Ben Lawder
USG Presidential Candidate

Major: Management
Class: Senior
Campaign website: www.votelawder.com

SGA Experience
Treasurer, Management Representative
Joint Finance Committee
Student Life Fund Allocations Board
Student Athlete Equity Committee
Student Involvement Ad Hoc Committee
Advisory and Executive Committee Member

Tech Experience
Tech Beautification Day: VP Development, VP Fundraising
Inspi8t: President and Founder
Delta Chi Fraternity: Secretary, Campus Involvement Director
Management Student Advisory Board: Chairman
Campus Wide Council: Member
Freshman Council: Treasurer
Sophomore Senate: Leadership Board
Student Center Festival Committee
GT Student Leadership Class
Executive Round Table
Student Alumni Association: VP Campus Outreach
Order of Omega Greek Honor Society
Basketball SWARM, Co-Op at Accenture & Syn doro's, Oxford Study Abroad

Platform

Action-Focused SGA that Listens to You

In order to become a more pro-active group and really meet the needs of the campus, we need to actively seek the input of the student body and direct those concerns through our existing constituent structures. I'd like to push more power and responsibility to the other executive offices and constituent chairs and set up methods—like a regularly updated website, an optional President’s Update email list, and open office hours for SGA officers—to increase interaction between SGA and the entire student body.

Meet the Needs of the Students

By not making promises I cannot keep, I will have the time to focus on the top concerns that matter to students—whatever those issues may be—come August or December or February. While I will be looking to the students for direction on how to spend my time, I have some great input up to this point on what to work on:

- Improve campus safety and security by establishing a temporary committee to improve lighting on campus, ensure that all call boxes function, improve Stingrider reliability, and explore the idea of a weekday SafeWalk service and weekend designated driver service
- Improve campus life through major campus events and extended hours for parts of SMC. While in college, this becomes more important.
- Improve the Music Department by acquiring additional funding for operations, making student concerns for free for all Tech students, and working with the administration to improve music facilities on campus
- Establish a Buzz Card meal plan equivalency program to allow students to purchase food at more places
- Improve campus life through an online "word" linking students to use required meals to purchase food at more places
- Work with the administration to improve music facilities on campus; working with the current President to establish the Music Department and provide major events like concerts and "Tech Night at Six Flags," and designing a major fundraiser for SGA to buy better sound equipment for UHR meetings and better survey technology to get student input. If elected, you will see the same trends of impressive results, meeting the needs of the students, and making it a year to remember.

Please visit my website for more details or ways to contact me. I'd appreciate your vote, and I look forward to serving you next year as President!
Mike Handelman
USG Vice-Presidential Candidate

Majors: Public Policy and Economics
Class: Senior
Campaign website: mike4vp.com

SGA Experience
Member-at-Large, Undergraduate House, 2001-02
Public Policy Rep., Undergraduate House, 2002-03
Chair, Community Affairs Chair, 2001-02
Chair, Internal Development Committee, 2002-03
Advocate General, Undergraduate House, 2002-03
Member, Legislative Communications Cmte., 2001-02
Member, Internal Development Committee, 2001-02
Undergraduate Representative of the Year, 2001-02

Leadership and Organization Membership
FASET Leader, 2001-02
Psi-1000 Team Leader, 2001-02
Ivan Allen Student Advisory Board
Georgia Tech Men’s Glee Club
College Democrats
Pride Alliance

Platform

Communication: A plan of action
It takes expertise to implement a plan to improve communica-
tion between Student Government and the student body. With
years of experience as both a representative and committee chair, Mike
knows what works and what doesn’t.

• Accurate and punctual publication of votes by representa-
tive, following each meeting

• Guaranteeing that all bills and proposed agenda are available
online prior to a House meeting

• Maintaining an online archive of all past bills, including vote
counts

• Compiling a concise one-page weekly e-mail, distributed to stu-
dents voluntarily, of all current issues in the House, including links to
appropriate word bills, minutes and agenda

• Weekly Office Hours

• Returning all phone calls and e-mails within 24 hours

Integrity and Ethics
Mike will serve the students with the highest standards of integri-
ty. He will be a leader in encouraging members of the House and
student government to do the same. A Code of Ethics shall be devel-
oped to help guide the actions of the Legislative Branch.

Giving Representatives the Tools For Success
Mike is committed to giving representatives the tools that they
need to be effective leaders. Members will be encouraged to take
leadership training and orientation programs. This opportunity will
allow students to be leaders for the community.

Within SGA

Communication
Each week, the Undergraduate House of Representatives convenes to
talk about hot topics on campus or determine how to appropriately
allocate funds. The results of these meetings have such an impact on
the student body, yet are never communicated. I will strongly encour-
age the representatives to actively interact with their constituents by
promoting meeting times with the representatives and a related group
or organization.

Issue Meetings
Issue meetings are powerful vehicles for the House of Representa-
tives to make the voice of the student body heard. Furthermore, not only is
it an opportunity for their voices to be heard, but for progress to be
made in the direction that is desired. Before each meeting, I will clearly
define the issue and direction, allowing the representatives to focus
their debate and reach a solid solution. As Vice President, I will then
make these decisions my personal agenda to see that the administra-
tion hears these results and that action is taken.

Danny Puckett
USG Vice-Presidential Candidate

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Class: Junior
Campaign website: www.dp4vp.com

SGA Experience
Having been involved with Student Government for two years, I am
prepared and have the experience to be the next Vice President. As a
freshman I was a part of FrShGA, which seeks to teach freshman
about the inner workings of SGA while solving problems they see
around campus through SGA. Continuing my involvement, this year
I served as Freshman Representative for the Undergraduate House of
Representatives. Furthermore, I served on the Rules Committee and the
House Advisory Committee. That is a little bit about what I have
done, now let’s talk about the future.

Platform

Student Life

Student-Representative Interaction
Too often students feel that professors just provide lectures and
administer grades. I believe there should be more interaction between
students and professors. Students should feel that they have a voice in the
classroom and that professors are approachable. I propose having more
outreach events such as Take-A-Prof to lunch, which will encourage
students and professors alike to better know one another outside the
classroom.

Extending the Drop Date
Drop day comes too fast! Before students have a chance to get a good
feel of what a class will require, they have to make a decision on
whether to stay or drop. I will work to have the drop date extended a
few weeks. I feel that grades will improve as well as the students’ satis-
faction.

Safety and Security on Campus
Safety and security is a concern to many and an affect on all. I served on
the Select Committee that helped choose the replacement for the
recent Chief of Police. I will work hard to keep the campus safe.

Half-Year Housing Contracts
In the real world you can rent an apartment, condo, or house for half-
year or a year. Why should you not be able to do the same with a
floating housing contract? This plan would provide students with the
option of living in dorms for half semesters and then either moving into
their fraternity/sorority house or moving off campus with friends. In
return, half-year contracts would then open up housing opportunities
for students that are unable to live on-campus in the fall.

College Band Psych 1000
I believe the majority of students feel Psych 1000 is a waste of time. I
was in a pilot program that grouped freshman mechanical engineers
into the same Psych 1000 class and the ME advisor was our
teacher. I propose to give this option to all students, which will group
people together from their respective college, gaining more knowl-
edge of your major and its requirements from the beginning.

Chris Rankine
USG Vice-Presidential Candidate

Major: Computer Engineering
Class: Senior
Campaign website: www.voterankine.com

SGA Experience
Current Junior Rep
Current House Administrative Committee Chair
Post Office Renovation Committee

Tech Activities
Student-Center Homecoming Committee: 2 years
Talent Show Coordinator: 1 year
Kappa Kappa Psi: Active 2 years; Service Chair: 1 year
VP of Sixth Street Hall Council: 1 year
RHA IT Chair: 3 years
Band Club: 4 years
Band Club President: 1 year
Band Librarian: 2 years
Marching Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Symphonic Band

Platform

Streamline SGA
Keep meetings as efficient as possible, reduce any difficulties people
face when submitting bills, help communication between reps and
students/make reps report back to constituents, keep issue meetings,
make SGA more visible after move to Houston building (old book store)

Packing
More “free and open at night” lots like one next to library, create “free &
open during holiday” lots near residential areas, stinger tracking
system, more decks

Music
Maintain SGA’s current support of music, work with department
administration to develop long term goals that are best for the students
and Tech

Experience Gets the Job Done
Mike has the experience, the leadership, and the initiative to make
his campaign goals happen. Working in both the legislative and
executive branch of student government, he also knows that it takes
teamwork to reduce bureaucracy and efficiency. For more informa-
tion on his commitment to the students, please visit the campaign
website at mikes4vp.com.
Yasser Bhatti
GSG Presidential Candidate

Major: Computer Science
Class: PhD
Campaign website:

Pay Attention, Assess, and Act! PAAA is my commitment to you. When I win this election, together we can make a world of difference for our academic and student experience, bringing the Cricket World Cup for virtually all students to watch, international students visa concerns, equitable budget allocations, etc.

As current serving Graduate Student Senator I have a recognized track record of working on important issues for the benefit of our academic and student experience, bringing the Cricket World Cup for virtually all students to watch, international students visa concerns, equitable budget allocations, etc.

My experience also speaks for itself. Current serving GSS Senator, President Pakistan Students Association, GA-Tech Student Foundation Investments Committee member, Secretary Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society), Technology Allocation Committee member (University of Oklahoma); Student Congress Rep (UC). In addition, distinguished awards such as the Letterman Award presented by former Oklahoma Governor and U.S. Senator David Boren, Yea Award from IBM, and service recognition from the 1998 Goodwill Games all reveal values of integrity, loyalty, and service.

Graduate students come to Georgia Tech to be leaders and professionals. To ensure that goal is achieved to the fullest extent, as GSS SGA President, I will represent you and help the Graduate Student Senate to work for improvement.

1. The academic and research ranking of GA-Tech
Research rankings depend heavily on the quality of graduate students and we can contribute tremendously to GA-Tech’s reputation by continuing to play an active role in steering GA-Tech research policy.

2. The deteriorating safety and security environment on campus
The need is to work with all students especially, students that spend all-nighters in their labs, women, international students, and minorities to improve communication about safety concerns and issues, work together with the Administration and the Police to improve timely campus-wide notifications of serious assaults so we can take precautions to protect ourselves and be able to help catch assailants through campus-wide notifications of serious assaults so we can take precautions to protect ourselves and be able to help catch assailants through programs similar to neighborhood watch programs; increase Stinger-ette escort operations to extend beyond 2am.

3. International students concerns about maintaining visa status
Already I am involved deeply with SGA and school officials to highlight this important issue and help improve procedures.

4. Work to establish an academic press at Georgia Tech or white paper series to provide publication opportunities and experience.

5. Graduate conference fund

6. Interlibrary loan and access to journals
For example, enable students to shape the development of the library collection.

7. Stronger ties with Emory, Georgia State, and other Atlanta universities.
Academic and cultural activities can be increased through promoting lecture series and holding joint conferences.

8. Diversity

9. Student activity life
Establish stronger cultural and arts environment on campus and to take GA-Tech off the list of the most miserable and unhappy campuses in the nation!

10. Transportation and parking

11. Volunteer service to Tech and the community

12. Student technology for

13. Health insurance

14. Student organizations space

For all these issues and even the UNEXPECTED, I will PAY ATTENTION to you, ASSESS, and ACT for you! The SGA Graduate Student Senate, Undergraduate House of Representatives, and the school Administration working TOGETHER can make a difference and with Yasser coordinating and leading the effort from the graduate students side, that improved difference is just on the horizon.

Trust me, it will PAAA(y) to vote Yasser for GSS President!

Pelham Norville
GSG Presidential Candidate

Major: Electrical Engineering
Class: PhD
Campaign website:

My name is Pelham Norville and I am a PhD student in Electrical Engineering. I have been working in student affairs for six years, and have served for two years at Georgia Tech as a Graduate Senator. I serve as an instructor and officer for ORCET, the chair of the Frost Center’s Student Advisory Board, and I have served on several committees representing graduate students interests to the Institute. Through my service at Georgia Tech I have consistently worked to serve our graduate student population through the improvement of services, working to ensure equal treatment of students from all backgrounds, and through responsible fiscal management of the SGA Budget.

As Graduate SGA President I will strive to improve the quality of services provided to students and I will ensure that your opinions, as graduate students, are always considered a top priority in the decision making process for Georgia Tech as the Institute continues to grow and evolve. Through six years of service to students through positions in student affairs at the university level, I have gained the skills necessary to be an aggressive advocate for your causes.

Top Priority

My first priority is that I accurately represent the interests and views of the graduate student population in the Institute’s affairs. I will make sure you are informed of the issues that could affect you, and I will listen to your opinions and ensure that they are both heard and considered by the Georgia Tech Administration.

2003 – 2004 Goals

Secure additional funding for some organizations currently funded solely or predominantly by the Student Activity Fee (SAF). As these organizations continue to grow, they will require additional funding to support all the services they provide for students. If more funding is secured from alternate sources, the additional funds that SGA provides to the organizations such as SAC and the Music Department will allow for an expansion of programs which will benefit all students.

Ensure that the services offered through the Institute exceed the standard of similar services offered off-campus both in quality of service and price. Services offered by various departments, especially such as health services, bus service, food services, and housing are especially important for the many graduate students who seldom leave campus and rely on these services heavily.

Increase student awareness of the services of which they can take advantage through the creation an information site on services useful to graduate students, and by improving the new graduate student orientation process.

Improve Campus Security. In the last several months several students have been attacked on one campus. The GT Police work hard keep our campus safe, but additional resources are needed to ensure the safety of all our students, faculty and staff. I will push for an increased security presence in all our campus buildings in the evenings and weekends, additional outdoor lighting of poorly lit areas, and I will work to promote the safety escort service currently provided.

If elected SGA president, I will work diligently with the Institute administration and with you to increase the quality of academics, and student life at Georgia Tech. In all my endeavors, I will act as an aggressive advocate for the interests of graduate students.

Robin Bechtel
GSG Vice-Presidential Candidate

Major: City Planning
Class: Master’s
Campaign website:

No biographical or platform information provided.
Roy Furbank
GSG Vice-Presidential Candidate

Major: Chemical Engineering
Class: Graduate
Campaign website:

I have served as a Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Senator for the last three years. During my tenure in the Senate I have been a vocal proponent for graduate student concerns (health insurance and the Graduate Student Conference Fund are the two biggest) and for fiscal responsibility with regard to the allocation of Student Activity Fee monies. I have opposed funding requests for events which do not directly benefit Georgia Tech students or which seek to funnel money from the Student Activity Fee to outside groups in the guise of “fund-raisers.”

With that said, I have been a strong proponent for various sports clubs and student organizations over the last three years. For example, I have repeatedly sponsored bills for the Woman’s Gymnastics Club and the Canoe and Kayak Club—both of whom are relatively new (and growing) clubs with active graduate student members and only make what I consider to be very reasonable requests from SGA. I have also consistently supported non-sports related activities including the Culture Festival and Team-Buzz despite their requests not agreeing with the letter of JFC policy.

I also serve as the Chair of the Campus Recreation Advisory Board which consists of students, faculty, alumni, and staff who deal with issues relating to SAC, ORGT, sports clubs, and intramurals among other things. We have worked hard over the last couple of years to ensure that the ongoing construction of the new Campus Recreation Center (previously referred to as SAC II) affected the students as minimally as possible. I support the recent proposed increase in funding for SAC for two reasons: 1) to ensure that when the new facility opens it is able to provide the students with the best service possible, and 2) it is the best way to positively impact the greatest number of students (nearly 2,000 students per day).

As Vice President of the Graduate Student Senate I will work together with the President and the Senators as well as the Undergraduate House and the Administration to address issues important to graduate students and to responsibly allocate funds from the Student Activity Fee in a manner which benefits the greatest number of Georgia Tech students while continuing to provide opportunities for smaller organizations to promote cultural and extracurricular activities on campus. I believe my extensive experience in the Senate as well as my involvement in other campus activities makes me uniquely qualified for this position and I would greatly appreciate your vote in the upcoming election. Thank you.

Voting will take place online at http://elections.gatech.edu. Undergraduate elections start Wednesday, March 26 at 8 a.m. and run through Friday, March 28 at 4 p.m. Graduate elections take place Monday, March 24 at 8 p.m. through Wednesday, March 26 at 4 p.m. The elections web site will be unavailable nightly from midnight until 4 a.m. for maintenance.

Please direct elections problem reports via email to elections@sga.gatech.edu.

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