In 2009, the Student Government Board first teamed up with the University’s Governmental Relations office to participate in Pitt Day in Harrisburg. The group only had a few weeks to plan, but SGB organized about 15 students to attend the event and lobby alongside alumni and branch campus representatives for funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This past year, SGB wanted to continue the partnership with the University, as well as drastically enhance involvement. “I had asked Alexa Jennings to serve as our temporary and later permanent Governmental Relations Chairwoman,” said SGB President Charlie Shull. “We would then have a team of students readily discussing our efforts with Vice Chancellor Supowitz for March 23rd’s Pitt Day in Harrisburg.”

SGB had two months to plan the 2010 Pitt Day in Harrisburg and was able to organize for about 50 under-grads, along with University staff, faculty and alumni to attend. The attendees spoke with staff members, House representatives and Senators on the importance of Pitt as an economic engine for the Commonwealth as well as the City of Pittsburgh.

All 253 Senate and House Representatives were spoken to by at least two attendees. According to Jennings, many students had the opportunity to discuss their personal stories with legislators as well as encourage them to support funding for state related institutions.

“Pitt Day in Harrisburg is vital to the ongoing need for state appropriations to uphold the standard of education at our fine institution,” Jennings said. “I was to witness the impact that expressing your voice can make.”

Shull credits the efforts of Jennings, her committee and the SGB at large for the overwhelming success of Pitt Day in Harrisburg.

Now that this year’s trip is over, Jennings is looking forward to recruiting even more students to participate in next year’s Pitt Day in Harrisburg.
SAM REZAEIAN
To implement his goal of convincing Sodexo to allow Dining Dollars to roll over between meal plans, Rezaeian has created a Food Committee Task Force and has met with Sodexo representatives every month. Currently, he is crafting a survey geared towards getting student opinions on food selections, the dining services, and rollover dining dollars.

LAURA PAIEWONSKY
Paiewonsky’s project is to create an educational program to inform students about Pitt’s traditions and history outside of organizations such as Pitt Pathfinders and the Blue and Gold Society. Open for all undergraduate students, Paiewonsky is in the process of compiling information for a presentation that will be given to incoming freshmen as well as any other interested students.

PHIL LARUE
LaRue got the board’s unanimous approval to start a pilot program for the Green Fund, a program to fund sustainable projects thought of by students, in the Fall semester.

At the SGB Public Meeting on March 30, Board Member Phil LaRue introduced Resolution 0008, which addressed the growing student support for a University of Pittsburgh Green Fund program. Over 10 percent of the student body endorsed the creation of a program through petition signatures.

Universities and colleges across the country have utilized green funds to strengthen campus sustainability through projects like energy efficient campus buildings, student energy conservation competitions and sustainability education programs.

The SGB is creating a pilot program for the 2010-2011 school year to “promote sustainable growth, practices, and education at the University of Pittsburgh, with the express intent of improving the quality of life for all undergraduate students at the University.” A Student Sustainable Projects Committee will also be created to manage allocation of funds.

According to Board President Charlie Shull, the SGB always provides students with a professional, meaningful avenue for students to address their concerns, issues and general interests. “Very seldom, however, to the students or Board truly organize around an idea which they believe in,” he said. “This is an idea we hope will change the University in a substantial way.”

The initial proposal was to charge students a new fee; there is now a more tangible, realistic implication of the Fund that won’t weigh on the pockets of those students who do not yet completely support this idea.

The Pitt Green Fund will become piloted through the student activities fee, which will go to the Students Sustainability Projects Committee. The Fund will create a board of students and faculty who will take “green” projects proposed by students and determine the benefit of these projects to the University and its students. “This will open up the student activities fee in a new direction so that it may now sponsor projects in University departments and schools who wish to implement green projects where limiting funding was previously a restricting factor,” said Shull.

The long-term benefits of the Pitt Green Fund are expected to reduce the amount of University expenditures on wasted energy such as heating and lighting. This, in turn, will help alleviate the financial burdens students face through tuition hikes or staff and faculty hiring freezes.

More information about Resolution 0008 for the Pitt Green Fund can be found online at www.pitt.edu/~sgb.
So far this term the Student Government Board has passed 9 resolutions governing student life on campus. Five of them were continued from the previous board, so below are synopses of the four new ones from this semester.

RESOLUTION 0006
Adopted in January, this resolution requires a representative from an organization requesting an allocation from Student Government Board to attend the meeting at which that request is being heard. If a representative does not attend the board can postpone the request for one week giving the organization another opportunity to show up. If two meetings pass without a representative attending the allocations request is considered withdrawn.

RESOLUTION 0008
Proposed by Phil LaRue and cosponsored by the rest of the board as well as the Allocations Chairman, this resolution established the Students Sustainability Projects Committee and the pilot program for the Green Fund.

RESOLUTION 0009
Introduced by President Shull this resolution allows the Board to write on behalf of all Pitt students in support of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act. This is federal legislation that allows tax-exempt charitable and educational organizations to make grants to non-university owned not-for-profit student housing entities that provide collegiate student housing.

RESOLUTION 0010
In order to increase students’ awareness of how the Student Activities Fund is spent and what Student Government Board’s role in it is, this resolution was passed in order to place a tag line on all SGB funded advertising. The tag which reads “Paid for by the Student Activities Fee and Allocated by the Student Government Board” will be required on advertisements such as those printed in the Pitt News and on flyers from the SORC.
Upcoming Events

• Pancakes and Politics

April 22nd at Pamela’s in Oakland candidates for the democratic nomination for the Pennsylvania’s 19th Legislative District, where the dorms of thousands of Pitt Students are located, will speak.

• Be Part of the Panther

Friday April 23rd join 1,500 of your fellow students behind the Cost Center in recreating a human panther photograph last done by student and faculty in 1920.

The Living Panther

On April 9th, 1920 faculty and students from the University of Pittsburgh gathered together to form a living panther, a feat that will be not replicated for 90 years.