AND STUDY HALL

ABE SUTTON C&W'14 (academics@pennua.org),

DAN FINE W'15 (define@wharton.upenn.edu)

Many athletes are required to attend study hall. This is a requirement that is understandable, but based on a system that fails to be beneficial for many student athletes. The problems are based on a lack of options and a complete nonexistence of flexibility. Students must show up for three two-hour sessions per week and sessions are only offered on Mondays-Thursdays from 8 pm to 10 pm, in addition to an early morning session on Thursday and a late afternoon session on Friday. The big problem with this time frame is that the majority of group activities, school events, and organization meetings take place between 7 pm and 10 pm. An example of this is MGMT 100 meetings for Wharton students. Teams of 8-11 students try to get together, but the student-athlete cannot miss study hall. The options are then limited to the whole team having to come to Fagin Hall, a hassle and inconvenience for everyone, or for the meeting to take place later in the night, which is a bigger issue for athletes who have to be up at the crack of dawn for practice. Simply put, the goal of this project is to make study hall more accommodating so that it does not impede success in any other area. Additionally, options should be made available so that students can participate in and attend events such as speeches, meetings, and presentations, most of which take place during the evening study hall hours. If more study hall options were available in convenient locations and times and/or the requirements were changed where students could spread or compress the six hours into sessions of different times, there would be a greater balance and increased success for Penn's student-athletes.

TECH OFFICE HOURS

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (president@pennua.org)

Student groups at Penn are heavily reliant on technology: many have a formal web presence, almost all utilize social media to publicize events, and more and more are taking advantage of online group productivity suites, cloud storage, advanced design techniques, and other recent (or not-so-recent) technological advances. While this use of technology is empowering, it can occasionally be a double-edged sword for groups whose technical talent graduates or becomes inactive. We've heard from numerous student organizations that a little technical advice or design feedback would go a long way. Therefore, we have been exploring ways to bring quality, one-on-one technical advice and options consulting to student groups. This is envisioned to be a new service, analogous to our legal services. However, finding a reliable, long-term source of talent has unequivocally been the most challenging part of making this service a reality. We are currently working with VPUL and OSA to explore further options on that front, having already considered VPUL Technical Services and the ITA system.

CAREER SERVICES

LISA XU W'14 (lisaxu@wharton.upenn.edu),

ABHISHEK GADIRAJU E'15 (agadi@seas.upenn.edu)

UA representatives met with Career Services Director Patricia Rose and Associate Director Kelly Cleary to discuss various problems and suggestions raised by UA members and the student body, especially in regard to PennLink. The overall takeaway from the meeting was that Career Services does not run PennLink; it is a service outsourced to another company, NACElink, which means that Career Services may request changes to PennLink, but it is NACElink's decision to accept or reject those requests. As it stands now, many of the suggestions offered by the UA cannot be implemented either because they are not compatible with NACElink or because there are privacy and security issues. However, the good news is that many of the UA's suggestions are, in fact, already features on PennLink—features that students are not aware of or that are available but have not yet been activated. In these cases, Ms. Rose and Ms. Cleary assured us that they will implement more educational tools to inform students of these new features and that they will add those features that are available. In addition, one important improvement forthcoming is a PennLink mobile application. We thank Career Services for their help in this matter and look forward to working further with them to make the student body more aware of the tools and features PennLink has to offer.

JOURNALISM COURSE CERTIFICATION

WILL SMITH C'14 (secretary@pennua.org)

The journalism course certification project began last year as an attempt to institute a program whereby students involved in student publications could receive one credit towards the journalistic writing minor for their work. After a discussion paper and meetings with various administrators and faculty members, it was determined that this course of action was not feasible. The new goal of this project is to establish criteria for a transcript notation, analogous to the Penn-in-Washington transcript notation, for students involved in student publications. The purpose of this would be to recognize their work in a more official manner, emphasize Penn's commitment to allowing students to integrate theory and practice, and to allow students who may not have room in their schedules to complete the journalistic writing minor to still display their commitment to journalism on their transcripts. We are excited to continue to work with administrators, faculty members, and interested students to move this project forward.

IB/AP CREDIT

JOYCE KIM C'15 (joycek@sas.upenn.edu),

WILLIE STERN C'15 (sternw@sas.upenn.edu)

Currently, Penn offers credit for students who have done well on their AP or IB exams. The amount of credit given to the student is up to the discretion of each academic department. We have recognized that there is a disparity between the amount of credits given for IB or A-Level exams, as opposed to AP credit. For example, a 5 on the AP BC Calculus exam may be equivalent to a 5 on the IB Math Exam, not just a 7. The higher standard for IB exams places an additional burden on students coming from the IB system, as many international students at Penn do. A problem in giving equivalent credit in some subject areas is that the curricula may not line up between AP and IB exams. We are currently in communication with the admissions office as well as various departments to work past this problem and implement a fair process for all students.

SECTOR REQUIREMENTS

CLAIRE SHIMBERG C'14 (sclaire@sas.upenn.edu)

According to the University, the goal of the General Education Curriculum is “to develop in you some general skills or approaches to knowledge and to engage you in the intellectual work of the disciplines in a variety of fields across the arts and sciences.” The requirements include six foundational approaches and seven sectors. There is certainly value in studying different approaches and fields of study, especially when obtaining a liberal arts education, but it seems many classes that fulfill the descriptions of the requirements are not able to count because they are not on the pre-approved list. In an effort to expand the number of classes that fulfill requirements, the UA has been in contact with the Dean’s Advisory Board. We are now beginning to contact the specific Faculty Committees for each Sector of Foundational Approach to work on amending the requirement course lists.

FLEXIBLE DROP DEADLINE

WILL SMITH C'14 (secretary@pennua.org),

JOYCE KIM C'15 (joycek@sas.upenn.edu)

Students have expressed concern over the drop deadline because they are unsure of their performance in a course at the time of the drop deadline, and this renders them unable to make an informed decision on whether to drop a course or to take it pass/fail. After speaking with Dr. Janet Tighe, the Dean of Freshmen and Director of Academic Advising in the College, we felt the best possible option to combat this problem was to encourage faculty to have an adequate evaluation and grade before the deadline so students are aware of where they stand in the course. Dr. Tighe has agreed to work with the deans and advising directors in all four schools, as well as the faculty, to take this course of action. In order to support this cause, the UA has authored and approved the Drop Deadline Grading Policy Resolution, which affirms the importance of having

one evaluation and one grade back before the deadline, encourages faculty to provide students with an examination and grade, and commends Dr. Tighe in her efforts to communicate this to faculty and advising offices across the university.

SECONDARY MAJORS FOR NURSING

SPENCER STUBBS N'13 (stubbss@nursing.upenn.edu),

KASIA KLASA N&W'13 (kklasa@wharton.upenn.edu)

This project began when students in the School of Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences expressed interest in exploring topics of study in each other's respective schools. Since being proposed, this project has been confirmed by Adam Sherr and Dean Kathleen McCauley as a policy that the Nursing School gladly welcomes to be enacted; they, along with the UA, see this as an opportunity for nursing students to gain a rich interdisciplinary education in the humanities while being trained as budding clinicians. It is also expected that when students in the College go into health sectors, they will have a deeper breadth of clinical knowledge. Since the School of Nursing has undergone drastic changes in their curriculum, strict academic planning will need to occur in order to formulate a feasible plan of study. We look forward to continuing this project and working with students and administrators to further it.

PUBCO ADOBE ACCESS

CYNTHIA IP C'12 (speaker@pennua.org),

ABE SUTTON C&W'14 (academics@pennua.org),

PENN PUBCO (pennpubco@gmail.com)

The UA has partnered with the Penn Publications Cooperative to push for increased Adobe InDesign access for student publications. Currently, due to the limited number of licenses of the latest version, groups have trouble creating the layout for their publications. Our aim is to install Macs with the latest software in Rosengarten and make them available via reservation to PubCo groups.

DUAL-DEGREE PLANNING WORKSHEET

ANDREW STANIFORTH M&T'13 (staan@wharton.upenn.edu),

CHAITNYA JAYANTI C&W'14 (cjayanti@sas.upenn.edu)

Many students, especially in dual degree programs, find coordinating their academic worksheets difficult. This project is looking into possible solutions to this problem, ranging from online resources to peer worksheet sharing. Currently, we are working with Penn Apps Labs to investigate the feasibility of an online application that would help outline four year plans. After this feasibility study, we plan to work with the Registrar's office and ISC to encourage the incorporation of a more streamlined academic planning worksheet into Penn inTouch.

TRANSFER CREDIT FOR WRITING SEMINAR

ERICH REIMER C'13 (reimere@sas.upenn.edu),

NIKOLAI ZAPERTOV C'14 (nikolaiz@sas.upenn.edu),

ABE SUTTON C&W'14 (academics@pennua.org)

Many transfers were concerned that the transfer credit approval process for writing seminars is neither transparent nor fair in its decisions. We are currently working with Dr. Valerie Ross and the Writing Department on methods to help allow transfer students to better understand why their credits were accepted or rejected and what standards were used, as well as considering other solutions that could permit provisional approval of the writing seminar credit.

ONLINE GROUP ACCOUNTS

MIKE RIVERA C&E'13 (rimic@sas.upenn.edu)

Currently student groups who host their websites on Penn's Dolphin web server have to request access for each individual who wishes to manage a group's site. This process tends to create a kink in transitioning webmaster control when group members graduate or change roles within a group. The UA is currently working with the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) and Information Systems and Computing (ISC) to permit shared access among a group's executive board members through a single account. In this fashion, an account need only be initialized once. It can then be passed down when a group transitions its executive boards, alleviating the need to continually request access for users.

RESOURCES GUIDE

ISABEL FAN E'12 (communications@pennua.org),

MIKE RIVERA C&E'13 (rimic@sas.upenn.edu),

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (president@pennua.org)

One of Penn's greatest strengths is also one of its greatest weaknesses: decentralization across schools, programs, student groups, and just about everything in between. While this structure is usually a blessing in its efficiency, it can at times be confusing for students seeking their way through a complicated bureaucratic, social, or other structure. One particular problem point brought to our attention was that of the entrepreneurial resources at Penn. The sense of entrepreneurship and innovation on campus is striking and a definite source of pride, but students from different schools often have trouble connecting with one another. Additionally, many clubs, case competitions, and resource centers like the Weiss Tech House offer incredible outlets for entrepreneurial endeavors, but go underutilized. To address these issues, we have compiled an ever-growing resource guide that consolidates and tags information on the opportunities for entrepreneurs at Penn. We hope to launch this guide in the spring. We also hope to integrate a means for entrepreneurs to connect with one another directly by posting ideas and talents in an online forum.

Naturally, this difficulty extends beyond just entrepreneurial resources. As such, we have compiled information on the research opportunities available to undergraduates, and we hope to launch this research guide concurrently.

PENN INTOUCH REQUIREMENTS SEARCH

SPENCER STUBBS N'13 (stubbss@nursing.upenn.edu),

ABE SUTTON C&W'14 (academics@pennua.org)

This project was prompted by the overwhelming volume of requests from students in the School of Nursing to have the option to search for their respective sector requirements. Unlike the others undergraduate schools, the School of Nursing has foundational requirements that aren't listed under the search options on Penn inTouch. Thus, instead of using Penn inTouch, students are redirected to a separate excel spread sheet that the Office of Student Affairs creates for the students - which has proven to be a nuisance to both students and OSA staff. We have already worked with Adam Sherr, and he has already taken the first step of going to the registrar to voice this concern. We were pleased to learn that this is a project that has been in the works for many years now and we look forward to providing additional help to ensure that this project is implemented.

ENGINEERING ADVISING

ANDREW STANIFORTH M&T'13 (staan@wharton.upenn.edu)

Navigating the advising system for many students in SEAS is challenging. Undefined and underutilized resources inhibit the process of registering for classes, choosing a major, and getting career advice. The Academic Affairs Committee reached out to the Engineering Deans Advisory Board, and raised these concerns, and they partnered with us on this initiative. During Advanced Registration, emails were sent to advisers encouraging them to reach out to their students and outlining their roles. We also encouraged OPA's (Orientation Peer Advisors) to reach out to their freshman, and offer their experiential guidance. The initiative to demystify and bolster the advising system in Engineering will continue into next semester along with our prolonged support from EDAB.

MIDSEMESTER TA FEEDBACK

ANDREW STANIFORTH M&T'13 (staan@wharton.upenn.edu)

Many of our constituents raised concerns about their TA's in various classes and expressed the desire for a system that would allow for constructive feedback before the end of the semester. The UA reached out to SCUE about this project, and was pleased to hear they began a pilot midsemester TA feedback system last semester. The UA encouraged them to continue it this semester, and plans on partnering in the future to expand this pilot to all courses at Penn.



CIVIC & PHILADELPHIA ENGAGEMENT

DAN BERNICK C'14
Committee Director (civic@pennua.org)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

❖ INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

CYNTHIA IP C'12 (speaker@pennua.org), **TYLER ERNST M&T'12** (president@pennua.org)

The UA passed a resolution to urge the University to continue increasing international student financial aid based on the success of fundraising efforts and to move towards need-blind admissions for international students within a reasonable time frame. We believe that extending need-blind financial aid to international students would increase Penn's global competitiveness, increase socioeconomic diversity, and fulfill Penn's mission of providing equal opportunity to all.

After meeting with all relevant offices, we were able to learn much more about the budget allocation and fundraising processes which determine the amount of international student financial aid each year. In conclusion of our research, we decided that the most effective way to solve this problem is by increasing the endowment funds dedicated to international student financial aid, or more simply "to find more money." Thus, the resolution, which

signifies broad-based support from the undergraduate community, also committed the UA to collaborating with Development and Alumni Relations to raise awareness and funds for this purpose.

We have thus far enjoyed tremendous support from Alumni Relations, with which we are working to create a video campaign to encourage gifts directed to international student financial aid. We have also been able to troubleshoot some smaller issues related to financial aid, such as the

problem of international students dropping out due to their inability to apply for financial aid post-admission in rare cases in which the students loses outside financial support. We were delighted to hear from SRFS that international students are able to apply for financial aid any time in their Penn career given extenuating circumstances and have reported this less-publicized fact to the international community.

❖ PENNCYCLE

CHRIS CRUZ C'13 (cruzch@sas.upenn.edu), **PENN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP (PEG)**

Penn prides itself on being an international example of a sustainable forward-thinking university engaged within its local community. The Undergraduate Assembly understands this commitment to sustainability and engagement and seeks to continue this momentum.

As a result, the Undergraduate Assembly and the Penn Environmental Group, in collaboration with the Penn Office of Risk Management & Insurance, have worked to create PennCycle, a student-led bike share system fully managed by Penn Student Agencies. A bike share system is the perfect way to engage with Philadelphia, promote environmental awareness, healthy living, and sustainability within the Penn community..

This Spring, with a grant from Penn Green Fund (a program of the Division of Facilities and Real Estate Services), PennCycle will launch a pilot program at Hill College House. The pilot program will consist of 20 bikes, which will be checked in and out at Hill front desk during regular operation hours: students simply swipe their card and receive a key. The bike fleet will be managed by cloud-based software. Membership prices will cover the cost of maintenance, security, and expansion. This is the first step to launch a campus-wide bike loan program, and we are very excited to see how this project develops.

❖ VOTER IDENTIFICATION

JAKE SHUSTER C'13 (treasurer@pennua.org), **ABE SUTTON C&W'14** (academics@pennua.org),

DAN BERNICK C'14 (civic@pennua.org), **WILL SMITH C'14** (secretary@pennua.org)

The Undergraduate Assembly believes in the importance of engaging in civic life beyond Penn's campus and we encourage students to vote in elections. Many Penn students register to vote in Pennsylvania rather than their home state. Consequently, when we learned that proposed legislation might require Pennsylvania or federal identification in order to access the polls, the UA began to investigate this matter. The UA worked with the Penn Democrats, the College Republicans, and the Office of Government and Community Affairs to learn more about voter eligibility laws and to advocate on behalf of students. We urged our Pennsylvania representatives to endorse

legislation which gives college students unencumbered access to the polls. This urging, which took the form of a UA resolution and a letter sent to our representatives, was based on the principle of "one person, one vote" – a complementary balance between protecting the integrity of the ballot box and ensuring all who are eligible have the opportunity to vote. The current draft of the legislation, which was recently referred back to committee, was amended to allow identification issued by "an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PELL GRANTS

UA EXEC (exec@pennua.org)

After being approached by the Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), the UA voted in favor of signing their petition supporting the protection of federal Pell Grants. Pell Grants, established by the Higher Education Act of 1965, are federal government scholarships awarded to students on a need basis. Currently, 13.9% of Penn students and 15.6% of domestic Penn students receive aid from Pell Grants. The petition was sent to Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey and the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction in Washington, D.C.

PENN PARK TENNIS COURT FEES

UA CABINET (cabinet@pennua.org)

This fall witnessed the opening of a green oasis in Philadelphia – Penn Park – with limitless opportunities for sport and recreation. However, some students who wanted to play tennis were troubled by the nominal court fees. After working with Penn Athletics and other University offices, the Undergraduate Assembly helped eliminate the tennis court fees. Students are now free to use the tennis courts as long as they make a reservation online. The UA encourages students to take advantage of this great opportunity.

ROTC ACADEMIC CREDIT

ERICH REIMER C'13 (reimere@sas.upenn.edu),

DAN BERNICK C'14 (civic@pennua.org)

Currently, ROTC students do not receive academic credit for many of the courses they take. This creates an academic burden for ROTC students who must complete their normal courseload in addition to the ROTC courses and training regimen. The UA has worked closely with Ajay Nair and Rob Nelson in the Provost's Office to learn about changing academic policy. The UA will present to the Council of Undergraduate Deans in January on this issue and looks forward to what this collaboration will bring.

ROTC STUDENT LIFE

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org),

ERICH REIMER C'13 (reimere@sas.upenn.edu)

ROTC students felt they lacked integration with much of student life on campus. We have been working with ROTC to increase their awareness about existing venues for them to utilize campus resources more fully and hope to continue this dialogue in the future.

THIRD-PARTY FINANCIAL AID

NOLAN BURGER C'15 (nburger@sas.upenn.edu),

JOSHUA CHILCOTE C'15 (joshuach@sas.upenn.edu)

This project was introduced following concerns that reporting outside scholarships to Student Financial Services often results in a reduction of work study financial aid and eventually grants. The

financial aid office has this policy because a student's overall need remains constant, and the University shouldn't be responsible to meet need already met by outside scholarships. However, some students have expressed the view that outside scholarships should not be nullified by financial aid reductions. We will continue this discussion to see if a change is needed and possible.

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

GABE DELANEY C'15 (delaneyg@sas.upenn.edu),

LATINO COALITION (*Angel Contrera C'13 - angelc@wharton.upenn.edu*)

The Undergraduate Assembly is interested in developing a greater understanding of the undocumented student population at Penn. In collaboration with the Latino Coalition and others, the UA has been investigating policies affecting undocumented student in three primary areas: admissions, public safety, and financial aid and related matters. The UA wants to ensure undocumented Penn students receive all the resources our institution has to offer; at the same time, the UA wants to ensure University policies align with our mission and applicable laws. The UA will continue working with the Office of Admissions, the Division of Public Safety, Student Financial Services and other student groups to learn more.

SHARE THE ROAD & HELMET SAFETY

DAN BERNICK C'14 (civic@pennua.org)

KATE HAM W'14 (hamk@wharton.upenn.edu)

In collaboration with the Medical Emergency Response Team and the Division of Public Safety, the UA is helping to develop and implement a helmet safety campaign. While still in its early stages, this campaign will target students who do not have helmets or choose not to wear them through information and marketing. The UA is excited to help Penn lead the way in bike safety, and we welcome support from other offices.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

KATE HAM W'14 (hamk@wharton.upenn.edu),

CHRIS CRUZ C'13 (cruzch@sas.upenn.edu),

DAN BERNICK C'14 (civic@pennua.org),

EVAN BOGGS W'13 (eboggs@sas.upenn.edu)

The Undergraduate Assembly, in close partnership with the Civic House Associates Coalition, is working to improve access to community service background checks. Our two-pronged solution – reducing cost and streamlining logistics – has led us to work in collaboration with the Executive Vice President's Office. Tony Sorrentino from the EVP's office has been amazingly helpful in creating a Background Checks Working Group that will work to address this issue in spring 2012.

COLLEGE DAY

CHRIS CRUZ C'13 (cruzch@sas.upenn.edu)

This will be the third consecutive year that the UA will help host College Day. This year we plan to bring more middle school students to campus and collaborate with many organizations across campus to inspire these middle schoolers to reach for college. In addition, this year we will talk with middle school parents to give them a better understanding of higher education. This is a great event that we hope to continue to grow in future years.

WEBSITE TRANSLATION

LIBBY STRICHARTZ C'15 (estri@sas.upenn.edu),

KATE HAM W'14 (hamk@wharton.upenn.edu)

In order to increase accessibility for potential international students, we are looking at the possibility of translating Penn's website into multiple languages. One option is to provide links on the main page to entirely separate sites in which all content has been translated. Through correspondence with past UA members, we have learned that students can be hired through work-study positions to translate the content, but that an independent study would be cheaper for the university. Another option is to translate only content that is relevant for current and prospective students, such as financial aid and other university resources, which we learned from the Latino Coalition has been done in the past.

TOBACCO POLICY

GABE DELANEY C'15 (delaneyg@sas.upenn.edu),

DAN BERNICK C'14 (civic@pennua.org),

NIGEL LAM W'14 (nigellam@wharton.upenn.edu)

The UA has initiated the process of investigating potential changes to the University's tobacco policy, with an emphasis on developing a strategy to determine the desirability and feasibility of a smoke or tobacco-free campus based on evidence regarding the negative health and social consequences of smoking and other tobacco products. UA members met with Ajay Nair (VPUL), Evelyn Wiener (SHS), Sharon McMullen (SHS), and Julie Lyzinski (AOD). With their support, the University Council Campus and Community Life Committee will likely to begin this discussion and report back to the University Council by summer 2012.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPETITION

ESTEE EINHORN C'15 (seinhorn@sas.upenn.edu)

Building off of this year's University-wide theme, the 'Year of Games', the goal of this project is to implement a community service competition between the four undergraduate schools. This will foster healthy competition for a good cause and give Penn students an idea of what kind of service is needed in the Philadelphia community. After meeting with Troy Majnerick and John Gee, it is apparent that there are already various school-wide competitions in place. Our next step is come up with innovative ideas in terms of

incentives and ways to create excitement about such an event. We are hoping this competition can be implemented in late spring or early fall of 2012.

CONFLICT MINERAL FREE CAMPUS

BEN BROCKMAN C'12 (bbroc@sas.upenn.edu),

ABE SUTTON C&W'14 (academics@pennua.org)

Penn works diligently to ensure our business partners are both financially and socially responsible. To that end, the Undergraduate Assembly worked with the Executive Vice President's Office and the Society for International Development (SID) to learn more about conflict minerals. Commonly known as blood diamonds, these minerals are used in technology Penn purchases, like laptop computers. The UA, in collaboration with Ben Brockman (former President of SID), passed a resolution calling on Penn to continue holding its business partners accountable. The UA will continue supporting changes to Penn's purchasing and investment policies, which will be completed in the near future.

MOUNTAIN TOP MINING REMOVAL

DAN BERNICK C'14 (civic@pennua.org),

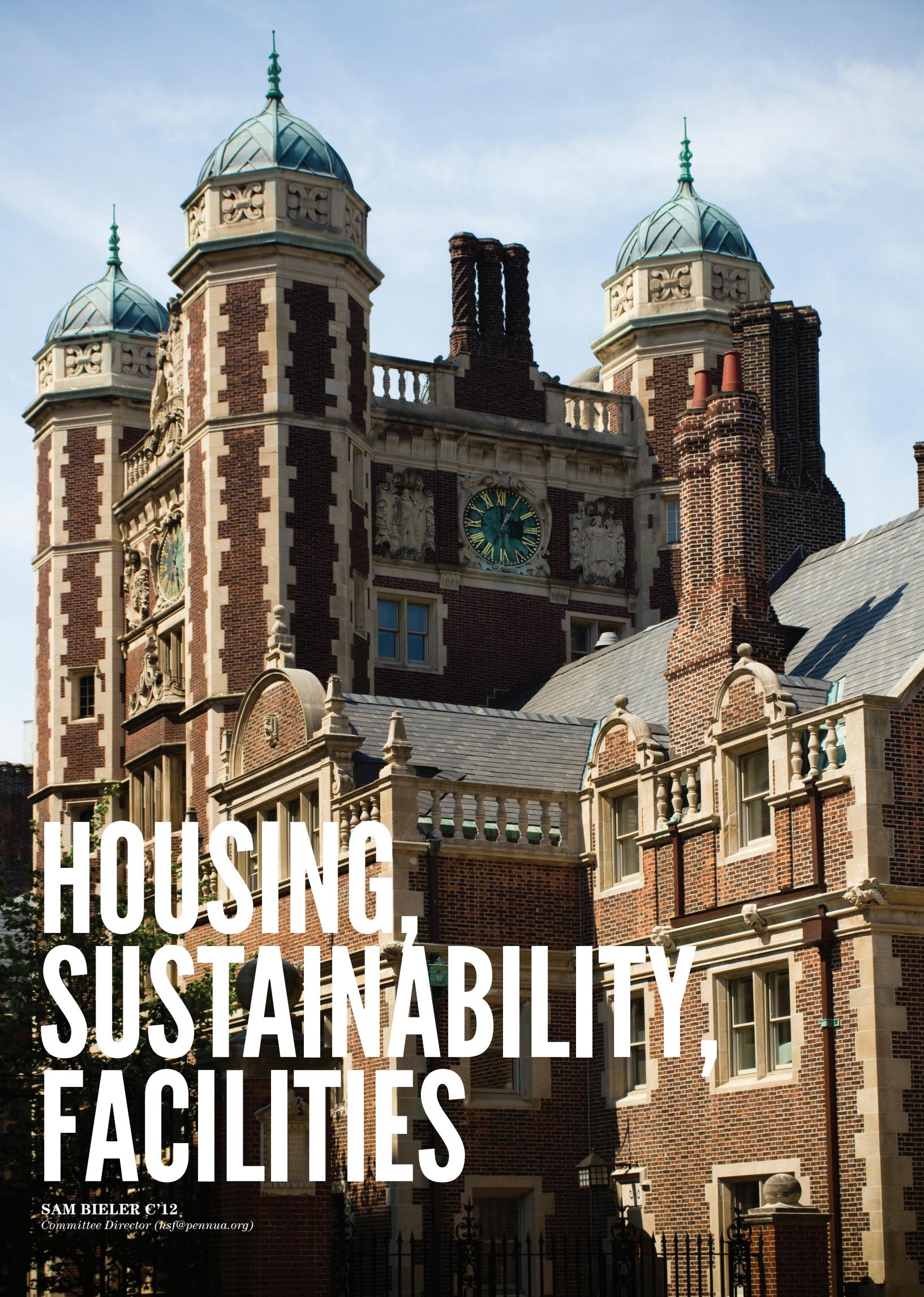
TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (president@pennua.org)

Penn works diligently to ensure our business partners are both financially and socially responsible. To that end, the Undergraduate Assembly worked with the Executive Vice President's Office and the Penn Coalition Against Mountaintop Removal to learn more about PNC Bank's investments in mountaintop removal, an environmentally destructive coal mining technique. Penn has a financial relationship with PNC Bank, and the UA hopes to continue this conversation about if and how Penn should continue its partnership with PNC Bank. We will continue supporting the Coalition as they work with PNC Bank and others to encourage more socially responsible investment practices.

STUDENTS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE RESOLUTION

JAKE SHUSTER C'13 (treasurer@pennua.org)

The Undergraduate Assembly recognizes the danger posed to undergraduates by gun violence and responded quickly to safety concerns raised by shootings on campus. The UA worked alongside two non-profit organizations, CeaseFire PA and Mayors Against Illegal Guns, to draft a resolution supporting a reduction in gun violence. The resolution, based on input from these organizations, emphasized the importance of enforcing current gun laws and committed the UA to supporting "any Federal, State, and Local Government action that adopts reasonable reforms to reduce gun violence and promote the safety of undergraduate students." In addition, the UA has continued its work with the Division of Public Safety to ensure the UPenn Alert system is used effectively during situations involving gun violence.



HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, FACILITIES

SAM BIELER C'12
Committee Director (hsf@pennua.org)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

* MOTION SENSORS IN COLLEGE HOUSES

GEN LAMARR LEMEE C'13 (genl@sas.upenn.edu), **ZENIA ZELECHIWSKY C'14** (zeniazel@sas.upenn.edu),

ISABEL FAN E'12 (communications@pennua.org)

As there are currently no motion sensors in dorm buildings other than in the bathrooms of some College Houses, hallway lights are left on at all times, which is a huge waste of electricity. A more sustainable and environmentally conscience approach would be to install motion sensors in dorm hallways. This way, hall lights would not be on every night and early morning when students are sleeping.

We have reached out to other schools and found that Washington University in St. Louis installed motion sensors into all of their new dorm buildings and has not experienced problems or complaints with this technology. Subsequently, we decided that Kings Court College House would be the best location to pilot the project since it is relatively small and houses the Biosphere house program. As we received positive response from the house dean and his staff, we

plan to set up information sessions or informal meetings with the Biosphere program to discuss the changes and solicit constructive feedback once when we have a more definitive plan.

On the logistical side of the project, beyond determining possible design options, it is essential to have floor plans for the hallways to determine the dimensions to predict cost and feasibility for installation. We met with Lara Simpson (KCECH building administrator) to review the floor plans and learned that the university will not allow us to have a copy of them. Therefore, any approximation of costs will have to be done by a contractor. Lara is in the process of putting us in touch with the Office of the University Architect, which can determine the dimensions and estimate an installation cost for the project.

* GENDER NEUTRAL HOUSING

CYNTHIA IP C'12 (speaker@pennua.org), **LAMBDA ALLIANCE** ([Hugh.Hamilton - hughh@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:Hugh.Hamilton@upenn.edu))

The UA has been collaborating with the Lambda Alliance to increase the accessibility of gender neutral housing for exchange, transfer, transgender, and first-year students. After presenting our research and suggested improvements to gender neutral housing policies to the Provost Office and the Residential Advisory Board, the University has amended the housing policy to allow first year students starting from the Class of 2016 to request gender neutral housing. We thank administrators of Housing Services and the Provost Office for educating us on their practices and acting on our recommendations. We are very excited to have shaped a housing policy that is now one of the most progressive in the nation.

Moving forward, we hope to continue working with Housing

Services on the implementation of the gender neutral housing option. One area of focus has been the integration of the old gender neutral housing application process into the new room assignment system. In particular, we would like to ensure that the instructions on the online form are sufficiently clear and unambiguous. We are also exploring possible ways to encourage students to take advantage of the option by publicizing the policy and matching potential roommates.

* GROUP SPACE

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

One of the common concerns among groups on campus is insufficient space for meetings and activities. In response to this, utilizing data from a SAC stakeholder survey, our committee has been working closely with VPUL to generate a comprehensive program of space creation. By generating more efficient storage spaces, repurposing under-utilized space, and working with a variety of partners to improve space access, we hope to rectify the current space imbalance at Penn and get groups the operation space they need.

* GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOMS

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (president@pennua.org),

LAMBDA ALLIANCE ([Hugh.Hamilton - hughh@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:Hugh.Hamilton@upenn.edu))

In partnership with Lambda Alliance and the Office of the University Architects, we have been working to identify single occupancy bathrooms on campus. We have worked to have these designated where possible and practical as gender neutral bathrooms. In creating these bathrooms, we hope to ensure the greatest possible access to single use bathrooms on campus so gender identity is never a barrier to respect and comfort at Penn. Moving forward with this project, we will continue to collaborate closely with VPUL and University architects to expand the availability of gender neutral bathrooms on campus.

AIRPENNNET UPDATES

ISABEL FAN E'12 (communications@pennua.org),

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

Residents in Sansom Place West and Hill College House have not been able to maintain functional wireless connections. With 2-4 out of 5 bars of signal strength, several Sansom Place West residents for all practical purposes have no connection to the internet. All webpages take either very long to load or are not even usable (BlackBoard, Penn inTouch, etc.). This issue hits hard for many engineers, having difficulty connecting into the Eniac system to work on assignments and projects. Many students have resorted to using ethernet cords. However, this inhibits their ability to study in residential study spaces or lounges or use multiple devices that require wireless internet connection simultaneously. We are working with students to better understand what locations in the college houses have the worst connectivity. We plan to bring these problems to the attention of administrators to hopefully increase wireless points.

GRAD REGALIA

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

In Spring 2011, former UA Vice President Mark Pan began a drive to collect graduation regalia with the intention of creating a lending service that would allow Penn students to participate fully in graduation without needing to buy their own regalia. There was a significant amount of positive response to the initial donation drive, which saved over \$4,000 worth of regalia. The UA is now looking to turn this into a permanent program. We will seek not only to generate an effective storage, donation and distribution system for this year, but also to build a service that will assist Penn students for years to come.

ENGINEERING LOCKERS

LINDSAY TSAI E'14 (tsail@seas.upenn.edu)

We have been in contact with the Engineering School to explore the possibility of installing lockers in the Engineering Quad after a survey we conducted reflected large demand for storage space among Engineers. As a result, 53 lockers are now available for use on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students are free to use them to store books, gym bags, senior design projects, which will allow them to spend more time in the Engineering building. We would like to thank Pat Pancoast of Engineering Operational Services and Chambrel Jones, Staff Assistant to the Dean of Engineering for their help on this project.

GREEN EVENTS

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org),

ZENIA ZELECHIWSKY C'14 (zeniazel@sas.upenn.edu),

CYNTHIA IP C'12 (speaker@pennua.org)

HSF had previously generated a list by which student groups could get their events "green certified." However, because this service was under-utilized, the UA is looking for more effective incentives to encourage groups planning events to go green. The first step in this project has been redesigning the green events list with input from Penn Environmental Group to make it more usable and relevant to groups. Having done this, the UA is now looking into ways to tie

funding and other space incentives into the green events list. By tying this project into the common funding app, HSF hopes to make it easy and advantageous for groups to go green.

REDUCED FACILITIES COST

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

One of the primary drivers of Student Activity Council debt in the past year has been the large cost to student groups of renting space on campus. Not only would bringing down facilities costs improve SAC's financial state, but it would improve the number and quality of events on campus by increasing access to good venue space to Penn groups. To facilitate this HSF is preparing a series of reports on the costs and benefits of reducing facilities costs. The first of these has already been created using data from the SAC group spaces survey. In the Spring of 2012 HSF plans to generate and release its second report on precise space breakdowns.

SCC FACILITIES COLLABORATION

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

The Sports Club Council is one of the largest budget items for SAC and with the creation of Penn Park, there is an exciting opportunity to reduce the costs of travel by having more club sports play at Penn instead of other schools. The UA is hoping to work further with both the SCC and the Athletics department to generate the best possible access to these fields and to ensure that Penn's club sports get the best possible chance for the home team advantage.

COLLEGE HOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS - HOUSING WEIGHT-ROOMS, LOUNGE FURNITURE

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org),

JOHN GEE C'12 (johngee@sas.upenn.edu)

In talking with students, one problem that has been brought to the attention of HSF is that much of the equipment and furniture of the Quad is worn out or in sub optimal condition. In order to address this HSF has been working with Business and Dining Services to determine the extent of the gear that needs replacement and to determine the best way that this can be done. Emphasis has been placed on determining if partnerships can be forged with other Penn institutions to further save on costs.

QUAD HOUSING ACCESS

JONATHAN PAZ C'15 (hsf@pennua.org)

One issue brought to the attention of HSF was that Allied Barton staff managing the entrances to on campus housing late at night did not have access to the passwords needed to operate the computers at the entrances. This was problematic for students coming back to the dorms late who had lost their Penn card because Allied guards were forced to attempt to verify their identity using security questions from paper records. This process is difficult for all parties involved so HSF has been working to get the password to security center computers more widely disseminated to Allied guards, who will then be able to more efficiently verify student identity without compromising housing safety.

RECYCLING IN HOLLENBECK HALL

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

Expanding access to recycling bins on Penn's Campus is a crucial part of bringing Penn's Climate Action Plan to fruition and HSF is constantly looking for under-served areas where there is little to no access to recycling bins. In response to concerns raised by ROTC students and leaders, the UA is looking into expanding access to recycling bins in Hollenbeck Center, which is one of these under-served areas. Currently the UA is evaluating the space to determine the best possible plan of implementation, with the goal of bringing bins to the building for Spring 2012.

PENN STUDY SPACES

DANIELLE GOLUB C'15 (dgolub@sas.upenn.edu)

One of the Housing, Sustainability and Facilities Committee's latest efforts is to construct a new online universal interface through which Penn students may reserve group spaces throughout Penn's campus. Currently, Penn students not only are not aware of all the great large spaces that are available to them for meetings and/or events, but many students also find that reserving spaces causes them much grief and strife since there is no universal calendar currently available. The UA and PennApps Labs are hoping to collaborate on this issue and create a new interface, possibly connected to a universal Google calendar.

We are currently still in the process of reaching out to building managers to gauge interest in being a part of this new interface. While we have heard from some, many have already notified HSF that one of their most recent priorities has been to revamp their room reservation system and thus they are excited by the prospect of PennApp Labs creating a more efficient system. The next step would be to discuss the possible frameworks for the system with PennApps Labs.

Also, an Excel spreadsheet compiling the contact and room information for all the large group spaces on campus, is nearly complete. Updates have been made regarding contact information as the negotiations with building managers continue, which is the only thing delaying its submission to PennApps Labs.

ONLINE TESTING OF THE HOUSING SELECTION SYSTEM

JENNY XIA C'14 (jennyxia@sas.upenn.edu),

LINDSAY TSAI E'14 (tsail@seas.upenn.edu),

JOHN GEE C'12 (johngee@sas.upenn.edu),

AMANDA YOUNG C'12 (youngam@sas.upenn.edu)

In response to student suggestions for a more simplified housing application experience, Penn Housing Services has renovated the process. The UA has been collaborating with the Residential Advisory Board in testing and offering student input for the new housing selection process and platform. Additionally, the UA has advised Penn's Housing Administration on concerns including room selection, application timeline and room retention. The new housing system will give students the freedom to apply to specific rooms and the ability to apply with small groups of friends. UA

contributions to this project would not have been possible without the receptiveness of Ellie Rupsis and other members of the Housing Administration to our suggestions. The new housing selection system will be implemented in January 2012 and hopes to serve as a more convenient method of applying for on-campus housing.

PENN INTOUCH ADDRESS INFORMATION

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

In consultation with various departments, the UA has learned that there is little accurate information on where Penn students live. This inhibits the delivery of a host of different services and makes it very hard for both the UA and administrators to determine how best to reach the Penn community. For this reason the UA is working with VPUL to determine a way to improve Penn inTouch so that students will be more likely to update their address.

CO-MINGLING OF FRATERNITY RECYCLING

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org)

In response to concerns raised by Greek leaders, the UA began investigating the co-mingling of fraternity recycling bins. The concern raised was that students using fraternity recycling facilities were confused as to what bin to use and how the process was to be undertaken. Working with FRES, the UA determined that signs could be placed that would alleviate the confusion. The signs are being generated and the UA hopes to have them up in the Spring of 2012.

COLLEGE HOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS - HOUSING WEIGHT-ROOMS, LOUNGE FURNITURE

SAM BIELER C'12 (hsf@pennua.org),

JOHN GEE C'12 (johngee@sas.upenn.edu)

In talking with students, one problem that has been brought to the attention of HSF is that much of the equipment and furniture of the Quad is worn out or in sub optimal condition. In order to address this HSF has been working with Business and Dining Services to determine the extent of the gear that needs replacement and to determine the best way that this can be done. Emphasis has been placed on determining if partnerships can be forged with other Penn institutions to further save on costs.

ARCH RENOVATION

ANDREW LUM C&E'12 (andlum@sas.upenn.edu),

UA EXEC (exec@pennua.org)

The Undergraduate Assembly has been working with various student groups as well as University representatives on the upcoming ARCH renovations. This past semester, the UA actively participated in meetings with the University Architects to ensure the renovated Arch Building meets the facility needs of students and student groups on campus, such as the inclusion of dance rehearsal spaces, more group study rooms, or the creation of meeting rooms that can accommodate groups of 25-40 students. Currently, three sub-committees have formed - facilities, programming, and gallery - to reconcile logistics of the renovated Arch Building as the discussions about the building continue.

STUDENT LIFE

JON MONFRED C'13

Committee Director (studentlife@pennua.org)



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

* CAPS

BAILEY RAMSEY C'15 (*ramseys@sas.upenn.edu*), **CYNTHIA IP C'12** (*speaker@pennua.org*),
JON MONFRED C'13 (*studentlife@pennua.org*), **JULIO ALBARRACIN C'14** (*jalba@sas.upenn.edu*)

Counseling and Psychological Services, CAPS, provides free services to help students learn to effectively manage personal challenges, psychological problems, and situational crises. CAPS is dedicated to delivering excellent clinical care and treatment to the diverse student population at Penn, and its services are offered to any Penn student who is both suffering from some psychological distress and struggling in school as a direct result of that distress. Over the past several years, demand for their

services has significantly increased. With current wait-times at an all-time high, it is clear that the limited number of staff members is unable to satisfy the growing demand. Therefore, the UA has urged the University to allocate more funding and resources to CAPS, whose services are well-utilized and vital to the mental wellness of Penn students. The UA looks forward to working with the University to address this issue in the future.

* CONDOM DISTRIBUTION

CHAITNYA JAYANTI C&W'14 (*cjayanti@sas.upenn.edu*), **JULIO ALBARRACIN C'14** (*jalba@sas.upenn.edu*),
CYNTHIA IP C'12 (*speaker@pennua.org*), **JON MONFRED C'13** (*studentlife@pennua.org*)

Currently, the Student Health Service provides a large quantity of condoms each year that are available to students through numerous distribution channels, such as the SHS Office, the LGBT center, and Residential Advisors in the College House system. The UA hopes to maximize the effectiveness of their investment, particularly through the examination of these existing distribution channels. The UA has also investigated alternative

methods of distribution, such as condom dispensers, which have been successfully implemented at other institutions. The idea of condom dispensers was proposed to College House and Academic Services as well as to Business Services, and the UA eagerly awaits their response and hopes to work to improve condom distribution on campus.

* DINING ADVISORY BOARD

TIFFANY ZHU W'14 (*zhutiff@wharton.upenn.edu*), **CHRISTOPHER RANGE C'14** (*crange@sas.upenn.edu*)

Last Spring, members of the Undergraduate Assembly saw a need for a board in which students would have a better connection with Dining and Business officials on campus. With ample diverse representation ranging from SAAC to Hillel to the UA, the Dining Hall Advisory Board (DAB) came into fruition. The board started out with a comprehensive review of the dining hall processes by Penn business executives, Doug Berger and Pam Lampitt. As we proceeded with the second meeting, there was an exchange of many important issues related to dining. Potential projects were debated and goals of DAB were created. Currently the board has

decided on three highly important issues that should be explored: dining hall hours (with an extra emphasis on athletes), meal plan structure, and communication between students and Penn dining. The board has also structured ways to include more student opinions in future remodeling plans of dining halls. We expect great things to come as we continue to structure and gear the goals of DAB to the needs of the students.

FLU CLINIC CO-SPONSORSHIP

JON MONFRED C'13 (*studentlife@pennua.org*)

The UA partnered with Student Health Service once again this fall to promote the four mass flu immunization clinics available to students, faculty, and staff. As a collaborative effort between SHS staff, student volunteers, and student- and campus-organization co-sponsors, the flu clinics successfully vaccinated several thousand people as part of a positive public health intervention. The UA looks forward to a continuing partnership with SHS in the future.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

CYNTHIA IP C'12 (*speaker@pennua.org*),

PENN CONSORTIUM OF UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN (PCUW) (*Meg Hlousek C'12 - mhlousek@sas.upenn.edu*)

As Penn's elected, representative branch of student government, the UA has been involved in conversations regarding the under-representation of women in our organization as well as in the greater world of politics. This year, we were pleased to partner with the Penn Consortium of Undergraduate Women (PCUW) to encourage women to run for office through PCUW's activities fair in September. In addition, the UA recently co-sponsored a screening of the award-winning documentary "Miss Representation" followed by a discussion moderated by Dr. Felicity Paxton with Penn Women's Center. The film exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. We intend to continue working with PCUW to raise awareness of this issue and to hopefully increase the representation of Penn women in elected offices.

LAPTOP CHARGERS IN LIBRARIES

FAYE CHENG W'12 (*vp@pennua.org*),

JULIO ALBARRACIN C'14 (*jalba@sas.upenn.edu*)

The UA is proud to partner with Penn Libraries to provide students and library patrons with laptop chargers when working in Van Pelt and other university libraries. This initiative was spurred by student feedback requesting that libraries have on hold a designated number and type of laptop chargers for use on a temporary basis. Oftentimes, students plan to work on their laptops in libraries but forget to bring a charger; this initiative will save many students the hassle of returning home for the sole purpose of retrieving a laptop charger. We are so grateful for the support of Marjorie Hassen and Penn Libraries in implementing this program, and we look forward to see this initiative take off early next year.

LGBTQA-ATHLETICS COMMUNITY RELATIONS

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (*president@pennua.org*)

The UA, the Lambda Alliance, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and Penn Athletes and Allies Tackling Homophobia are working together to address the issues related to acceptance and expression of sexual orientation and gender identity that face

coaches and student athletes at Penn. This project was inspired by a recent flurry of activity on campus, including events with rugby player Ben Cohen and Columbia wrestling coach Hudson Taylor. The working group is exploring what factors create a team atmosphere, why teams vary in their level of LGBTQA acceptance, and how Penn can ensure the student experience of out, closeted, and allied athletes and coaches is on par with the rest of Penn. After an initial planning session with VPUL and DRIA in December, we are excited for the progress to come in subsequent semesters, which will include a custom and athlete-focused training session for coaches and team captains. This project represents a unique intersection of the UA's athletics project portfolio - where student life issues for athletes are a top priority - and the extant Lambda Alliance projects focusing on relations with other communities on campus.

PRE-FROSH COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

DAN FINE W'15 (*define@wharton.upenn.edu*),

BAILEY RAMSEY C'15 (*ramseys@sas.upenn.edu*),

ADMISSION DEAN'S ADVISORY BOARD (ADAB)

(*Joe Egozi C'14 - jegozi@sas.upenn.edu*)

Every year, there is a significant period of time between when high-school seniors commit to Penn and the beginning of NSO. Although a mailer is sent in the beginning of the summer regarding housing, dining, and email, there is certainly potential for better engagement of admitted but uncommitted students. The UA looks forward to working with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the Admissions Dean's Advisory Board, and student groups to identify possibilities for improving communication with prospective matriculants.

GREEK HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (*president@pennua.org*)

The Student Life Committee worked with the IFC, VPUL, SDS, OSA, and the EVP to improve accessibility on Penn's campus, specifically as it pertains to Greek students. With the help of a student directly affected by work in this area, the UA has advocated for basic changes to be made to university-owned Greek houses across campus; namely, entryway access. One potential solution to entryway inaccessibility - portable ramps - was explored in conjunction with the Executive Vice President's office; however, it was determined to be unsafe and infeasible. It is unfortunate that widespread, ADA-focused renovations are presently just about unachievable due to cost and safety concerns. Fortunately, progress has been made with housing corporations, which frequently have a large say over prioritization of resources for house renovations. Ajay Nair, SAVPUL, highlighted this issue as important to undergraduates in housing corporation meetings, and such advocacy seems to be the most effective route to pursue for the time being.

POTTRUCK SHOWER STALLS

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (*president@pennua.org*)

The Student Life Committee took an interest in Pottruck's men's locker room after hearing privacy, gender identity- and gender equity-related concerns from students, faculty, and staff. These concerns arose from the fact that the men's locker room lacked shower curtains or stalls. It should be noted that the women's locker room has shower stalls and that there are private family changing rooms available in Pottruck. After a year of working alongside Penn Rec, we are pleased to announce that adequate divisions have been installed in the men's locker room.

TOWELS IN POTTRUCK / GENERAL POTTRUCK CONCERNS

ERICH REIMER C'13 (*reimere@sas.upenn.edu*),

NIKOLAI ZAPERTOV C'14 (*nikolaiz@sas.upenn.edu*),

MICHAEL PIERCE W'13 (*mpierce@wharton.upenn.edu*)

Pottruck has been experiencing troubles regarding student awareness about what to do with the gym's free towels after use. Many students do not know where to put the towels or may accidentally leave with them. We have been working with the Pottruck/Penn Rec team to develop ideas that can help increase accountability for its towels.

OFF-CAMPUS PACKAGE DELIVERY

ADAM BLOCH (*adamjbloch@gmail.com*),

TYLER ERNST M&T'12 (*president@pennua.org*)

This project was borne out of the difficulties encountered by off-campus students - particularly those in the Greek system - who have packages delivered to their residences. Frequently, packages are either left unattended on porches or are sent to remote locations like the FedEx center at 3600 Grays Ferry Ave to await pick up. The potential for theft and privacy violations made this a priority, especially for students who send and receive a high volume of packages. At first we investigated the possibility of VPUL-owned houses having lockboxes installed where packages could be left. However, in addition to not solving issues of delivery confirmation and non-Greek students, this proved to be ineffective from a cost perspective. Fortunately, a more universal and cost-effective solution became available with the introduction of a new mail service provider. Now, students can pay to have packages delivered to a "Penn PO Box" of sorts, solving privacy and theft concerns, while keeping the packages easily accessible on campus.

UA CABINET

TYLER ERNST M&T'12
President (president@pennua.org)

FAYE CHENG W'12
Vice President (vp@pennua.org)

CYNTHIA IP C'12
Speaker (speaker@pennua.org)

JAKE SHUSTER C'13
Treasurer (treasurer@pennua.org)

WILL SMITH C'14
Secretary (secretary@pennua.org)

The Executive Board can be reached at *exec@pennua.org*.



ABE SUTTON C&W'14
*Academic Affairs Director
(academics@pennua.org)*

DAN BERNICK C'14
*Civic & Philadelphia Engagement Director
(civic@pennua.org)*

SAM BIELER C'12
*Housing, Sustainability, Facilities Director
(hsf@pennua.org)*

JON MONFRED C'13
*Student Life Director
(studentlife@pennua.org)*

ISABEL FAN E'12
*Communications Director
(communications@pennua.org)*

**Sam Bieler also serves as Speaker Pro Tempore.*

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Abe Sutton C&W'14 (*director*), Cynthia Ip C'12, Will Smith C'14, Andrew Staniforth M&T'13,
Josh Kamintesky C'14, Joyce Kim C'15, Justin Lee E'15, Lisa Xu W'14,
Matt Rosenberg E'13, Mike Rivera C&E'13, Spencer Stubbs N'13, William Stern C'15

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, FACILITIES

Sam Bieler C'12 (*director*), Cynthia Ip C'12, Jake Shuster C'13, Andrew Lum C&E'12,
Danielle Golub C'15, Isabel Fan E'12, Jenny Xia C'14, Lindsay Tsai E'14

CIVIC & PHILADELPHIA ENGAGEMENT

Dan Bernick C'14 (*director*), Cynthia Ip C'12, Tyler Ernst M&T'12, Chris Cruz C'13,
Ernest Owens C'14, Nigel Lam W'14, Nolan Burger C'15, Gabriel Delaney C'15

STUDENT LIFE

Jon Monfred C'13 (*director*), Cynthia Ip C'12, Faye Cheng W'12, Chris Range C'14,
Christian Cortes W'15, Dan Fine W'15, Inigo Rumayor C'14, Julio Albarracin C'14,
Michael Pierce W'13, Tiffany Zhu W'14

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Abhishek Gadiraju E'15, Bailey Ramsey C'15, Chaitnya Jayanti C&W'14, Claire Shimberg C'14,
Duong Nghe Ly C'15, Ethan Jones C'14, Erich Reimer C'13, Estee Einhorn C'15,
Evan Boggs W'13, Gen LaMarr LeMee C'13, John Gee C'12, Jonathan Paz C'15,
Joshua Chilcote C'15, Kate Ham W'14, Katherine Mateo C'15, Libby Strichartz C'15,
Louis Petro, Michael Sha C'15, Mo Shahin, Nikolai Zapertov C'14,
Zenia Zelechiwsky C'14

UA EXTERNAL SEATS

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

UA President - Tyler Ernst M&T'12
UA Vice President - Faye Cheng W'12
UA Speaker - Cynthia Ip C'12
College Top Vote-Getter - Jake Shuster C'13
Wharton Top Vote-Getter - Nigel Lam W'14
Engineering Top Vote-Getter - Lindsay Tsai E'14
Nursing Top Vote-Getter - Spencer Stubbs N'13
New Student Top Vote-Getter - Dan Fine W'15
UC Steering - Tyler Ernst M&T'12, Faye Cheng W'12

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Council of Undergraduate Deans - Tyler Ernst M&T'12
UC Academic and Related Affairs - Abe Sutton C&W'14
PennApps Labs Board - Tyler Ernst M&T'12, Cynthia Ip C'12
Student Technology Advisory Board - Matt Rosenberg E'13
Library Advisory Board (3) - Faye Cheng W'12, Mike Rivera C&E'13, Abe Sutton C&W'14

CIVIC & PHILADELPHIA ENGAGEMENT

UC Open Expression - Ernest Owens C'14
Division of Public Safety Advisory Board - Tyler Ernst M&T'13
Council of Philadelphia Student Governments - Dan Bernick C'14 (*elected*)
Social Responsibility Advisory Committee - Kate Ham W'14
Committee on Manufacturing Responsibility - Erich Reimer C'13
Admissions Dean Advisory Board - Nigel Lam W'14

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, FACILITIES

UC Facilities - Lindsay Tsai E'14
Green Campus Partnership Student Association - Sam Bieler C'12
Green Fund Review Board - Sam Bieler C'12

STUDENT LIFE

Trustee Committee on Student Life - Tyler Ernst M&T'12
UC Campus and Community Life - Tiffany Zhu W'14
Dining Advisory Board (2) - Tiffany Zhu W'14, Chris Range C'14
Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force - Jon Monfred C'13
Penn Rec Advisory Board - Michael Pierce W'13, Nikolai Zapertov C'14, Erich Reimer C'13

OTHERS

Tangible Change Committee - Julio Albarracín C'14 (*elected*)
Representative to the NEC - Faye Cheng W'12
Penn Student Government Steering - Cynthia Ip C'12
Student Activities Council Exec Board - Jake Shuster C'13
International Student Advisory Board - Cynthia Ip C'12

UA STEERING GROUPS AND LEADERS

** The following is the UA Steering roster as of January 1st, 2012. Many of the efforts in this report were led by previous boards unlisted here. See specific projects for contacts.*

ASIAN PACIFIC STUDENT COALITION (APSC)	Michelle Leong (mleong@seas.upenn.edu)
ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (AIS)	Sohaib Hashmi (hashmis@seas.upenn.edu)
CIVIC HOUSE ASSOCIATES COALITION (CHAC)	Pallavi Podapati (pallavip@sas.upenn.edu), Kenny Puk (kpuk@sas.upenn.edu)
CLASS BOARD OF 2012	Jibran Khan (jibran@wharton.upenn.edu)
CLASS BOARD OF 2013	Jonathon Youshaei (youshaei@wharton.upenn.edu)
CLASS BOARD OF 2014	Spencer Penn (penns@wharton.upenn.edu)
CLASS BOARD OF 2015	Ariel Koren (akoren@sas.upenn.edu)
COLLEGE DEAN'S ADVISORY BOARD (CDAB)	Sabra Jafri (co-chairs@penndab.org)
DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN (DP)	Dana Tom (dtom@sas.upenn.edu)
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