

UPUA Election Guide

Tomorrow, PSU students will decide whom they want representing them

The University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) will hold its second elections tomorrow. There are twice as many presidential candidates this semester than there were in the fall, when there were only three tickets. Students will be able to vote at www.vote.psu.edu starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m.

Hadas & Barasch

Presidential Candidate: Daniel Hadas (junior-political science and economics)

Vice Presidential Candidate: Michael Barasch (sophomore-broadcast journalism and secondary education)

Credentials: Hadas served as president of Sigma Phi Epsilon and Penn State United Nations. He is also a facilitator-in-training of The Race Relations Project, Mortar Board National Honor Senior Society and Order of Omega Honor Society. Barasch is a member of the Penn State Blue Band, Penn State Blue and White Society, the Penn State Solar Decathlon Team and serves as vice president of Programming of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Hadas said his credentials qualify him to be UPUA president because he knows how to "motivate and inspire for a common cause." Hadas also said passion is what makes UPUA special on campus and he has a lot of passion.

Web site: www.itsourtime.net

Platform: Hadas said he would like to reach out to students and their organizations and get to know their concerns through meetings and student polls. He also said he would like to implement a method for evaluating university advisors, increase awareness about why tuition is rising and look into the possibility of lobbying for "student centered scholarships." He also wants to help instill a sense of pride among students.

Biggest Problem Facing PSU students: Hadas said one of the main issues with the current UPUA is that students do not know who to go to for help. "Having student polls is a feasible way to gauge concerns," Hadas said. UPUA would help students by listening, being proactive and showing the students that UPUA cares, he said.



Hadas



Barasch

Keirans & Wallace

Presidential Candidate: Gavin Keirans (freshman-business management)

Vice Presidential Candidate: Mike Wallace (freshman-business)

Credentials: Keirans served as the director of the executive cabinet in the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and served as one of the three liaisons during the USG/UPUA merger. Keirans, a member of the USG trust, spearheaded USG's Awareness Week as well as fundraising endeavors. Keirans also served as speaker during the Rally at the Rotunda and will speak at tonight's Rally for Change. Wallace works with the USG trust and appears on The Lion 90.7 FM.

Web site: www.getupforgavin.com

Platform: Keirans said his goal is to bring together student leaders through the idea of collaboration. Bringing together student organizations under a united front would be beneficial when fighting for main issues, he said. Keirans said if UPUA remains individual and doesn't work with other groups, UPUA "won't accomplish anything."

Biggest Problem Facing PSU students: Keirans said the "lack of shared governance" plagues students. He added there is a lack of respect from the administration and student representation has been stripped of its rights. If elected, Keirans said he would make a strong effort with UPUA and encourage all student groups to speak out as one in order to have a stronger voice.



Keirans



Wallace

Lewis & Keller

Presidential Candidate: Hillary Lewis (junior-international politics and public relations)

Vice Presidential Candidate: Frank Keller (junior-finance)

Credentials: Lewis currently serves as an at-large representative for UPUA and as UPUA's head chairwoman of government affairs. She has also sat on the constitutional committee. Lewis is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Lion Scouts, Pi Beta Phi and was a captain in Thon. Lewis said she is qualified because she has been "highly involved with Penn State" and in student government. Frank Keller is the executive vice president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the IFC delegate to UPUA. He is the former president of Kappa Alpha. Keller said his and Lewis' platform is very realistic and students will see change quickly.

Web site: www.fandLewis.com

Platform: Lewis said she would increase awareness of PSUTXT and make signing up for its services easier by offering it to students when they register for classes. She also said she supports establishing a uniform price for food in the commons, helping to lower tuition which has "outgrown inflation," and integrating eLion and ANGEL so students' class schedules merge with their calendars on ANGEL.

Biggest Problem Facing PSU students: Lewis said while one can't summarize the problems of 42,000 students into one problem, a common issue is the debt students acquire throughout their time at Penn State.



Lewis



Keller

Torres & Anderson

Presidential Candidate: Ricardo Torres (junior-energy business and finance and Spanish)

Vice Presidential Candidate: Mike Anderson (sophomore-engineering)

Credentials: Torres served as Circle K District Governor, Undergraduate Student Government (USG) academic assembly president, a University Park Undergraduate Association at-large representative, a student senator in the University Faculty Senate and the earth and mineral science student council this year, among other things. Anderson served on the faculty senate, USG academic assembly and UPUA as well, in addition to the division of undergraduate studies student council and the Navigators Christian ministry.

Torres said he and Anderson's wide array of involvement would give them a good perspective on a broad range of students, providing the opportunity to see how effective UPUA's efforts to reach students are and to adjust accordingly as the year passes.

Web site: www.ricoandmike.com

Platform: Torres said his administration would focus on balancing initiatives with "tangible results" against long-range goals. He said "gaining the respect of the administration" and making sure the student body is involved in university decision-making were two of his biggest goals.

Biggest Problem Facing PSU Students: Torres said the biggest problem facing the student body was a general lack of knowledge about "the system."

"An average Penn State student doesn't really know who represents their voice, who they can go to for any problem," he said. "There's no real means for a Penn Stater to efficiently make the Penn State experience fully customized."



Torres



Anderson

Johnson & Lenn

Presidential Candidate: Peter Johnson (junior-political science)

Vice Presidential Candidate: Chris Lenn (junior-economics)

Credentials: Johnson is a member of the College Republicans, while Lenn is a member of the Funding Allocation Board (FAB) and the Rainbow Roundtable.

Johnson said his experience in a registered student group would be beneficial, while Lenn's experience provided a knowledge of "financial aspects," as well as the experience of working with representatives from different groups on campus.

Web site: psu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2297123835

Platform: Johnson said he and Lenn have a "bunch of short-term objectives to accomplish the long-term goals." Johnson said if elected, he would establish a UPUA group on ANGEL of which all undergraduate students would automatically be members. Through that group, Johnson said students would be able to give their opinion on UPUA's actions.

"We want the students to set the tone for UPUA," he said, describing his prospective administration as "interactive" and "transparent."

Johnson also said he would want UPUA to back up student organizations when they had conflicts with the administration.

Biggest Problem Facing PSU students: Johnson said there were three main problems facing Penn State students: tuition, rebuilding a relationship with the administration and a lack of a feeling of "community." He said solving the latter problem would take care of the first two.

"When students come together, it's much easier for students to have their voice heard," he said.



Johnson



Lenn

Gremminger & Isajewicz

Presidential Candidate: Jonathan Gremminger (sophomore-international politics)

Vice Presidential Candidate: James Isajewicz (sophomore-international politics)

Credentials: Gremminger said he and Isajewicz are "running on their objectivity," since neither of them have ever been members of notable student groups on campus. Both are involved in the Marine Corps; Gremminger is a reservist and Isajewicz is an officer candidate. Gremminger said they drew their "leadership style" from that experience.

Web site: psu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2269389179

Platform: Gremminger said, if elected, he would focus on getting the "common student" involved in UPUA.

"Right now, our government is kind of a secret government," he said.

Within a week, Gremminger said, he would have a UPUA Web site on which students could leave comments and concerns.

Biggest Problem facing PSU students: Gremminger said students simply need effective representation. He said the level of awareness about UPUA is extremely low, but if students knew about it and took their concerns to it, UPUA would be able to represent students' interests to the administration.



Gremminger



Isajewicz

For more information on the candidates and to cast your vote:

www.vote.psu.edu

On the Web

For continual election coverage:

www.collegian.psu.edu