

# Association of Residence Hall Students

## Council Meeting for January 13th, 2020



Call to Order: 6:15 pm

Roll Call: Favorite thing you did or saw over break?

Michael Keller, WHRA Pres and Diversity Chair  
Kirsten Worrall, SHRA Treasurer and Cinema chair  
Chris, PHRA VP  
Sarah, PHRA rep  
MJ Schleck, PHRA Pres  
Aj Rodriguez, Student health and wellness chair  
Andrew, WHRA Treasurer  
Ethan, WHRA Rep  
Cj, EHRA Vp  
Macy Klocko, Movin' On Liason  
Dorie, General Member  
Claudia, RAM VP  
Celine, RAM Treasurer  
Min, RAM Pres  
Ryan, General Member  
Gregory Edmunds, DoP  
Abi Mason, DoR  
Judy Rodriguez, DoO  
Emma Kertis, DoA  
Mark Rameker, Co-Advisor  
John Hurst, Co-Advisor  
Jim Meinecke, Assoc Director of Res Dining  
Nathaniel Waksman, President

Open Student Forum:

RAM: Presenting a PowerPoint and budget request

Ethan: How many people do you see on average for the event?

Roughly a hundred

Michael: Do you charge admission?

Yes, \$2 for students with IDs but the money goes into the next year's event and the current event.

Guest of the Week: Jim Meinecke

- We rolled out the edge mug!
- I have nothing else to discuss but I'm here for
- Nathaniel: What's happening with the new sushi vendor?
  - I haven't heard anything since we last spoke.
- Nathaniel: How is sustaining the workforce in the dining commons?
  - We've seen a bit of drop off due to academic reasons, but nothing should change as we also have seen a spike in applications.
- Mark: To the Council, what are the things that we should maintain and spread across the different areas?
  - Kirsten: The expansion of the Mix allows for people to actually walk in the store, as compared to past years.
  - Emma: The pasta is more consistent now.
  - Chris: Has anyone else had the garlic sticks? They're WAY too garlicky
  - Nathaniel: I like the spread of fresh foods from East

- Nathaniel: The shift in the menu? Will it continue to West?
  - Offering pasta was super requested here which was great because we were trying to differentiate Pollock and South. West is basically an island so we are hoping to bring as much variety there as possible.
- First special dinner is soon on the 24th for “Chinese” new year (Abi says: Lunar new year)
- We do stuff with Thon every year
- Culinary Apprentice Competition, student teams compete against each other.

#### Liaison Reports

- **Movin' On - Macy Klocko**
  - Nothing to report
- **National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Panhellenic Council - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report

#### Adviser Report

- **Mark Rameker ([mjr22@psu.edu](mailto:mjr22@psu.edu)), John Hurst ([jeH9@psu.edu](mailto:jeH9@psu.edu))**

#### **Residence Hall Students... CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

- Are you a member of the residence hall community?
- Have you achieved superior academic success?
- Do you feel you've contributed positively to your community?

If you answered YES to all the above, submit a self-nomination for

#### [The FredFotis Scholarship Award](#)

TheFotis Award recognizes outstanding undergraduate students who have achieved academic success and contributed positively to the community by demonstrating exemplary leadership in the residence hall setting.

Visit: [https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aY1NStNzedAuhnf](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aY1NStNzedAuhnf)

Nominations accepted through midnight on January 17, 2020

Questions? Call John Hurst, Assistant Director for Student Leadership 814-865-2890 or email [jeH9@psu.edu](mailto:jeH9@psu.edu)

- RA Information Sessions start on Thursday, January 23rd at 5 pm in 104 Thomas. See the Business chat for more information and dates or contact Abi.

#### Area Reports

- **East (EHRA)**
  - Nothing to report
- **North (NHAS) - Jennifer Rodriguez**
  - Nothing to report
- **Pollock (PHRA) - MJ Scheck**
  - Nothing to report
- **South (SHRA) - Ben Lakavage ([bzl5349@psu.edu](mailto:bzl5349@psu.edu))**
  - Nothing to report
- **West (WHRA) - Michael Keller ([mrk5578@psu.edu](mailto:mrk5578@psu.edu))**
  - Nothing to report

#### Internal Committee Reports

- **Historian - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report

- **Homecoming - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Internal Policy (IPC) - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Public Relations - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Social - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **THON - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Web Design - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report

#### External Committee Reports

- **Activities - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Recruitment - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **ARHS Cinemas - Ben Lakavage ([bzl5349@psu.edu](mailto:bzl5349@psu.edu)) & Kirsten Worrall ([kpw5273@psu.edu](mailto:kpw5273@psu.edu))**
  - The movie is Maleficent: Mistress of Evil
- **Campus Safety & Security - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Diversity - Michael Keller ([mrk5578@psu.edu](mailto:mrk5578@psu.edu))**
  - Nothing to report
- **Housing and Food Services – OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **National Communications Coordinator (NCC) - OPEN**
  - Ben is stepping up for a weekend for the conference!
- **Philanthropy - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Student Health & Wellness - AJ Rodriguez ([abr5439@psu.edu](mailto:abr5439@psu.edu))**
  - Nothing to report
- **Sustainability - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report

#### Executive Officer Reports

- **President - Nathaniel Waksman ([nxw37@psu.edu](mailto:nxw37@psu.edu))**
  - New Semester hype!
  - A word about signups
    - We'll be working with UPUA on Thursday to table and introduce student gov't to the student body
  - Meetings with housing and Diane today
    - RESCHEDULED
- **Vice President - OPEN**
  - Nothing to report
- **Director of Advocacy - Emma Kertis ([eck5201@psu.edu](mailto:eck5201@psu.edu))**
  - Nothing to report
- **Director of Outreach - Judy Rodriguez ([jrr5741@psu.edu](mailto:jrr5741@psu.edu))**
  - Nothing to report
- **Director of Programming - Gregory Edmunds ([gte5015@psu.edu](mailto:gte5015@psu.edu))**
  - Nothing to report
- **Director of Records - Abi Mason ([arhsdor@gmail.com](mailto:arhsdor@gmail.com))**

- We have new information from Hillel for their budget request funding, please take a look and decide if you would like to move to untable their budget.
- **Director of Finance - Maria Howe** ([mrh64@psu.edu](mailto:mrh64@psu.edu))
  - Balance: *inquire in person or over email.*

Quorum Check

Forum Break

Open Discussion

- Hillel, Alternative Spring Break to Roatan Honduras Budget Request
- Raw Aesthetic Movements, Rhythm Spotlight XVII Budget Request

Old Business

- Hillel, Alternative Spring Break to Roatan Honduras Budget Request
  - Motion to untable the Hillel, Alternative Spring Break to Roatan Honduras Budget request
    - Seconded
    - PASSES
  - Motion to pass \$0 to the Hillel, Alternative Spring Break to Roatan Honduras
    - Seconded
    - PASSES, \$0 passed towards Hillel's budget request

New Business

- Raw Aesthetic Movements, Rhythm Spotlight XVII Budget Request
  - Motion to pass \$2,340.50
    - Seconded
    - PASSES, \$2,340.50 passed towards RAM

Informal Discussion

Michael moves to close the meeting, Kirsten seconds

7:26 pm

Budget Requests:

Organization: Raw Aesthetic Movements

Contact: Celine Mojica

- ASA Account Number: 0673
- What Kind of Support are you looking for?
  - Monetary, Advertisements
- Name of Event, Event Date/Time/Location
  - Rhythm Spotlight XVII, January 18th/ 3:00 PM- 10:00PM/Heritage Hall
- Describe The Event
  - Rhythm Spotlight is a Hip-Hop dance competition. It is split into two categories: 2 versus 2 Breaking and 1 versus 1 All Styles. Breaking mainly consists of four kinds of movement: toprock, downrock, power moves, and freezes. As for All Styles, it may include but is not limited to Breaking, Popping, and Locking. For each category, three judges are chosen to critique the freestyle dances, informally referred to as battles. The format for both categories is a Top 16 tournament style elimination. The 2 versus 2 Breaking will have teams of two competitors and the 1 versus 1 All Styles will have individual competitors. Furthermore, the event incorporates two more core elements of Hip-Hop: the Disc Jockey and a Master of Ceremony. In addition, some of the judges provide dance workshops throughout the weekend. The purpose of the dance workshops are to share and teach knowledge of Hip-Hop and strengthen participant's level in dance. Since the beginning of Rhythm Spotlight, the event has grown in popularity and attracts spectators and competitors from all over the

United States and even internationally. All these essential factors are why this event is so unique for Penn State.

- History of Event
  - Hip-Hop culture emerged in the 1970's among the African American and Puerto Rican communities of the South Bronx. It can be characterized by four core elements: Master of Ceremony (MC), Disc Jockey (DJ), Breaking (Breakdancing), and graffiti art. The fifth, which is arguably the most important, is knowledge. As Hip-Hop culture becomes increasingly more commercialized in the United States, it's important to educate people on the foundations of Hip-Hop and celebrate them. Rhythm Spotlight does just that, and it's an experience that cannot be compared by anything else in central Pennsylvania. This event started in 2003 near our organizations founding and has been reoccurring on Penn state campus for 17 years.
- How will this event benefit on-campus students?
  - Aside from being a unique experience that celebrates an influential piece of cultural history, it can provide many benefits and opportunities for Penn State students. For example dance, which may be seen as a universal language. There are several competitors and spectators who travel from all over the United States and outside of the United States to attend Rhythm Spotlight. Raw Aesthetic Movements offers Penn State students and the State College community an opportunity to connect with individuals they may not have otherwise. Rhythm Spotlight emphasizes and showcases the importance of diversity through allowing people the opportunity to exchange, express, teach, and empower the myriad of different cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities, dance styles, dance abilities, and so much more through dancing. To pronounce the location of the event it is conveniently located at the heart of the Penn State campus, Hetzel Union Building (HUB-Robeson Center) where Penn State students can utilize this event that is unlike anything else and the benefits that come with it.
  - Also, many attendees become inspired when watching and participating in the competitions. Aside from dance professors, Penn State students do not have much exposure to professional dancers in State College. Rhythm Spotlight offers a rare occasion to connect with people in the industry and gain insight that each person can pass on for future Penn State students. There is a huge focus on passing down knowledge orally; the traditions and unwritten rules of Hip-Hop are not things one can take a class on. Lastly, Rhythm Spotlight has become a huge motivator for students to improve their dancing and get more involved with the art form. Recently, four members of Raw Aesthetic Movements participated in a university level dance competition. The four members made it to the finals against universities like Harvard and Rutgers, where they were able to represent Penn State. Their biggest inspiration and motivator was from their experiences at Rhythm Spotlight.
- Have you applied for UPAC Funding?
  - Yes, \$10,350.98
- How much financial assistance are you requesting from ARHS?
  - \$2,340.50
- How will this funding be used?
  - We are only requesting funding to be used for the lodging of our judges, MC, and DJ with the prize money for the breaking and/or all styles competition. We have Everything else has already been covered by UPAC sufficiently.
  - I have attached our allocation budget as reference:
    - <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3A188074a6-f2ab-4f1c-8559-ab75511c3028>
- Would you be willing to advertise ARHS as a sponsor?

- o Yes

Organization: Hillel

Contact: Adam Schwartz

- ASA Account Number: 0249
- What Kind of Support are you looking for?
  - o Monetary
- Name of Event, Event Date/Time/Location
  - o Alternative Spring Break to Roatan Honduras, 3/6/20-3/15/20
- Describe The Event
  - o This is our fifth year running this community service trip to Roatan, Honduras. Over spring break, we take motivated Penn State students who want to make a change in the world. Each year we choose a service project to complete based on the needs of the community in Roatan. Past projects have included: a road, a staircase up a mountain to improve accessibility for local commuters, and a water drainage system. This work improves the quality of life for the entire community. In addition to these big projects, we bring clothing donations and build relationships with the local people. While we go to impact a group of people we never otherwise would have met, we leave with an understanding what incredible privilege we have and how we can use that privilege to lift others up.
- History of Event
  - o Ten years ago, Scott Fried, our group leader, started a project called "Steps to Roatan." While on a cruise that ported in Roatan, Scott saw a young boy without shoes and followed him into the community of La Colonia. He noticed that everyone lived on hilltops. The rain in Honduras created muddy and dangerous areas that prohibits many elderly, pregnant women, and children from being able to walk to and from their houses to places such as church. Scott has made a commitment to the people living there and promises to return every year. Roatan, while absolutely beautiful and visited each year by many honeymooners and scuba diving enthusiasts, is a place ridden with HIV, poverty and improper health care. The locals need constant assistance to sustain a healthy life and Scott has given his word to the help the people in La Colonia Bella Vista. 3 years ago, 14 students worked on the "Steps to Roatan" project to provide a means of travel to many residents of La Colonia. In addition to the construction and physical labor, we brought education. While there we played with the children and taught them fundamental English words and dental hygiene. Two years ago, we built a road to reconnect a community and last year a water drainage system. This year we wish to continue the legacy of service in Roatan through a fifth annual service trip. Throughout our years, we have developed unbreakable bonds with the locals. By us making a commitment to go every year, this gives the community hope that they are not forgotten.
- How will this event benefit on-campus students?
  - o A travel experience of this nature is unique and unavailable within the United States. Volunteers will be able to help a community in need and be exposed to a culture very different than that here in the United States. We will be able to see a community be built from year after year and be part of this lasting relationship. Furthermore, will learn about Judaism in another country. We picked students for this trip based off who will help us by making the biggest impact on the community, who will be able to grow the most through this experience, and who will be able to come back to Penn State and make an impact back on our community. Residents who wish to leave Roatan are unable to obtain visas or afford

passports and airfare. Scott, our leader, is able to go back to the same town and build each year to help the people of Roatan sustain a better life. He has seen the little children grow into young adults who can take care of their families and we want to be a part of this. Roatan Honduras is an extremely special place. I believe it is difficult to appreciate the life that we are living until seeing first hand a different life style. The people of La Colonia live without basic needs, but are still rich with life. When talking to and meeting the community, one learns so much and remembers these people and lessons for a lifetime. Everybody in the world sees the same stars every night and throughout the trip it is clear that we share the same goals and passions. Although we are so far, I learned that we are all connected. It is important to help people who need help no matter the political border that surrounds them.

- Have you applied for UPAC Funding?
  - Yes, we just received \$5000 from UPAC, which we are expecting to contribute to about 50% of our flight costs!
- How much financial assistance are you requesting from ARHS?
  - \$5,000
- How will this funding be used?
  - This funding will be used to subsidize our cost. It will go towards transportation, materials for our project, and other costs associated with the project. Whatever costs is not fundraised is funded by each participant individually.
- Would you be willing to advertise ARHS as a sponsor?
  - Yes
- Comments requested from tabling the budget:
  - The amazing part about this trip is that our project is chosen based off of what the local community tells us they need the week we arrive. We do this because the people we serve know what they need and will benefit from much more than we do. Because of this, we will not know what project we are doing until March when our trip leader visits Roatan the week before we arrive. This timeline allows us to determine what will impact the most people and how our impact can be maximized in the week that we are there. Our past projects have included: a staircase, a paved road, and a water drainage system. Many of our projects have improved the accessibility of the commute to and from home for the local workers and children of the community, while the drainage system was meant to improve the health of the community by isolating sewage from the rest of the environment. All of our projects thus far have worked towards increasing safety and quality of life for as many local community members as possible. The cost of these projects the past four years have ranged from \$3,200-\$3,900. Hence, we have our project for this year budgeted for \$4000.