



BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE PLATFORM PROGRESS REPORT

FALL SEMESTER 2023

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INTRODUCTION



This report is a comprehensive point-by-point index on the progress of the Ball State University Student Government Association Executive Board in regard to its platform completion progress for the Fall 2023 semester.

A Note from the President and Vice President

The Student Government Association Executive Board is proud to announce that, as of the conclusion of the Fall 2023 Semester, each of its platform points are either completed or in progress. To have each point either completed or in progress in only the fall semester is almost unheard of for a student government executive board at Ball State University.

Our administration has worked tirelessly to accomplish its points and best serve the student body. Additionally, for the first time in recent years, the student government association executive board has been outspoken on campus events and called on administration to quickly address urgent concerns of students. It is the job of the executive board to be the voice of students, and this is an area of student government where our administration has consistently strived to be better than in years past.

The Executive Cabinet of the Student Government Association has worked to accomplish many of the platform points of the Executive Board, and has partnered with the Executive Board and Ball State's Administration to accomplish multiple different projects and initiatives.

Further, the Executive Board has, for the first time in recent years, and as was established in our April 2023 Inaugural addresses, focused on project completion rather than simple event programming. The Executive Board is accomplishing the points we ran on last Spring, and has served the student body well over the course of the Fall 2023 semester. We invite you to take a look at our progress, and please always feel free to reach out should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

-President Joseph Cassensmith and Vice President Monet Lindstrand

SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORM

100% Biodegradable Containers and Flatware in Dining Facilities

As we navigate dining in post-Covid times, we are working with dining to ensure that sustainability is at the forefront of their decision-making. Although we are unable to return to reusable flatware in the dining halls, we are working to encourage the switch to 100% biodegradable containers and flatware in dining facilities. They have already begun this switch, and the SGA executive board has continued to collect student data to support and expedite this initiative. We are continually working with dining services to ensure that these sustainable options do not cause quality or cost issues, as sound fiscal management must always be considered by both parties.

More Diverse Dining Options Across Campus

Through work with the Dining Advisory Board, we are working to increase the diversity of dining options of both hot and to-go food. The Executive Board has been having conversations with dining, and they have informed us that some of the options offered at the allergen stations are additionally being offered at other stations in their respective dining halls. In doing this, those who do not need to worry about cross-contamination can choose other stations besides the allergen one. Additionally, students have expressed concerns about the hours that these allergen stations are open, and so we are passing along these concerns as well. We will encourage other forms of dining diversity, including both for those with dietary restrictions and in types of food offered in each dining hall.



SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORM

Development of a Tree Canopy Preservation and Protection Plan

As Ball State University continues to grow, more and more construction and campus improvement projects are inevitable. It is the goal of the current student government association executive administration to develop a tree canopy preservation and protection plan to supplement current development policies at Ball State to ensure Ball State's overall tree canopy is retained and continuously expanded.

To accomplish this, Sarah Owens, the Secretary of Environment Affairs in the Presidential Cabinet was tasked to draft a policy proposal to be given to the Ball State Office of Facilities Planning and Management. Through collaboration with Margaret Lowe, the Chief Sustainability Officer for Ball State, Secretary Owens was able to draft a policy proposal that will be submitted for review by the Office of Facilities Planning and Management in January 2024.

This proposal includes the general policy to require that for every tree cut down on campus, two must take its place, in addition to addressing potential funding concerns, and providing locations for future tree canopy expansion at Ball State. The Executive Board looks forward to working with the Office of Facilities Planning and Management to work through this proposal and draft a policy that is mutually beneficial.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PLATFORM

Student DEI Executive Commission

This SGA Executive Commission was signed into policy by President Joseph Gassensmith in June 2023. Therefore, this platform point is completed. This commission is chaired by the Executive Cabinet Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and is made up of students from across campus. The goal of this commission is to advance any and all DEI concerns of the student body to upper Ball State administration.

Reintroduction of the Identity Button Campaign

The Identity Button Campaign is an SGA initiative that was reintroduced by the current administration. This initiative is to create buttons representing different identities of members of our campus community, and hand these buttons out to students so as to allow them a way to express themselves and feel a greater sense of belonging. For the Fall 2023 semester, the tabling for this initiative took place in the last week of November and reached well over 150 students. A fundamental part of overall wellbeing is community and a sense of belonging and this initiative encouraged students to proudly display their identities. This initiative will continue into the Spring 2024 semester, and the identity buttons are continually available in the SGA office, SC 112.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PLATFORM

Implement DEI Training into Senator Training

On November 29th, we hosted the graduate assistant from the Multicultural Center. The graduate assistant educated senators and executive board members in attendance on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and how to recognize privilege and oppression in our own lives. Additionally, she provided resources for senators interested in continuing DEI projects in senate, and encouraged them to reach out to the Multicultural Center. The goal of these presentations each semester is to ensure that our senate has a well-rounded understanding of the various challenges of students on our campus and the way that we can uplift DEI through legislation, projects, and events.

Provide Funding in Partnership with Multicultural Center for DEI Programming

The Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has partnered with the Ball State University Multicultural Center to utilize a portion of the SGA Executive Board's budget to revitalize or introduce a program focused on DEI to benefit the entire student body. This partnership has led to multiple ideas for programming that will take shape in the Spring 2024 semester.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PLATFORM

Constant Diverse Senator Recruitment

Over the course of the Fall 2023 semester, the President Pro Tempore visited numerous organizations across campus to recruit student senators from all backgrounds. This has ensured two important factors: First, the student senate is the largest it has been since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, the senate is the most diverse it has been in recent years. This ensures that important decisions are made with as many opinions as possible, and that these decisions are as representational as possible of our vibrant campus community.



DISABILITY AWARENESS PLATFORM

- **Require all Lectures and Lessons to be Recorded and Posted on Canvas**
- **When Appropriate, Require Closed Captioning on Presentations and Videos in the Classroom**
- **Require all Coursework Instructions to be Provided Both Verbally and Written**

The three platform points listed above are the academic affairs-focused disability awareness platform of the 2023-24 SGA Executive Board. Over the course of the Fall 2023 semester, the Executive Board worked to garner student support for these points, as written.

These platform points listed above were then introduced to the Ball State University Faculty Council at their November 2023 meeting in a single, omnibus-style resolution. Unfortunately, after a lively session, these three points, as they were written, were voted down by the Faculty Council. It is the goal of the SGA Executive Board to continue to work with members of the Faculty Council to reintroduce a resolution proposal that is agreeable for both the SGA Executive Board and the members of the Faculty Council, without losing the spirit of the original resolution proposal, and without purely becoming a list of “recommendations.” The Executive Board wishes to enact real policy change in regard to disability awareness in the classroom, and looks forward to continuing to work with the members of Faculty Council and the broader university governance system to find a solution that benefits all parties.



CAMPUS SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE PLATFORM

- **Introduction of Blue Lights on Riverside Avenue**
- **Introduction of Blue Lights at the Scheidler Apartments**
- **Increased Lighting on Campus**

The three platform points listed above are the campus safety infrastructure platform of the 2023-24 SGA Executive Board. Over the course of the Fall 2023 semester, the Executive Board worked to garner student support for these points, as written.

These points are grouped into a single, omnibus-style package of policies that are being worked through various university offices and governing bodies for consideration and possible implementation.

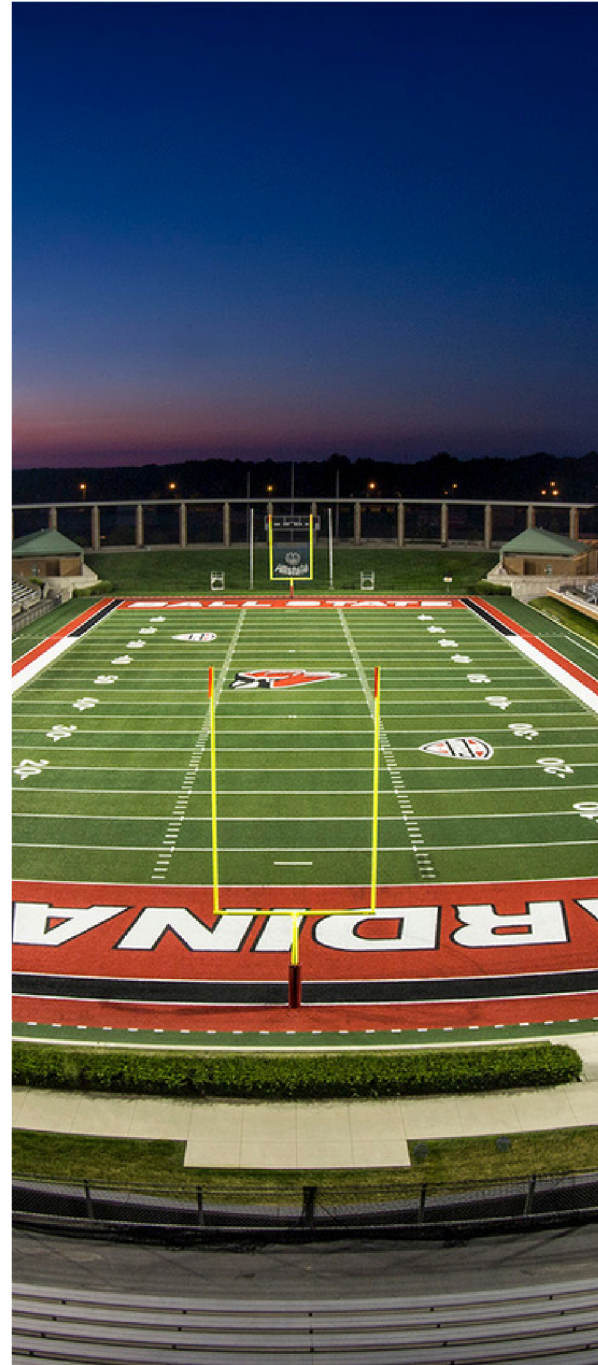
The executive board has spoken with the University Police Department and the Office of Facilities Planning and Management to locate where to construct, SGA-funded, emergency blue lights at the Scheidler Apartments, and this process is set to complete in the Spring 2024 Semester. The Office of Facilities Planning and Management is already improving lighting across campus, and the executive board and cabinet are proud to be working with this office to locate further areas of student concern in regard to campus lighting.



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS PLATFORM

Introduction of Red Zone Awareness in Residence Halls

Over the last semester, we have built a close relationship with the Health Promotion and Advocacy (HPA) Office in order to expand our understanding of sexual assault awareness and prevention on campus. One specific area that we have focused on is Red Zone Awareness. The Red Zone “is the time period between move-in and Thanksgiving break when college students across the country are statistically most susceptible to sexual assault. More than 50 percent of college sexual assaults occur in August, September, October, and November” (Texas A&M). Since these assaults are also more likely to occur in residence halls, we want to encourage Housing to incorporate more materials and event programming early in the semester involving this. As we move closer to sexual assault awareness month in April, we are planning to compile materials with HPA and connecting them with Housing so that they will be in place for Fall 2024. Additionally, we have hosted HPA in student government to present about their office in general, and this is programming that would be beneficial in residence halls as well.



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS PLATFORM

Introduction of Angel Shot Initiative in Local Businesses

The executive board has worked with the Office of Health Promotion and Advocacy to confirm all details of this initiative before moving forward with reaching out to local businesses. The executive board wants to ensure all parts of this initiative are in place before reaching out.

Increase Involvement with Take Back the Night and Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The executive board has allocated a larger budget to supporting SAAM as-a-whole than in previous years, and looks forward to completing this platform point in the Spring 2024 semester.



TRANSPORTATION PLATFORM



Over the course of the Fall 2023 semester, the executive board managed to complete two major transportation-based platform points. First, the executive board was able to purchase a bus stop shelter (rendering above), that is tentatively scheduled to be installed on January 26, 2024. Second, the executive board was able to identify able to submit an index of all bike racks across campus that need repairs to the Office of Facilities Planning and Management, and weather permitting, these repairs are to being in the Spring of 2024 and continue into further semesters. Additionally, the executive board has begun compiling a report of feasible bike share programs and plans to submit a true proposal in the Spring 2024 semester.

SENATE STRUCTURE PLATFORM

Expansion of the Organizational Caucus

During the Fall 2023 semester, multiple executive officers worked to reach out to student organizations to inquire about whether or not they would like a seat on the student senate. Due to these efforts, the organizational caucus within the student senate has expanded dramatically, and the senate is therefore more representational of the student body.

Improve Accessibility to the Student Senate

The Student Senate can be an intimidating body simply due to its nature. It has the power to make important decisions that impact and better the lives of thousands of students. It is for this reason that the executive board has worked to ensure the Student Senate is as welcoming as possible so as to expand the number of senators as much as possible. The senate is currently the largest it has been in multiple years, and therefore represents more and more students with each new senator. This is a platform point our administration plans to continue until the end of our term of office.



CAMPUS SERVICES PLATFORM

Free Feminine Hygiene Products Program Expansion

Over the past few years, Student Government has paid for free menstrual products in the Ball State Student Center. We have allotted \$2000 to this project this year, with the goal of expanding the locations where these products will be offered. We are currently working to provide free menstrual products in all Student Center bathrooms, the first-floor women's bathroom near Booksmart Cafe in the library, and the bathroom in the Honors house. Once these new locations are implemented, we will be launching a media advertising campaign with HPA to inform students, as HPA also is working to implement free menstrual products in the Multicultural Center. We will also be tabling with HPA next semester to pass out products and information on menstruation, pregnancy, and safer sex practices.

Beneficence Swipes

The executive board has begun speaking with the Office of Dining Services to work to introduce a meal voucher program, similar to what is seen at other universities, in the coming years. Unfortunately, this platform point will take longer than our term, however our board is determined to begin the process of introducing this program at Ball State.



SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Financial Management

The initiatives of the student government association Executive Board are made possible through sound management of our budget. Managing the budget is an ongoing task, but with careful bookkeeping, assistance from advisors, and persistent checks on the closing balance by the SGA Treasurer, Isaac Ledford, SGA funds have been able to support all operations throughout the Fall 2023 semester, as well as being set up for success for the Spring 2024 semester. During the election period last year, President Gassensmith and Vice President Lindstrand ran on a series of executive platform points that have required a significant amount of the funds available in the SGA budget, and distribution of these funds between the Executive Board and the Student Senate requires continuous analysis and strong fiscal management skills. Ensuring funds are spent responsibly on initiatives that benefit the entirety of the student body are of primary concern to the SGA Executive Board, and over the course of this past semester, SGA's budgets have been properly managed to retain excellent fiscal standards.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Executive Board Officers

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

Presidential Cabinet

Karstyn Hopkins, *Press Secretary*
Ethan Hartsfield, *Secretary of University Governance*
Payton Male, *Secretary of Justice*
Raleigh Lancaster, *Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*
Grace Agan, *Secretary of Academic Affairs*
Sarah Owens, *Secretary of Environmental Affairs*
Maria Henriquez, *Secretary of Transportation*
Seattle Greenwell, *Elections Board Commissioner*

Student Senators

At-Large Caucus

Casey Rockel
Skylar Ellis
Savannah Hutchinson
Bandith Carr
Abigail McAvoy
Brayden Hall
Owen Nowlin
Thomas Charles
Chelsea Murdock
Graham Baker-Olsen
Zach Tucker
Victoria Adebayo

Collegiate Caucus

Shaina Miller
Younique Jones
Rick Kann
Caroline Emerick
Tammy Pham
Shannon Mashindi
Hannah Schnieder

Off-Campus Caucus

Clarissa Carrigan
Jackson Phenis
Kyle Wickizer
Noah Clark
Hunter Case
Wesley Lee

Student Senators

On-Campus Caucus

Samuel Adams
Corey Campbell
Elizabeth Pavey

Organizational Caucus

Cayley Bartrom
Dylan Teubert
Brigs McNiff
Scott Lozer
Noah Steepleton
Blythe Miller
Muhoja Lukaba
Philena Evett
Izzy Thompson
Maddi Diltz
Isaac Franco
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