Good Morning! It’s a pleasure to be back in front of all of you today to tell you a little more about this upcoming year in Purdue Student Government. By many indicators, we are in for a great year in PSG. We’re 94 members strong, and just approved our budget of $120,000 for the year. As you can see here, we had really good attendance to our fall retreat at Camp Tecumseh where we emphasized the importance of being dedicated to our organization and bettering the community. In turn our leadership is committed to developing the leadership skills of our leaders so we can be a prominent campus voice.

As you may recall, when I came to present to the Board in May, I outlined several dreams we had for Purdue’s campus. These fell into the categories of enhancing the Boilermaker Experience, promoting Inclusion, and enabling Growth of our peers. After being elected, we’ve realized that now we actually have to follow up on those dreams. This year, we’re excited to use the dreams we outlined to better campus.

Our first focus has been on the academic realm of campus. This semester we’ve brought many items to the attention of the provost’s office. First, we’re working with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to begin the process of implementing mid-semester evaluations as opposed to just end-of-course evaluations. We’re thrilled to have the support of Dr. David Sanders, and we’re confident that as we move forward, the best interests of both students and faculty will be in mind. In addition to mid-semester evaluations, I’ve also raised the issue of online homework reform to several administrators. While I commend the efforts of our administration to maintain affordability, I think there are plenty of additional ways to continue. These days, most members of higher education are aware of the high expenses of textbooks. Encouraging rentals and used books is a great thought, but those don’t include the access codes for online homework that is often required in many of our courses. Additional expenses to complete online homework can cost students between $50 and $100 per class. For a first year student taking a math, science, and an economics general elective, you can imagine how quickly these costs could add up. Purdue is on the cutting edge of technology, and there are already many resources in place that would help with this situation, but unfortunately few are being utilized. We will continue to work with the provost’s office to tackle this issue and make our university as affordable as possible.

Outside the classroom, we are set on bettering both campus communication and campus technology. We’re happy to report that campus safety procedures were communicated much more effectively by our professors than they have been in recent memory. Obviously, on a campus of our size communication will be difficult, but as the topic of safety has shown, it certainly isn’t impossible.

Before I wrap things up today, I would love to share an update of PSG’s new location on campus. We were lucky enough to be granted a beautiful new office in the Krach Leadership Center. PSG is absolutely thrilled with how our space turned out, and I’m confident that PSG will thrive in this new location. On the other hand, I fear that the building as a whole missed the mark of its original mission. The dream for the building was to be an epicenter of students and campus leaders, but unfortunately, that’s not how it turned out. As seen by most students, Krach is very much an administrative building with a few spaces thrown in for students to lounge or work. Of our 947 student organizations, fewer than 30 were given work space, and the one open study area has table space for just 52 students. As you can imagine, on a campus of 30,000+ undergraduates, this doesn’t really bode well for finding space. Additionally, I think it is important to voice concern over the placement of Amazon’s retail area in the building. While we as students are excited for the benefits that we are receiving from this deal, I question their use of the Multi-purpose room on the first floor. This room was the corner stone of the
building, and really the vision that started the conversations of the leadership center. The flexibility of the room and the focus on meeting student needs are features that are unmatched anywhere else on campus. By giving this room away, the building now only has the Shin Forum on the second floor to house a maximum of 48 people in stadium style seating. Seeing the popularity and use of this space in the first 2 months of our school year only furthers the disappointment of losing this space. As construction on the Active Learning center begins on campus, I would urge this Board to ensure that the same result doesn’t occur in this situation. The students deserve a student-focused building where their needs are put before other stakeholders on campus.

Finally, at the end of the May meeting you requested our thoughts on some of the campus services. I assure you that this request has not gone without recognition. As most students are now back on campus we will move forward with gathering the opinions of the student body and will report back at the next meeting.

Thank you for your time, and I would welcome any questions you may all have.
Purdue Student Government

Overview
Goals & Updates

Bobby Haddix
Student Body President
Using our DREAMS to BETTER campus

- 94 Members Strong
  - 20 Senators
  - 14 Court
  - 60 Board of Directors

- Budget of $120,000 just approved

- Emphasizing commitment to our organization this year.

- Focusing on leadership development
Goals

- Enhancing the Boilermaker Experience
- Promoting Inclusion
- Enabling Growth

Using our DREAMS to BETTER campus

- Better Academics
- Better Communication
- Better Technology
Other Updates

Using our DREAMS to BETTER campus

- Krach Leadership Center
- Campus Services