

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S

FALL SEMESTER NEWSLETTER

PREPARED BY

Ralph Courtright III

Vice President of Internal Relations

DESIGNED BY

Kaylena Harrell

Vice President of Public Relations

FALL '24

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S
FALL SEMESTER
NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

SGA OVERVIEW

04

EVENTS

05

MEETINGS

06

PRESIDENT

07

VICE PRESIDENT

08

VICE PRESIDENT
OF FINANCE

09

VICE PRESIDENT
OF PUBLIC
RELATIONS

10

VICE PRESIDENT
OF INTERNAL
RELATIONS

11

SENATORS,
APPOINTMENTS, &
OPENINGS

12

BY THE NUMBERS

SGA OVERVIEW

WHO WE ARE

The Student Government Association (SGA) of Pennsylvania College of Technology represents the voice of the student body. Guided by the principles of democracy, self-representation, and active student involvement, SGA serves as the central hub for student leadership, fostering collaboration between students, faculty, and administration. Our members include an Executive Board, Senate, and Assembly, each working to uphold the interests of all Penn College students.

WHAT WE DO

SGA is dedicated to enhancing the student experience in several key areas:

- **Advocacy:** We serve as a liaison between the student body and college administration, ensuring that student perspectives shape institutional policies and initiatives.
- **Representation:** Through our elected Senators and Assembly representatives, SGA brings forward the concerns and ideas of all students, including those from academic schools and recognized student organizations.
- **Support:** We promote and fund student-led programs, events, and organizations, contributing to academic, social, and personal development.

- **Engagement:** SGA provides a forum for students to exchange ideas and collaborate on initiatives that improve campus life.

INITIATIVES & GOALS

SGA is committed to the continuous improvement of the Penn College community. Key initiatives include:

- **Student Advocacy and Diversity:** Supporting the voices of diverse populations through positions such as Senators at Large for Diversity, Health and Wellness, and Student Veterans.
- **Organizational Support:** Reviewing and approving new student organizations while providing funding and resources to enhance their impact.
- **Community Engagement:** Hosting awareness programs and events that connect students with leadership opportunities and promote campus-wide collaboration.
- **Policy Development:** Proposing and voting on amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws to ensure governance remains relevant and effective.
- **Transparency and Communication:** Utilizing social media and public relations to keep students informed and involved in SGA activities.

EVENTS

During the 2024-2025 Academic Year, the Student Government Association (SGA) planned, marketed, and executed a wide variety of events catered to the Penn College Community to increase our public presence. This section includes our past and future events.

PAST EVENTS

- Friday Night Fest (Aug. 16): SGA participated in this Welcome Week event, speaking with students to promote the organization and its mission.
- Swag Crawl (Aug. 15 & 17): SGA hosted bonus tables for two days, offering giveaways to engage with students and boost participation.
- Part-Time Job & Club Fair (Sept. 5): SGA connected with students at the fair, promoting involvement in clubs and campus activities.
- FYE Presentations (Sept. 9): Presented to First-Year Experience classes, introducing SGA's roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for new students.
- Student Gov't Games (Sept. 10): Collaborated with Sigma Pi for a day of fun lawn games, fostering engagement with passing students.
- Pizza & Pool with the Police (Sept. 16): Brought students and campus police together to build connections and encourage dialogue in a casual setting.
- Fountain Dyeing (Sept. 26): SGA members dyed the Veterans' Fountain outside ATHS as part of preparations for the Wildcat Weekend.
- October Open House (Oct. 5): SGA Senators interacted with prospective students and distributed giveaways across campus and the Earth Science Center.
- Penn State All-U Day Game (Oct. 5): SGA Board Members represented Penn College during halftime at the Penn State vs. UCLA football game.
- Arc Asylum (Oct. 24): Partnered with the American Welding Society for their Halloween-themed event in the CAL Building.
- Trick or Treat on 3rd Street (Oct. 30): Worked with Residence Life and student clubs to hand out candy to local families and the community.
- November Open House (Nov. 6): Continued October Open House activities, connecting with prospective students and sharing SGA resources.
- Bystander Intervention Training (Nov. 20): Partnered with the Office of Student Engagement to educate students on safe intervention strategies during SGA's biweekly meeting.
- Cookie Decorating with Provost Flynn (Dec. 4): Hosted a festive cookie decorating event with Provost Flynn during SGA's general meeting.

MEETINGS

SGA conducted a total of 97 meetings during Fall 2024, reflecting its commitment to fostering collaboration and addressing student concerns. This included 7 General Meetings, 15 Executive Board Meetings, and 75 Advisor Meetings.

MEETINGS OVERVIEW

General Meetings: Held every other Wednesday in the Mountain Laurel Room at the PDC or Penn's Inn in the CC, these meetings brought together SGA members and students to discuss campus-wide issues and initiatives. Students were encouraged to attend and share proposals or ideas to improve the Penn College community. The schedule for Spring 2025 General Meetings is available for those looking to get involved.

Executive Board Meetings: These meetings occurred weekly, either virtually via Microsoft Teams or in the Tiadaghton Room at the PDC. They served as a platform for the Executive Board to collaborate with faculty Advisors, addressing sensitive or strategic topics and planning events to benefit the campus community.

Advisor Meetings: Held weekly between individual executive board members and faculty advisors, these meetings were a space for brainstorming, gaining insights, and seeking guidance on various initiatives. They ensured that SGA activities were well-informed and aligned with the broader goals of Penn College.



PRESIDENT

HAYDEN LESTER

“As President I serve as the primary representative and spokesperson for the SGA, bridging communication between students, the college administration, and the community. This role involves presiding over meetings, coordinating events, and mentoring the executive board while fostering a positive student environment at Penn College.”

KEY INITIATIVES

- Organized 3 summer planning meetings with the 2024-2025 executive board to organize roles and prepare for the upcoming academic year.
- Led 2 summer strategy meetings with SGA advisors to coordinate the executive board's goals and visions for the academic year, along with introducing the role and responsibilities to incoming Executive Vice President Olivia Magann.
- Conducted two process improvement sessions with Vice President of Internal Relations Ralph Courtright III and a marketing strategy session with Vice President of Public Relations Kaylena Harrell in September.
- Represented the SGA at the Shared Governance Strategic Work Session on 09/20: Advocated for student perspectives and reinforced the importance of student representation in campus decision-making.
- Represented the SGA at two College Council meetings in September and October to advocate for student concerns and provide updates on SGA activities.
- Met with Penn College President Mike Reed in November to discuss SGA's progress and upcoming initiatives that led to an SGA email addressing discrimination on campus.
- Participated in the All College Meeting on 11/14: Represented SGA at President Reed's mid-semester address, engaging with leadership and identifying opportunities to advocate for student interests.
- Organized the executive board retreat on 11/15, to celebrate the semester's achievements and socialize with board members.
- Led 13 executive board meetings to oversee planning and address agenda items presented by members of the Executive Board, the Student Body, and the College Administration.

VICE PRESIDENT

OLIVIA MAGANN

“As Executive Vice President, I oversee the Senate, ensuring Senators are equipped with the tools, guidance, and support they need to succeed. I also manage the Elections and Recognitions Committees and work closely with the Provost to address student needs.”

KEY INITIATIVES

- **Provost Engagement:** Partnered with Provost Joanna Flynn to create the Cookies and Conversation event. Brought up student concerns about food quality and signage, with the Provost agreeing to contact Mark Leo to address the issues. Reviewed Anthology scheduling, gathered feedback, and planned to reintroduce SGA’s mission college-wide.
- **Senator Support:** Discussed senator roles, goals, and expectations during dean meetings. Established monthly senator reports covering office hours, meetings, and programming. Coordinated document transfers and reassigned responsibilities following a senator’s resignation. Created a comprehensive club contact list for each Academic Division.
- **Student Advocacy:** Addressed dining hall food quality issues and clarified ambiguities in signage raised by students.
- **Club Assistance:** Supported the Mechatronics and Electrical Organization (MEO) with their club application process, including drafting their constitution and by-laws. Assisted the American Welding Society (AWS) with event planning and the VEMS system to prepare for Arc Asylum.
- **Recruitment Efforts:** Rejected unqualified senator applications and sent emails to Deans and Assistant Deans to recruit new Senators, enhancing outreach efforts.
- **Future Planning:** Discussed an SGA video project aimed at improving student understanding of SGA’s purpose, with plans to resume the project in Spring 2025.

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE

SAMIR PRINGLE

“As the Vice President of Finance for the Student Government Association, I ensure the responsible management of our budget and oversee the allocation of funds to student organizations. I am committed to promoting transparency and ensuring that financial decisions reflect the best interests of the student body.”

MINI GRANT ALLOCATIONS

- Total Received Mini-Grants Applications: 9
- Applications Approved: 8
- Waiting for Review: 1
- Applications Denied: 1
- **Starting Balance: \$21,531.00**
- **Total Allocated: \$6,279.00**
- **Remaining Balance: \$15,252.00**

Budget funds were allocated for events and supplies approved by the SGA Finance Committee. The top expenses for the semester included:

- Organization-specific equipment and supplies
- Travel Expenses

APPROVALS

The following student organizations were approved for Mini-Grant funds:

- Gamers' Guild
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Penn College Theatrics
- PCT Remote Control Model Club
- Student American Dental Hygienist Association
- Penn College Construction Association
- Construction Management Association

MEETINGS

Held meetings with Finance liaisons Suzanne Stopper and Jon Nichols in September and October to review financial strategies and align decisions with student needs.

VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

KAYLENA HARRELL

“As Vice President of Public Relations, I focused on improving communication between SGA, the student body, and the college community. I engaged students through social media with timely, visually appealing content that aligned with SGA’s mission.”

SOCIAL MEDIA

- August 26: Welcome Back Post – Introduced SGA and encouraged student involvement.
- August 27–28: First Meeting & Kick-Off Posts – Promoted the start of the academic year and SGA activities.
- September 2: Labor Day Post – Celebrated the holiday with the student community.
- September 8: Government Games Post – Promoted the exciting Government Games event.
- September 9: Part-Time Job & Club Fair Post – Showcased SGA’s participation at the fair.
- September & October: Senator Intro Post Series – Introduced SGA senators to increase awareness.
- September 28: Fountain Dyeing Post – Highlighted this traditional campus event.

- November 4: Halloween Flashback Post – Shared a nostalgic Halloween moment.
- November 11: Veterans Day Post – Honored veterans and their contributions.
- November 13: Piscataway Nation Event Post – Promoted this cultural event.
- November 29: Thanksgiving Post – Expressed gratitude and celebrated the season.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Senator Posters – Highlighted roles, schools represented, and contact details.
- E-Board Posters – Showcased responsibilities and contact information for board members.
- Meeting Posters – Advertised biweekly meeting schedules and encouraged student participation.

MEETINGS

- Rob Hinkal (Social Media Specialist) – Enhanced cross-promotion strategies between Penn College and SGA social media platforms.
- Carlos Ramos (Director of Strategic Marketing) – Aligned SGA initiatives with broader marketing efforts to boost student engagement.

VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNAL RELATIONS

RALPH COURTRIGHT III

“As the Vice President of Internal Relations, I focused on maintaining detailed records, fostering communication, and facilitating collaborations. “

ATTENDANCE

- A QR Code linking to an Excel Sheet and a Microsoft Form was created to help track student club attendance at SGA General Meetings, as per their club requirements. This was expanded to accommodate SGA Events and Executive Board Meetings as well.

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

- Agendas serve as the guides for discussed topics during General and Executive Board Meetings and are prepared weekly based on items that are voted on or discussed.
- Minutes serve as the paper trail and serve as SGA's written records. These are also prepared weekly based on items requested by the advisors, senators, executive board, college administration, and the student body. These minutes are sent out to the senate, executive board, and advisors and are uploaded to Engage for the

student body to view.

- Created & Posted 5 General Meeting Agendas.
- Created & Posted 7 General Meeting Minutes.
- Created & Posted 9 Executive Board Meeting Agendas.
- Created & Posted 13 Executive Board Meeting Minutes.

EVENT COLLABORATION

Events are key to SGA's outreach and connection with the student body and clubs beyond our meetings. Collaborating with various student organizations is essential for effective outreach and representation. SGA has worked on past and upcoming events with the following clubs:

- American Welding Society (AWS)
- Office of Student Engagement (OSE)
- Sigma Pi Fraternity
- Student Veterans Organization (SVO)
- Penn College Police
- Residence Life

I have sent out 130 emails regarding SGA Business during this semester, ranging from coordinating e-board and senator schedules to discussions with faculty, staff, and student clubs.

SENATORS, APPOINTMENTS, & OPENINGS

Senators are elected in the Spring to serve as student representatives within the SGA Senate, the primary voting body. There are 20 positions across three Academic Schools (Arts, Business, & Sciences; Engineering; Health Sciences & Nursing) and their 10 divisions. One Senator at Large position currently exists, with others appointed as needed.

FALL UPDATES

Current Senators:

- Business & Hospitality: Jeanita Pierre
- Construction & Architecture Technologies: Elvis Gracia, Jacob Krautheim
- Diesel Technologies & Natural Resources: Lila McKeon
- Transportation Technologies: Katherine Farley
- Health Sciences: Leah Brown
- Nursing: Alexis Manhart, Jorden Graham
- Senator at Large: Leslie Escamilla-Ambrosio (for ALANA)

New Appointees:

- Jeanita Pierre (Business & Hospitality)
- Jorden Graham (Nursing)
- Leslie Escamilla-Ambrosio (Senator at Large)

OPENINGS

- 2 Arts & Sciences Senators
- 1 Business & Hospitality Senator
- 1 Diesel Technologies & Natural Resources Senator
- 2 Industrial & Computer Technologies Senators
- 2 Material Sciences & Engineering Senators
- 1 Transportation Technologies Senator
- 1 Health Sciences Senator



**Apply to be a
senator today!**

COMMITTEES

- Advertising (Kaylena): Kat, Leah, Jacob, Jeanita, Leslie
- Finance (Samir): Leah, Jacob, Alexis, Jeanita
- Recognitions (Olivia): Elvis, Alexis, Lila, Jorden, Leslie
- Elections (Olivia): Lila, Elvis, Kat, Jorden

BY THE NUMBERS

The following is a breakdown of key statistics for SGA during the Fall 2024 semester:

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Total Instagram posts: 35
- Instagram Accounts Reached: 942

EVENTS

- Total Events Attended: 15
- Total Events Created: 5
- Total Collaboration Events: 10

MEMBERS

- Total Executive Board & Advisors: 8
- Total SGA Membership: 17

CLUB APPROVALS

- 2 Clubs Approved:
 - Mechatronics and Electrical Organization (MEO)
 - Tri-Alpha Honors Society

MEETINGS

- Total Meetings: 97
- Total Executive Board Meetings: 15
- Total General Meetings: 7
- Total Advisor Meetings: 75

