

NEWS

2005 SGA Elections

Presidential and vice-presidential candidates

Alexander Henderson President,
Dana Sosa Vice-President



As the year progresses, students take tours of Penn State Behrend and are often told that Behrend is student centered and that the students are the heart of the college. At Behrend, people in positions of power are often taken to them. If we are elected to the presidency, the students of Behrend will notice a dramatic change in the amount of listening done by SGA. Through listening, we will have developed this platform, and it is our promise to the students throughout the entirety of our presidency that we will respond promptly to student requests.

The main concern of the students is on the issue of tuition. We will take action to keep tuition low by working with local legislators and lobby to bring down the cost of tuition. We have done this for the past two years and we will continue to do so. While alone, a student can do much to reduce the cost of tuition, we have a much greater impact when we work together. We will implement a variety of programs to reduce the ISBN numbers will be listed online to become competitive with other colleges.

The main concern of the students is in the need for commercial services around the campus. If elected, we will work with local businesses in an effort to bring commercial services to the campus. We have done this for the past two years and we will continue to do so. We will also work with local businesses in an effort to bring commercial services to the campus.

The main concern of the students is on the issue of diversity. We will work to reinstate the Diversity Council and create a committee to help foster better relations between people who have different backgrounds.

By listening to the students, we also want to enable them to have their ideas and opinions to SGA. We will work to make sure that their voices are heard. We will also work to make sure that their money is spent wisely.

The main concern of the students is on the issue of parking. We will work to make sure that there is enough parking for all students and staff. We will also work to make sure that the parking is safe and secure.

The main concern of the students is on the issue of student government. We will work to make sure that the student government is representative of the student body. We will also work to make sure that the student government is effective and efficient.

Zack Mentz President,
Seth Laird Vice-President



One of the main problems with the Student Activity Fee is that there isn't anyone designated to check on whether or not a program was a success or failure. Ken Miller, member of the SAF complained, "We don't know how good the program was."

Because of that, money is being given to fund programs that may not be worth it. A way to stop wasting money on events that are unsuccessful is to designate a committee within the student government to go out and attend the events the SAF sponsors. SGA members can set no better example for the student body than by actually going to the events they recognize.

Since the Information Technology fee is the largest fee next to tuition, we would also push to see it have large representation. Each full-time student pays \$175.00 a year towards the IT fee. We would have the academic affairs committee (or a committee of interested students) meet with Ron Hoffman, manager of College IT Services, at least once a semester to discuss the IT fee.

We would work outside of Behrend with other local colleges to share events and ideas. We'd reach out to people like Michael Mancinelli, president of Mercyhurst's Student Government, to pool both campuses' resources. Since there are a lot of colleges nearby, there is a lot of potential for Behrend's SGA to save student dollars.

We'd follow up on the work the SGA has done to improve parking on campus (with the opening of the REDC in addition to the introduction of a common hour, it will be more difficult for commuter students to find parking during the day).

University Park restricts Behrend's Admissions from going outside of Erie, Crawford, and Venango County to recruit upcoming freshman. The Admissions Director, Mary-Ellen Madigan, is working on incorporating the Lion Scout program at Behrend—a program that encourages college volunteers to speak at their old high schools and promote the Behrend campus. We would work with Admissions and push University Park to allow students and staff from the Erie campus to go outside of their designated counties to promote the college. There are some majors that can only be completed at Behrend.

We would rearrange the current budget committee to be more open to the students. Currently, only members of the student government and only a select few of them, are capable of having a vote when it comes to student government funds. We would take a note from other campuses such as Penn State Shenango where the director of student affairs, Kathryn Watson said "anyone who wishes to be on the budget committee can be." This is our money; it is the job of our representa-

Justin Curry President,
Cayla Javor Vice-President



Our campus is changing, no one can deny that. To ensure that these changes positively effect students, the leaders of Student Government need to be able to communicate quickly and fully the concerns of students to the administration.

During his year as vice-president, Justin has already begun to make those connections with administration, faculty and staff and will be able to further those connections as President, ensuring student input in college projects. As a senator and committee director, Cayla has gained the SGA knowledge to work effectively with senators and coordinate committee work accordingly as a vice president.

As students at Penn State, we pay an astonishingly high price for our education. Throughout the past years, SGA has worked to lower the cost of tuition. Instead of working to lower tuition, our administration will work to ensure that we are getting the experience that measures up to what we are paying. Our platform goals focus on how we plan to bring that experience to our fellow students.

Behrend received an FCC license for an FM radio station at the beginning of this school year and in the past, it was the responsibility of SGA to work on matters involving the creation of an FM radio station. SGA will continue that work once more next year, working with administrative and governmental counterparts to make certain that the station would be completed by the end of next school year.

Students at other universities, including University Park, are given an option of where to purchase their books. In order to assist Behrend students in making that decision, SGA will work with the college's schools as well as the bookstore itself to obtain the ISBN numbers for all required texts and then post the numbers online.

Another reason our out-of-class experience might not be up to par is the lack of business close to campus. When the Bayfront Connector opens, traffic flow around the campus will increase dramatically. This would be an excellent time to approach Harborcreek officials to see the inception of a multitude of vendors in proximity to Behrend. Once the area around campus becomes developed enough to allow most needs to be fulfilled close to campus, SGA will can then tackle on one its biggest and most complained about issues: Parking.

To facilitate these goals more effectively and timely, another restructuring of the SGA committees will need to occur. Our working committees, Academic, Student and Governmental Affairs will change drastically to focus on these projects. If issues the former committees would have dealt with come to SGA, SGA E-board will handle them on an as-needed basis.

In order to serve its mission and purpose, SGA needs to change as the campus does. In order to serve students more effectively, SGA needs to be easily accessible and adaptable. Our platform highlights our main goals and projects for SGA in the coming year, and once completed, the goals will change our campus positively and permanently, which is what SGA was created to do.

Senatorial candidates

Cleon Smith



I will be sure to bring all issues. A once for diversity and multicultural issues that sponsor organizations which bring diversity programs to Behrend College. I will also be a bridge between the students and our administration. This bridge will not only be funding opportunities but help every student feel welcome here at Behrend. Most importantly, I will work with the other members of the Student Government to assist in Behrend's plans and organization for forth programs that serve the entire campus. Give me a chance to prove myself, vote Cleon Smith for SGA Senate

Allison Polermo



First and foremost SGA is an altruistic association which is the voice of the students at Penn State Behrend. This being said, I would like to have the chance to share my views on ways our school could be improved to help the students. I realize this position takes work and dedication but I'm willing to put forth the effort. My prior experience with student governing trained me how to work for and with people. So vote for me and I'll prove my presence on the Senate to be a positive one.

Annie Jordan



I am a sixth semester psychology major. Currently I am the secretary for my sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha and I am a member of the Jewish Association of Behrend. The main reason that I want to be an SGA senator is to make sure that the changes do, in fact, occur. I am approachable, honest, hardworking, loyal, and a great listener. These are all qualities that I feel a senator should possess. If you vote for me I will do everything in my power to make the changes you want.

Lindsay Edwards



I would like to be on SGA so I can offer my assets to my college. I am an out-going, ambitious, hard-working, dedicated 4th semester student looking to enrich my Behrend experience. If elected to a Senat Seat, I would promise to work to my best potential to enhance the Student Government Association. I promise to use my best judgement with the focus of Student Government.

Meredith Straub



I am the Panhellenic delegate to SGA, sister of Alpha Sigma Alpha, secretary for JRC, Student Affairs Assistant Director for SGA, and a member of the THON committee. If I were elected SGA senator my main goal would be to be available to all students. Although I have always lived on campus, from what I have seen, the committee students need a bigger voice. If you vote for me, you will have a bigger voice.

Maulins Gandhi



If elected senator, I would put in 110% commitment in pursuing the goals of the student body. I promise to continue working the same way I did this past year with the Governmental Affairs Committee as the Assistant Director in trying to lower tuition and making our student voice heard as well as working on issues that affect students the most. For the past two years, I also helped with the THON committee in raising money for the kids with cancer. I promise to be the student's voice and listen and carry forth the needs of the students.

Jasmine Lee



Having served one year as a student senator already, I have experience dealing with the system at Pennsylvania State University, and already know a great deal of the faculty and administrators. I continue to approach this position with enthusiasm, and look forward to doing so for another year. Because I consider myself an average student, I understand what students want their student government to support, such as increased funding to their organizations, and to be able to communicate with the student body. I will do my best to represent the student body.

Mike Taylor



Over the past year I have worked hard and I am as a Senator for SGA. I am a Committee Director, member of Budget Committee, and sit on Traffic Appeals. I am hard working, honest and responsible. I promise issues that will benefit the students from something as small as food in Bruno's to as large as future parking for REDC. If you want someone who cares and is going to go out of their way to help our school please give me your vote on Election Day.

Danielle Stahlbaum



As an adult student I plan on bringing together all types of students. I am also interested in creating diversity programs that bring both traditional and non-traditional students together. I will use the knowledge and experience I have gained from being involved in organizations such as MCC, Trigon, and Women Today to implement new programs and help the student body around me.

Laura Plocido



As a Resident and Student of Penn State Behrend I feel that it is my responsibility to be involved in what happens on campus. Being a part of The Student Government Association, I feel that I will have the opportunity to represent the student body. If I am elected I will do my best to use the suggestions of the students to make this campus a better place. As a Senator I will be prepared to bring forth issues concerning the campus community and do all that I can to resolve them through the representation of SGA.

Lori Lawhead



I would like to be SGA secretary, because I would like to take a more active role in SGA. I have been a SGA senator for the past year, and I have held the position of secretary for another organization to which I belong. If I was to become secretary, I would be able to help make decisions for SGA and the student body, and as a member of SGA, I would be able to be part of SGA again, and to be a voice for the students of Behrend.

Seraina Naef



I have a dual major in Political Science and Psychology. I have a vast background in campus involvement. I am president of ASA, serve on SAF committee, am a founding member of JAB, an allies coordinator, as well as mentor and working with the Ophelia Project. I am experienced with working with a variety of students and want to continue doing so for the betterment of the Behrend Community.

Erin Hilla



My main motive for involvement in SGA is their involvement with THON. I feel the time and dedication the SGA has put in the past is commendable and I would like to continue to be involved in the organization. I am a hardworking and dedicated student and I will do my best to represent the student body.

Steph Soergel



I am a sixth semester Mathematics major. I am currently a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha. I am a responsible class mate and enjoy helping others by tutoring or studying with students around campus. As a senator for SGA I would work to make the changes that students want. I am hardworking and dedicated, and will make sure that the decisions made reflect the students wants and needs. I want to work for the students to improve Penn State Behrend to the best of my abilities.