JHSPH Student Assembly
Quarterly Report

September 20th, 2005

Information for students from students
Contents:

I. Information about the Assembly .................................................................................. 1
   Who we are.................................................................................................................. 1
   Opportunities to get involved ...................................................................................... 3
   Student Assembly Elections – final call for nominations! .......................................... 3
   Student Assembly Committees .................................................................................... 4
   Calendar of events ....................................................................................................... 5
   Resources now available from Student Assembly ....................................................... 6
   Website ......................................................................................................................... 6
   Newsletter .................................................................................................................... 6
   Student Activities Calendar ....................................................................................... 7
   Student group resource room ...................................................................................... 7

II. Student Survey, April 2005 ....................................................................................... 8
   Summary of results ...................................................................................................... 8

III. What the Assembly is working on now .................................................................... 10
   Activities advertisements .......................................................................................... 10
   Hurricane relief event ............................................................................................... 11
   Quality of Life issues .................................................................................................. 12
   List-servs & communication ...................................................................................... 13
   Networking / collaborations ....................................................................................... 14
   Discussion blogs ......................................................................................................... 14
   Event planning system ............................................................................................... 15
   By-laws amendments .................................................................................................. 15
   Special events.............................................................................................................. 15
   Funding ....................................................................................................................... 15
   Student group resources ............................................................................................ 16
   Community relations.................................................................................................... 16

Future quarterly reports will coincide with Town Hall meetings:

   November 29th
   February 28th
   April 25th

We look forward to seeing you there!
### I. Information about the Assembly

#### Who we are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>President</strong></td>
<td>Amy Boore</td>
<td>PhD Program Epidemiology</td>
<td><a href="mailto:assembly@jhsph.edu">assembly@jhsph.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vice President for Communications</strong></td>
<td>Devaki Nambiar</td>
<td>PhD Program Health, Behavior &amp; Society</td>
<td><a href="mailto:assembly@jhpsh.edu">assembly@jhpsh.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-Vice President for Social &amp; Cultural Affairs</strong></td>
<td>Lance Price</td>
<td>PhD Program Environmental Health Sciences</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sasocial@jhsph.edu">sasocial@jhsph.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-Vice President for Social &amp; Cultural Affairs</strong></td>
<td>Position Open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nominate yourself or a friend by e-mailing <a href="mailto:saelect@jhsph.edu">saelect@jhsph.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nominations accepted through September 20th, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vice President for Student Groups</strong></td>
<td>Lilian Ghandour</td>
<td>PhD Program Mental Health</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sastgrp@jhsph.edu">sastgrp@jhsph.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong></td>
<td>Cynthia Jones</td>
<td>PhD Program Mental Health</td>
<td><a href="mailto:satreas@jhsph.edu">satreas@jhsph.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MPH Officer</strong></td>
<td>Alicen Spaulding</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:samph@jhsph.edu">samph@jhsph.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ex Officio</strong></td>
<td>Srinivas Sridhara</td>
<td>PhD Program Mental Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Member-at-Large**

Joachim Bleys  
PhD Program  
Epidemiology

**Member-at-Large**

Wadih Maalouf  
PhD Program  
Mental Health

**Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Department Representative**

Position Open  
Contact assembly@jhsph.edu if you are interested

**Biostatistics Department Representative**

Snaebjorn Gunnsteinsson  
PhD Program

**Environmental Health Sciences Department Rep.**

Julie Richman  
PhD Program

**Epidemiology Department Representative**

Keri Althoff  
PhD Program

**Health, Behavior & Society Department Rep.**

Danielle German  
PhD Program

**Health Policy & Management Department Rep.**

Lainie Rutkow  
PhD Program

**International Health Department Representative**

Natalia Petroni  
PhD Program

**Mental Health Department Representative**

Anne Sawyer  
PhD Program

**Molecular Microbiology & Immunology Department Representative**

Position Open  
Contact assembly@jhsph.edu if you are interested

**Population & Family Health Sciences Dept. Rep.**

NaHyan Cho  
PhD Program

10 Member-at-Large positions open  
Nominate yourself or a friend by e-mailing saelect@jhsph.edu  
Nominations accepted through September 20, 2005
Opportunities to get involved

Student Assembly Elections – final call for nominations!

**Student Assembly Vice President for Cultural and Social Affairs**

The V.P. for Cultural and Social Affairs is responsible for organizing all social/cultural events for the Student Assembly and encouraging participation in these by the student body. Because there are numerous activities held by the Student Assembly and their organization takes a great deal of time, the position is shared; during the Fall election one of these two is elected. Events that the two Vice Presidents of Cultural and Social Affairs have been responsible for in the past include: Thursday Happy Hours, Student’s Welcome Party, Halloween Party, International Potluck, Winter Gala, Auction, Talent Show, and end of the year Harbor Cruise. Despite the fact that these events have traditionally been held by the Student Assembly, new VPs often organize new events.

The Social and Cultural position takes time and dedication, which will depend on the activities being planned. A great deal of the time is spent contacting and negotiating with caterers and other vendors, developing and distributing advertisement, organizing and selling tickets, decorating, writing emails to students and faculty, and meeting with the social/cultural committee.

**Student Assembly Members at Large**

Members at Large (MAL) represent the student body on the Student Assembly. MALs serve on the Standing Committees of the Student Assembly and have an opportunity to Chair them as well. The time commitment of an MAL can vary greatly dependent on personal interest and the number of committees on which s/he serves. There are total of 12 members, with 2 being elected in the spring and 10 during the Fall election.

**Requirements for the positions:**
1) Student Assembly meetings (2-3 times per term)—they fall on Tuesdays at lunchtime
2) Student Assembly Retreat on Saturday, October 8th (9:00am-5:00pm)
4) The VP position requires participation at Exec meetings, which are held 2-3 times per term.

Nominate yourself or a friend by e-mailing saelect@jhsph.edu
Nominations will be accepted through September 20th, 2005
Student Assembly Committees

You don’t have to be a member of Student Assembly to get involved in one of our many committees. These can be fun opportunities to get to know other students, and the time commitment depends on how much you’d like to be involved.

**Academic Issues**
(No chair selected yet)
Propose & promote positive solutions to problems related to teaching and communications.

**Awards**
(No chair selected yet)
Oversee the granting of awards given to faculty and students at the end of each year.

**The Biased Observer**
(No chair selected yet)
Help us put together the official newsletter of the Student Assembly, *the Biased Observer*. No experience necessary!

**Community Relations**
(Interim Chair - Lainie Rutkow. Permanent Chair not selected yet.)
Work closely with the Interaction Office to find ways to improve relations with the community and to get students involved in community service!

**Constitution**
Chair - Amy Boore
Help Student Assembly review and revise (if necessary) the SA constitution and by-laws.

**Elections**
Chair - Alicen Spaulding
Help the elections committee increase knowledge and awareness of the Assembly, then help to run the elections this spring!

**Finance and Appropriations**
Chair - Cynthia Jones
Interested in doling out money to Student Groups? Help decide how and where SA funds are spent!

**Quality of Life**
(Interim Chair - Alicen Spaulding, permanent chair not selected yet)
Work on issues important to students such as shuttle bus services, printers, student resources, etc!

**Social and Cultural Affairs**
Co-Chair - Lance Price
Help organize the Winter Gala, International Potluck Dinner, Talent Show, Auction, Harbor Cruise and more!

**Student Groups**
Chair - Lilian Ghandour
Get to know all 40+ Student Groups on campus and work on ways to increase resources for the groups!
## Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005-2006 JHSPH Student Assembly Calendar of Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays, 12:15-1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 12:15-1:30pm Feinstein Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look for late additions to this list!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1st term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6th</td>
<td>W4030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9th</td>
<td>Welcome party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20th</td>
<td>Hurricane Katrina relief event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4th</td>
<td>E9519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2nd term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1st</td>
<td>E9519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29th</td>
<td>Halloween Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6th</td>
<td>E6519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3rd term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 7th</td>
<td>E6519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28th</td>
<td>Winter Gala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7th</td>
<td>E6519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4th term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 4th</td>
<td>E9519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25th</td>
<td>Spring Tonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>E9519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>End of Year Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 19th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources now available from Student Assembly

Website

Brand new and constantly updated! Check it out! www.jhsph.edu/assembly

Newsletter

The Biased Observer is back! The official newsletter of the Student Assembly is being revived, and will be starting production soon.

Bring your writing, photography, journalism, and lay-out skills and join the Biased Observer committee. Or, submit your own news or announcements to be included by e-mailing assembly@jhsph.edu
Student Activities Calendar

Finally! One central place to find out what student activities are happening on campus!

www.jhsph.edu/assembly - click on 'Event Calendar'

Student group resource room

We’ve moved into our new offices - and one of the rooms (E3011 - directly across from Sommer Hall on the 3rd floor) has been set aside for Student Group use. It’s stocked with supplies that student groups on campus will find useful as they plan events and organize for the year.

This wonderful new resource is the result of feedback from student groups that they had no storage room for supplies, no ability to save documents and pass on from year to year, and problems finding last-minute supplies for their events. We think you’ll love this new space, and we will continue to make it better and work towards getting you and your groups the resources you need.

If you are leading a student group this year, please contact Lilian Ghandour at sastdgrp@jhsph.edu to gain access to this room.
II. Student Survey, April 2005

Summary of results

At the end of the 2004-2005 academic year, the Student Assembly held a school-wide survey of students. 430 students responded. The full results are available on our website, www.jhsph.edu/assembly. A brief summary of some of the highlights follows.

Who were the students that responded?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHS</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScM</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (including post-doc)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
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<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavior &amp; health</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry &amp; Mol. Biol.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health Science</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Policy &amp; Management</td>
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<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Health</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular Micro. &amp; Immun.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Family Health Scs</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>14</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
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<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 25</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 40</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore – Charles Village</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore – Mt. Vernon</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore – Hamden</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore – Canton</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore – Fells Points</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore – Other</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Baltimore area</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington DC</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent?</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Brief summary:

- 44% of respondents drive to school, while 36% use the Homewood-JHMI shuttle. 82% of shuttle users rated the service as good or excellent, although 57% reported having waiting a ‘significant’ amount of time for shuttle delays (most commonly defined to be between 10-20 minutes).
- 95% of respondents reported owning their own computer, most of which were PCs (8% were Mac users). 79% of respondents use the computer labs in school. 84% were satisfied or very satisfied with the labs, although 52% said they didn’t feel there were enough computers or computer labs for students.
- Most students (66%) do not use the my.jhsph.edu portal. A third never looked at information on the portal, and an additional 55% only sometimes did. A third of students reported always reading activities-l messages.
- 60% of respondents did not feel that there were adequate opportunities to meet students outside of their department or program, and 70% said they would take advantage of
opportunities to help students get to know one another. The majority of respondents (81%) would be interested in an alumni networking event on or off campus

- Most respondents (68%) would not use informal student-run support groups (that would discuss issues such as stress, workloads, etc), if they were created. Most students (269, or 69% of the respondents for this question) reported that they would not attend events that encouraged students to bring their children.

- Most respondents (55%) reported not using the 2 East campus gyms (Cooley Center and Fitness center on the 9th floor of the Wolfe St. Building). Hours that students said they used the gyms or would want to use the gyms were:

![Graph showing gym use hours]

- Only 15 respondents (4%) reported attending Pilates or Yoga classes at Cooley gym, although 209 respondents said they would be interested in Yoga classes. 200 respondents would like to see a fresh fruit/vegetable juice/smoothie bar on campus, and 143 would be interested in a meditation/rest and relaxation lounge.

**Student Assembly**

- 85% of respondents (337) reported not having dealt directly with Student Assembly regarding any needs or concerns, although 80.5% reported being satisfied with the efforts of the Assembly.

- Answers to ‘what is the primary role of the Student Assembly’, in general were (in order of frequency):
  - Student advocacy, being a voice for students, representing students the administration, resolving student issues, and other student representation and advocacy roles.
  - Not sure or don’t know
  - More broad answers about student well-being, improving student life, etc.
  - Organize or fund student groups
  - Organizing social events at the school.

- Issues students would like to see Student Assembly address (in order of frequency):
  - Social & networking opportunities, between students in different departments, programs, and campuses, and between faculty and students
  - Broad advocacy of student needs to administration, building student voice in school administrative decisions
  - Transparency, communication from student assembly
  - University Health Services – not enough options provided to students
  - Greater inclusion of internet, part-time and post-doc students into Assembly activities.
General issues that students would like to see addressed:
Some of the more common issues that were brought up on the survey included (in order from most frequently cited):

- Parking & transportation (parking too expensive, problems with shuttles, no transportation to certain areas of the city)
- Class quality and mentoring (classes too large, faculty do not devote enough time to teaching/mentoring, course material not up-to-date)
- Health insurance & services (too expensive, not enough options, problems with UHS)
- Stress / workloads (too many requirements in classes, stress too high)
- Food on campus (too expensive, not enough healthy options)
- Social interactions (not enough opportunity to meet students from other programs, departments or campuses, internet and part-time students have hard time meeting other students)
- Security (around campus, connected to transportation issues)
- Printing (too much required, courses should provide course packets rather than make students print, no double-sided printing for laptops, frequent printer problems)
- Tuition (too high, not enough tuition support for students, fees increasing too fast)
- Career/networking opportunities (not enough information about careers, full-time jobs)
- Family issues (no daycare, no support for students with families)
- Gym (hours need extended, conditions uncomfortable, post-docs charged for gym)
- On-campus employment & pay (wages inadequate, feelings of exploitation among student employees and post-docs)
- Campus environment (ugly campus, not enough space to relax and gather, no outdoor options)
- Community relations (bad relationship with community, not enough community involvement)

III. What the Assembly is working on now
Comments or questions about the following activities are welcome. Contact assembly@jhsph.edu if you'd like to get involved.

Activities advertisements

Activities calendar
Coming up soon on our ‘to-do’ list will be looking into the possibility of having the new student activities calendar added as a new optional cog on the portal. Students would then have the option of having both the public affairs calendar and the student activities calendar in one easy, convenient place.

Postings
We've started the very beginning discussions about getting some sort of forum for posting announcements of upcoming events around the Daily Grind area. We're still just figuring out what's possible (or not), let us know what you think at assembly@jhsph.edu.
Hurricane relief event

To donate artwork or text books, contact Wadih Maalouf at wmaalouf@jhsph.edu or just bring your donations to Feinstone Hall on Wednesday morning.

The Katrina Relief Steering Committee of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
STUDENT ASSEMBLY

is planning a Katrina Relief Support Day to benefit the

American Red Cross

Wednesday September 21, 2005
ALL DAY 10AM-10PM
FEINSTONE HALL (2ND FLOOR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10:00AM – 4:00PM | Silent Auction
Art pieces donated by local artists
Academic books donated by students/faculty
Free coffee and bagels |
| 5:30PM – 6:00 PM   | Raffle*
Gift certificates include dinner at Al Pacino’s,dinner at Akbar, Free apt with Tarot Card Reader and much more! |
| 6:30PM – 9:00PM   | Special Screening: A Streetcar Named Desire
(1951) Marlon Brando, Vivien Leigh
Directed by Elia Kazan |

** Coupon worth 5 USD enters you into the raffle, gets you a soda, popcorn and free pass to watch the movie!

100% of your donations and purchases (art pieces, used academic books, and raffle prizes) will go to the American Red Cross Katrina Relief Effort.

For more information and to arrange donations drop offs email

Wadih     wmaalouf@jhsph.edu
Lilian    lghandou@jhsph.edu
Amy & Devaki assembly@jhsph.edu
Quality of Life issues

Printing

After being approached by the Student Assembly’s Quality of Life Committee last year, the faculty senate put out a request to professors that they reduce the amount of printing required by students and clearly differentiate between required and recommended materials. The IT department also implemented the sign-in system for printing, in order to track the amount of printing individual students were doing.

The result was the 1000 page printing limit, which is above the amount of printing that 88% of students did per term last year. Student Assembly was not involved in the decision to limit printing, and we are aware that some students have roles on campus that make them likely to exceed this limit. Students working as teaching assistants often print materials for the class, doctoral students printing their dissertations have lots of printing to do, and other students often find themselves printing materials for their student groups, departments, or jobs. For now, SA is waiting to see how many students will actually be affected by the limits. E-mail samph@jhsphs.edu if you have comments or concerns regarding the printing limits or other printing issues on campus.

The Assembly will also be working with the faculty senate on ways to convince more faculty members to provide course booklets (they will cost a fee, and there are copyright issues that may be impeding progress on this right now). The printing issue in general is not one that will be solved immediately, but we will continue to work on it.

Café options

Students have told us that the cafés on campus are a problem because 1) they’re expensive and 2) they don’t have enough vegetarian options. We informed support services, to see what could be done. So here’s the scoop. Jay’s and the Daily Grind both offer discount cards, for 10% off (you put money on the card, then spend it down at discounted prices). They both also offer specials throughout the week, which are not widely known (especially for Jay’s). The possibility of posting specials on the 9th floor in a more obvious place has been discussed. There’s not a whole lot more that can be done about the prices. We were told it was a choice between quality and cost - and that cheaper options were more junk-food-ish, which is not what students want.

As for vegetarian options - you simply have to tell us what you want. Jay’s is pretty willing to offer whatever students say they want - as long as it actually sells (they are a business, after all). Do you want vegan? Non-dairy? Let us know, and we’ll pass along word, samph@jhsphs.edu.

Along those lines, we found out that vending machines once offered all healthy options. Nobody bought anything from them. They were changed back to junk-food options, and now students buy things from them again. We hear you on wanting healthy options, but there’s nothing that can be done if nobody actually buys the healthy options!

Shuttle buses to Canton/Fell’s Point

This is pretty unlikely in the near future, unfortunately. The shuttle services do regular studies to see where the need is. It takes a while to implement changes, though, and the increase in the number of students in Fell’s Point and Canton areas has been fairly recent. Additionally, the shuttle buses are funded by all campuses jointly, so the other campuses would have to be convinced of the need to extend the shuttle out to those areas. And of course the price - it’s apparently hugely expensive to start or extend shuttle services, so there really has to be a high demand. It’s not impossible - but this is going to be a long-term issue to work on. And of course, the more we hear from students, the better we can work on issues such as this.
Cooley / 9th Floor fitness center

The big issues about the gyms seem to be the hours of operation and the conditions of the gym. Support services is aware of the less-than-ideal air quality and ventilation on the 1st floor of the Cooley Center, and the Assembly will be following up to figure out how the situation can be improved. As for the hours of operation, hours depend on demand. Just a hand-full of students wanting longer hours won’t cut it - it has to be worth the huge cost involved. If we hear from enough of you that this is really a desire, we’ll work on it more. samph@jhsph.edu.

List-servs & communication

Activities-

We are aware that new students have not been added to this list-serv. There have been changes in the past year to the structure and management of list-servs, and the result is that things are a bit chaotic with them right now. We should have some sort of resolution within the next week or two. We are also aware that many students don’t like the ‘digest’ format of the list-serv (where all messages come through in one e-mail every morning). This was done to reduce the volume of e-mails students were receiving. If you have suggestions for how to change the system to improve it, please let us know at assembly@jhsph.edu.

sph-chat

Many of you may not even be aware of the open ‘chat’ list-serv available to all students. This list-serv can be used to post announcements about items for sale, rooms for rent, trips you are organizing, and just about anything else.

Send an e-mail to sphlist@jhsph.edu with the message “subscribe sph-chat@jhsph.edu [Your Name]”. You will have to wait for approval to be added, but that usually only takes a day or two. Then you are free to post and receive messages from the list.

Website

The Assembly website is growing fast. We’re trying to think of all the information you would find useful there, but it helps if you actually tell us 😊. Visit the site at www.jhsph.edu/assembly and tell us what you think.

Newsletter

This is a to-do list item, as we’re actually still operating as the Summer Interim Board and are a bit short-staffed to start production on the newsletter. We’ve got funding set aside, and some ideas for content. Our goal is to make it a useful resource for students - and we’d love your ideas.

Student - Student Assembly communication

We’re working on increasing our transparency and accountability to you - the students we are here to represent. This report is one way we are working on this problem. Our website is another. The SA President, Amy Boore, is also offering office hours every Monday from 1-2pm in the Student Assembly office, E3009, for anyone who wants to drop by with questions, comments or concerns. Our meetings have changed, so no more string of funding applications or committee updates. We’ve moved these routine items largely out of the meetings and into written reports, so there’s more time to discuss different items during the meetings or allow students who visit the meetings to express their views. Minutes from our meetings are posted on the website.
**Student - Administration communication**

An overwhelming majority of students see the Assembly’s primary role as being an advocate for students or link between students and the administration. We agree, and while we have been serving this role actively in recent years, it’s obvious we haven’t done the best job at informing other students about our work. The Town Hall meetings are specifically to address this problem. Several Deans and key faculty and staff have agreed to participate in the meetings, so students can speak directly to the powers-that-be. The Assembly will also be soliciting more feedback from students serving on school-wide committees, so that we can then communicate back to students what activities the committees are engaged in and how the student perspective has been received. Also, on his own initiative, Dean Michael Ward (Associate Dean for Student Affairs), has offered to set up some office hours during the year. The office hours will be held in the new Student Assembly conference room, E3007, and we’ll send out notice when the times are set.

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**Networking / collaborations**

**With other campuses**

Student Assembly will be hosting a informal lunch with the student governments of other campuses (nursing, medical, Peabody & Homewood), to discuss possible social and networking events between the campuses. All campuses were notified of our Hurricane Relief event, and when possible we will invite students from other campuses for social events. We will also likely collaborate with the Medical and Nursing school this year for the tri-school Halloween Party.

**With faculty / staff / alumni**

We’ve heard you - you want more quality time with faculty and alumni. This is difficult, as you all know how faculty schedules are. Ways that we are working on this right now:

- Faculty and staff are receiving special invitations to attend the school-wide social events Assembly holds. The events are also being planned at venues that can hold more people, and that are more amenable to faculty (ie no cruise this year - a lot of people don’t actually like being stuck on a boat all night)
- Possibly creating a liaison position within the Assembly to the Alumni association. We are building ties to the Alumni office, and they have already voiced a willingness to discuss additional networking events (in addition to the one already planned for October 22nd - that notice will go out in the upcoming weeks).

Ideas or suggestions are of course welcome, assembly@jhsph.edu

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**Discussion blogs**

There have been several ideas brought up for starting blogs on the Student Assembly website. The two big ones are a blog that would function like the sph-chat list-serv (for postings about items for sale, individually-organized weekend get-aways, language conversation groups, etc), and a blog for student groups to talk about upcoming events or solicit collaborators among other groups.

Technicalities are still being resolved, but let us know if you have more ideas for student blogs on campus. assembly@jhsph.edu
Event planning system

Yes, yes, we know. Planning events as students on campus is confusing, time-consuming, and often downright frustrating. Just about every student group that regularly hosts events has run into problems with the current system. Your concerns have been heard, and the Student Assembly, Student Affairs and Support Services are working on fixing the problem.

Several meetings are occurring the week that this report was written, so the timing is off to be able to say exactly what the changes will be. We'll get word out to the student groups soon, and in the meantime please feel free to tell us what you'd like to see with the new system by e-mailing assembly@jhsph.edu.

By-laws amendments

The Student Assembly by-laws are being revised. Changes that will be proposed include a change to the elections structure so that more members-at-large are elected in the spring and summer (actually that will be a proposed change to the Constitution as well), the establishment of 'liaisons' within the Assembly to the Alumni Association, the University Health System offices, and the APHA Student Assembly, and revisions to the funding and reimbursement guidelines. Anyone interested in learning more or having a say in the process should e-mail assembly@jhsph.edu.

Special events

Fall Festival / Halloween

Our VP Social & Cultural Affairs, Lance, has been working on making a Fall Festival possible for students. This would include a trip to a Maryland farm, complete with hay-rides, a pumpkin patch, and maybe even a barn dance. Scheduling is a problem, though. Let us know if you think you'd be interested in such an event if it had to occur on a Sunday (it would be during the afternoon / early evening), assembly@jhsph.edu. Halloween party options are still being decided, as well.

Later events

The Winter Gala has been scheduled for February 18th, but the venue has yet to be determined. The End of Year Party has been moved from the cruise of previous years to be a land party. This year it will be at the gorgeous new American Visionary Arts Museum space.

If you're interested in being involved in any of the above events, e-mail sasocial@jhsph.edu to join the committee (or, if you really want to get involved, run in the election and be the new co-VP of Social & Cultural Affairs!)

Funding

Student group funding

Along with the new event planning system, we're working on stream-lining the funding process for student groups seeking Student Assembly funding even more. We've got a new form almost ready to go, that has our by-laws coded right into the form, so no more having to run to find the Student Group Guide or the Assembly by-laws. Unfortunately, student groups will still not be able to request last-minute funds just days before their events. Why? Because the members of the Student Assembly are students like you, and we can't promise we won't have exams or homework or trips out of town on those few days. Please don't expect us to drop everything for your group funding - we volunteer to do this work, and it is
always a lot to do even without having to accommodate groups that run last-minute. We also cannot fund events that have already happened, so don’t spend money your group doesn’t have and expect to get it back from Student Assembly. Plan ahead, be responsible, and we promise we’ll do everything we can to make the process as problem-free as possible.

Student Assembly budget

We’ve pretty much finalized our budget for the year, pending a final vote. The Student Assembly budget consists of funds provided by the School for student activities. Any interested student can be involved in budget activities or get information about the budget from the Treasurer at satreas@jhsph.edu.

Student group resources

As always, we work to increase resources for our student groups. Needs that we are aware of and will look into include color printing capacity, availability of postage/fed-ex resources for planning events with speakers, availability of last-minutes supplies (extra spoons, forks, napkins, etc), help with website creation/maintenance, and help with the drafting of group constitutions. Have more for us? E-mail sastdgrp@jhsph.edu.

Community relations

Our community relations committee works together with the SOURCE offices on programs and activities that get students involved in the community. Lainie Rutkow has taken the lead as the Interim Chair of the committee (permanent chairs are elected at the retreat on October 8th). If you would like to get involved, contact assembly@jhsph.edu and we’ll pass word along to Lainie.

IV. What are we missing? Request for feedback.

Yes, so we’ve actually requested your feedback about three dozen times already in this report, but we might as well do it one more time. We can’t know what you’d like done unless we hear from you! Town Halls are only once a quarter - but we’d like to hear from you more often than that. Let us know what problems you’ve seen, what ideas you have for the school, or what you’d like to see the Student Assembly address. Contact the assembly at assembly@jhsph.edu, or drop by the office at E3009 (we can’t promise someone will always be around, but there’s a pretty good chance someone will be).

SA President Amy Boore will be holding office hours Mondays from 1-2pm in E3007, so you can stop by with any questions or comments. Dean Michael Ward will be offering office hours soon, so you can take your questions, comments or concerns directly to the Assoc. Dean for Student Affairs. We’ll e-mail out the times for these office hours soon.

Our goal is to improve student life and make the Student Assembly a resource for the school. Let us know how we are doing, and how we can improve!