



SGA Executive Board Year-End Platform Report

2023- 2024

Student Government Association
L.A. Pittenger Student Center, SC112A



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INTRODUCTION



This report is a comprehensive point-by-point analysis of the 2023-2024 Ball State University Student Government Association Executive Administration in regard to its platform point completion progress over the course of the 2023-2024 legislative term. Each point will be analyzed and a the process of completion for each point will be provided.

Above (Left to Right):

The Executive Board of officers of SGA:

- Brenna Large, President Pro Tempore
- Isaac Ledford, Treasurer
- Katrina Leming, Chief of Staff
- Joseph Gassensmith, Student Body President
- Monet Lindstrand, Student Body Vice President
- Brian Truell, Parliamentarian
- Taylor Perry, Chief Administrator



PLATFORM COMPLETION EXPLANATION

PLATFORM POINT NO. 1:

100% Biodegradable Containers and Flatware in Dining Halls



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Established monthly meeting between Dining and the Executive Dining Advisory Board.

STEP 2:

Shared student concerns regarding dining sustainability across campus.

Platform Point Explanation:

The Ball State Student Government Association and Ball State Dining Services have formed a close partnership through the Student Dining Advisory Board. In our monthly meetings, we have worked to encourage dining to focus on sustainable containers and flatware within the dining halls. Over the year, we have seen dining take this into consideration and prioritize these greener packaging options. This included the inclusion of biodegradable containers in the brand new Atrium revolving kitchen, which opened in January 2024 after the closure of Chick-fil-A.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 2:

More Diversity in Dining Options Across Campus



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Established monthly meeting between Dining and the Executive Dining Advisory Board.

STEP 2:

Shared student concerns regarding dining variety across campus.

Platform Point Explanation:

The 2024 Ball State Student Government Association executive board has continuously introduced conversations with Ball State Dining Services about increasing the diversity in food options on campus for those with dietary restrictions. Over the last year, we were able to provide dining with student feedback about the two active allergen stations in the Atrium and North, recommend new colored and labeled signage for specific allergens, and played a vital role in the development of the revolving kitchen in the Atrium through our conversations in the Student Dining Advisory Board.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 3:

Development of a Tree Canopy Preservation and Protection Plan



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| STEP 1:
Conduct all necessary research. | STEP 2:
Draft proposal for BSU Facilities. | STEP 3:
Submit proposal to BSU Facilities. | STEP 4:
Discuss ideas within proposal. |
|---|--|--|--|

Platform Point Explanation:

The Tree Canopy Preservation and Protection Plan, envisioned by the Gassensmith-Lindstrand administration and its executive board, was drafted by SGA Presidential Cabinet Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Sarah Owens. This proposal aimed to ensure that for every tree cut down at Ball State for any reason, that two would take its place. This proposal was received by the Office of Facilities Planning and Management and is being considered for further implementation. In the meantime, the SGA executive board has funded the planting of three new trees on campus. These trees are marked with plaques denoting that they were funded directly by the SGA executive board. Further, the Tree Canopy Preservation and Protection Plan is publicly available on the SGA website.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 4:

Creation of a Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Consult students to gather DEI concerns

STEP 2:

Create plan to outline goals of commission

STEP 3:

Gather students to serve as representatives on commission

Platform Point Explanation:

This year, we spent time working closely with the Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to create a strong foundation for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission. Students were consulted to gauge important DEI issues and those issues led to further planning of the most important goals of the Commission. We worked diligently to ensure that this commission was thoroughly researched and planned to guarantee its success and effectiveness once it is brought to the student body. This plans and goals will be passed to the next board to serve as a guide to the student selection process and action plan.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 5:

Revitalization of the SGA Identity Button Campaign



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Research underrepresented identities on campus

STEP 2:

Table to give out and promote acceptance

STEP 3:

Take feedback and adapt for the future

Platform Point Explanation:

The SGA Identity Button Campaign was a senate initiative in 2022-23 and was revitalized in the 2023-24 term by the current Executive Board. This campaign is a way to create a sense of belonging and pride amongst students. Expressing yourself creates a sense of community with those around you. The 2023-24 Executive Board wants to ensure that all identities feel a sense of belonging and representation. The first round of this campaign reached over 150 students in the fall. Many students shared their appreciation to be able to proudly display their identities and find communities that support them. The second round of the initiative, that happened in the spring semester, reached even an even larger amount of people. This is a continued effort by the Student Government Association to create a welcoming environment for students.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 6:

Partner With the Ball State University Multicultural Center



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Gauge needs of the Multi

STEP 2:

Communicate with director to support

STEP 3:

Support plans in ways recommended by the Multi

Platform Point Explanation:

The Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion worked closely with the Multicultural Center to support one of their initiatives. This initiative was a trip bringing 20 students to the Indianapolis Underground Railroad Museum. The SGA Cabinet kept in constant communication to support the Multicultural Center's initiatives both with this trip and other campus projects. Our board is dedicated to supporting the Multicultural Center and all of the student organizations that fall under it and we would like to see this partnership continue into the future.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 7:

Recorded Lectures and Lessons in Academic Areas



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| STEP 1:
Research
Platform
Points. | STEP 2:
Meet with
appropriate
parties across
campus. | STEP 3:
Propose points
to Faculty
Council. | STEP 4:
Adapt proposal
as needed. |
|---|---|--|--|

Platform Point Explanation:

This platform point was a part of a larger proposal that was brought before the Ball State University Faculty Council in October 2023. Unfortunately, this proposal failed in Faculty Council but helped to influence a separate proposal developed by the Ball State Office of Disability Services. The incoming SGA Executive Administration has already made a commitment to accessibility across all areas of campus, and it is our hope that the spirit of this proposal will live through a newly developed policy in the 2024-2025 academic year.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 8:

Closed Captioning Throughout the Division of Academic Affairs



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| STEP 1:
Research
Platform
Points. | STEP 2:
Meet with
appropriate
parties across
campus. | STEP 3:
Propose points
to Faculty
Council. | STEP 4:
Adapt proposal
as needed. |
|---|---|--|--|

Platform Point Explanation:

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PLATFORM POINT NO. 9:

Verbal and Written Coursework Instruction at Ball State University



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Research
Platform
Points.

STEP 2:

Meet with
appropriate
parties across
campus.

STEP 3:

Propose points
to Faculty
Council.

STEP 4:

Adapt proposal
as needed.

Platform Point Explanation:

This platform point was a part of a larger proposal that was brought before the Ball State University Faculty Council in October 2023. Unfortunately, this proposal failed in Faculty Council but helped to influence a separate proposal developed by the Ball State Office of Disability Services. The incoming SGA Executive Administration has already made a commitment to accessibility across all areas of campus, and it is our hope that the spirit of this proposal will live through a newly developed policy in the 2024-2025 academic year.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 10:

Implement Red Zone Awareness Training in the Weeks of Welcome



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Met with Center for Survivor Support to build a connection with the office.

STEP 2:

Began conversations regarding the Red Zone and how SGA can introduce increased awareness.

Platform Point Explanation:

The 2024 Student Government Executive Board has prioritized building a close relationship and connection to the Center for Survivor Support at Ball State through regular meetings and partnership events. Within these conversations we have discussed the Red Zone and concerns about sexual assault within the beginning weeks of students on campus. We have proposed future partnerships between the Center for Survivor Support, Health Promotion and Advocacy (HPA), Student Government, and Residence Life to create materials and awareness available specifically in residence halls. We also have worked on best practices for the promotion and advertisement of these materials within residence halls.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 11:

Increase SGA Involvement With Take Back the Night and S.A.A.M.



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Met with Center for Survivor Support to build connection with office.

STEP 2:

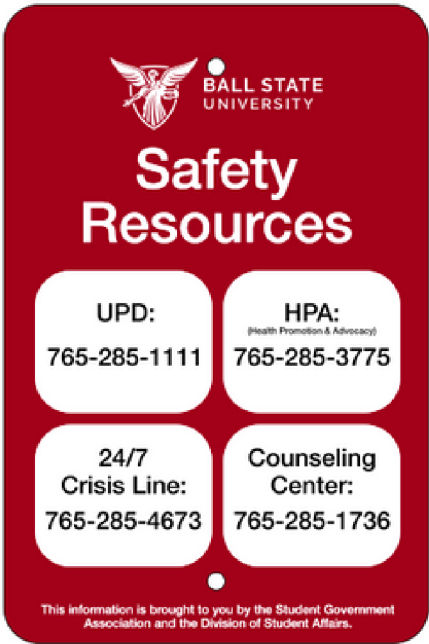
Provided SGA Representative on Sexual Assault Awareness Month Steering Committee.

Platform Point Explanation:

One of our main priorities was expanding the Student Government presence in Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) events. To do, we met with the Center for Survivor Support to discuss how we could best support them and the events of the month. From there, we provided an SGA representative from the executive board to serve on the SAAM planning committee. We partnered with the office to host an on campus showing of the film “Disfluency” and panel with the director and other specialists in this area. Additionally, we are tabling with the office and other campus partners throughout the month. For Take Back the Night, we will be giving out buttons, shirts, and providing information on campus, local, and statewide legislation that protects survivors of sexual assault.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 12:

Improve Safety in Areas Surrounding Ball State’s Campus



Completion Process:

- STEP 1:**
Draft proposal for safety signage.
- STEP 2:**
Work with offices across campus.
- STEP 3:**
Design community safety signs.
- STEP 4:**
Allocate funds and install safety signs.

Platform Point Explanation:

Increasing safety awareness has been one of the foundations of the 2023-2024 SGA executive board. Inspired by signs at Syracuse University in New York, the Ball State community safety signs, completely funded by the SGA executive board, increase awareness for students regarding the direct UPD phone number, the Counseling Center, the Center for Survivor Support, and the 24/7 Victim Advocate. While not intended to deter unwarranted behaviors, these signs are meant to spread awareness of Ball State safety resources and work to increase the presence of these resources in the surrounding community. These signs were completely funded by the SGA executive board and represent another infrastructure investment by this administration.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 13:

Implement Blue Light Emergency Phones at Scheidler Apartments



- ### Completion Process:

STEP 1: Identify areas that have no Blue Lights.	STEP 2: Meet with UPD to draft plan.	STEP 3: Determine location & allocate SGA funds.	STEP 4: Promote the installation of the Blue Light.
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Platform Point Explanation:

An increase of Blue Emergency Phones has been an absolute need of the Ball State Student Body for years. For the first time, the SGA executive board has succeeded in introducing more Blue Emergency Phones and cameras on Ball State’s campus. Through working with UPD, the Gassensmith-Lindstrand administration identified that the on-campus Scheidler Apartments were the ideal area to install a Blue Emergency Phone and cameras. The executive board allocated \$10,000 to install this important service, and through working with UPD, has inspired updates to twelve other Blue Emergency Phones across campus including at the Burkhardt Building, Ball Gym, Glick Center, Studebaker West, Dehority Complex, Worthen Arena, the Student center, Cow Path, Recreation Center, and the Music Instruction Building.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 14:

Improve Overall Lighting Across Campus



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Discuss concerns with students

STEP 2:

Map campus to show dark areas

STEP 3:

Create index to further demonstrate where lights are needed

Platform Point Explanation:

To address a large student safety concern brought before the executive board, members of Cabinet surveyed the Ball State campus to identify areas with poor lighting that contribute to areas where students feel unsafe. The findings of Cabinet were compiled into an index that we hope will encourage the university at large to address these problem areas. We hope this initiative is continued by the incoming board to further address these student concerns.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 15:

Identify Areas for Increased Commuter Parking at Ball State



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| STEP 1:
Identify areas for parking changes. | STEP 2:
Draft proposal for changes. | STEP 3:
Discuss changes with Parking Services. | STEP 4:
Await further discussion. |
|---|---|--|---|

Platform Point Explanation:

Often, the role of the SGA executive board is to act as an advisory body. In this instance, the SGA executive administration has drafted a proposal to adjust certain general parking lots to mixed general and commuter lots across campus. The Office of Parking Services has received these proposals and is currently conducting traffic studies to see about implementing these changes over the course of the Summer and Fall 2024 semesters. The incoming SGA executive administration has been asked to continue work on these proposals to increase commuter parking areas at Ball State.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 16:

Identify and Repair Bike Racks Across Ball State’s Campus



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| STEP 1:
Meet with BSU Facilities to propose project. | STEP 2:
Identify & locate Bike Racks in disrepair. | STEP 3:
Draft identification index with photos. | STEP 4:
Submit index to BSU Facilities. |
|--|--|---|---|

Platform Point Explanation:

Prior to the 2023-2024 SGA Legislative & Executive Term, many bike racks across campus had chipping paint, rust, and were overall in a some sort of disrepair. The executive board of the Gassensmith-Lindstrand administration identified and located bike racks across Ball State’s campus that were in some state of disrepair and provided all relevant information to the Office of Facilities Planning and Management. This office then took the data provided by the executive board and use it to being repairing bike racks on campus in the Spring 2024 semester. This work will continue into the Summer and Fall 2024 semesters and did not require any use of SGA executive funds. Further, the Bike Rack Condition Index is available publicly on the SGA website.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 17:

Propose a Bike-Share Program at Ball State University



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|
| STEP 1: | STEP 2: | STEP 3: | STEP 4: |
| Conduct research of collegiate bike share programs | Draft proposal for a bike share program. | Submit proposal to BSU Business Affairs. | Await further discussion. |

Platform Point Explanation:

As has already been stated, the SGA executive board often acts as an advisory body. In this instance, the Gassensmith-Lindstrand administration has researched and submitted a proposal to the Ball State University Division of Student Affairs to look into contracting a third-party bike share program at Ball State. Business Affairs has received this proposal and has met with the SGA executive administration regarding its implementation and is conducting further in-house studies. This point is completed, as the SGA executive board has completed all the work within its scope and communicated the desires of the student body to the administration of the university.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 18:

Construct Bus Stop Shelters at Ball State University



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| STEP 1:
Identify most frequently used bus stops. | STEP 2:
Draft proposal for BSU Facilities. | STEP 3:
Allocate SGA executive budget accordingly. | STEP 4:
Complete construction with BSU facilities. |
|--|--|--|--|

Platform Point Explanation:

The introduction of bus stop shelters at Ball State has been a topic of conversation within the executive board of the Student Government Association for many years. However, the Gassensmith-Lindstrand administration and their executive board approached this desire of the student body differently. This administration proposed using SGA executive funds to invest into this project rather than relying solely on funding from other university areas. Due to this new approach, a bus stop shelter at the Northbound McKinley Avenue stop near Bracken Library was completed in March 2024 at a cost of roughly \$16,000. Additional shelter locations have been identified and passed on to the incoming SGA executive administration.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 19:

Continuation of the SGA Employment and Wages Commission



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| STEP 1:
Research
current wage
systems | STEP 2:
Gather
interested
members | STEP 3:
Discuss jobs
with lower
wages | STEP 4:
Present
findings and
encourage
wage changes |
|---|---|---|--|

Platform Point Explanation:

SGA has remained constantly committed to improving student wages and despite contributing to the passing of wage levels previously, we remain dedicated to continuing the upward progression of the initiative. The Student Employment and Wages Commission was overhauled to expand more into the student body and interested members from all over campus were encouraged to join as representatives of their campus jobs. We hope to see the Commission continue to grow as changes in this area takes time and the continuation of conversations that began within this group of students.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 20:

Ensure Wages for All Student Employees are Kept Competitive



Completion Process:

STEP 1:	STEP 2:	STEP 3:	STEP 4:
NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION	NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION	NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION	NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION

Platform Point Explanation:

The work of the SGA Employment and Wages Commission is partially focused on ensuring that student employee wages at Ball State are kept competitive with other businesses located in the Muncie Community. The SGA Executive Employment and Wages Commission kept this as a primary focus in their work throughout this legislative term.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 21:

Add DEI Training into SGA Student Senator Training



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Reached out to the Ball State Multicultural Center to schedule training each semester specially made for student senators.

Platform Point Explanation:

To ensure that we focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion within all aspects of Student Government, we worked with the Multicultural Center to host a DEI training each semester for student senators and the executive board. These trainings specifically discussed the purpose of this office and the work that they do. It additionally provided student senators with tools on how to ensure that their projects are DEI focused, and even provided recommendations for projects they could introduce that would be in line with the missions of the Multicultural Center.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 22:

Recruit Student Senators from All Areas of Campus



Completion Process:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| STEP: | STEP: | STEP : |
| Reach out to each college individually | Work with orgs. and residence halls | Make senate more accessible |

Platform Point Explanation:

In order to help with diversity within our organization, we worked to recruit Senators from all areas of campus. This was to ensure our student body was best represented by our legislative body and reflected students who come from all walks of life.

With students in our different caucuses representing different areas on campus, the strategy for recruiting was different for each group. For our collegiate caucus, we reached out to each college and their Dean’s advisory groups for candidates and internal searches. We further developed relationships with organizations and residence halls to get their groups represented. For At-Large and Off-Campus, we reached out to groups with overlapping interests across campus, as well as tabling on campus and at events to connect with different members of the student body.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 23:

Expand the Organizational Caucus



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

Reach out to
current caucus
members

STEP 2:

Reach out to
new
organizations.

Platform Point Explanation:

To help expand the organizational caucus, we started by ensuring the organizations that are already part of our legislative body were represented during this legislative term. The organizational caucus was more fully represented in years past, with no appeals being needed for an organization to be represented in the caucus.

While no new organizations joined the caucus during this legislative term, multiple organizations were in contact with the President Pro Tempore about pursuing this opportunity during future terms, if membership could not supply a representative this academic year.

PLATFORM POINT NO. 24:

Improve Overall Accessibility to the Student Senate



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| STEP 1: | STEP 2: | STEP 3: | STEP 4: |
| Reach out to different areas on campus | Provide more educational resources | Directions to additional resources | Increased DE&I Training for members |

Platform Point Explanation:

In order to make the Student Senate more accessible to students across campus, we started by reaching out to students in different areas across campus that were not typically explored to provide them with opportunities to apply for the organization.

When students did join the Student Senate, we increased training for new senators and provided more educational materials so a lack of distinctive background was not a barrier to participation. We also provided directions to additional campus resources, such as Cardinal Closet, so dress codes (amongst other elements) were also not a barrier to participation .

EXECUTIVE BOARD PROJECT NO. 1

Expansion of the Free Feminine Hygiene Products Initiative



Completion Process:

STEP 1:

PROPOSED NEW
LOCATIONS FOR THE
PRODUCTS IN THE LIBRARY
AND HONORS HOUSE

STEP 2:

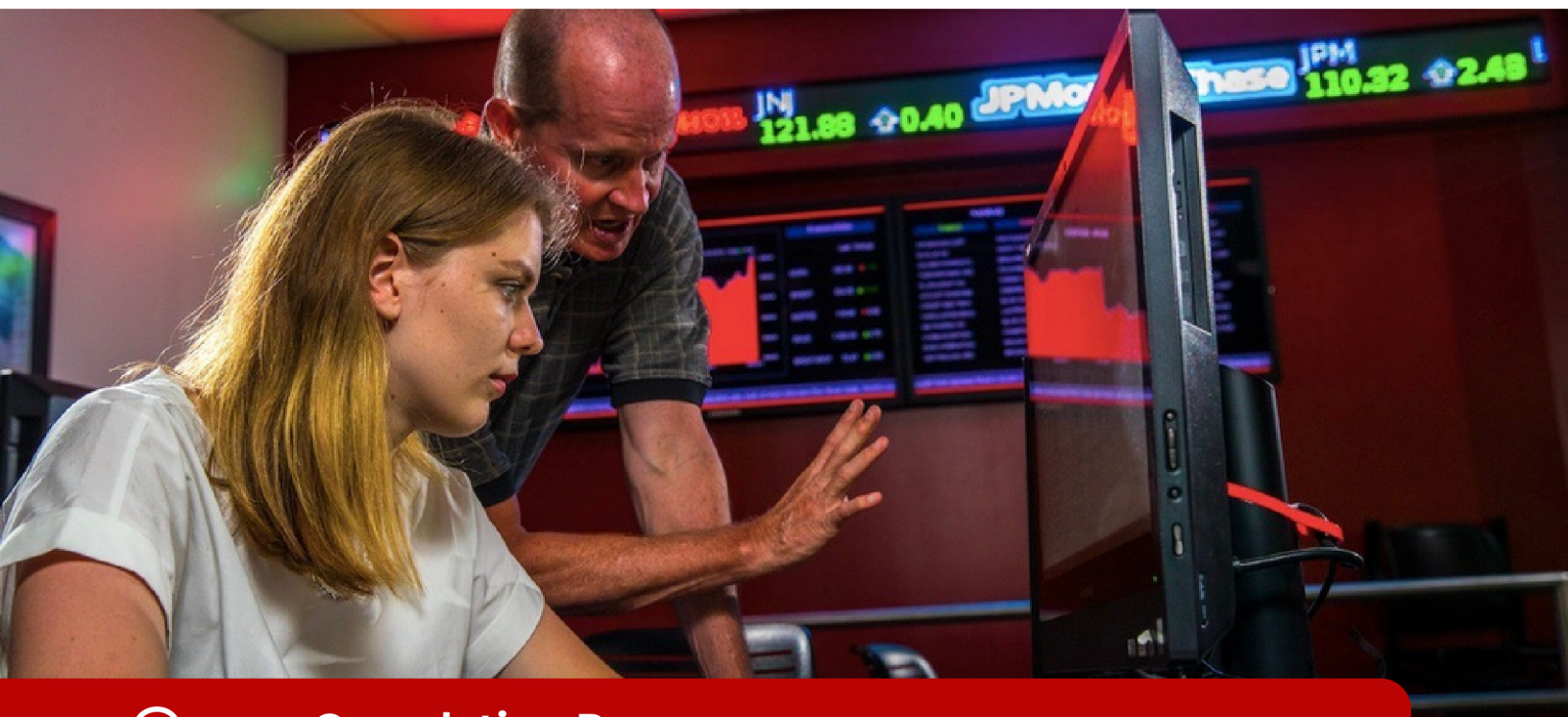
WORKED WITH THE BUILDINGS AND
FACILITIES TO IMPLEMENT THESE
PRODUCTS IN THE CURRENT AND
NEW LOCATIONS

Project Explanation:

The Student Government Association has been proud to support the funding of free menstrual products in the Ball State Student Center for the past few years. Our administration continued the funding of this building, but additionally implemented two new locations: the first floor women's bathroom of Bracken Library and the Honors House bathrooms. Additionally, we worked with the Health Promotion and Advocacy Office to include these new locations on promotional materials to ensure that students are aware of their presence.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PROJECT NO. 2

Sound Fiscal Management



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| STEP 1:
Analyze the current budget | STEP 2:
Allocate funds accordingly | STEP 3:
Make budget available for viewing by all | STEP 4:
Monitor and refine process |
|--|--|--|--|

Project Explanation:

From tabling events that gather student opinions, to tackling executive platform points, to collaborating with other organizations on campus, Ball State University Student Government Association does it all. But, it is all made possible through our budget and the sound management of our funds. Managing the budget is an ongoing task, but with careful bookkeeping, assistance from our advisors, and persistent checks on the closing balance, SGA funds have been able to support all of our operations throughout the year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PROJECT NO. 3

Revisions to the BSU Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities



Completion Process:

- | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| STEP 1: | STEP 2: | STEP 3: | STEP 4: |
| Research other schools with a Self Defense Clause. | Reach out to Office of Student Conduct | Meet with Office of Student Conduct | Advertise changes to appropriate parties. |

Project Explanation:

The Student Government Association is the only student organization with the power to propose changes to the Ball State University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. We have worked closely with the Office of Student Conduct and the Division of Student Affairs to ensure that Self Defense is considered in all conduct cases and included in the information provided to all students prior to any investigation. This has been modeled off many other schools in the MAC and will ensure that Self Defense is always considered in conduct issues.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PROJECT NO. 4

Remaining Outspoken on Current Events Across Campus



Completion Process:

STEP 1:	STEP 2:	STEP 3:	STEP 4:
NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION	NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION	NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION	NO MORE THAN A SMALL CAPTION

Project Explanation:

This executive administration has remained outspoken, either publicly or privately, on campus events concerning the student body. This is the primary role of SGA: to advance the concerns and interests of the student body to the administration of Ball State, and this administration has done so.



Concluding Remarks From the SGA Executive Board

Thank you for your support. This executive board is the first in recent years to have completed all platform points and projects. This was done through thoughtful organization, sound fiscal management, and innovative approaches to solve problems facing the student body.

We are proud to have served the student body of Ball State University.

Thank you.



Thank you