

Resolution # 7

The University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) of the Spring 2008 Session

February 27th, 2008

*Be it Enacted by the Association, having been considered
by the Internal Development Standing Committee, a*

RESOLUTION on The Five (5) Year Strategic Plan of the Association

(Decided: [Y/N/A])

Nature of the Situation:

According to Article 3, Section 8 of the UPUA Bylaws, "The Internal Development Standing Committee must develop five (5) year strategic plans for the future of the Association to be reviewed every two (2) years. In non-strategic planning years, the committee shall review the current strategic plan, evaluate the Association, and make recommendations as to how the Association can best accomplish the planned goals. These recommendations shall be considered binding upon approval of the Assembly. Four years from the creation of a five (5) year plan, the committee shall create a new strategic plan for the next five (5) year period."

Purpose of Request:

Resolution # 7 serves to fulfill the mandated requirement of the Bylaws. Because it is almost impossible and inconsistent with the democratic process to forecast the desire, platform, and objectives of future Presidents and Representatives, the strategic plan will solely serve to provide a vision for the Association and elected and democratic student shared governance. **As such, the purpose of this resolution is to outline the vision of student shared governance, the reorganization of the student governance network, and common goals for improving the Association's democratic mandate.**

Plan for Action:

The following strategic goals are based in part on the student referendum conducted in Fall 2007 granting the UPUA a clear mandate to be a centralized student government accountable to the student body via democratic elections.

1. The UPUA, as the legitimately elected student voice, should meet and discuss the strategic plan with the following organizations and explain the vision that is outlined: University Park Allocations Committee (UPAC), HUB Advisory Board, Student Organizational Conduct Committee (SOCC), Student Programming Authority (SPA), Legal Affairs, Association of Residence Hall Students (ARHS), all College Student Councils, Cabinet of Student Leaders (CoSL), the student advisory Boards to the Athletic Department (UASAB), the student advisory Boards to the Paul Robeson

Cultural Center (PRCCSAB), the student advisory Boards to the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center (SARA), LateNight Advisory Board, Off-Campus Student Union (OCSU), ITS Advisory Board, the Greek Councils, Rainbow Roundtable, Black Caucus, NAACP, and the Graduate Student Association (GSA). These organizations comprise the majority of the decentralized student governance network and thus a good working relationship must exist with no confusion about UPUA's objects. This list is by no means all inclusive and future assemblies are encouraged to engage other student organizations as they see fit.

2. UPAC allocation team leaders must be elected internally to the UPAC but then approved through the proscribed process of the UPUA (as an accountability mechanism). In addition, while UPAC remains free to implement policies and allocate monies without direct UPUA involvement, the UPUA (and GSA) should have oversight authority on policy (once again for centralization purposes and accountability). Secondarily UPAC can forgo the inefficient and ineffective elections process that is currently undergone.
3. SPA should continue its current operation but with the same oversight provisions as outlined for UPAC in section (2).
4. The SOCC should be dissolved and the UPUA Board of Arbitration given its authority, with the same administrative training. This allows elected student leaders to appoint appointed student justices instead of administrators. Legal Affairs should continue its current role as the defacto public defender with an expanded mandate to offer organizational advice/defense upon request.
5. All judicial boards existing at Penn State should have as their undergraduate student members of the UPUA Board of Arbitration (this includes the parking appeals committees if they still exist).
6. Legal Affairs must be integrated completely with UPUA as the UPUA Constitution: Revised 2007 outlines. Noting that there should be a bright line established keeping the internal affairs of Legal Affairs off limits to the general UPUA.
7. The HUB Advisory Board must be completely dissolved and authorities granted to the standing committees of the UPUA Assembly (eg. Facilities). It is recommended that faculty advisors of the board continue to work with the appropriate UPUA committee. The PRCCSAB should be integrated in the same way with one exception that student seats currently assigned to specific organizations aligned with the PRCC continue to be so (on a subcommittee under Diversity and Campus Relations) for at least one year after integration. After this time the appropriate UPUA committee may choose to continue in this way or to restructure the board. Why have elected leaders if every niche of the campus has a student board? Administrators must solicit the opinion of elected student leaders. If elected student leaders feel that a focus group or advisory board needs to be formed, the student government should be the initiator. The Late Night Advisory Board may continue as current given the application of recommendation (3).

8. The Off Campus Student Union must be integrated as a department of the UPUA. Their role is to advocate and there exists the potential that they will compete, interfere, and challenge the legitimacy of a student government and its democratically reached decisions.
9. The Cabinet of Student Leaders (CoSL) should continue as a student led group to serve as a communication tool between the various large organizations at University Park. Administrative involvement in membership and planning must be completely removed. If CoSL cannot be changed in the aforementioned way then it should be dissolved as it, in current form, is an affront to the idea of an elected student assembly. There are two democratically elected organizations (the UPUA and the GSA) that are officially recognized as the voice of the students to the administration. If there is an issue that students feel passionately about they should petition their elected student government and not unelected students in niche advocacy groups.
10. The UPUA, as the “appropriately organized” student voice according to Standing Order IX of the Board of Trustees must be the final organization that is consulted on all policies of Student Affairs (SA). This does not imply that the UPUA should be the only organization consulted, merely have the final decision. This will involve the UPUA, not just the President, being written into the procedures of SA and involved in the process for policy approval.
11. The UPUA should seek to become “administratively affiliated” to enable it to get a staff assistant, graduate assistants, and work/study students.
12. It is a necessity to increase student participation in the UPUA to ensure the Association’s long-term viability and the survival of student shared governance. As such the UPUA should commit to expand its membership through staff in the Executive Board and interns within the Assembly. Additionally, the Association should ensure that the participation rate in UPUA elections increase upwards of 25%.

Respectfully submitted,

Internal Development Committee

Committee Vote: ___/___/___

Chair Signature: _____

Signature of a UPUA officer:

Hillary Lewis, President

The University Park Undergraduate Association