JHSPH Student Assembly
Quarterly Report

November 29th, 2005

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Future quarterly reports will coincide with Town Hall meetings:

February 28th
April 25th

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

Who we are

Executive Board

President
Amy Boore

VP Communications
Devaki Nambiar

VP’s Social & Cultural Affairs
Lance Price

VP Student Groups
Lilian Ghandour

Treasurer
Cynthia Jones

MPH Officer
Alicen Spaulding

Ex Officio
Srinivas Sridhara

General Board – Members at Large

Liz Agbor-Tabi
Joachim Bleys
Nowreen Haq
Sara Hogan
Chih-Kuei Lee
Cindy Liu

Wadih Maalouf
Cynthia McOliver
Amy Peterson
Hsien Seow
Arpi Terzian
Jenny Truong

General Board – Departmental Representatives

Biochemistry
Matt Marcello
Snaebjorn Gunnsteinsson
Julie Richman
Keri Althoff
Danielle German

Biostatics

EHS

Epidemiology

HPM

IH

Mental Health

MMI

PFHS

Lainie Rutkow
Natalia Petroni
Anne Sawyer
Allison Brown
NaHyun Cho
Upcoming Events

**General SA Meetings**
Tuesday, December 6th, 12:15-1:20pm E6519  
Tuesday, February 7th, 12:15-1:20pm E6519  
Tuesday, March 7th, 12:15-1:20pm E6519  
Tuesday, April 4th, 12:15-1:20pm E9519  
Tuesday, May 2nd, 12:15-1:20pm E9519

**Town Hall Meetings**
Tuesday, February 28th, 12:15-1:20pm Feinstone Hall  
Tuesday, April 25th, 12:15-1:20pm Feinstone Hall

**Social Events**
Winter Gala – B&O Railroad Museum, February 18th  
Spring Tonic – Wolfe St. Bldg, March 31st  
End of Year Party – American Visionary Arts Museum, May 19th

Office Hours

Dean Mike Ward (Assoc. Dean for Student Affairs)  
December 9th, January 13th, February 10th, March 10th, April 14th, May 5th  
2-4pm in room E3007 (directly across from Sommer Hall on the 3rd floor)

Amy Boore (President, Student Assembly)  
Mondays, 1-2pm, E3007

Other Assembly officers by appointment  
(check the special events calendar for dates – www.jhsphec.edu/assembly)

II. Updates

Some recent changes and activities that might be of interest…

Communications / advertising

As far as we can tell, student-l and activities-l are finally fixed. Many thanks to those of you who replied to our incessant questions about whether or not you were getting the messages yet.

In response to complaints about an overload of messages on student-l, the following guidelines were drafted and are being disseminated to faculty, staff, and students:
**Student list-serv guidelines**

### Student-l:
The stuff students *have* to know

**Includes:**
- Business office, student affairs, career center, other school information on courses, garage closings, etc.
- Messages from the Dean or notices that must go to all persons at the school
- Occasional messages about new groups or other notices thought to be of broad interest and important for all students to hear

**Does not include:**
- Student group events or even Student Assembly events other than the huge school-wide ones (welcome party, gala, tonic, etc).
- Any event that is already on the public affairs calendar. The exceptions are things like Rx for Survival, which are huge campus-wide things that are heavily promoted and endorsed by the school (despite being ‘activities’ I would argue that things like Rx for survival are OK for student-l because some activities are just huge in the school and are the center of attention. All students should know what the school as a whole is focusing on when things like this come up).

**Of note:**
- Almost nothing should ever go out over student-l more than once. The whole point of the list-serv is that it is for really important stuff that people should read.
- Students are not allowed to unsubscribe from this list-serv. That means that messages on it should be of interest even to students currently studying in China or Spain or wherever.
- The purpose of student-l is not to inform students of events that they might like to attend. It is to inform students of critical information about the school that they have to know. Ask yourself, ‘is this something students would *like* to know about, or is this something students *have* to know about’. If it is the latter, then fine. Otherwise – activities-l.

### Activities-l:
The stuff students *want* to know

**Includes:**
- Student assembly events that are smaller than our gigantic school-wide events
- All student group events, seminars, notices, etc.
- Grand rounds notices, seminar notices, and other stuff that is already on the public affairs calendar but that someone feels like advertising again for some reason.
- Events from other campuses that are sent to us from those campuses with the intention of inviting JHSPH students

**Does not include:**
- Stuff for sale, rent, etc.
- Students organizing study groups, etc.

**Of note:**
- Nothing should ever be cross-posted on both activities-l and student-l. There’s no reason for it. 100% of students get student-l, so if it’s important enough for that list then you’ve just reached everyone.
- The same event should not be posted every day for a week. Once a week plus the day before or day of as a reminder is plenty.

### Sph-chat:
everything else.
Event planning system

There is a new event approval form on-line that all student groups planning special events in the Wolfe St. or Hampton House buildings should use. Go to www.jhsph.edu/student_affairs, and click on ‘Event Approval’. Fill out the web-based form and click ‘submit’. Your form will go to Dean Ward for approval, and will be forwarded on to scheduling and the special events teams. You should NOT have to contact scheduling (for reserving rooms) on your own unless specifically asked to do so, as this is now part of the event approval process.

Tri-School networking

The Assembly recently hosted a Tri-School “Leadership Lunch” with representatives from the School of Nursing Student Government Association (SGA) and Graduate Student Association (GSA), and the School of Medicine Graduate Student Organization (GSO) and Medical Student Society (MSS). The goal was to come up with ideas for events that could include students from all three schools, to increase our contact with other students. Fun, non-alcoholic events were proposed, including bowling, karaoke, skiing, museum-hopping, and more. The full notes from the event are available at www.jhsph.edu/assembly.

All involved organizations are currently working out ways to better advertise events between the campus. If you have ideas, contact assembly@jhsph.edu. Also, ideas for locations for tri-school events (on or off campus) are appreciated – as finding space big enough is currently a hindrance to hosting many tri-school events.

III. Quick summary of issues raised during the 1st Town Hall (Sept 20th, 2005)

- SES Diversity in student body – need based (vs. merit based) scholarships
- E. Baltimore community and the poor relationship of Hopkins with the community
- Hampton House – not adequate space for students to work together
- Large class sizes – not enough room in classrooms.
- Need of MPH students to increase relationships with faculty / mentoring
- Desire to have event to encapsulate the school’s involvement in recent disaster relief efforts
- Need for staplers in the computer labs
- Observation that schools of public health have disease focus rather than health/prevention
- Faculty dedication to teaching at SPH high compared to elsewhere
- School has links to health sectors – but economic determinants of health also important
- Global health vs. Int’l health – Decision not to change Int’l health dept to ‘Global health dept’
- Need for increased opportunities for practical application of public health skills
- Need for school to form relationships with community organizations

For the full minutes or to hear an audio recording of the first Town Hall (with Dean Klag), go to www.jhsph.edu/assembly and click on ‘About SA’.
**IV. 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 by Committee

#### Academic Issues

**Co-Chairs Liz Agbor-Tabi & Srinivas Sridhara saacad@jhsph.edu**

- **SES diversity at the school.** The issues of financial aid for students will be explored, as well as the issue of minority recruitment/enrollment for both students and faculty.

- **Subsidized tutoring program.** The first goal is to develop a program to offer much cheaper (or free) tutoring for basic Epi and biostats. This project will be long-term and, if successful, may be able to grow to include other subjects in the future.

- **Mentoring/networking opportunities.** In response to the voiced concern of students that mentoring and networking are desired but hard to come by, possible mentoring programs involving alumni will be explored.

- **Academic Ethics promotion.** The academic ethics code is reviewed at orientation but is then not brought up again during the year. The plan is to change that, by providing information about academic ethics and the recent changes to the academic ethics code at mid-year.

Check out the Academic Issues committee webpage at www.jhsph.edu/assembly/ai_committee for more information or if you’d like to get involved.

#### Alumni Association Liaison

**Sara Hogan shogan@jhsph.edu**

- **Networking event.** The alumni office has offered to sponsor a networking event for students with JHSPH alumni. We will be brainstorming ideas for a fun and productive networking opportunity to be held during 3rd or 4th term.

E-mail Sara if you’d like to be involved in the planning or organization of this event.

#### APHA-SA Liaisons

**Cindy Liu, cmliu@jhsph.edu, and Jenny Truong, jtruong@jhsph.edu**

- **Information exchange between schools.** The American Public Health Association’s Student Assembly has a Student Liaisons program that works to reach out to all schools of public health in the US. Each school’s liaisons participate in conference calls and are on an e-mail list-serv with liaisons from all other schools. Job opportunities, Public Health Week activities, notices of conferences, and other information can be shared with other schools of public health through the liaison network.

Contact Cindy or Jenny if you have questions or notices you would like to share with other schools.

#### Biased Observer

**Adam Naj (anaj@jshph.edu), Editor and Devaki Nambiar, assembly@jhsph.edu, Chair**

- **Issue Zero.** The first issue is currently underway and in need of writers. Examples of articles you may see in this or upcoming issues include: the ‘Rebirth’ of HBS; overview of upcoming
student events; the School’s Green policies; CLF film series feature review; Editorials and op-eds; and more…)  

➢ Recruiting writers & editors. Editors needed to think of article ideas, give leads on existing ideas, clarify how to research the background for each article, and do final editing on any submitted writing. Writers needed to take story ideas, research them, and submit written articles.

Contact Adam or Devaki if you’d like to get involved or if you have an article or an idea for an article to contribute.

Community Relations

Lainie Rutkow, hrutkow@jhsph.edu

➢ Co-sponsorships. Upcoming co-sponsored events include the panel discussion, “In our own backyard: demolition, relocation, and urban renewal”; SOURCE’s December toy drive; the spring Baltimore Community Talent Show, and SOURCE’s spring Tri-School day of service.

➢ Silent auction. Ideas are being discussed to hold a silent auction at the Winter Gala, with proceeds benefiting a local community organization.

➢ Habitat for Humanity spring break project.

Contact Lainie if you’d like to get involved or have ideas for community projects.

Finance & Appropriations

Cynthia Jones, satreas@jhsph.edu

➢ New funding forms. There are new electronic versions of the application for funding and the budget action form, available at www.jhsph.edu/assembly (click on funding). The new application for funding is coded with the Assembly by-laws, so you can tell immediately if your request will require a vote (any requested amount over the by-laws requires an Assembly vote). This new form will hopefully make your life easier if your group will be requesting funding. Please do plan ahead, though – even though the F&A committee is generally very quick, all of the problems groups have been having this year have come from last minute event planning.

➢ Silent auction. The silent auction is being revived after disappearing last year. More than just being a fund-raising event, the auction allows for more student-faculty interaction on a social level. Ideas for where the proceeds should go are still being discussed.

Contact Cynthia if you have any questions about funding or would like to get involved.

Health Insurance Liaison

Anne Sawyer, asawyer2@jhsph.edu

➢ Mental Health Parity. The Student Health Representatives group have been exploring alternatives to the current student health plan. One notable option is the Chickering Group. This issue is moving forward and will go before the Deans for Student Network meeting next week.

Contact Anne if you are interested in working on this issue. Also, information on what health care plans at other institutions you have attended offered – particularly with regards to mental health coverage – would be very helpful.
**Quality of Life**

_Alicen Spaulding, samph@jhsph.edu_

- **Open office hours.** Open hours were held to solicit student input recently. The next task will be to prioritize issues and get feedback from more students (change usually only happens when many students are complaining about the same issues)
- **Textbook sales.** A system for students to buy and sell used textbooks will be explored.
- **Tax-time help.** Many students are at a loss about filing taxes, particularly international students. A program to help students with their taxes will be looked into.

Contact Alicen if you would like to participate or have quality of life issues that you would like the committee to address.

**Social & Cultural Affairs**

_Monica Li and Lance Price, sasocial@jhsph.edu_

- **Karaoke event.** Still in the early planning stages, but a fun karaoke night on campus is being explored – possibly as a tri-school event with SON & SOM students invited.
- **Winter Gala.** This year will be at the B&O Railroad museum. The featured band will be the Brakemen, and catering is still in the works. Ideas are in the works to expand the event, possibly to also include an auction or other fun fund-raising activity (such as having card tables) to benefit charity.
- **Tri-School happy hours.** So far a huge hit, as SON & SOM students turn out to mingle with JHSPH students over cheap food and drinks.

Contact Monica or Lance if you’d like to help plan an event, or if you have an idea for a new event that you’d like to see the Assembly sponsor.

**Student groups**

_Lilian Ghandour, sastdgrp@jhsph.edu_

- **E-mail changes.** All student group e-mail accounts were recently changed so that they can no longer be accessed directly. Students must now log onto the student group account by first logging into their own personal account and then accessing the group account. This was done at the demand of our IT dept for security reasons.
- **Student group room.** Student groups have begun to access the new resource room available on the 3rd floor – E3011. Request forms to gain access to this room for your group can be obtained from Lilian.

Contact Lilian if you have any questions or concerns, or have suggestions for the committee.
**IV. What are we missing? Request for feedback.**

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).

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!

Don’t forget to check out the

**Student Activities Calendar**

One central place to find out what student activities are happening on campus! www.jhsph.edu/assembly - click on ‘Event Calendar’

Make sure your event is included by e-mailing Assembly@jhsph.edu with the details of the event!