



## Purdue Graduate Student Senate

2nd Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: RAWL 1011 and Virtual (<https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/94280009437>)

*Guest Speaker:* Provost Patrick J. Wolfe

At 6:01 PM

- Provost introduces himself and talks about his path to where he is now.
- Highlights mention:
  - Bolster education to make Purdue better on all of our programs, mentions many NSF GRFP awardees
  - Can always reach out if you have questions at his email [provost@purdue.edu](mailto:provost@purdue.edu)
- Q&A:
  - Transportation:
    - We were not given notice about 41 Connector being cut off
    - Mention that we used to have a relationship with Citybus - mentions that Citybus wasn't using its budget within their means so Purdue decided to find their own so we took a bid for other transportation – highlighting the financials and left Citybus to save money in the long run with a better flexible company
    - Anthropology Senator: wondering if the university has a route to go into Lafayette
      - Answer: we don't have data to be able to make a route for that; have not decided based on the data whether we will be able to provide passes for Spring 2026
    - EAPS Senator: with the citybus passes not free and all of the other parking more congested, what are you doing for grad students
      - We have more shuttle parking that is further away thanks to SP+; says meter parking was not their choice—says that it was the city that made this decision
  - Housing
    - Mentions that they are aware rent is increasing or going further from campus
    - Maybe future there will be more housing, not for grad students but undergrads
    - Mentions that there is lowering costs of rent due to new apartment complexes going up
    - ECON Senator: the new luxury apartments is not directed to grad students and the way that just relying on new luxury apartments will help grad students
      - We can talk about this later on a marketing perspective, goes on about a story
      - Look at stipend data for grad students and we standardize them
      - The solution make Purdue the most desirable place for people to want to be at – that's what we are focused on
      - Says that we need to make stipend so they can be able to live here

- ABE Senator: grad students basic needs are constantly at threat; these companies that are luxury housing we can't negotiate; there is not code enforcement in lafayette so they don't legally have anything against if their apartment is not up to code—is there anything Purdue does to direct them to certain apartments
  - Doesn't have a list right now but then goes to say that sometimes they get into contact with landlords/landladies— i certainly hope we could be helpful
  - Dont know about the housing market and can't control it but maybe theres a better way to share the knowledge we have
  - Task: carepacket on what we know so we can get out to perspective students
- Fill out survey to get data to get the best transportation or housing demands
- Actions council on wellbeing that he is on
- Want to make sure that experience is top notch

Jeff says that Dean of Students has a website to direct students toward and a way to report apartments

## **AGENDA**

### **I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:43 PM

### **II. Roll Call**

- A. Announcement of Newly Elected Senators and Alternates
  - 1. List of Newly Elected Senators and Alternates will be appended to these minutes (Appendix A).
    - a) No new senator
- B. Senator Roll Call will be appended to these minutes (Appendix B) via iclicker
  - 1. Quorum met 44 out of 56 senators; 29 needed for quorum

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Motion to waive reading of minutes by ECON
  - 1. Second by Engineering Technology
  - 2. Adopted by unanimous consent
- B. Motion to approve minutes by ECON
  - 1. Second by Engineering Education
  - 2. Adopted by unanimous consent

### **IV. Approval of the Agenda**

- A. Motion to remove items E3-a/c by President
  - 1. Reasoning they contacted saying they cant make it and didnt have time to reappoint
    - a) Second by ECON
    - b) Adopted by unanimous consent
      - (1) Amende as seen on screen
- B. Motion to approve agenda by Biochem
  - 1. Second by Physics and Astronomy
  - 2. Adopted by unanimous consent

### **V. Consent Agenda (any item may be removed by a single voice)**

- A. Officer Reports

- B. Committee and Team Reports
- C. Other Reports at the Discretion of the Chair
- D. Reports of University Committees and Boards (Appendix D)
- E. Approval of Presidential Appointments to University Committees and Boards
  - 1. Campus Appeals Board
    - a) Ethan Nicholas Johnson
    - b) Ivan Alonso Bobadilla
  - 2. Educational Policy Committee
    - a) Paschal Amusuo
  - 3. Grade Appeals Committee
    - a) Mikayla Angelique Roach
  - 4. Library Committee
    - a) Adebisi Ogunbawo
  - 5. Parking and Traffic Committee
    - a) Allen Roy Murray
  - 6. Student Affairs Committee
    - a) Khushal Goparaju
  - 7. Sustainability Committee
    - a) Hannah Folarin
  - 8. University Resources Policy Committee
    - a) Ayooluwa Ojo
  - 9. Visual Arts and Design Committee
    - a) Shalom Kpetsu
- F. Motion to approve consent agenda by ECON
  - 1. Second by Engineering Technology
  - 2. Adopted by unanimous consent; all appointees approved

## **VI. Special Orders**

- A. Special Order to Confirm the Parliamentarian Ayooluwa Ojo
  - 1. President's report
    - a) He is well versed in parliamentary procedure and he is a good candidate
  - 2. Appointee's report
    - a) PhD in Animal Sciences from Nigerian; goes on to talk about qualifications
  - 3. Questions
    - a) none
  - 4. Discussion: none
  - 5. Vote
    - a) Ayes have it; Ayooluwa Ojo was elected Parliamentarian

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

## **VIII. New Business**

- A. Introduction of Emergency Legislation
  - 1. Motion to introduce by Engineering Technology
    - a) FA25-B00X: "Minimum Funding Thresholds"
      - (1) Motion to introduce by Engineering Technology
        - (a) Legislation read by Senate Chair
        - (b) Second by Nursing
      - (2) Procedural vote

- (a) Voice vote
- (b) Ayes have it
- b) Assigned FA25-B001: “Minimum Funding Thresholds”
  - (1) Sponsor report
    - (a) Need to have a minimum
    - (b) Sukesh Treasurer: need to make a baseline so that people can get it
  - (2) LRC report:
    - (a) No report
  - (3) President’s report
    - (a) Graduate students give money to PGSG and so we need to make this a baseline; only accepting \$30 and then it getting rejected is not enough—urge senate to pass this so we can better serve students
  - (4) Questions seeking factual clarification
    - (a) Physics and astronomy: how will this effect the competitiveness of the grants?
      - (i) Sukesh Treasurer: the people rejecting the low amounts, it will actually help them in the long run— people will actually need to write a more competitive grant application
    - (b) Chief of staff: does GRAC have an amount to give in each cycle?
      - (i) Treasurer:
        - (a) Above 40 get the grants, our grants are competitive
      - (ii) President:
        - (a) You can request for more, the money they dont use it rolls over after you see the reimbursements— instead of just letting it sit it rolls into the next semester
    - (c) EAPS: do you have a # of grants rejected
      - (i) Treasurer: 70% accepted, more rejection in summer since there is less
      - (ii) Do you have any testimonials that got rejected?
        - (a) Treasurer: yes they said you are undermining our research
    - (d) ME: most of the grants not funded, why dont you use the rest of that money to give to the other members that got accepted during that cycle
      - (i) Treasurer: thats a good point, it depends of how GRAC works and even if they dont use that the money rolls into the next cycle
        - (a) Is it rare to get the full amount they request for?

- (i) With a perfect score gets the full funding
  - (e) Senator: only 1 grant
    - (i) Treasurer: you can only get one grant per year as a rule
    - (ii) Sponsor: the grants being rejected is the ones where they request \$300 and only get \$30
  - (f) AGECON: trying to understand where these numbers are coming from
    - (i) Treasurer:
      - (a) Do you expect the number of grants to decrease?
        - (i) No we dont expect that the effect it
  - (g) Senator: people getting lower scores, then if we are considering that then
    - (i) Treasurer: right now someone who is getting a score that is high should not be getting a less amount then that of someone who gets a lower score and more funding—40 score is a minimum for a certain amount but lower will get lesser amount— shouldnt be getting less than \$300
  - (h) Senator: if two people get the same 40 score at one asks for \$300 but other \$1000, do they both get \$300
    - (i) They get the most requested but still a minimum
  - (i) Aeronautical engineering:
  - (j) ECON: this wont impact people with higher scores?
    - (i) It shouldnt impact it
  - (k) Chief of staff: make grant more competitive and also receiving it—after giving it out have money left, how do we get the money left over; why dont we disperse the money
    - (i) Treasurer: there are internal workings of GRAC; explains the legislation difference as to what is going on
  - (l) ECON: clarify the setting up of GRAC, only focus on what we can right now
    - (i) Treasurer:
  - (m) Biology: is the GRAC chair around
    - (i) Senate Chair: not around
    - (ii) Treasurer: the GRAC chair is in support
      - (a) GRAC chair may also need to look at operational things
- (5) Discussion
- (a) **Against** EAPS: legislation the people that get zero dollars and the people that get more will be getting more

- (b) **For** ABE: why cant we just give the money to someone else that got a higher score
  - (c) **Against** Theater & Dance: worry about the equity of the poor to good getting the same amount of funding – learning opportunity to get experience
  - (d) **For** ECON: those with worse proposal, they wont get grants, the ones that got approved they will get less but more than before
- (6) Motion to amend the legislation by Treasurer
- (a) Second by Nursing
  - (b) Questions:
    - (i) Senator: why not 100%
      - (a) It should just get 50% to be fair
    - (ii) Math: whats the max/min for other grants
      - (a) Lists the min and max
    - (iii) Senator:the language right now does not follow what it is saying right now right?
    - (iv) Chief of staff: is it 50%
      - (a) Treasurer: explains again
    - (v) EAPS: if it is to not give out the small amounts
      - (a) Bill is for people requesting for more
    - (vi) Senator: \$50 to \$200 more
    - (vii) BIOCHEM: is there a a point to having this 50% even if it is even worth it for the lower amounts
      - (a) It could help the people that asked for more
  - (c) Discussion
    - (i) Motion to end discussion by Nursing
    - (ii) Seconded
  - (d) Vote on amendment:
    - (i) Ayes have it
- (7) Back to discussion
- (a) Chief of staff comments on changing the whole works of it
  - (b) Treasurer not sure how much it would change but only change the lower amounts - urgency that we wont see people getting the lesser amounts
  - (c) Senator some other rule
  - (d) Motion to end discussion and move to vote by ECON
    - (i) Object by EAPS
      - (a)  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote since objection
        - (i) Debate has closed because reached  $\frac{2}{3}$
- (8) Move to extend by 5 minutes President
- (a) seconded
- (9) Vote
- (a) Motion to vote by roll call by



- (i) Second by
- (ii) Voice vote
  - (a) Technical difficulties
    - Aye: Botany, Chem, Materials Engineering, DVM, health and kinesiology, ECE indy
    - Nay: Agronomy
  - (b) Aye-Nay-Abstain: 32-4-7; legislation is adopted

**IX. Announcements**

**X. Adjournment**

- A.** Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM



**APPENDIX A**  
**LIST OF NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS AND ALTERNATES**

See attached one (1) page.

New Senators		Alternates and Proxies		
Department	Name	Department	Absent Senator	Alternate or Proxy
n/a		Electrical & Computer Engineering (Indianapolis)	Haylie Rayl	Isaac Krautheim
		Materials Engineering	Jasmyne Emerson	Nicole Balog



**APPENDIX B**  
**SENATOR ROLL CALL**

[SEE ATTACHED TWO (2) PAGES]



<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Aeronautics and Astronautics	Don-Terry Veal	Yes
Agricultural & Biological Engineering	Autumn Denny	Yes
Agricultural Economics	Kavitha Srikanth	Yes
Agricultural Science Education and Communication	Kwabena Bayity	Yes
Agronomy	Jude Addo-Chidie	Yes
Anthropology	Heidi Cooke	Yes
Applied and Creative Computing (West Lafayette)	Khalil El Breidi	Yes
Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center	Nguyen Le	No, alternate absent
Biochemistry	Jacob Czaicki	Yes
Biological Sciences	Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai	Yes
Biomedical Engineering (West Lafayette)	Sushma Gude	Yes
Black Cultural Center	Victoria Parker	Yes
Botany & Plant Pathology	Jean Paul Iyakaremeye	Yes
Chemical Engineering	Katherine Leigh Young	Yes
Chemistry	Anusha	Yes
Civil Engineering	Chandra Vikas Thipirishetty	Yes
Communication	Gladys Mana Momade	Yes
Computer Science	Harry Tian	Yes
Curriculum & Instruction	Maria Regina Jaga	No, alternate absent
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	Maya Fulton	Yes
Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences	Sam Harris	Yes
Ecological Sciences and Engineering	Jayvaughn Peter	Yes
Economics	Zachary Knepper	Yes
Educational Studies	Fangfang Mo	No, alternate absent
Electrical and Computer Engineering (Indianapolis)	Haylie Rayl	No, alternate present
Engineering Education	Udeme Idem	No, alternate absent
Engineering Technology	Varshitha Yalamanchili	Yes
English	Sidney Ducleroir	Yes
Entomology	Hira Poudel	Yes



Food Science	Lauren Yepes	Yes
Forestry & Natural Resources	Jean Fritz Saint Preux	Yes
Health and Kinesiology	Ivan Bobadilla	Yes
Health Sciences	Esraa Gabal	No, alternate absent
History	Srishti Dutta Chowdhury	No, alternate absent
Horticultural & Landscape Architecture	Grace Lentz	Yes
Hospitality and Tourism Management	Kasey Paige Riha	Yes
Human Development and Family Studies	Sybil Cutler	Yes
Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics	Neha Panchabhai	Yes
Industrial Engineering	Pragathi Jha	Yes
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences	Danielle Ahwireng	Yes
Languages and Cultures	Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore	Yes
Linguistics	Zeyu Feng	Yes
Management	Chiran Kodippili	Yes
Materials Engineering	Jasmyne Emerson	No, alternate present
Mathematics	Geoffrey Baring	Yes
Mechanical Engineering (West Lafayette)	Chathusha Punchi Wedikkara	Yes
Native American Educational and Cultural Center	Alyssa Nez	No, alternate absent
Nuclear Engineering	Jonah Lau	No, alternate absent
Nursing	Christelle Altidor	Yes
Nutrition Science	Pius Sarfo Buobu	No, alternate absent
Physics and Astronomy	Lindsay Michelle Dawson	Yes
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe)	Emmanuel Oluwarotimi	No, alternate absent
Sociology	Sean Boylan	Yes
Statistics	Nikola Draganic	No, alternate absent
Theatre & Dance	Tatyanna Rodriguez	Yes
Veterinary Clinical Sciences	Oluwabunmi T. Oladele	No, alternate absent



**APPENDIX C & D**

**OFFICER AND TEAM CHAIR REPORTS**

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND BOARD REPORTS**

**[SEE ATTACHED SEVENTEEN (21) PAGES]**

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**President - Shalom Kpetsu ([pgsg.president@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.president@gmail.com))**

**Advocacy**

- Met with Purdue President Dr. Mung Chiang to discuss graduate student concerns: housing, transportation, stipends, and health insurance.
- Met with the Student Trustee to discuss graduate needs at length, including health, social and mental wellbeing, and opportunities for partnership and collaboration.
- Represented graduate students at the Action Council on Student Housing and Wellbeing to discuss healthcare and affordable housing, as well as the Graduate Council and respective University Senate Committees .

**Funding**

- Secured a renewed \$40,000 commitment from OGSPS to continue the After-Hours Shuttle Service.

**Collaboration**

- Working with Auxiliary Services and PSG on improving transportation solutions for graduate students.
- Worked with Auxiliary Services and the PGSG Treasurer, who developed the transportation survey, to develop student-centered solutions to transportation issues on and off campus.
- Coordinated with University Senate committee appointees to gather feedback and share graduate student concerns.

**Planning & Events**

- Organized and led weekly meetings for PGSG@40 anniversary planning.
- Hosted a leadership workshop for Executive Board members to build teamwork and efficiency.

**Chief of Staff - ([pgsg.cos@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.cos@gmail.com))**

**Team Night** – I organized the September Team Night, which brought together over 100 participants.

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**Indy Campus Engagement** – I met with representatives from the Indianapolis campus to discuss ways to increase Indy students’ involvement in PGSG. Together, we began planning a combined call-out and town hall meeting that will give Indy students both an introduction to PGSG and a platform to share their experiences and challenges. Planning for this event is ongoing, and we are working to finalize the details.

**Treasurer - ([pgsg.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.treasurer@gmail.com))**

### **Executive Summary**

Last month was a month of consolidation and forward planning for PGSG’s Treasury. Key achievements included: (1) deployment of standardized GRAC forms and checklists to streamline reimbursement, (2) launch of the Graduate Student Transportation Survey to capture transit challenges across campuses, (3) publication of the FY26 Financial Procedures document, (4) reconciliation progress with BOSO on account balances and GRAC carry-forwards and (5) introduction of new legislation establishing minimum funding thresholds for GRAC awards. Additionally, discussions were initiated with Purdue IT and the ACM student chapter to explore development of an in-house grant management system to reduce clerical errors and improve efficiency.

### **Major Deliverables & Actions**

#### **1. Grant Management & Reimbursement Simplification**

- **GRAC Acceptance Form (Qualtrics):** Finalized and published an integrated acceptance form covering Travel, Professional, Small Research, Transitional Housing, Accessibility, GSOGA, Symposium, Strategic Partnership, Mental Health Awareness Week, and Equipment Fund grants.
- **DFA Submission Form:** Developed a dedicated submission portal for reimbursements routed via the Division of Financial Aid, with built-in safeguards against incomplete or ineligible claims.
- **Personalized Checklist System:** Launched a checklist tool to provide tailored reimbursement requirements to applicants, minimizing missing documents and streamlining Treasurer review.

#### **2. Financial Procedures & Transparency**

- **FY26 Financial Procedures:** Published a comprehensive guide detailing APF requirements, payment modes, reimbursements, and documentation standards.
- **Reconciliation Progress:** Engaged with BOSO on GRAC and current account reconciliation. Focus has been on addressing discrepancies between “Cool Systems” usage and PGSG’s internal tracking, and ensuring prior-year balances (FY24→FY25→FY26) were correctly carried forward.
- **Financial Reporting:** Maintained live budget visibility through updated Google Sheets for Senate and team chairs.

#### **3. Graduate Student Transportation Survey**

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- Designed and launched the **Graduate Student Transportation Survey** to collect detailed feedback on commuting modes, stop proximity, pass usage, and cross-campus travel (West Lafayette and Indianapolis). This dataset will inform PGSG's advocacy with Auxiliary Services and CityBus.
- Approximately 650 people have submitted their responses; the survey closed on October 3, 2025.
- Initial data processing has begun; complete analysis will be shared in the coming weeks.

#### 4. System Modernization & Future Planning

- **Grant Management Software:** Initiated exploratory talks with Purdue IT and the ACM student chapter to scope development of a digital grant management platform. Objectives: reduce clerical errors, integrate with Qualtrics forms, and automate reconciliation workflows.
- **Records & Compliance:** Continuing work on server/storage solutions for PGSG financial and governance documents.

#### 5. Legislation

- Authored and introduced **Bill No. FA25-B00X: Establishing Minimum Funding Thresholds for GRAC Awards**.
  - Travel Grants: \$300 minimum or 25% of request (whichever is higher).
  - Other Grants: \$200 minimum or 25% of request (whichever is higher).
  - Applicants scoring below threshold or in low-budget cycles will not receive awards but may reapply in future.
- Aim: Strengthen integrity of PGSG grants, reduce administrative overhead from declined small awards, and align with OGSPS standards.

#### Ongoing Issues & Next Steps

1. **BOSO Reconciliation:** Need finalized clarification on GRAC transfer discrepancies and carry-forward balances.
2. **Transfers:** Pending reserve requests (server space, PGSG@40 celebrations, payroll adjustments) are in process.
3. **Transportation Survey Analysis:** Complete dataset analysis and share insights with Senate and Administration.
4. **System Development Proposal:** Build draft requirements for the ACM/IT grant management software and prepare sponsorship/partnership framework.
5. **Policy Updates:** Continue aligning PGSG grant policies with OGSPS guidelines (e.g., IRB documentation for SRG, simplified requirements for THG).

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**Senate Chair - ([pgsg.senatechair@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.senatechair@gmail.com))**

- The Senate voted to allow the withdrawal of pending amendments to the FCO.

**Public Relations -([pgsg.pro@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.pro@gmail.com))**

PGSG will be recruiting people soon for some content we plan to work on for PGSG@40. Please look out for her social media page for updates.

With the help of the PGSG@40 planning team and Publicity team, content is starting to roll out for the PGSG at 40 anniversary event.

Necessary signage for the PGSG@40 are currently being worked on.

If you have any ideas or would like to be a part of the planning team. Please reach out to me [PGSG Public Relations](#)

**Parliamentarian - ([pgsg.parliamentarian@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.parliamentarian@gmail.com))**

**Diversity Officer - ([pgsg.diversity@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.diversity@gmail.com))**

- Had first advocacy hour in collaboration with the Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education 9/23/25
- Hosted Lunch and Learn in collaboration with Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center at the Purdue Student Farm 9/25
- Hosted first event in cultural tasting series titled A Night in Nigeria 9/26/25
- Upcoming events for this month
  - 10/9 Lunch and Learn in collaboration with Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center to learn about a first generation graduate student's journey to where he is now in life
  - 10/11 Wings and Writing Session with the Black Cultural Center
  - 10/22 Second event in the Cultural Tasting Series - Let's Roll...Sushi!
  - 10/30 Movie Screening in Collaboration with the Latino Cultural Center and the LGBTQ Center
- Met with Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee to discuss schedule and plans for the year

**Legislative Affairs - ([pgsg.lad@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.lad@gmail.com))**

**Career Chair - ([pgsg.career@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.career@gmail.com))**

**Community Chair -([pgsg.community@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.community@gmail.com))**

**Life Chair - ([pgsg.life@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.life@gmail.com))**

- Had September Team Night, minutes [here](#).
  - Going to have Tron Ares Movie Night on Oct 17th, 100 graduate students
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**Grant Review and Allocation Chair - Jasmyne Emerson ([pgsg.grantreview@gmail.com](mailto:pgsg.grantreview@gmail.com))**

- Allocation results from August 2025 round:
    - Travel : PGSG - \$19,266.21 (24 applications); Grad school - \$5474.36 (19 applications)
    - Professional : \$7,833.97 (16 applications)
    - Small Research : \$1,713 (8 applications)
    - GSOGA : \$4,048 (4 applications)
    - Symposium : \$0 (no applications were received)
  - During the September Team Night, it was brought to my attention that the Travel Grant applications did not undergo a true double-blind review. According to team members, they were able to see the email ID of applicants when they clicked on the budget. As GRAC Chair, I immediately worked to fix this problem. The same night, I sent out a fixed reviewer survey for re-reviews to be completed. Additionally, all applicants were emailed to be informed that there was a technical difficulty that resulted in the award notification having to be delayed. Unfortunately, due to the large number of eligible applications (88), a large number of reviews were also needed. We had a difficult time getting reviewers to complete these reviews in a timely manner. The PGSG President suggested that we incentivize the reviewers with PGSG merch. Once doing so, we were able to receive the required number of reviews by Sept. 25, 2025.
  - The Recorder position was filled by *Temitope Amosa*.
  - The Transitional Housing Grant Vice Chair position was filled by *Raquel Cericatto Konzen*.
  - Received an application for the Strategic Partnership Grant. This must be voted on during an E-board meeting.
  - Received an application for the Mental Health Awareness Grant. The President, Life Chair, and MHAW Director must provide a decision by 10/07/2025.
-