

To the University Park Undergraduate Association Judicial Board;

I am writing to this board as a concerned student and former member of this organization. The information presented in this letter demonstrates what I believe to be wrongdoing, harassment and retaliation (which is misconduct of the Student Code) and a violation of the bylaws and constitution of the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA).

As most of you know, I ran for Student Body President last year alongside [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] For clarity, I want to ensure the entire board is aware that I am not pursuing these allegations because I am looking for revenge from the election -- it was one of the greatest learning experiences and times of my life. However, I feel as though it is my duty as a past member of this organization and active member of the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS), that I do not let the next generation of student leaders be slighted in the same ways I have been.

Due to the content in this letter, I request that it not be shared with members of the UPUA Executive Board or Assembly. Writing this, and being forced to constantly relive the events explained below, has not been pleasant for me. It is solely due to my deep care for this organization and its potential to truly represent Penn State students, that I am presenting this information. If members of the Executive Board are to read or receive knowledge of this letter's existence before a formal conversation occurs between all relevant parties, I truly believe the ongoing matters will only worsen.

All attempts at making this organization more democratic, transparent, or honest, have failed in the past. I believe this is partially due to the absence of Judicial Board involvement in the organization, the other two branches have gotten completely out of hand. The information presented in this letter will not be substantial enough to require any immediate action or repercussions, although I believe they should help the board make a decision about moving forward and opening an investigation to uncover more evidence.

Due to the nature of this information, there is not any concrete evidence to be given, but dots can be connected. I think that what you are all doing, and have the potential to do, will truly change this organization for the better, and ensure that the next generation of Penn Staters are represented in the right interests.

I have provided Chief Justice Ebbs with information about the Judicial Board proceedings/bylaws at our peer Big Ten institutions. If anyone is interested in seeing what they do, do not hesitate to ask.

If there is anything else I can do to provide aid to the Judicial Board throughout the Spring Semester, please let me know

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Relevant Parts of the Student Code of Conduct, UPUA Bylaws and Constitution

Since UPUA has its own justice system, the Office of Student Conduct at Penn State, has been hesitant to intervene regarding the following information. On October 9th, I contacted Danny Shaha, the Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Rights and Responsibilities, about the situation. I have since sent him a long explanation of the situation on October 23rd, and an additional follow-up on November 14th, to which the only reply I have received was a request for student names of those who have been mistreated internally within the organization. Our email communication can be found in Appendix A.

It should be noted that Danny Shaha reached out to a few members of the Assembly. I do not have access to a complete list of those who were asked, but am aware [REDACTED] were. At these meetings, Danny questioned whether or not these students felt as though they were harassed by the leadership of UPUA. I am not sure if these members of the organization would be willing to speak about their conversation with Danny, as I do not have any more information, but I would suggest the Judicial Board attempt to find out more.

The below is taken directly from Section IV of the Student Code of Conduct~

3. HARASSMENT: Engaging in behavior that is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to threaten an individual or substantially interfere with the individual's employment, education or access to University programs, activities or opportunities, and such behavior would detrimentally affect a reasonable person under the same circumstances. (Also see policy AD-91.)

17. RETALIATION: Taking adverse action against any individual on the basis of a good faith report made by such individual, or on the basis of such individual's participation in an investigation, hearing, or inquiry by the University or an appropriate authority, or the individual's participation in a court proceeding relating to suspected wrongful conduct. (Also see policy AD-67.)

Although the Student Code of Conduct specifies in *Section III: Authority*, that the Senior Director of the Office of Student Conduct (currently Interim Karen Feldbaum) is responsible for carrying out and reviewing all cases of conduct, their lack of response to my multiple attempts of reaching out, has caused me to submit this information to you in hopes that action will be taken to correct the wrongs that have been done by current UPUA Executive Board members. In Section §7.1.2 of the UPUA Constitution, which is copied below for your convenience, power is given to the Judicial Board to conduct hearings regarding student organization conduct.

As you read the information provided in this document, please keep in mind that the above descriptions of harassment and retaliation display what the university considers to be unacceptable conduct from students.

The below is taken directly from the UPUA Constitution:

§2.1 The mission of the University Park Undergraduate Association shall be to provide:

§2.1.1 A governing body for the undergraduate student population as legitimized by free and fair elections.

§7.1.2 The Judicial Board shall have the power to:

cl. i Conduct select Hearings related to disputed matters within the UPUA, specifically pertaining to election disputes, disciplinary actions, disputes concerning the interpretation of this Constitution, and Hearings related to student organizational conduct.

§10.4 Appointment Process:

§10.4.1 In cases where Representative Seats become vacant after the departure of a Seat holder for the Academic Year in question or was never filled, and only in such cases, Representatives shall be appointed with the following constraints:

cl. i Academic Unit Representatives being appointed by their respective Academic Unit Student Councils.

§13.2 The Advisor(s) shall be a Faculty, Staff, or an Administrator of the University and shall be nominated by the President and consented to by the Assembly.

The below is taken directly from the UPUA Bylaws:

§6.9 Vacancies.

§6.9.1 A seat is considered to be vacant after a Representative has tendered his/her resignation or has been expelled and is no longer a voting member of Assembly. Additionally, a seat is vacant if no member has been sworn in.

§6.9.2 Within five (5) academic days of the effective date of the resignation, expulsion or absence, the Speaker of the Assembly shall notify the Assembly or the appropriate student organization as defined in the Constitution in order to fill the vacancy via email.

cl. i If the vacancy is within the Assembly's jurisdiction to fill, the seat(s) shall be publically advertised for a minimum of one (1) academic week.

cl. ii In the case of Academic College representatives, according to the UPUA Constitution and the Academic Affairs Committee Bylaws, the respective Academic College Student Council shall have ten (10) academic days to

nominate a new representative from that College to the Assembly. If that Council does not nominate a student the Speaker of the Assembly shall solicit nominations for that position as defined in §6.9.2 of the Assembly Bylaws. The nominated candidate(s) will be screened by the Steering Committee, per §6.9.4.

§6.9.3 The Speaker will collect the applications for the vacancy. The Speaker shall check that the applicant(s) meets all requirements set forth in the UPUA Constitution and the current elections code. If an applicant(s) does not meet all criteria they shall be rejected.

§6.9.4 The Steering Committee will be required to recommend to the General Assembly, one individual to fill each vacant Assembly seat, after a thorough screening and interview process.

cl i The screening process shall be based solely upon the merit of the respective candidate's application for membership, resume, and short-answer responses.

cl ii The Committee must interview at least half (50% of the total) of all applicants, or 5 total applicants, whichever number is greater.

pt. a In the event that fewer than 5 candidates have applied, the Steering Committee must interview each applicant.

The Order of Events:

Shortly after elections ended March 30, I reached out to both Katie Jordan and Alex Shockley, in an attempt to sit down and ensure there were not going to be repercussions from [REDACTED] and I's attempt to run for president and vice president against them. At this point in time, there was going to be an open representative position in the General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as "Assembly") for a student from the Eberly College of Science (hereinafter referred to as "Eberly"). No student had attempted to run for this position in the regular election season, and before I approached the Eberly Student Council about retaining the position, I thought that I should be considerate and give them the warning that I was interested in coming back. It was at this time that they informed me they would not like for me to come back into the organization, for fear that I would "cause an uprising and unpleasant feelings amongst members of the assembly." Although I am very well aware it is not the decision of the President and Vice President to pick representatives for the Assembly, I thought it would be best for me to step away from the organization and let Katie and Alex gain footing in their new leadership positions.

It should be noted that for both the 10th and 11th UPUA Assemblies, I served as the Eberly Representative. During the 10th Assembly, I was elected to the position of ABTS Liaison and during the 11th, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. The time I spent in this organization was not brief, and the work that I did while apart of it has been recognized by many campus administrators. After the Undergraduate Dean of the Eberly College of Science, [REDACTED] read about this situation, she immediately reached out to me for a meeting. She expressed extreme discontent with what had occurred, because usually Academic Representative positions with UPUA are also given the student senator seat for their college. [REDACTED] has been a member of Faculty Senate for multiple years, and we have worked on several committees together. She was disappointed with the way this seat was chosen, more specifically because it put someone in the student senator position that had no experience with Faculty Senate, after I was the lead student for the previous year.

After I was informed by many current members of the UPUA Assembly that the Eberly representative seat would be opening on September 6th due to [REDACTED] resignation, I thought long and hard about whether or not I should apply. On September 9, I coincidentally ran into Katie Jordan at President Barron's tailgate for the Pitt vs. Penn State football game. At this time, I asked for her opinion on applying for the position. She responded saying I should, "go for it." According to the UPUA Bylaws, if a student council is unable to find a replacement for an open position after one week, the responsibility falls to members of the Steering Committee.

I hesitantly submitted my application for the position on the initial due date, September 13. Attached as Appendix B, is my application for the position. On this application, it is clearly stated that anyone applying should make themselves available for an interview on September 17. That Sunday had come and gone and I never received an email from the leadership of UPUA informing me about an interview time or lack thereof. It was then that I reached out to a member

of Steering, [REDACTED], to inquire further about any information he may have about the interviews. Due to a family emergency, [REDACTED] was out of town and not present at the Steering meeting that Sunday. He informed me that he was not aware of who had applied for the position, and would reach out to Speaker of the Assembly, Brent Rice, for more information.

It should be noted that the rest of this letter will contain various interactions with members of the UPUA. As this occurred quite a while ago, not all contents of the conversations can be remembered perfectly. Because of this, I can not recall which people I asked the following question. The question being, "Were all members of Steering aware of the applicants and the number of applicants?" to which I was told, "yes." I am not sure which members of Steering were informed that I had applied, but not all of them were. Being that [REDACTED] was not present, he was not aware, and I was later informed that [REDACTED] had not known about the identity of applicant(s) before Steering decided to "extend the deadline."

Later that evening, I sent an email to Barry Bram, the UPUA advisor, regarding the many concerns I had for the current state of the organization. This email can be found in Appendix C.

On the morning of Monday, September 19th, I was approached by Katie Jordan in the HUB. During this conversation she told me that the Steering Committee had decided to extend the deadline for Eberly applications because they felt my return would "cause an uprising" in the organization. I questioned Steering's argument for this as weeks before, my running mate in the 2017 election, Jorge Zurita-Coronado, had been selected to serve on the Executive Board by the very same people that were now opposing me (this will be brought up again in the Secret Society section). Oddly enough, she also mentioned something that I had sent the night before in an email to Barry regarding Greek Life involvement in UPUA Elections. This suggests that any and all trust that should exist between students and the advisor to this organization, does not. Advisors are supposed to act as trusted confidants for students, whom you may go to with concerns, but this has not been the case thus far.

At 1:06 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2017, I received the following email from Brent Rice:

Hi [REDACTED],

I spoke to [REDACTED] this morning and he mentioned that you were inquiring about the Eberly College of Science Representative position. No applicants have been invited to interview as of yet, as Steering has voted to extend the deadline. The UPUA By-Laws state that applications must be kept open a minimum of one (1) academic week but do not set a definitive closing for the application period. If selected, I expect you will be invited to interview in accordance with the process outlined in UPUA's governing documents. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,
Brent

A member of the Assembly, [REDACTED] was extremely concerned with the way that events had been proceeding with the filling of this position. Because of this, I shared the contents of this email with him. He had been in contact with Speaker Rice this same day, because I had not been notified about the position. I do not have specifics about what their conversation consisted of, although I am sure that he would provide you with that information.

Later that same day, I attended a Search Committee meeting that Brent Rice, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were also present for.

To be noted: As someone who had previously been involved in Faculty Senate, Vice Provost Rob Pangborn reached out to me inquiring about names of other students who should be present for the search committee. That is when I recommended the names of UPUA Leadership: Alex Shockley, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

At the conclusion of that meeting, I was confronted by Brent Rice regarding my application for the position. He scolded for me sharing the contents of the email with [REDACTED], a member of the UPUA Assembly, although I do not understand what the reason for this was. It was during this conversation that I was basically told by Speaker Rice that I should rescind my application. He told me that Steering had extended the application period, and explained the reason as, "wanting to get more applications." During this conversation I questioned whether or not members of Steering were aware that I was the lone application, to which he said that he couldn't discuss the number of applicants with me, but that Steering was aware.

I questioned whether or not Speaker Rice was aware of what Steering's responsibility is regarding the selection of vacancies for Academic Representative positions. It is clearly defined in the bylaws that Steering shall pick a student based solely on qualifications, resume, and short answer questions. This person then proceeds to the Assembly to be confirmed. Brent indicated at this time that I was not the most qualified candidate, saying it was extremely likely someone may have applied who was younger and more enthusiastic about the position that I was. Additionally, he said if I had actually cared about Penn State and helping the student body, I would have joined their "ticket" (in reference to Jordan Shockley) instead of running for President against them.

Tuesday night, Alex Shockley called me. It was on this call that he told me if I came in to the meeting the next night and spoke out publicly about the Eberly position and what was going on behind closed doors, I would ruin the future of the organization. He said it would expose the newly inducted freshman to chaos and cause them to think the organization was full of drama. Because of this conversation, I did not attend the meeting on Wednesday, Sept 21 and speak out about what had happened the days prior.

On Wednesday, I scheduled a meeting with Chief Justice Reilly Ebbs before the assembly meeting. I felt as though it was only right to inform her of what had occurred.

The following weekend I had been given the pleasure of interviewing with Steering on Sunday, Sept 24. Although it should be noted that a member of Steering was missing, [REDACTED], and people were in the room who are not members of Steering. These individuals included: Katie Jordan, Alex Shockley, Jennifer Heckman, Lexi Skimkonis and Bhavin Shah. I made it extremely clear in my interview that my intentions behind applying for this position was solely because of my love for the organization, and because I wanted to complete initiatives that I had begun and not finished.

Directly before my interview, I ran into an old friend of mine, [REDACTED] in the hallway. In the middle of our conversation it became clear that we were both interviewing for the Eberly position. When I asked [REDACTED] about how he found out about this position -- as I knew it was not published very well -- he informed me that Brent had posted about it in their THON 2017 Finance Captain group chat.

Being in this organization for a number of years, it is not abnormal for members of the Steering Committee to reach out to friends to fill open positions. It is also a common occurrence--and one that will be presented multiple times in the remainder of this paper-- that people who endorsed the [REDACTED] ticket are treated unfairly by the Executive Board while positions are filled solely by friends of the Executive Board or those who endorsed the Jordan Shockley ticket.

It was the next day that I received the following email from Brent Rice:

Good Morning,
I wanted to first thank you for taking the time to interview with the Steering Committee for the Eberly College of Science Representative position. There were several qualified applicants interested in pursuing the betterment of student life here at Penn State.
With that said, the Steering Committee has opted to pursue another candidate for the position. I thank you for your interest and would be happy to answer any questions if you have them.
Best,
Brent

At the next scheduled UPUA Assembly meeting, I came in to speak at Open Student Forum regarding what had been going on. In Appendix D a copy of my speech is copied, and you can listen to it [REDACTED]

Mentioned in this speech were multiple other wrongdoings by the Steering Committee and Executive Board. Included on the application I turned in for the Eberly position was an initiative idea regarding First Generation students. Directly after I turned in my application, this exact initiative was brought into the Student Life committee. I had also mentioned that the UPUA had been completely absent from all Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) activities, conferences, and advocacy campaigns. ABTS is a coalition of the 14 Big Ten universities' student governments that collaborate on initiatives and advocate on behalf of the undergraduate

students to the federal governments. For the second year, I am the Executive Director of this organization.

Wrong-doing to others:

Not only have I faced retaliation for my decision to run a campaign against the established ticket, so have multiple members of my campaign team. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and many others, who were all previously part of the UPUA organization, were not only denied the opportunity to be on the Executive Board when they applied, but were completely ignored. Not a single form of communication was made to these students about an interview or the lack thereof.

If they actually wanted what was best for the Penn State student body, they wouldn't have ignored my application and attempt to rejoin the organization. This was something that I had conveyed to Brent, Katie and Alex during our conversations.

Throughout this entire Semester, [REDACTED], the previous Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee, and the only Steering member that was endorsed with the [REDACTED] ticket, had a rocky relationship with the leadership of the UPUA. Although I do not have much information, I am sure that [REDACTED] would be willing to do provide more. From many other members of the organization, I was informed there were instances during which Executive Board members would reach out to him and tell him that he had to be at certain places, skipping class to do so, and that he was doing a terrible job in his position.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Secret Societies and Greek Life

[*If you are unfamiliar with these organizations at PSU, this article here is a good way to start.*](#)

[*And this one.*](#)

At the beginning of February 2017, just a few weeks before the Spring 2017 UPUA election season began, the bi-annual induction ceremony had occurred for the two largest Secret Societies on our campus, Skull and Bones and Parmi Nous. [REDACTED]

For the past six years (9th - 12th Assemblies), the UPUA President has been a member of Skull and Bones. In Appendix E the clear associations between the past 4 UPUA Executive Boards can be found.

History in the Media:

Throughout Penn State's history, there have been documented instances of the three Secret Societies influencing university and student Policy unfairly at University Park. The following information presents some, but not all, of these events (there has basically been no mention of them in our school's newspapers since the early 2000s)

In 1960, a student got hold of information that Lion's Paw was repeatedly influencing student government. With this knowledge, the student created a pamphlet with "minutes" from a Lion's Paw meeting in the 1950s that very clearly showed the fixing of elections¹.

In the late 1980s, it had become known throughout the university that these groups were "allegedly influencing University administrative and student policy behind closed doors²."

A series of articles were published by The Daily Collegian in 1986, exploring the existence of societies at Penn State. In the article titled, "Secret Societies Thrive Out of Limelight," former members of societies spoke out about how the organizations had changed over the decade. Not only did the societies sink deeper into the shadows as they attempted to become less public, they also increasingly traded information about University issues behind closed doors³. Additionally, it was mentioned that the entire point of existence for the Lion's Paw society is, "discussing campus problems and ways to solve them⁴."

¹ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_b367060c-2ca4-5118-85d6-033dc6e14cc4.html

² http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_606f7bb6-deb6-5c25-8039-580aa0edf599.html

³ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_b61e0d5a-3960-5f39-bac5-72ce76da1832.html

⁴ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_442a6a38-03d9-5c1d-b420-43cb8231c52a.html

From 1997 to 2004, there was absolutely no mention of Lions Paw in the Collegian. Suddenly though, in February 2004, Kris Ankarlo, a former member of Parmi Nous and Lions Paw, wrote a detailed article about his experience as a member of these societies (he was also the Vice President of USG). It is in this article that he expresses his belief that members of newspaper organizations should not belong to secret societies. Interesting enough, he does deny the claim that they “undermine the student agenda or its rightfully elected leaders.”⁵ And I will explain why I think this may be a belief held by many, and how I think it is untrue.

Like most large organizations on campus, factions are likely to occur within the secret societies. Although these organizations might not spend time at their official weekly meetings discussing what their involvement is going to be like in the student government election, this does not rule out the chance that conversations surrounding this topic occur. There are many things that happen within organizations that not all members are aware of -- it is also important to consider that this may be a conversation kept within organization leadership.

At one point in time, it was actually considered by many to be inappropriate to support any member of a Secret Society running for a position in the undergraduate student governments.⁶ In 2011, the then-Student Body President Christian Ragland stated, “the secrecy is not always a good thing — it’s almost like the university is ruled by the one percent of people who are in societies.”⁷

Historic List of UPUA Leadership in Secret Societies:

Skull and Bones

4th Assembly:

- Gavin Keirans, President
- Samantha Miller, Director of Assembly Services, founder of the “S-Book” (*SB, Skull and Bones*)

6th Assembly:

- TJ Bard, President

7th Assembly

- Courtney Lennartz, President
- Jessica Pellicota, Chair of the Assembly (Speaker)

8th Assembly

- Katelyn Mullen, President
- Brenden Dooley, Vice President
- Kevin Horne, At-Large Representative

⁵ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_336428c2-35db-5536-a84b-34562bf42541.html

⁶ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_85c17fcc-13ca-5b45-a6a3-7a30e18acfc6.html

⁷ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_593114bc-dd40-5fe1-aa3e-34d3f2e4254d.html

- Anthony Panichelli, Speaker of the Assembly

9th Assembly

- Anand Ganjam, President
- Taylor Olson, Director of Communications
- Tim Rinehart, Speaker

10th Assembly

- Emily McDonald, President
- Emily Miller, Speaker of the Assembly
- Brandon Rittenhouse, Director of S-Book

11th Assembly

- Terry Ford, President
- Logan Echerd, Director of Communications
- Mischa Demchuk, Director of Student Life

12th Assembly

- Katie Jordan, President
- Jennifer Heckman, Chief of Staff
- Brent Rice, Speaker of the Assembly
- Kyleigh Higie, Chair of Student Life
- Fernando Mendez, At-Large Representative
- Alex Frederick, At-Large Representative

Parmi Nous

10th Assembly

- Ryan Valencia, Chair of Governmental Affairs
- Divy Agnihotri, At-Large Representative
- Lianne Luu, At-Large Representative

11th Assembly

- Brooke Jin, At-Large Representative

12th Assembly

- Jorge Zurita-Coronado, Director of Student Life
- Kyra Rogan, Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Lions Paw

8th Assembly

- Brenden Dooley, Vice President

9th Assembly

- Melissa McCleery, At-Large Rep
- Brandon Rittenhouse, Graphic Designer

10th Assembly

11th Assembly

- Terry Ford, President
- Tim Farley, At-Large Rep

It should be noted and understood that this list is in no way exhaustive. It was created purely through research in the La Vie yearbooks, archived Collegian and Onward State articles, LinkedIn profiles, and my own personal exposure and conversations.

It is important that I emphasize I do not have an issue with the existence of the organizations. At one point in time, I admired many student leaders who were members of the societies. I am also not advocating for the removal of them from our campus as I know they bare great meaning to many of our alumni and administration. What I am suggesting, however, is that Secret Societies cooperate with the Judicial Boards during elections and don't engage in unfair practices -- the same as every other Registered Student Organization (RSO). Unfortunately, there are ways to work around the rules that have been put in place, so even if an organization were to be watched during the election season, secret societies can work behind the scenes to get things the way they want.

This becomes very obvious when looking at the relationship between the Penn State Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Councils (PHC). Throughout the history of UPUA, these organizations have always been endorsed with the winning ticket. Additionally, there is almost always some sort of relationship between the President/VP and the leadership of the Greek Councils. The list below illustrates just some of the relationships I was able to uncover between these two organizations, bridged together by secret societies.

IFC and PHC Leaders in Secret Societies with UPUA Leaders whom they endorsed:

- 2009 - 2010: IFC and PHC endorse Gavin Kierans and Hillary Gupta⁸
- 2010 - 2011: *IFC and PHC endorse Christian Ragland and Colleen Smith*⁹
- 2011 - 2012: *IFC and PHC endorse TJ Bard and Courtney Lennartz*¹⁰
 - Daniel Florencio, President IFC, Skull and Bones
 - Kyle Rinda, VP for Chapter Development, Skull and Bones
 - Rachel Franceschino, PHC President, Skull and Bones
- 2012 - 2013: *IFC and PHC endorse Courtney Lennartz and Katelyn Mullen*¹¹
 - Kyle Cramer, VP of Programming IFC, Lions Paw & Skull and Bones
- 2013 - 2014:
 - Alexa Melucci, EVP of PHC, Lions Paw and Parmi Nous

⁸ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_61323c6d-c9fb-5fa7-95c0-4a5e49a4b073.html

⁹ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_c1b3c81e-7a33-5d4d-99ab-b27ca025ad12.html

¹⁰ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_f7a4e105-4428-5510-9c53-2a2966d9dffb.html

¹¹ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_2bbdadba-2ab9-5c45-80d4-81aa058b75f2.html

2014 - 2015: *IFC and PHC endorsed Anand Ganjam and Emily McDonald*¹²

- Daniel Combs, President IFC, Lions Paw & Skull and Bones
- Alexandra Richards, Executive VP PHC, Lions Paw, Parmi Nous

2015 - 2016: *IFC and PHC endorsed Emily McDonald and Terry Ford*¹³

- Rick Groves, IFC President, Lions Paw

2016 - 2017: *IFC and PHC endorsed Terry Ford and Katie Jordan*¹⁴

- Maddy Gist, VP of PHC, Lions Paw
- Will Quaranta, President of IFC, Lions Paw, Skull and Bones

2017 - 2018: *IFC and PHC endorsed Katie Jordan and Alex Shockley*¹⁵

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Although it cannot be definitively stated that secret societies are currently having an influence on UPUA, there is surely enough evidence to incite an investigation. Not only are there at least six members of the Skull and Bones society currently in the organization, Jennifer Heckman is the president.

There have been instances of the UPUA Judicial Board intervening on issues involving the societies in the past¹⁶. The power the organization had was much different when it changed from USG → UPUA -- it is important to remember this branch of the government was created to ensure that all actions made by a student governing body are ethical.

I have attempted to speak with the advisor of UPUA multiple times about the interactions Secret Societies have with our student government. Not only have these communications been made in person, but in writing as well. Each time, my concerns have gone unheard and ignored. Although I am not sure what Barry Bram's current association with Skull and Bones is, he had previously been the advisor for the secret organization--this information used to be available on Penn State's student organization index, but no longer is. It is alarming to me that the same advisor employed for the Student Government, is also the advisor for a Secret Society that has arguably controlled this Student Government from behind the scenes for at least the last four years. Additionally, several people have overheard conversations between Jen Heckman, current Skull and Bones President, and Barry Bram regarding who they believe the next UPUA President will be.

Additionally, it should be noted that Barry's first year as UPUA advisor was in 2014¹⁷. His Presidential appointment occurred during Anand Ganjam's presidency, whom we know was a member of the Skull and Bones society. According to an Onward State article, former

¹² <https://voteganjam.wordpress.com/endorsements-2/>

¹³ <https://votemcdonald.wordpress.com/endorsements/>

¹⁴ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/news/campus/article_7d74717e-ec6d-11e5-8b5a-278f55207ca4.html

¹⁵ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/news/campus/article_b7c6d3bc-0f4e-11e7-a4c1-6fd42992b507.html

¹⁶ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_77781a47-1d45-5038-a36a-336f1df78eb5.html

¹⁷ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/news/campus/article_5816581c-36ec-11e4-95ef-001a4bcf6878.html

Presidential candidate Melissa McCleary, questioned whether or not this was a decision made by UPUA leadership, or for them, by the Office of Student Affairs¹⁸. There are several staff members of the university that have connections to these societies, and they are listed below.

Administration involvement in Secret Societies

- Damon Sims:
- Barry Bram: Member of the Skull and Bones AIG
- Rich Bundy: Parmi Nous member
- Bryce Jordan: Skull and Bones
- Graham Spanier: Skull and Bones
- Jennifer Grossman Leopard: Skull and Bones

There is a reason that Chief Justice Eric Love brought this up in last year's Presidential Debate. Immediately after questioning President Jordan about her involvement in Skull and Bones, President Terry Ford publicly approached and scolded Love for mentioning secret societies¹⁹. Secrecy and democracy mix about as well as oil and water. In 2012, The Daily Collegian wrote an article that expressed concern over the involvement of IFC and PHC in the UPUA election process²⁰

The [REDACTED] ticket had absolutely no chance to receive the endorsement of either IFC or Panhellenic. Along with these endorsements comes the opportunity for the ticket to physically campaign among the Sorority floors in South Halls, as well as Fraternity houses downtown. The opposing ticket is not allowed to enter these locations at all.

In addition to this, on UPUA Election Day 2017, greek organizations awarded sororities the opportunity to earn accreditation if they participated. Although the councils of these organizations didn't necessarily specify that they must vote for the Jordan Shockley ticket, in the same group messages and/or email chains that greek members were told to vote for accreditation (see Appendix F), they were told that the "Jordan Shockley ticket truly wanted to save Greek Life," as if the [REDACTED] ticket despised them. Our campaign team had submitted multiple reports to last year's Election Commission about this, in hopes they would agree that this was an unfair election practice, although they did not unfortunately agree. It should be noted that it is basically impossible for any Executive Ticket to win an election without the endorsement of Penn State Greek Life. Since 17% of the student body is represented by IFC and Panhellenic, and the highest voter turnout to ever occur was last year's election (12,301) and the next highest before that was close to 6,000 in 2016²¹.

This was briefly mentioned in the email sent to Danny Shaha, but attention should be brought to this again. It would be a shame to have our student government turn out to be like that of the

¹⁸ <http://onwardstate.com/2014/08/28/upua-kicks-off-semester-with-damon-sims-speech-and-adviser-controversy/>

¹⁹ <http://onwardstate.com/2017/03/28/upua-candidates-talk-third-party-campaign-support-in-heated-grand-debate/>

²⁰ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/archives/article_2bbdadba-2ab9-5c45-80d4-81aa058b75f2.html

²¹ http://www.collegian.psu.edu/news/campus/article_8a24a344-14e4-11e7-8622-0b393fcb179f.html

University of Alabama's "machine". Many articles can be found about this by simply searching this in Google, but throughout the entire history of Alabama's existence, there has never been a student government president that wasn't part of Greek Life or endorsed by them.

The [REDACTED] ticket never had a chance to receive the IFC or Panhellenic endorsement, even if there were endorsement interviews.

Of everything, one of the most alarming parts of this entire situation is that Jorge was welcomed back into the organization while I wasn't. Although I do not have any evidence, I truly believe that if the Judicial Board were to attempt to find more information about these societies, they would most definitely discover that Katie and Jorge are members of The Lions Paw organization together. If he, my running-mate, [REDACTED] was allowed back.. Than why not I?

[REDACTED]

It has been said by many, that Skull and Bones would do anything in its power to keep a member of Parmi Nous out of the highest UPUA executive seats, and as we can see, they have been fairly successful. Many past members of this organizations (who have already graduated from PSU) are more than likely going to be willing to speak with the Judicial Board about these matters if they were approached.

For the Judicial Board to conduct any investigations and gain any further information about the history of secret society involvement in UPUA elections may be extremely difficult, but it would be the right thing to do. Finding a staff member within Penn State's Student Affairs division that is trustworthy, may be difficult, but would prove extremely helpful in this venture. If necessary, I could be of assistance in finding this person.

Student Media

The relationship between UPUA and Onward State has been blurry and confusing throughout the entirety of my time at Penn State. It is no secret that UPUA leadership historically despises The Daily Collegian. Although Onward State has been found to (rightfully) critique the student government, the UPUA Executive Board quite often has leadership that aligns with their “blog”. A sample of tweets posted by leadership of UPUA, illustrating a severe bias against The Daily Collegian can be found in Appendix G.

It is alarming that a student government has such strong connections to an organization that considers themselves to be an independent media source. Additionally, it should be noted that historically there are members of leadership in UPUA who have also served as leaders in Onward State. Additionally, multiple Onward State writers have been in secret societies. It should be noted that the Executive Ticket for UPUA Elections that receives Onward States endorsement has historically won the election, and has always been in alignment with the same ticket that receives Skull and Bones support.

History of Onward State Staff involvement in UPUA

- 12th Assembly
 - Director of Communications, Lexi Shimkonis
- 10th Assembly
 - Director of Communications, [Greg Schlosser](#)
- 8th Assembly
 - At-Large Representative, Kevin Horne
- 7th Assembly
 - Press Secretary, [Kevin Horne](#)

Although this is something that should already be known by the Judicial Board, at the start of the Fall 2017 semester UPUA leadership forbade any and all members of the organization to speak to media sources without their permission. Not only is this unconstitutional, it shows that complete and utter control is being attempted by the Executive Board. The Assembly and its representatives are not, and should not, be held accountable by the Executive Branch, but the Speaker and their peers. If members of the Assembly have opposing views to that of the organization’s leadership, there is absolutely no reason for it to be withheld from the public. We can all take a lesson from the Washington Post... “Democracy dies in darkness.”

This is even more alarming considering the current Director of Communications is the previous Editor in Chief of Onward State. Not only have they controlled the conversations that members of the organization have with Penn State media, there is bound to be bias in the decision-making process. It is only fair that each student-run media on our campus has equal opportunity to engage with our student government, because if not, then our students are not able to understand what is being done and presented on their behalf.

Conclusion and Moving Forward:

The word alarming was used repeatedly throughout this letter, and that is surely because the current state of the UPUA organization embodies this word. Anyone that holds opinions that are in opposition to the organization's leadership are shunned, pushed away and locked out. The possible work being done behind-the-scenes by secret societies on this campus, is undemocratic. Relationships between media sources and the UPUA are not transparent, and therefore the entire student body has no way to be informed about the ways in which the student government is representing them. Lastly, the manner in which this judicial board has remained powerless and beneath the Executive Board demonstrates that there is something occurring that should not be.

So often people will say, "UPUA is just a student organization, don't get so caught up in its happenings," but I firmly believe time is past due for the Judicial Board to step in and begin investigating the issues that have existed in this organization. I understand that the Judicial Board may feel as though all of the issues I have mentioned are not in fact issues, since the Assembly has to confirm *most* members of the Executive Board and any representatives that Steering proposes, but unfortunately, our branches do not exist as the checks on one another that they should be.

Since this is just a student government, most often those who end up in the Assembly had once been members of the Freshman Council. Amongst this program, freshmen are taught that the established line of executive tickets (Ganjam → McDonald → Ford → Jordan) is one of the greatest ways this organization will grow, and to that statement, I present opposition. The internal issues this organization has faced for the last 12 years have only occurred because there has been little turnover in leadership.

I firmly believe the Judicial Board should take this opportunity to develop strong internal bylaws. Like mentioned in the Introduction to this letter, I have compiled information from our 13 Big Ten peer student governments, which includes samples of bylaws they utilize. Within these documents, I believe it to be essential that the Judicial Board handle any and all punishment processes, changes in Elections Codes, and the ability to conduct investigations regarding the behavior of any and all Executive and Legislative branch members.

The information presented in this letter is meant to inform members of the board about happenings they may not have known about. Although I agree that more evidence is necessary for any action to be taken by the board or Student Conduct, this should be the point in which an investigation starts.

For the past four years, I have witnessed some of the most dramatic, unethical, and sneaky actions within this organization. As I have mentioned earlier, I truly believe some alumni would be willing to share their stories, if it meant making this organization as moral as it should be. I do

not want to graduate without doing my best to ensure that this student government will represent the Penn State student body better in the future than it does now.

Appendix A
Email Communication with Danny Shaha, Interim Assistant VP for Student Rights and Responsibilities

On Oct 9, 2017, at 7:01 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Mr. Shanaha,

[REDACTED] told me that I should come forward with you about all the the mishaps that have occurred within our undergraduate student government.

Please let me know if you would prefer to meet with me or have you send everything over email. Just for clarification, I am the student who was denied the position for Eberly, even though I ran for student body president and had the position for the last two years.

I look forward to working with you to make all of these wrongs, right.

Best,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Oct 9, 2017 at 7:08 PM, Danny Shaha <jds49@psu.edu> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Thank you for the email.

What may be helpful is for you to first write everything to me in an email so I'm aware of what issues may be present.

Also, just to be clear-- I shared with [REDACTED] that I'm not sure whether or not the University would be able to intervene, but I'm happy to review any information you think would be helpful in making that decision.

My best,
Danny

On Mon, Oct 23, 2017 at 9:12 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Danny,

Sorry for the late arrival of this email, the past two weeks have been very busy. I appreciate you taking the time to review this issue, it is something I have been repeatedly bothered by for the past several months.

Last Spring semester, I ran for Student Body President with [REDACTED] against Katie Jordan and Alex Shockley. (At this point in time Katie had recently been tapped for Skull and Bones Honor Society and the same with Jorge for Parmi Nous).

Historically, our Student Body Presidents have been members of Skull and Bones. Throughout my entire Penn State experience, all of them have been.

This may not seem like a problem or an issue at first - because elections are open to all undergraduate students and supposedly run by an "independent judicial board".

Sadly, this is not the case and I will explain why.

With seventeen percent of the undergraduate population being in Greek Life, that equates to about XXXXX students. Over the past several years, the highest voter turnout percentage to occur in a student government election was XXX.

Historically throughout the nation, there have been many cases of unfair student government elections. Citing one of the most famous from Alabama, "The Machine", an all-white secret society has controlled the student government for almost 100 years.

Link to story on The Machine:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/the-machine-university-alabama-all-white-secret-society-2013-10>

Although I don't think our secret society happenings are as serious as this one is, I and no other uninvolved people can be sure until they are evaluated. What I do know, is that they exist at Penn State and have greatly interfered with student government elections.

After spontaneously running into Katie one day, I foolishly thought that enough time had gone by and the harsh feelings that inevitably exist post election, would be gone. Although Jorge, by running mate, had been welcomed back into the organization, I was not.

The position I applied for was Eberly College of Science Representative, within the UPUA's legislative branch. This was a position that I had held for the past two years, while also serving as the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, and a Faculty Senator. I was passionate about returning to this organization and stressed at multiple instances, that I had no ill-intentions of returning to the organization. Still, I wasn't selected by the Steering Committee (the five students put in charge of filling vacancies, and a process I am willing to talk to explain more in

person) a group that is tasked with presenting the most *qualified* candidate to the rest of the organization.

I want you to know that I am not doing this out of spite for losing the election, because I still find ways to help better the student experience at Penn State. There are instances of younger students being treated unfairly and I want to insure the future of the organization is better than what it currently is.

If those are people you would like to speak with, I would be glad to give them your information and encourage them to reach out.

Again, thank you for taking the time to hear us out. I know that there may not be much you can do to fix this, but it is very appreciated.

Have a great week!

[REDACTED]

On Nov 14, 2017, at 2:25 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi

Danny,

I wanted to contact you to let you know that I will be submitting a formal complaint to UPUA's Judicial Board. Within that I plan to cite specific student code violations. If you would rather see this than what I sent you earlier, I can send that your way as well.

If there is nothing further you want to pursue with this issue, I understand.

Have a great Fall Break,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Nov 16, 2017 at 8:31 AM, Danny Shaha <jds49@psu.edu> wrote:

[REDACTED],

Thanks. Now I'm sorry for the delay!

Given what you've shared, that seems to be the appropriate place to report an issue.

I did reach out to several students whose names [REDACTED] shared with me, but all who have responded have indicated that they have not felt harassed or mistreated, and they expressed concerns that their names had been shared with me.

If you are aware of students who feel harassed or mistreated, please encourage them to report the behaviors to the Office of Student Conduct.

My best,
Danny

Appendix B
Eberly College of Science Representative Application

The University Park Undergraduate Association
Application for Membership

Eberly College of Science Representative

The UPUA is seeking to fill one (1) Academic College Representative seat. All Representatives are required to attend weekly General Assembly meetings Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m., as well as serve on the Academic Affairs Committee which meets Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. All applicants should be enrolled in a major within the Eberly College of Science.

Please complete this application and return it to 314 HUB-Robeson Center by Wednesday, September 13th by 5:00 p.m. EST to be considered for this position. All interested applicants must be available for a possible interview Sunday, September 17th.

Full Name: [REDACTED]
PSU ID (ex. abc1234): [REDACTED]
Major(s): General Science and Psychology
Anticipated Graduation Date: Spring 2018
Preferred Email: [REDACTED]
Cell Phone: [REDACTED]
Number of Credits Scheduled Fall 2017: 18

Please attach a typed response to each of the questions below, totaling no more than 400 words in length per question.

- 1. What is your current knowledge of the UPUA?**
- 2. Why do you want to be involved with the UPUA?**
- 3. What makes you the most qualified for this role?**
- 4. What are three (3) projects or initiatives you feel the UPUA should be working on and why?**

Please attach a copy of your résumé, current class schedule, and any other extracurricular activities, jobs, or miscellaneous time commitments to this application before submitting it.

Any and all questions can be sent to Brent Rice at bar5393@psu.edu.

The University Park Undergraduate Association | upua@psu.edu | upua.psu.edu | @UPUA | 314 HUB-Robeson Center

- 1. What is your current knowledge of the UPUA?**

After spending three years in this organization, I have worked on virtually every project imaginable. From being on the Executive Board as a Freshman and volunteering to work with the Department of Communications in effort to advance our social media presence, to chairing the Committee on Academic Affairs and leading our Faculty Senate efforts, I have learned first-hand how this organization operates in its entirety. I have been interviewed by Steering and have interviewed others, have written legislation and have carried out its efforts in an executive role.

To demonstrate my understanding of this organization, I will briefly discuss its structure and role in our university community.

UPUA is organized in the same way our Federal Government is- with three branches designed to carry out entirely different jobs. The legislative branch, in UPUA's case, the "General Assembly", is comprised of students of specific identities, designed to represent the undergraduate student demographic at Penn State (colleges, special interests and at-large). The Speaker of the Assembly heads this branch and consequently chairs the Steering Meetings, which is comprised of the four core committee chairs, and can be attended by the President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Director of Communications, Director of Finance and Chief Justice as non-voting members. The Steering Committee is responsible for setting the agenda for all General Assembly meetings, vetting candidates for appointments, making any changes to the organization's Constitution and Bylaws and other supervisory duties for the organization.

The Executive Branch is responsible for carrying out the duties assigned to it by the General Assembly via legislation. The structure of positions within this branch are dependent almost entirely on how the President and Vice President see fit. For the past several assemblies, there have been Executive Director positions to partner with each of the core committees to plan any and all programs that committee deems fit.

The Judicial Branch of the UPUA is responsible for ensuring that the Legislative and Executive branches abide by the rules. In addition to year round procedure, the Judicial Branch is responsible for ensuring elections are run free and fairly.

2. Why do you want to be involved with the UPUA?

My life has not been the same since last April. An organization that was once my entire life, has now not been a single part of it for the past few months. This organization helped me grow as a person, develop important life-skills and discover what I want to do post-college. Knowing that there is an opportunity for me to return to the position I held for the last two years, an opportunity for me to continue projects I have started, to continue representing students in my college the way I know best, opens the door for me to finish my college career doing what I consider the highest honor.

There are still many things about this University I would like to see changed before my time here is over. If selected to be back in the organization, I would hope to sit on both the Governmental and Academic Affairs committees- advocating for student rights at the faculty, administrative, local and state levels.

3. What makes you the most qualified for this role?

My experiences with the organization as a Freshman Council member allowed me to learn the ins and outs of how UPUA operates and has come to be the student organization that it is. During the 9th assembly, I attended both Gov. Affairs and Internal Development committee meetings. The greatest benefit to this, was learning about how to write and interpret constitutions and bylaws for student organizations.

During the 10th Assembly, I discovered how to be successful as a representative on two committees (AAC and Facilities) and involve myself in every initiative of my interest. As the ECoS UPUA Representative, I was afforded the opportunity to also serve as my college's student faculty senator. This year, I was extremely passionate about ensuring students were aware of the resources we had on our campus for Mental Health issues, and put up a fight in Faculty Senate to have a description of them added to all course syllabi. This year also afforded me the opportunity to serve on the Facilities Fee Advisory Committee and interact with members of the administration about financials, and serve as the ABTS Liaison.

Being elected ABTS Liaison during the first 10th Assembly meeting, could very well have been the event to change my life. Today, over two years later, I am entering my second term as Executive Director of this organization. During my time on the Executive Board, I have worked tirelessly to legitimize this organization; both with our student members and student governments, the Big Ten Athletic Conference and Big Ten Academic Alliance, Washington and our elected public representatives, and maybe even someday to donors, as we attempt to gain 501(c)(3) status. This position affords me valuable insight into what is occurring at a federal level affecting higher education, and would allow me to bring a new perspective to the Gov. Affairs Committee.

When I look back on my experiences as the AAC Chair, a member of Steering, and a co-chair of the Student Caucus for Faculty Senate, it would be an understatement for me to say I learned more in this year than I did the rest of my life combined. Working with Freshman and attempting to get them excited about academic policy, made me fall in love with academia and higher education. My deep history with this organization and experiences in virtually every branch of it, paired with my love for student advocacy and higher education, are what make me the most qualified applicant for this position.

4. What are three projects or initiatives you feel the UPUA should be working on and why?

- *First Generation (First Gen) Support Office, either through the MRC or Boucke building*

Penn State is ridiculously behind when it comes to supporting students who are the first in their family to go to college. At one point in our history, we had some resources for this students through the Multicultural Resource Center, but they have since been removed.

First Gen students face a struggle that no other students could understand. Before joining organizations and discussing with mentors about my future, did I know that internships even existed, let alone that it was something I should be pursuing. I think UPUA should work with the Student Affairs Division and the Vice Provost for Educational Equity, to develop resources for these students to help them succeed at Penn State.

- *Mental Health Crisis and Diversity Sensitivity Training for University and State College Police*

Not everyone is trained to respond to scenarios of attempted suicide, and if you have any friends/loved ones with mental health issues, you understand how important it is that the first responder act appropriately.

With the rise of Mental Health issues and suicide attempts, as well as the growing police sensitivity issues across our country, I believe we should partner with State College and University Police, to ensure that officers are trained in responding to these situations.

- *Improve the Penn State Alert System*

We currently utilize an alert system that does not adequately represent the technology of our times. Text messages and phone calls that are outdated, and barely describe the situation occurring - or - in the case of last year's bomb incident downtown, not properly timed and therefore useless.

There are software companies that have created technology for exactly these instances. Utilizing something like this, would allow student to receive alerts not only about incidents on campus, but also downtown. It would take the partnership of a few offices across campus, with the police department downtown, but it would vastly improve the lives of our students.

Appendix C
Email Communication with Barry Bram, UPUA Advisor

Email to Barry Bram, UPUA Advisor, September 18th, 2017:

Hi Barry,

Since our meeting is inevitably not going to happen, I realized it was better for me to just email you all of the concerns I have currently with the UPUA organization and the way it is being run.

For starters, the way that elections were handled was unfair. Elections are supposed to be open and free, that is what makes our country so great. What isn't open and free, is allowing secret societies to work behind the scenes in favor of one candidate. For example, Greek Life giving out points to their members for voting, but only if they sent a screenshot of their phone/computer after. This is especially unfair since the only candidates that were pushed to that community was Katie and Alex. Since Greek Life comprises 17% of our student body, it is impossible for any candidate to win without their support.

The next issues are all concerning the communications department. Representatives are "not allowed" to talk to the media, without the consent of the Executive Board. This is totally and completely against everything in our first amendment, especially considering the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch are supposed to be two entirely separate entities. I understand them wanting to ensure the organization doesn't look bad to the public, but they can't tell people who they can and can't talk to. Lexi, the communications director, should not be posting tweets that criticize our student newspaper (The Collegian) and say they "don't know how to write". Also, the fact that Lexi comes from Onward State, means that no one else ever had a chance to get the Onward State endorsement (not that this is any different than Greek Life). Even more recent than this, is that last week, a social media push was supposed to come from all 14 Big Ten student governments about Title IX advocacy. This was done by every school except for Penn State, because UPUA believed advocating for this, would take away from the small amount of attention they had for the state budget.

Before the ABTS conference, I got a lovely call from Jenn Heckman, in which she expressed her concern for my presence at the conference. She told me she was worried that I would, "represent Penn State poorly"... yet no one from UPUA leadership could take two days out of

their summer to come to the conference, but were all at Arts Fest two weeks prior. They also never gave [REDACTED] any recognition for being elected to the ABTS eBoard.

Five students, including myself have all had our applications IGNORED by UPUA leadership. Just this past week, I applied for the Eberly position, which I am more than qualified for, and they decided to extend the application deadline instead of giving me an interview. Even more concerning than an ignored application, is that Jenn Heckman is the one handling the application process, a job that belongs to Brent. Since Jenn dislikes me so much, she didn't even feel the need to tell Steering that I applied, she just decided to reopen the application because I am apparently not good enough for her.

Many representatives have reached out to me and asked for advice on another *troubling* issue. This issue, is that Steering is taking away initiatives from people, *who developed the idea in the first place*. It is not Steering or the Executive Board's job, to decide who is working on what project, and they do not have the right to take away people's initiatives.

Last but most certain not least, is the fact that Skull and Bones is continuously allowed to control UPUA to whatever degree they want. I totally understand that you have some loyalty to this organization, but that doesn't make it okay to allow Jenn, Brent, Katie and Kyleigh to do whatever they please, whenever they would like. Student governments are supposed to be representative of the student body, not a secret organization that feels entitled to ruling it.

I hate to do this, because you have always been a role model to me, but if something is not done I will be writing an op-ed to the student newspapers (although we both know Onward State would not give me the time of day), I know that The Daily Collegian and the Underground would be truthful to the student body.

Have a great Monday.

[REDACTED]

Appendix D
Speech to General Assembly on Wednesday Sept. 27th

I am here today, to inform the members of the general assembly the process by which the vacant ECoS was filed, as from my observations your leadership team has not been entirely transparent in this process.

A few weeks ago, multiple members of the assembly reached out and encouraged me to apply for this position, one that due to lack of public advertising, I had not even realized was vacant.

Deciding to apply was not an easy decision. For those of you who have done a steering interview before, you know that it is nerve-wracking to say the least. For me, knowing I would be sitting in a interview with people who had openly expressed their hostility towards me made the thought even worse. Handing in my application was enough to make me physically ill because despite the fact that I was applying with the express intention of bettering student like, I know that people would attempt paint me to look spiteful and vengeful.

Most of you know me personally, and you all know that last year's election took a significant toll on my mental health. The fact that anyone in this room would actually think that I would put myself through this *hell*, to become part of an organization where the leadership team despises me, because I am attempting to cause "drama", not only sickens me but is insulting as a former member of this assembly.

I did not apply because my resume could use more leadership experience, I held this seat and its student senator position, for the past two years.

I did not apply because I am trying to make power moves and have members of this assembly "follow me around", as I have been accused.

I applied because I thought that I would be an asset to this assembly. Because I have three years of experience in UPUA and am still the Executive Director for ABTS, and am actively advocating for students on a federal level.

When I first turned in my application and was the lone applicant, steering "voted" to extend the deadline. This is an issue in of itself because multiple members of steering hadnt been aware of how many applicants there were let alone actually reading the application.

In section 6.9.4 of UPUA bylaws, it clearly states that when steering is going through the process to present a candidate to the assembly,

"The screening process shall be based solely upon the merit of the respective candidate's application for membership, resume, and short-answer Responses."

But as you are now beginning to tell- they must not have gone through this process correctly. Since a majority of steering has a personal vendetta against me, they obviously felt as though their emotions and issues with me, were more important than my qualifications. Which is even more alarming considering they brought one of the initiatives from my application to committee last week.

Sadly, I am not the only past member of this organization who has been slighted.

- Instead of acting professionally and sending rejection emails to those who applied for positions on this executive board, the leadership team chose to completely ignore applications.
- Current representatives have been treated disrespectfully, been taken off their initiatives, been punished for no wrong-doing and have been silenced for speaking and voicing their opinions.

Honestly, I think the worst part of all this, may be that not a single member of leadership attended this past summer's ABTS conference. And SINCE have not participated in a single ABTS advocacy event, including those that involve merely sharing information to you all, or on the UPUA social media accounts.

As Representatives of the student body, you should make decisions based off what is best for the future of this university, not what's best for your apparently tenuous control of the organization.

Not welcoming back a student who has willingly dedicated her entire life to service, because of hurt feelings and insecurity over a student government election that happened nearly 6 months ago is disgraceful.

You are doing a disservice to the student body, if you let this go on.

More than two weeks later, it saddens me, that an organization I believed in, and an organization that I wanted to lead, is letting issues like this slide by. It is the assembly's JOB to ensure that the leadership is acting correctly on behalf of the student body. And we all should know by now that they aren't.

If all of you are actually in the room for the right reasons, for the betterment of Penn State student life, you will stop being power hungry, and petty.

I faithfully upheld my oath during my three years in this organization, and I hope that by the time you are all done you can say the same.

Appendix E

Ganjam → Jordan Presidencies

2014 - 2015, 9th Assembly: Anand Ganjam and Emily McDonald

- Campaign website: <https://voteganjam.wordpress.com>

2015 - 2016, 10th Assembly: Emily McDonald and Terry Ford

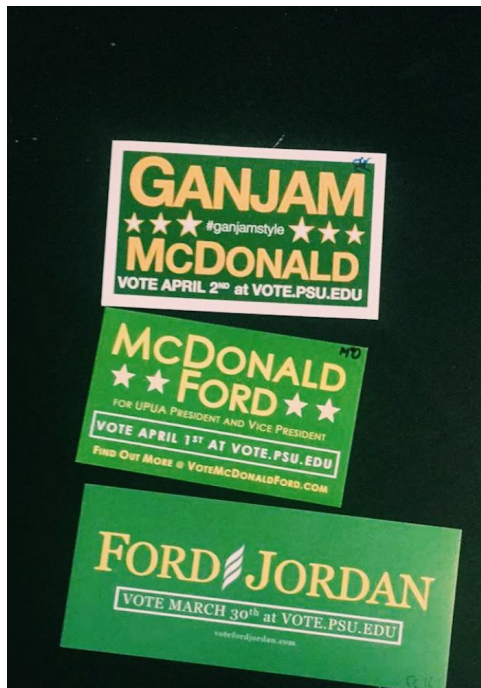
- Campaign website: <https://votemcdonald.wordpress.com>

2016 - 2017, 11th Assembly : Terry Ford and Katie Jordan

- Campaign website: <http://web.archive.org/web/20160317225821/http://votefordjordan.com:80/>

2017 - 2018, 12th Assembly : Katie Jordan and Alex Shockley

- Campaign website: <http://web.archive.org/web/20170324213141/https://www.votejordanshockley.com>



Appendix F

Greek Life Involvement in 2017 UPUA Elections

Hi everyone,

UPUA elections are upon us!

As you know, the Panhellenic council voted last Wednesday to endorse the Jordan/Shockley tickets for the UPUA elections this Wednesday. As an organization that endorsed them, they need as much help as possible to secure their victory.

Please fill out this form: <http://bit.ly/2nVcMUD> with your availability to volunteer on election day. It means a lot to them and to us as a supporting organization.

Additionally, ****we will be having a point person in each sorority suite from 3-7 p.m.****. This is extremely important! In this time, you will be encouraging people to vote! If you can do this for your chapter please fill this out:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXglY67NcYZ9WQdEO1Qh8ic-eCAsJb9Gs-JRlvQxm01hSnqA/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Every sorority needs a point person of contact, so make sure that you or another person can do this. If you, as president cannot be the point of contact in the suite, my personal suggestion would be JR. panhel (give them a chance to be in charge of something!!), or someone else looking for a leadership opportunity.

Thank you for your support, it means a lot to Katie and Alex and to the future of Greek Life!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Amanda Saper** <amandasaper18@gmail.com>
 Date: Tue, Mar 28, 2017 at 3:37 PM
 Subject: Point person
 To: "phcpresidents17@googlegroups.com" <phcpresidents17@googlegroups.com>

So many point person questions!!

This is through Katie Jordan not me, part of her strategy for locking down votes is through our endorsement- She is allowed access to south halls. A point person (anyone in the sorority) will sit in the suite to help people vote, encourage/remind people, or be a point of contact if Katie has problems ect.

If you have crazy circumstances like one sorority had a philanthropy that exact time that's fine just make sure you are reminding your members to vote Wednesday!

I hope that answers any questions if not re email me. Your support and efforts are greatly appreciated, please remember tomorrow directly determines who we will work with from student government.

Best,
 Amanda

Amanda Saper
 College of Liberal Arts | Political Science
 Pennsylvania State University 2018
 President | Panhellenic Executive Council

Verizon LTE 11:04 AM 66%

[Back](#) Meme

your password

4. click on the first link that says "University Park Undergraduate Association - Student Government Elections - 12th Assembly - 3/29/2017 6am - 3/29/2017 10 pm"
5. Vote Jordan-Shockley!
6. SEND ME A PICTURE PLEASE!!

Step 6 is super important because we just found out that we can get credit if at least 75% of the chapter votes!!!! Please make sure the time is included in the picture, either right on your screen or if you take a picture using Snapchat you can put a stamp on it.

Send your pictures to [862-354-3734](tel:862-354-3734) or mayraoyola1996@gmail.com

Even if you already voted, you can log back on and send a screenshot of that screen as well!

Verizon LTE 11:05 AM 65%

[Search in Alpha Delta Pi Penn...](#) Meme

5 hrs

hi everyone. so as it turns out, we get standards of excellence credit for you voting on UPUA's election today. in order to get credit, we need 75% of our chapter to vote in order to get credit. if you voted/ are voting, please upload a photo into this google drive or email/facebook message/text/carrier pigeon me a picture/screen shot of the time you voted with your access id (abc1234). here is my screen shot for an example. YOU DO NOT NEED TO SHOW ME WHO YOU VOTED FOR (pls do not include that part; not trying to be political).

Google drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bw-uTlizPQb8UVdMaWFWeGE1emc?usp=sharing>

EMAIL:
panhellenicdelegatedeltakappa@gmail.com
 text: 6107376101

Appendix G

Student Media Bias Amongst UPUA Leadership



Verizon LTE 7:50 PM 21%



Tweet



Lexi Shimkonis
@lexshimko

Unfortunate to think students might look back at this in 50 years and consider it to be the student opinion in 2017. Same for TDC in general

The Daily Collegian @DailyCollegian
EDITORIAL: Penn State 2018 class gift ideas should have been put to a worthier cause
colleg.in/2xt8Hg2



Tweet your reply



Verizon LTE 7:55 PM 20%



Tweet



Lexi Shimkonis
@lexshimko

Very excited for @kujo_100 and @shockley_2014 and all the great things they'll get to continue to accomplish in the year ahead

Onward State @OnwardState
BREAKING: Katie Jordan (@VoteJordanShock) is the next @UPUA President after a decisive victory in today's election. bit.ly/2ocjZ3d

3/30/17, 3:09 PM

8 Likes



Tweet your reply



Reference of years/assemblies

12th Assembly: 2017 - 2018

- President: Katie Jordan
- VP: Alex Shockley

11th Assembly: 2016 - 2017

- President: Terry Ford
- VP: Katie Jordan

10th Assembly: 2015 - 2016

- President: Emily McDonald
- VP: Terry Ford

9th Assembly: 2014 - 2015

- President: Anand Ganja
- VP: Emily McDonald

8th Assembly: 2013 - 2014

- President: Katelyn Mullen
- VP: Brenden Dooley

7th Assembly: 2012 - 2013

- President: Courtney Lennartz
- VP: Katelyn Mullen

6th Assembly: 2011 - 2012

- President: TJ Bard
- VP: Courtney Lennartz

5th Assembly: 2010 - 2011

- President: Christian Ragland
- VP: Colleen Smith

4th Assembly: 2009 - 2010

- President: Gavin Kierans
- VP: Hillary Gupta

3rd Assembly: 2008 - 2009

- President: Gavin Kierans

2nd Assembly: 2007 - 2008

1st Assembly: 2006 - 2007