



Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University
315 HUB-Robeson Center
University Park, PA 16802
Email: gpsa@psu.edu

GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, August 26, 2015 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB-Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:01pm

II. Roll Call

- a. Please see Addendum I

III. Adoption of Agenda

- a. No objections to the adoption of the agenda, as distributed.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. No objections to the approval of the April 29, 2015 minutes, as distributed.

V. Report by the Judiciary: *Brian Aynardi*

- a. There are a number of open delegate positions: *Please advertise these positions to your colleagues and constituencies!*
 - i. Art & Architecture (1 seat vacant)
 - ii. Earth & Mineral Sciences (2 seats vacant)
 - iii. Eberly College of Science (1 seat vacant)
 - iv. Education (2 seats vacant)
 - v. Health & Human Development (1 seat vacant)
 - vi. Information Sciences & Technology (1 seat vacant)
 - vii. Inter-College Degree Program (2 seats vacant)
 - viii. Internal Affairs (1 seat vacant)
 - ix. Nursing (1 seat vacant)
 - x. Smeal College of Business (1 seat vacant)
 - xi. White Course Apartments (1 seat vacant)
 - xii. At-Large Delegates (3 seats vacant)
- b. There is an open position on the Judiciary
 - i. Please contact Chief Justice Aynardi at judiciarygpsa@gmail.com if you are interested in this position, or if you have any questions/comments/concerns
 - ii. Justices may not serve on any other body
- c. In regard to questions about the constitution that arose at the end of last semester (primarily regarding Article II, Section A of the bylaws), the President has the power to veto any legislation (including co-sponsorships and expenditures) he/she deems fit
 - i. There is no current power to overthrow a Presidential veto, but this could be incorporated into the constitution with upcoming changes
 - ii. The process as it stands now: The president has 72 hours following a vote to use his/her veto power. Within 24 hours, the judiciary must be notified. The secretary is then informed and advised to send notification to the assembly.

VI. Wise words from Dr. Burlingame

- a. Dr. Burlingame has served this past year as the advisor to GPSA, and served previously as advisor to GSA approximately a decade ago.
- b. GPSA is the group that the University President has designated as the official student government of graduate and professional students
- c. Enjoyed the great communication between GPSA leaders, the Graduate School and University Administration regarding IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act this summer
- d. Currently, Dr. Burlingame works primarily with the Executive Board, but is happy to assist others if you reach out with any questions or concerns regarding GPSA or the University as a whole

VII. Open Student Forum

- a. No business to attend to.

VIII. Report by the President: *Kevin Horne*

- a. Orientations
 - i. Thank you to everyone who volunteered! We attended just less than 70 orientations at various programs in addition to the Graduate school orientation, where we helped with a panel as well as campus tours
 - ii. Please bring Newswire sign ups to the office or give to Kevin/Courtney
- b. Board of Trustees Meeting
 - i. New appointments to new positions on the board (faculty, alumni association, 3 at-large seats, etc.)
 - ii. Alumni Trustee lawsuit
 1. A group of 9 trustees wanted access to documents but the University cited confidentiality reasons to not release reports
 2. Yet to be resolved; be on the lookout for more information to come
 - iii. New student Trustee took office at July meeting
 1. This is something that all three student governments have been fighting for over the past 5+ years!
 2. Please welcome Luke Metaxas, who is a Junior in the Smeal College of Business
 - iv. In-state tuition did not increase for the first time in 40+ years
 1. This was done without knowledge of appropriations for the next year, as Harrisburg has yet to pass a budget
 - v. Penn State Health
 1. This is a newly formed group of health systems and hospitals across the state
- c. GPSA Office
 - i. It is now clean! Come use it!
 - ii. Please test your swipe card access and contact Kevin if you do not currently have access but would like it!
 1. Encouraging use of the office space for committee meetings, socializing, studying, etc.
 - iii. We have new computers!
 - iv. We now have Storage access at Stow-Away! Contact Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) if you need to retrieve anything at any point
 - v. Documents from the past have been moved to the Archives at the library – could be interesting to plan a trip to see our history and get ideas
- d. Upcoming events

- i. GSAS (Graduate Student Alumni Association) – GPSA Mixer: November 6, 2015, 5:30 – 7:00pm, Nittany Lion Inn
- ii. Career Exploration Workshop: October 24, 2015, 9:30am – 1:30pm, 114 Kern
 1. Would like to have GPSA representation at each of the two workshop events during this time – please contact Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) if you are interested
- iii. Dinner with Gail Hurley: September 2, 2015, 5:30pm, BJC
 1. Gail Hurley is the Director of Auxiliary Business Services and has invited as many GPSA members to dinner as would like to attend. RSVP is required – please contact Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) by August 27
- iv. Dissertation Bootcamp: October 5 – 9, 2015, Paterno Library
 1. Rooms are booked
 2. We are still looking for a Professional Development chair to plan this event
- v. Graduate Student Leader Roundtables
 1. Idea here is to bring people that are active in the community together and discuss issues (hopefully with VP Sims also in attendance)
 2. Last semester, this led to pretty good discussion, so we would like to plan 2 per semester this year
 3. If you are interested in putting these together, please let Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu) know
- vi. GPSA Retreat (potential)
 1. In the past, GPSA has had a summer retreat prior to the start of the semester
 2. If others are interested, there is potential to have something following Dissertation Bootcamp in October
- vii. Calendar on website (<http://gpsa.psu.edu/calendar-of-events/>)
 1. Please send events for the calendar to Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu) or Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu)
 2. Encourage your constituencies to visit the calendar to keep track of events!
- viii. Healthcare
 1. IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act only allows university's to fund employee plans (and not individual plans, which include those of graduate students)
 - a. Universities across the country will be fined \$100.00 per day per student if they continue to support students
 2. University of Missouri put out a release saying that they would use the pot of money across the board
 - a. UM walked back on this decision and decided to continue as-is until the University is fined
 - b. This is not something that is imminent at PSU – administration recognize that this would cripple nation across the nation
 - c. There is optimism that the IRS interpretation can be changed
- ix. Constitution and bylaws
 1. The overhaul of these documents turned out to be a bigger project than anticipated
 - a. Updates will be passed along to the Assembly as they become available
 - b. There may also be an open forum meeting after these changes are in the draft phase to address any and all questions prior to the Assembly vote
- x. Committee restructuring

1. Assembly should be setting the agenda for each meeting
2. To do this, it may be wise to propose that some committee be condensed into larger committee (i.e., one to deal with student life, one for governmental affairs, etc.) that have one chair and various subcommittees
- xi. Open delegate seats
 1. There are currently 17 open seats on the Assembly – please advertise these positions to your constituencies!
- xii. International travel policy
 1. Provost has decided to strictly enforce travel policy that states that students must submit location and justification for travel abroad to countries on the Travel Advisory list – paperwork must be submitted at least 60 days in advance
 2. More information will be send to all students shortly
- xiii. Office manager
 1. After discussion, it has been decided that we should hire an office manager to work 5-10 hours per week at \$10.00/hr to handle meeting preparations, room reservations, etc.
 - a. This will require an assembly vote (approximately a \$2250.00 expense)
 2. A Chief of Staff position was previously advertised – this was a volunteer position, but there were no applications
- xiv. Facilities Fee Advisory Board
 1. Currently, the board has 500,000 to spend on facility updates – please send ideas to Kevin (kvh5130@psu.edu)
- xv. Budget priorities
 1. We are currently the only student organization at PSU that uses Student Activity Fee money to purchase food for assembly meetings
 - a. The SAFB has informally told Kevin that we should not be using funds for ourselves, but rather to serve the larger student body
 - b. Our main priority here is not social interaction with each other
 2. We should direct spending to programs that help graduate & professional students rather than programs that help us as individuals

IX. New Business:

- a. No business to attend to.

X. Standing Committee Reports

a. Comments from the Vice President regarding committees:

- i. Still soliciting committee chairs, particularly for the Professional Development Committee. If interested, please contact Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu)
- ii. Student Concerns committee will be added to the agenda for future meetings

b. Internal Development: *Jeremy Johnson*

- i. The Constitution and Bylaws are currently being revised – please email Jeremy (jrj181@psu.edu) with any ideas or concerns you have for this process. He hopes to have a first draft of changes for the next Assembly meeting

c. Community Service: *Erica Hildabridge, Jesse Scott*

- i. Contact Erica (esh5111@psu.edu) if you are interested in serving on this committee
- ii. Working with ‘Fresh start’ day of service organization, which organizes and executes a day of service for first year students at UP (includes transfers, graduate students, etc.)

1. In need of additional volunteers on August 29th, 2015 (primarily at 7:30am and during the lunch shift) – please contact Jesse (jus121@psu.edu) if you are interested
 - iii. Also will be working with the Council of Lionhearts (and potentially co-sponsoring an event with one of these organizations)
 - iv. Blood drive scheduled on November 6 with the help of the Engineering Student Council (as part of the MSU/PSU challenge) – located at the lounge between Hammond and Sackett buildings
 - v. Thanksgiving basket drive is also a potential service event this semester
 - vi. Would like to have an event every 3 weeks or so, so keep a look out for all of the great opportunities to give back!
- d. **Grad Cup:**
- i. James Fan and Lillian Hill will serve as this year's co-chairs
- e. **Programming:**
- i. Lillian Hill will serve as this year's chair.
 1. She is interested in hosting interdepartmental mixers and taking advantage of events hosted at the University that are free to students
 2. Welcome back event to be planned in the next few weeks to bring together students across the university
 3. Looking for more family friendly events, in general, and locations that are not necessarily at local bars (but rather parks, etc.). Please email Lilly (lzh157@psu.edu) if you have additional ideas for events!
- f. **Publicity & Media:** *Nicole Benevento*
- i. Currently looking for a new chair – this position primarily oversees social media and website updates, which includes the calendar of events on the website
 1. If we hire an office manager – should we keep this position?
 - ii. Blue and White Society is hosting a welcome event on August 28, 2015 at 5pm – there will be free ice cream, food, games, etc.
 - iii. Please forward any events for the calendar to Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu)
 1. FYI: The calendar can be imported to other Google calendars
- g. **Human Diversity:** *Luis Ocampo*
- i. Working with Office of Graduate Education to improve the recruiting and retention of underrepresented students
 - ii. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Luis (lio5000@psu.edu)
- h. **PACCC:**
- i. Committee chair position is vacant. Email Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) if interested in serving
- i. **Healthcare & Health Insurance:** *Alison Franklin*
- i. There was a great group of students involved with the discussion on the IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act – there was great communication between university administration and students
 - ii. Working on updating the website within the next week – if you see anything that is not clear or if you would like additional information, please contact Alison (amy125@psu.edu)
 - iii. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Alison (amy125@psu.edu)

- iv. Also will be working on a series of educational workshops this year, and potentially working with the graduate school on this initiative. More information to come

XI. Report by the Executive Vice President: *Anthony Christina*

- a. The agenda will be distributed 24 hours ahead of an Assembly meeting. Please send reports or any changes to the agenda to Anthony (aoc5144@psu.edu) by the Sunday evening before a meeting, at the latest

XII. Report by the Vice President of External Affairs: *Nicole Benevento*

- a. Welcome back and welcome new assembly members!
- b. Advisory Council for Continued Excellence (June 4, 2015)
 - i. Town Hall meeting results (re: Penn State Values and Culture survey)
 - 1. 46 Town Hall meetings were held in Spring 2015 with over 2,000 participants and over 300 small group discussions across the Commonwealth
 - ii. Adopted the final version of *The Penn State Values*
 - iii. Approved by President's Council on June 15, 2015
 - iv. Release to the general University community is forthcoming
 - v. If you are interested in reading more about the results of the Penn State Values and Culture Survey, please see:
<http://news.psu.edu/story/326751/2014/09/19/results-released-penn-states-values-and-culture-survey>
- c. Graduate School Alumni Society (GSAS) (May 18, 2015 & July 22, 2015)
 - i. GSAS Professional Development Committee Conference Call
 - 1. Career Exploration Workshop: "The Classroom of the Future" and "Developing Your Professional Self"
 - a. Career Exploration Workshop on *Saturday, October 18* from 9:00am – 12:45pm in 101 Thomas Building
 - b. For more information and to register:
<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/current-students/career-exploration-workshop/>
 - 2. Professional Development Seminars
 - a. Discussion around reviving Professional Development Seminars that have been offered in the past by Graduate School alumni
 - 3. GPSA and Graduate Student Outreach
 - a. *November 6* reception with the leaders of GPSA – all are welcome!
 - b. Possible interest in helping to sponsor Grad Cup as well
 - 4. GSAS Mentorship
 - a. Discussed creating opportunities for alumni to mentor graduate students
 - ii. GSAS Board Conference Call
 - 1. Selection of President-elect and election of new Board members
 - 2. Committee reports
 - 3. Fall Board Meeting of the Graduate School Alumni Society scheduled for *November 6 – 7, 2015*
- d. Transportation Services (May 26, 2015 & July 13, 2015)
 - i. Meeting to discuss Ride-for-Five program
 - 1. First year of expanding the program to graduate students – over 1700 enrolled (compared to 1000 employees)

2. Want to keep the spirit of the program to reduce on-campus traffic and encourage commuting while keeping costs low
3. CATA will be increasing prices on their end after this year; considering increasing the price of the program across the board (for all faculty/staff/graduate students)
 - a. Currently, Transportation Services pays \$37.00 for every Ride-for-Five participant (the negotiated price has been \$42.00 for over a decade)
4. Future changes:
 - a. Enrollment will not roll-over, will have to re-enroll on a yearly basis (emails will be send out to all pass holders)
 - b. Will have he option to suspend enrollment for the summer months if you will not be in State College
 - i. Questions regarding Ride-for-Five:
 1. Is there a cap on the number of students? Yes – they have put a cap on numbers this year to keep expenses down. People that had enrolled in the program only rode once or twice per month, which is not why the program was started. Looking into solutions for this as well
 2. As it currently stands, students cannot enroll until September 1 – can this be changed? No, due to CATA’s billing structure
 - ii. Thank you to Nicole for her work on getting stop signs installed in the stadium parking lots!! You rock!
- e. UHS Director Search
 - i. Met with candidate in late June/early July
 - ii. Dr. Robin E. Oliver-Veronesi was names senior director of UHS – her appointment took effect August 10th:
<http://news.psu.edu/story/365340/2015/08/11/campus-life/student-affairs-announces-appointment-senior-director-uhs>
- f. Alternative Transportation Coordinator Search
 - i. Met with three candidates in early July
 - ii. This position would oversee things like the bike-share/ride-share programs that have been previously discussed
 - iii. Announcement of Coordinator is still pending
- g. Title IX Director Search
 - i. First round of interviews took place in early August
 - ii. Campus visits will be coordinated for early fall
 - iii. Representative of GPSA will have the opportunity to meet with candidates – if you are interested, please contact Nicole (nmb5273@psu.edu)
- h. Liaison Appointments: Thank you to our newly appointed liaisons!
 - i. Health Insurance Committee: Alison Franklin, Morteza Karimzedah, Katie Kragh-Buetow
 - ii. Law Enforcement Taskforce Liaison: Wideline Seraphin
 - iii. Legislative Outreach Commission: Danielle Rhubart
 - iv. Lion’s Pantry Advisory Board: Enica Castañeda, Kevin Reuning
 - v. Office of Student Legal Services Advisory Board: Anthony Christina
 - vi. University Park Student Transportation Commission: Xavier Harmony
- i. Liaison reports: Legislative Outreach Commission

- i. A legislative affairs committee was formed by the UPUA last semester
 - 1. Purpose of the committee is to bring together representatives from all three students governments to develop and build sustained legislative outreach efforts.
 - 2. Danielle Rhubart will be working with their governmental affairs director to coordinate a meeting for the joint legislative affairs committee
 - 3. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact Danielle at rhubart@psu.edu
- j. Interested in getting more involved? We need liaisons for the following:
 - i. Graduate School Alumni Society Board
 - ii. Legislative Outreach Commission
 - iii. Student Sustainability Advisory Council
 - iv. Movin' On
 - v. Please contact Nicole if you are interested in any of the above councils/committees (nmb5273@psu.edu)

XIII. Report by the Treasurer: *Ayla Gafni*

- a. As of July 1, our standing allocation of \$59,542 was deposited into our account
- b. To access GPSPA funds:
 - i. Contact the Treasurer (arg225@psu.edu)
 - ii. If over \$750.00, draft a spending bill and bring it before the Assembly (to be included with the agenda prior to the meeting)
 - iii. Work with the Treasurer to decide the best way to pay for the expense (purchase order, contract, reimbursement)
 - 1. Do NOT spend your own money without asking first
- c. Please refer to Addendum II to see a summary of last year's budget expenditures
- d. Plans for 2015 – 2016
 - i. Each committee should host at least one large event
 - ii. Co-sponsored events should have large G&P involvement
 - iii. Scale back events that are 'strictly social'
- iv. Delegates: go to your constituents and find out what types of programs they would like to see
- v. Committee chairs: What types of events/programs do you want to put on?
 - 1. How many participants? Will food be provided? Music? Equipment needed? Other expenses?
 - 2. Let Ayla (arg225@psu.edu) know by the next meeting, if possible

XIV. Report by the Secretary: *Courtney Davis*

- a. Newswires will be distributed on a weekly or biweekly basis on Mondays – please email things to be included in the newswire to gpsanewswire@gmail.com by Friday afternoon to be included in the following week's edition
 - i. The Newswire will have a new face! Please send any suggestions or comments to Courtney (cld303@psu.edu) – we are trying to make it more reader-friendly and easier for students to find the information they want

XV. Report by the Faculty Senate: *Azita Ranjbar*

- a. Will work to increase graduate student faculty senator representatives (currently we only have 1, whereas undergraduates have approximately 20)
- b. Also will support graduate council members on their initiative to ensure that no graduate student makes below a grade 12 wage

XVI. Report by Graduate Council: *Jeffrey Masko, Brad Sottile*

- a. Working on graduate student & faculty issues career day – more details to come in future meetings!
- b. Officially approved two appointments for faculty: professionally-oriented and research-oriented graduate faculty. This does influence who can serve on graduate committees

XVII. Report by the Liaisons

- a. Nothing to report.

XVIII. Report by the Student Trustees: *Allie Goldstein*

- a. Allie was elected to serve as the student trustee, but was appointed by the Governor
- b. Allie and Luke (the recently student-selected student trustee) will divvy up the responsibilities between student organizations, but Allie will be the more common face in GPSA meetings!
 - i. Her duty is to listen and be as present as possible, when possible
 - ii. Please feel free to approach her with concerns, questions, comments, etc.
(asg206@psu.edu)
- c. The next board meeting will take place on September 17–18 and is open to the public if anyone is interested in attending

XIX. Report by the Advisor: *Philip Burlingame*

- a. We had a great turnout for the first meeting of the semester! Welcome and welcome back to all! We hope that you come back.
- b. Two items that are particularly exciting for the coming semester: 1) revitalizing and streamlining the constitution and 2) revamping the budget and focusing on a renewed effort on programming

XX. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Kevin Horne:
 - i. Promises to keep the ‘reports’ section of the meeting to 1 hour (or less)
 - ii. Next Assembly meeting will be September 9, 2015 and will be held in 232 HUB
 - iii. No attendance will be taken during the meeting on September 23, 2015 to accommodate students who observe Yom Kippur
- b. Ayla Gafni:
 - i. Could we have the Publicity & Media committee take on more of a creative role (i.e., be in charge of fliers, t-shirts, tickets, etc.) if the office manager takes over social media?
 - ii. We will need to have assembly approval for food at meetings – if you would like to support this, you will need to draft a spending bill for the next meeting. This means that NO food will be served on the September 9, 2015 Assembly meeting.
 - 1. Addition from Kevin Horne: The 30 minutes prior to the meeting is a valuable time for the group to socialize, etc. – we can informally organize food ordering if people are willing to chip in a few dollars for food
- c. Jeffrey Masko:
 - i. Glad to see so many new people becoming involved! Welcome!
 - ii. Reforming the budget was pretty contentious last year – currently, we ask people to come to us for money but really we should be reaching out to the student population – this relies a lot on delegates to take the initiative and reach out to their constituencies!!
- d. Katie Kragh-Buetow:
 - i. Remind your constituencies that they must register (or make changes to their registration) for student health insurance by September 8!

- ii. Also, be mindful of parking on campus – but a parking permit if needed so that you can avoid unnecessary ticketing and towing expenses!
- e. Jesse Scott:
 - i. The University does have a child care subsidy, for anyone that is in need. This, however, is not an initiative that can currently be funded through GPSA
- f. Ashish Shah:
 - i. A larger portion of graduate & professional students are international! Should we consider having a committee that primarily addresses the needs of international students? Can/should this be included in the human diversity committee?

XXI. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Davis

President: Kevin Horne | kvh5130@psu.edu
Executive Vice President: Anthony Christina | aoc5144@psu.edu
VP of External Affairs: Nicole Benevento | nmb5273@psu.edu
Executive Secretary: Courtney Davis | cld303@psu.edu
Treasurer: Ayla Gafni | arg225@psu.edu
Advisor: Philip Burlingame, Ph.D. | pvb7@psu.edu

Addendum I

GPSA Roll Call

- P** – present
- P/R** – proxy sent
- A** – absent
- W** – left early
- L** – late
- E** – excused

Executive Board

Kevin Horne	P
Anthony Christina	P
Nicole Benevento	P
Courtney Davis	P
Ayla Gafni	P
Phillip Burlingame	P

Faculty Senate

Azita Ranjbar	P
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Graduate Council

Brad Sottile	P
Kathryn Falvo	P
Morteza Karimzadeh	A
Colleen Unroe	P
jeffrey masko	P

Agricultural Sciences

Alison Franklin	L
Erica Hildabridle	P

Art & Architecture

One delegate seat vacant

Communications

Jared LaGroue	P
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Education

Karyn Rizzo	P
two delegate seats vacant	

Dickinson School of Law

Christina Gallagher	A
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Theresa DeAngelis P

Jessica Tully P

Engineering

Jesse Scott P

Ashish Shah P

Wenjie Fei P

Smeal College of Business

James Fan P

Alexander Murdoch L

1 delegate seat vacant

Earth & Mineral Sciences

2 delegate seats vacant

Liberal Arts

Veronica Anne Charbonnet P

Stacey Mitchell P

Jeremy Johnson P

Health & Human Development

Adam Copeland P

1 delegate seat vacant

Information Sciences & Technology

One delegate seat vacant

International Affairs

One delegate seat vacant

Nursing

One delegate seat vacant

Eberly College of Science

Meridith Bartley P

Jason Bernstein P

One delegate seat vacant

White Course Apartments

One delegate seat vacant

Inter-College Degree Program

Lillian Hill P

2 delegate seats vacant

At Large

Kyler Sherman-Wilkins

A

Luis Ocampo

P

1 delegate seat vacant

Judiciary

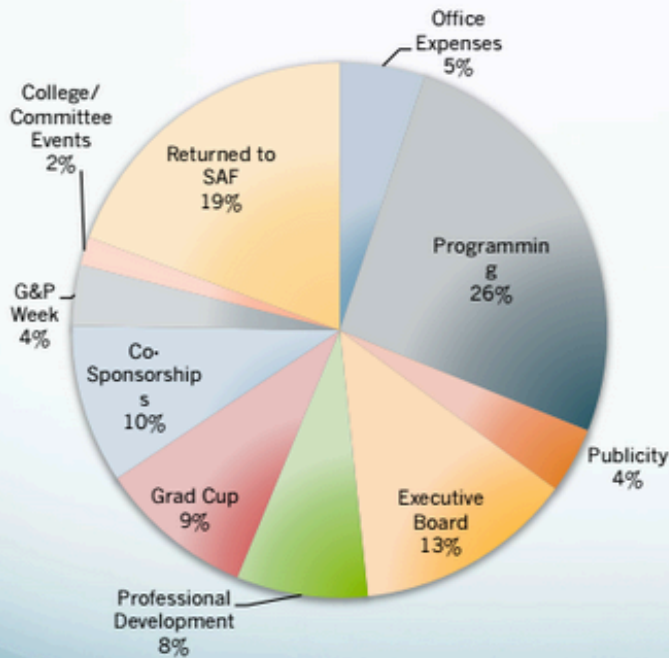
Brian Aynardi

W

Alex Park

A

Last Year's Budget



- Office Expenses includes:
 - new computers (\$2,200)
- Publicity includes:
 - printing (\$2,300)
- Exec Board includes:
 - food at meetings (\$2,665)
 - office manager wages (\$4,000)
- Returned to SAF: \$11,521.96
- Total Allocation: \$59,542