

## **September 12-13<sup>th</sup>. Council Weekend #1**

Student Affairs

All Campuses represented? Yes or No (if no, who?) No: Greater Allegheny, Lehigh Valley, New Kensington, Schuylkill

Discussion:

### 1. Student Fees

Juanita: All right. Welcome to Student Affairs. My name is Juanita Mennor. I just transferred from the Shenango campus.

Wyatt: My name is Wyatt Franks. I attend York.

(Juanita and Wyatt introduced themselves)

Juanita: We Are...Penn State. Everyone has things to talk about and things to accomplish. There a lot of juicy topics to talk and a lot of very serious topics to talk about. Everyone has a mind set for success, and I know a lot of you have been to this.

(Juanita and Wyatt presenting PowerPoint on Student Fee)

Juanita: What determines the amount of money each Commonwealth campus receives for SAF?

York-Student Population.

Mike Harrisburg-Tiers

Ryan Wilkes-Barre-Enrollment Fees

Juanita: What are tiers, and how many tiers are there for SAF?

Victoria-Mont Alto: 2 tiers. If you are a top tier then your campus is paying more money. \$97 and \$87.

Juanita-\$93 and \$87 actually.

Victoria-Mont Alto: Most campuses are top tier.

(Juanita is explaining what SAF covers on the commonwealth campuses and explains that SAF may or may not cover travel expenses)

Ms. Theresa-New Kensington: Travel is not included in SAF, so that needs to be changed. It is worded incorrectly and always misunderstood.

Andrea Dowhower-University Park: You in SGA ought to be working with SAF. Also if someone decides to bring in a speaker then SAF must pay for it. You cannot judge it [the speaker] based on your own opinions. Whether or not SAF will pay for it has to be based on whether there are enough funds to cover the cost of the speaker.

(Wyatt presenting the Student Activities Fee)

Wyatt: Who approves the proposed project?

Lilia-Berks-Chancellor

(Juanita presenting)

Fayette-International students were wondering about the international student fee. It's new this year. Could you explain that?

Theresa-New Kensington- It's new this year. It is collected through the Office of Global Programs. It serves the needs of International

Students globally. I don't know exactly how it is broken down. Faculty and students have voiced opinions on it. It is very new this year, and I was going to bring it up that there has been a new fee added. It is \$500.

Wyatt: Our information is on the agenda.

Andrea Dowhower-University Park: The presentation talked about a continuum in student involvement and in decision making. The staff should be advised by you guys. Fee decision making is moving away from student decision making. You can look up the tuition but it is such a large amount that the breakdown and tuition levels and fees are so vast [and not there] but I encourage you to look it up.

Ice breaker from University Park.

Ice breaker from Berks.

## 2. LGBT

Juanita: Welcome to the Student Affairs breakout- part 2. How many of you were here yesterday? For the people who were not here yesterday just a reminder to please sign in, so then we can send you fun stuff. So I wanted to correct something on the agenda. We have our guest speaker, Trez, the famous Trez. Some might know her as Trezident. She is going to share what she has been truckin'.

Trez: How is everyone doing? Good. Any complaints? Why am I here? It is kind of interesting that Student Affairs and Student Life are now combined. I am part of a coalition with Andrea Dowhower. She connected me. We are trying to get an LGBT resource on campus. There a lot of acronyms: LGBT, lesbian, gay, bi, trans. I am going to go around each of the campuses and see what you know about these resources. Who is going to be the spokesperson? Can you tell me what is the name of your organization on Abington?

Justin-Abington: FLAGSA-Friends, lesbian, gay student association.

Trez: Altoona. Are they not here? Okay. Beaver. Berks, tell me about your LGBT org.

Danielle-Berks: Rainbow. There is a class trip for students to go to New York and see the LGBT sites.

Trez: Brandywine.

Logan-Brandywine: They are starting up GSA again.

Trez: Dubois.

Tia-Dubios: I know we have one.

Trez: SAFE.

Tia-Dubois: SAFE. I don't know who the president is.

Trez: Erie. Did they just walk out? Okay. Well they have Trigon which focuses on transgender issues. Fayette. You have CFE-Coalition for Equity. Harrisburg.

Mike-Harrisburg: We have a safe space and library for students to get together.

Trez: It's Capital Alliance. Hazelton.

Travis-Hazelton: I know we had one- Hazelton Allies.

Trez: Lehigh Valley. Where they at? They also have Lehigh Valley Allies. Mont Alto.

Olivia-Mont Alto: We have an allies but it is currently inactive.

Trez: New Kensington. They have no LGBT. Schuylkill. They have the Schuylkill Alliance. Shenango.

Kelsie-Shenango: I don't think we have one.

Trez: You don't. You are the small campus with a big heart, and we want you to have the resources. Wilkes-barre.

Ryan-Wilkes-barre: I don't know all the history. Little Citizens Society is in the constitution and it is for all the diversity.

Trez: Worthington Scranton.

Nathaniel-Worthington Scranton: We have one. We used to have one but this year we don't have the leadership so they are currently inactive.

Trez: York.

Leo-York: On our campus we have one but I personally don't know much about it.

Trez: It's okay. I will tell you about it. Rainbow Paws. I am very surprised you guys know so much about these resources. This is the resource master list. We will provide training, and we will educate people on the issues and the correct terminology. Here is an example. Transvestite is a very insensitive term. What is the long abbreviation for the LGBT community? Anyone want to give it a try?

Kris-Abington: LGBTQQIA.

Alex- Brandywine: LGBT QQIAT S

Trez: LGBTT2QQAIIIP.

(Explaining what each letter means)

Do you know the difference between transgender and transsexual?

Transgender is a change gender expression; Transsexual is changing your parts. Intersex is basically when one is born with both genitalia.

Intergender is they are in-between each gender. Pansexual is when one does not judge on sex. 2 Spirits is a Native American expression.

You have the spirits of both genders. Asexual is when you cannot tell which gender they are just by looking at them. Just because you are male does not mean you have to express yourself as a boy.

The coalition is to make sure there is a resource on each campus. The campus resource master list we are trying to get filled out and we are talking to all student leaders and helping students be able to see a rainbow and be safe.

I have talked to students and they have said we don't have gay students on our campus. That is wrong. I am basically spending my whole senior doing this to make this coalition happen. Before I end things do we have comments or issues?

Leo-York: Don't get offended. Today I feel like there is someone trying to change heterosexuality. Racism is what society was trying to

change. Nature is trying to change something with a woman and man not man and man and not woman and woman. I don't understand how homosexuals think and if it is genes or not.

Trez: There have been studies done but they have never been redone. Homosexuality is in every species-dogs, cats, ants.

Kris-Abington: We have to come to terms with the fact that not everyone will understand. Not everyone will agree. That's fine.

(Leo, Trez, and Kris are talking about this issue and trying to come to a conclusion that it is okay if someone doesn't understand. The fact that Leo came to the breakout today is what made the difference. They are discussing that orientation can be structured by society. They are also discussing the genetics of homosexuality and where it comes from as well as homophobia. Homophobia is in an inclusion and it is not like the 60s movement. One person's fight is not like someone else's.)

Trez: We are all the same people. We all have lungs. I don't want you to feel attacked. I don't feel attacked. Thank you for telling us your thoughts. Do you agree that there should be a space for people to feel safe?

Leo-York: Yes.

Alex-Brandywnie: In the society we are in now, we should start accepting people for who they are. I started accepting when I found out one of my best friends is gay.

Trez: A lot of people don't know until someone close to them comes out. This coalition is to help people feel safe and to allow people to be informed. I feel all campuses should be able to do that. That is what I want.

Mike-Schuylkill: We have a 'I don't stand...' campaign. People get t-shirts where they write what they don't stand for. It is not just about LGBT but for the whole campus. We see what people stand for.

Tia-Dubois: I am taking a BBH class. I am an HDFs major. My professor is implementing the LGBT part into class. Our professor wants us to be educated about this topic.

Trez: That is all we want for people to be educated. We are also trying to change language and help to approach various situations using the correct terminology.

Olivia-Brandywine: We need to be more educated and have a change of culture. There was a survey done asking people if they support gay marriage. 11 people were for it and 7 were against. It was very eye-opening.

Leo-York: You either accept it or you don't accept it. It is a matter of personal choice. Freedom goes both ways, and you cannot make someone accept something if they refuse to do so.

Stacy-Abington: It is not about acceptance but about education. It is not anyone's fault but rather that my parents did not raise me that way.

Trez: It is also about breaking stereotypes.

Angela-University Park: Last year in Student life, Trez and I worked together. We made an ice breaker that allowed people to be surprised and break stereotypes. That was the campaign and the Diversity Summit ice breaker.

Trez: The Diversity Summit is to celebrate diversity. Student leaders come and celebrate diversity among the commonwealth as well as understanding LGBT associations and what they do on campus. Any last-minute questions?

Andy-Harrisburg: Any successful LGBT events on any of your campuses?

Stacy-Abington: We had a week-long event where we did a 'No Place for Hate' campaign. It was very successful. It allowed for diversity to come together and celebrate understand that bullying affects everyone. The message was very powerful.

Trez: My contact info is on the board. Hit me up later.

### 3. Alcohol Policy

Juanita: That was an awesome discussion. Going back to the agenda. The big topic to talk about is the alcohol policy. Who doesn't know what we are talking about? This is changing the alcohol policy and the rules and regulations for students who are of age who live in resident halls. There is a lot of talk about this. I want your opinions about this. Should this be a university-wide policy or do the individual campuses decide?

Leo-York: I believe it should be campus to campus. Some campuses don't have residence halls, and it looks bad if students drink on campus.

Kris-Abington: We don't have dorms. My only concern is if you allow this to be a home rule rather than a university-wide rule then everyone has different sides. You want everyone on one page.

Shawn-Altoona: We talked about this at the Executive board meeting. We are a mainly two year campus but is a growing campus. Even if it is a campus to campus rule then for our campus it will not really affect us.

Stacy-Abington: If this is campus to campus then it pits other campuses against each other, and it gets us into too many sticky situations.

Jess-Berks: As a group, we talked about it being campus by campus. The only thing is this decision should be pushed off. It does not need to be made right away. Berks was a wet campus. We want to see the details and what was the reason they changed it into a dry campus. There would have to be a regulation and balance. We need more time to think through this. There are only 7 or 8 campuses that have residence halls.

John-President: The reason that the policy was changed was that someone got severely drunk and was later found dead. The policy was to combat this. The student alcohol committee combats that.

Dan-University Park: The best way to approach this is to put a campus by campus or university-wide minimal across the board so everyone is held to standard then everyone can put forth their own laws.

Olivia-Mont Alto: I agree with Dan.

Elizabeth-Worthington Scranton: Students should be picking a campus based on the education not whether it is wet or dry.

Andy-Harrisburg: It is important to maintain balance and show regulations. This policy is only for 21 year old. This is the law. This policy would only affect students who are 21.

Amir-University Park: Apartments have laws regarding that as well.

Jess-Berks: We need to get more information and see if there is more data regarding this policy. It seems we are jumping the gun.

John-President: The purpose of this is to introduce. What recommendations do you have today? We will not vote on this today. The housing contracts are in October so this is our timeline.

Juanita: I did research and met with several directors. The student code of conduct recommends that this be a university wide policy. I agree that this should be first a university wide policy and then campus to campus. For everyone to agree there will be a lot of conversations and there have to be multiple questions that need to be proposed. An actual major part of the alcohol policy involves the rules and regulations. There has to be a lot of change in a short amount of time.

Berks: Why does this have to be now? Can't it be later?

John-President: If we want to adopt anything then it will be for October.

Berks: If we decide then, will it be for the spring or next semester?

John: It will go in the fall housing contracts in 2015. Remember. This is only a recommendation. It does not mean that it will be passed.

Juanita: On the website is a list of rules and regulations. See where the code of conduct is coming from.

(Juanita wants to vote. University Wide vs. campus to campus.)

University wide: 24 Home Rule: 11)

What ideas do you guys have for rules?

Logan-Brandywine: Have a different PSU id for when you are 21.

Chris-Hazelton: Put people who are 21 in different sections or different floors of the dorms.

(Kris from Abington strongly disagrees)

Juanita: Look at people's birthday to make sure they are on the same floor.

Awele-Abington: You can have the 20/21 year olds in one area and the 18/19 year olds in a different area.

Olivia-Brandywine: This will create a huge segregation in college. It changes the dynamic of people.

Amir-University Park: Separating ages will always cause segregation whether you like it or not. In college, you should be able to live with who you want.

Leo-York: I'm not an alcoholic. I think they should not allow alcohol on campus. I have seen some people after they are drunk and they are smacking and crying on the floor. If you live off campus then you're in your own home.

Danielle-Berks: People know who they are, drinker or not, before they come to college. You should designate certain halls for drinking. It would not be segregated by ages but by different interests.

Kris-Abington: One primary concern against bringing alcohol on campus is money. There will be unfortunate incidences of someone beating someone else up. There will be issues with security and maintenance that start to add up. This is all student's money.

Joe-Wilkes-barre: Controlling alcohol substance is like controlling guns. Where there is a will then there is a way. This policy will be tough for the RAs. This will all come down on their shoulders, a massive amount on their shoulders. A dry campus is a sort of control. The RAs should get a list of students turning 21. This will allow more control of drinking on campus.

John-President: There is not a large amount of students who are 21 on each campus and those who live on campus is even smaller.

Justin-Abington: Are there specific incidences of why this topic has come up?

John-President: It has been something we have talked about every few years. It is giving the university climate. It is a 'strike while the iron's hot' type of deal.

Olivia-Brandywine: Students will have to check into the building if they are 21 and display any alcohol they have. The information of who is keeping alcohol there and how much should be at the information desk.

Olivia-Mont Alto: If we add alcohol onto campuses that have residence halls then we have to add more intensive training for the RAs on how to handle such situations that result from alcohol.

Awele-Abington: This is not the best time to be talking about this topic considering the sexual assault issues.

(Barron discusses how the campus is very far away from the bars and allowing alcohol on campus would make things much easier)

Juanita: Barron should make a shuttle system to shuttle students downtown if they want to go to the bars. The point was to get the idea out there and discuss this. I really wanted to hear your opinions on this. The terms and conditions of this policy are in your brochure.

Wyatt: Did everyone sign in? We will be sending out surveys to everyone.

Juanita: Are there anymore questions about this? Thank you.

What progress has been made on campuses concerning current legislation? None

Legislation: Revising the alcohol policy.

Issues: Students are torn between making Penn State a wet or dry campus. Students do not know what is the reason for the International Student Fee.

Expectations

1. Of Staff
2. Of Campuses

Agenda Items for Next Council

Open Forum