The newly formed Pittsburgh Student Government Council, or PSGC, acts as resource for the many colleges and universities student governments within the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Its creation came amidst the battles between students and Mayor Ravenstahl's proposed one percent tuition tax for students paying tuition to institutions of higher education within the city.

Despite the unfavorable situation which generated the need for the PSGC, efforts have now shifted toward a friendly link with City Council. Today, PSGC is working side-by-side with its district representatives to act as a youthful think-tank and resource to students in Pittsburgh.

Through awareness campaigns and a clear discourse across all areas of city government, the PSCG and City Council hope to tackle the area's excessive alcohol intake, a lack of transportation after the strict 2:00am shutdown, the abundance and unlawful over-flow of liquor-licensed establishments within close proximity, numerous parking violations, and minor-to-aggravated assaults.

Through the PSCG, Pitt's Student Government Board will continue to partner with our neighboring student governments to assist our city to provide students a safe and enjoyable Pittsburgh experience.

SGB, who's next?

The SGB Election is an exciting time for prospective candidates, as well as the student body. As of October 25, 2010, there are 14 candidates to represent their peers and serve on the 2011 Board. The paper campaign will now last five days in attempt to increase student awareness of candidates, platforms, and the election as a whole. Non-CGS Pitt students will also now be able to vote for one Presidential candidate, eight Board Member candidates, as opposed to only five Board candidates in years past.
Pitt, Keepin it Green!

The Pitt Green Fund is a program that was developed to implement sustainable initiatives on campus and encourage student involvement in those initiatives. Over 10 percent of the student body showed support for it via petition signatures, and last spring the Student Government Board unanimously passed Resolution 0008, which established a Pilot Program of the Green Fund to run for the academic year of 2010-2011 – and that pilot program is currently in action!

How does the Pitt Green Fund work? It empowers Pitt students to develop projects and programs that will help Pitt in its efforts to become a more sustainable institution. In September, nine students were selected to comprise the first Student Sustainable Projects Committee (SSPC), which is the entity in charge of selecting projects to be funded and helping to complete them. By October 15, the deadline for project proposals, they received seven projects from students who seized this opportunity to make positive change on their campus. During their first public meeting on October 22, the SSPC extended the project proposal deadline to November 19 in hopes of receiving even more projects!

Why is the Green Fund good for Pitt? Not only does it provide an opportunity to engage our student body in making our campus more sustainable, but environmentally-friendly projects often result in long-term financial savings due to lower energy and water usage! Pitt is a wonderful university which leads the way in academics, research, and sports among other things – and the Green Fund can help Pitt excel in environmental sustainability too.

To learn more about the Green Fund, the currently proposed projects, the SSPC’s public meeting times and to get a project proposal form, visit www.pittgreenfund.com. If you have questions, comments, or want to get involved, you can e-mail pittsspc@gmail.com about the Green Fund/SSPC or sgbenvironment@gmail.com about SGB’s environmental efforts.

Paint the Panthers

The Paint the Panthers program is successfully underway six student organizations were awarded panthers out of an applicant pool of eleven organizations. The six selected organizations are the Malaysian Cultural Camaraderie, Engineers for a Sustainable World, Amnesty International, Rainbow Alliance, Student Dietetic Association, and the Blue & Gold Society. The groups unveiled their panthers on October 28 in front of the Union and the Best Pitt Pride panther award will be awarded thereafter.
Students Turnout to ReEngage the Vote

The Student Government Board in conjunction with the Student Vote Coalition and various non-partisan entities like ReEnergize the Vote and PennPIRG have been working on the Student Civic Engagement Campaign since the start of the fall semester. Pittsburgh City Council recently declared September to be “Student Civic Engagement Month”, and we took that as a challenge to increase student participation in local elections on an unprecedented scale. Alexa Jennings, our Governmental Relations Committee chairwoman, had the idea to create a coalition of all student organizations who wanted to get the campus more involved in politics, and thus formed the Student Vote Coalition (SVC).

The SVC consists of many different groups around campus, Black Action Society, Rainbow Alliance, and the Campus Women’s Organization, it has been integral in SGB’s efforts so far. With help from ReEnergize the Vote and PennPIRG, the SVC registered over 2,700 students on Pitt's campus before the voter registration deadline.

After registration, SVC’s focus shifted to getting out the vote, mostly by having student sign pledge cards to vote, and then mailing them back to said students a few days before the election. In addition, SVC has been canvassing, phone banking and increasing awareness of the upcoming election in general on campus. Once the Governmental Relations Committee co-sponsored a Gubernatorial Debate for all students to watch. It is SVC’s hope that the work it has put in will pay off, and this election year will see one of the largest turnouts in Pitt’s history.

Homecoming Candidates

The board interviewed several willing Homecoming candidates during the public Board meeting on Tuesday, October 19. The candidates were questioned about their leadership and involvement on campus, their philanthropy organization and their plans on and off campus if they are awarded the opportunity to serve on Homecoming Court. Following the public interviews, the board endorsed Laura Paiewonsky for Queen and Jamil Alhassan for...
Updates

Constitutional Review

The Judicial Committee, after establishing a Constitutional Review Committee, recently began reviewing the Constitution. The Review Committee hopes to edit portions of the Constitution to clarify certain divisions of power. Additionally, the Judicial Committee is reviewing both the Elections Code and the SGB Bylaws. All proposed changes must be ratified or vetoed by SGB.

General Education Standardization

Alex Zimmerman, the Academic Affairs Chair, is excited to announce that his proposal to get more classes to fulfill general education requirements is on the agenda for the next Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Council meeting. This initiative will allow students more flexibility when scheduling classes, and give an incentive to explore upper-level classes outside major requirements. Zimmerman invites anyone interested in learning more about this initiative or the Academic Affairs Committee to stop by the SGB office.

Upcoming Events

Homecoming Football Celebration
Saturday, October 30
12:00pm Noon
Heinz Field

Pennsylvania State Elections
Tuesday, November 2
Be sure to get out and vote at your local poll location!

SGB Election
Thursday, November 18
8:00am-8:00pm
http://my.pitt.edu - “SGB Election” accessible on the homepage
All non-CGS University of Pittsburgh students are invited to place their votes for their ideal representatives for the 2011 Student Government Board.