

Indiana University Graduate and Professional Student Government

Treasurer Platform

Ethan Rahman – Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences

Introduction

As a dedicated member of the Indiana University graduate student community, I am excited to announce my candidacy for Treasurer of the Indiana University Graduate and Professional Student Government. When presidential candidate Kathleen Simunek asked me to run for treasurer, I was honored by her confidence in my ability to execute the duties of the office. I have worked closely with Kathleen as a member of the Committee for Inclusion and Engagement. While I am certainly willing to serve with other candidates, I believe that Kathleen's leadership and my skills would complement each other in a way that maximizes our ability to advocate for graduate students and create a thriving graduate student community.

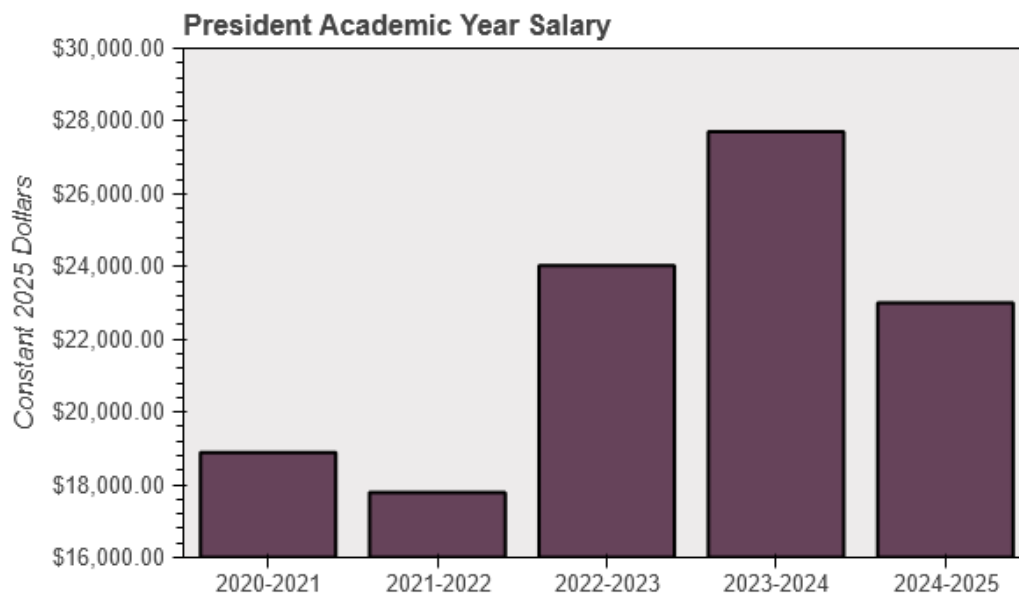
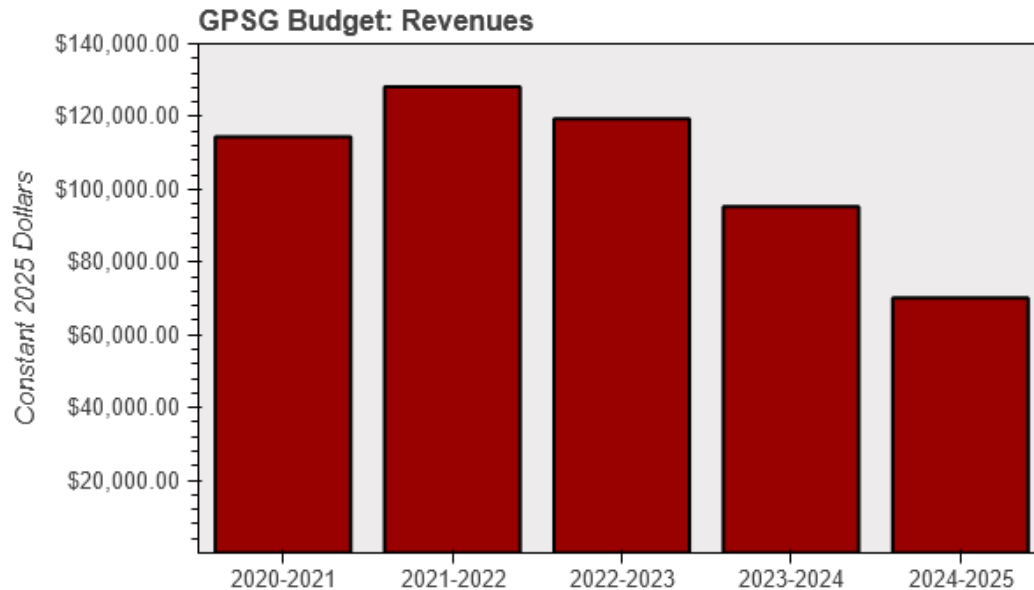
Background and Qualifications

- My research interests as a Ph.D. student in Economics are centered around the interaction between fiscal and monetary policy in determining the state of the economy.
- Prior to becoming a Ph.D. Student, I worked as a Predoctoral Research Assistant at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington D.C. In this position, many of my policy related projects were about creating and maintaining data visualization dashboards for policymakers. I believe this experience will help me guide my plans.
- As an undergraduate, I led fundraising efforts for my student-run debate team, which received no university funding. By connecting our debaters with high school debate teams in need of judges, I successfully raised \$1,800, demonstrating my ability to secure external funding and manage financial resources effectively.
- I have a strong commitment to fiscal discipline, and I will ensure that the independence of the IU GSPG is not threatened by university interventions due to budget mismanagement.

Plans for the Upcoming Year

As Treasurer, I will focus on the following key initiatives:

1. **Enhancing Budget Transparency:** I will ensure that the GPSG budget proposals are fully accessible and transparent to the GA. It is important that legislators understand not only next year's budget but also the budgets for prior years. Legislators should know if our budget proposal is unprecedented. For example, the following charts would have been nice to have when we discussed the budget last October:



2. **Reforming the Budget Process:** right now, the GPSG constitution and by-laws grant the executive committee a tremendous amount of power to set budgets. I will work with GPSG representatives to reform the process and transfer more structural power to the general assembly.
3. **Securing Additional Funding Opportunities:** I will explore

alternative funding sources, including grants and sponsorships, to supplement GPSG resources and expand financial support for graduate student initiatives.

Conclusion

GPSG plays a crucial role in advocating for graduate students at Indiana University, and financial responsibility is key to ensuring its continued success. As Treasurer, I will work to create a more transparent, accessible, and democratic budget process that empowers the general assembly and increases the independence of our governing body. I look forward to serving as your Treasurer under Kathleen's leadership.