

Finance Board Chair seeks student opinion

Khaleela Zaman
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Every student at IIT, Shimer, and Vandercook pays into the Student Activities Fund (SAF). But does every student know where their money goes? To which organizations it is allocated? And an even bigger question: how it is allocated?

A third year student majoring in electrical and computer engineering, Jacob Aynessazian now heads the Finance Board (FB) of the Student Government Association at IIT. FB is composed of ten students who decide during three Saturday hearings per semester how much money each student organization on campus will receive for certain line items. As the Finance Board Chair, Aynessazian seems willing to collect student opinions about the SAF allocations in order to eventually amend the system.

During the summer, a survey was put out by FB through HawkLink welcoming student feedback on how the SAF should be allocated. The simple twelve-question survey asked students to rank twelve categories of events based on priority on a scale from one to five, or choosing that it should not be funded by the SAF. Aynessazian claims that the "whole goal of it" was to gauge "what people want so [FB] can give them what they want." Currently, as Aynessazian says, the "mission" of Finance Board states that FB "should fund social events on campus that benefit the entire student body." However, he feels that this mission is not doing enough, and this is why he wants to gather more student opinions about the SAF and its allocations. As Finance Board Chair, he also wants to make sure an adequate amount of students are heard. Therefore, until he gets "a large enough portion" of responses

or opinions, he will not initiate any changes in allocation.

As of now, there have been no changes in how FB is allocating money from the SAF. On the first day the HawkLink survey was sent out in a mass email to all students,

in this survey. Realizing the extremely low response rate, Aynessazian feels it would be a good idea to reach out to more IIT students in more ways to collect feedback on SAF allocation before considering a change, saying that he would personally be upset if a huge change

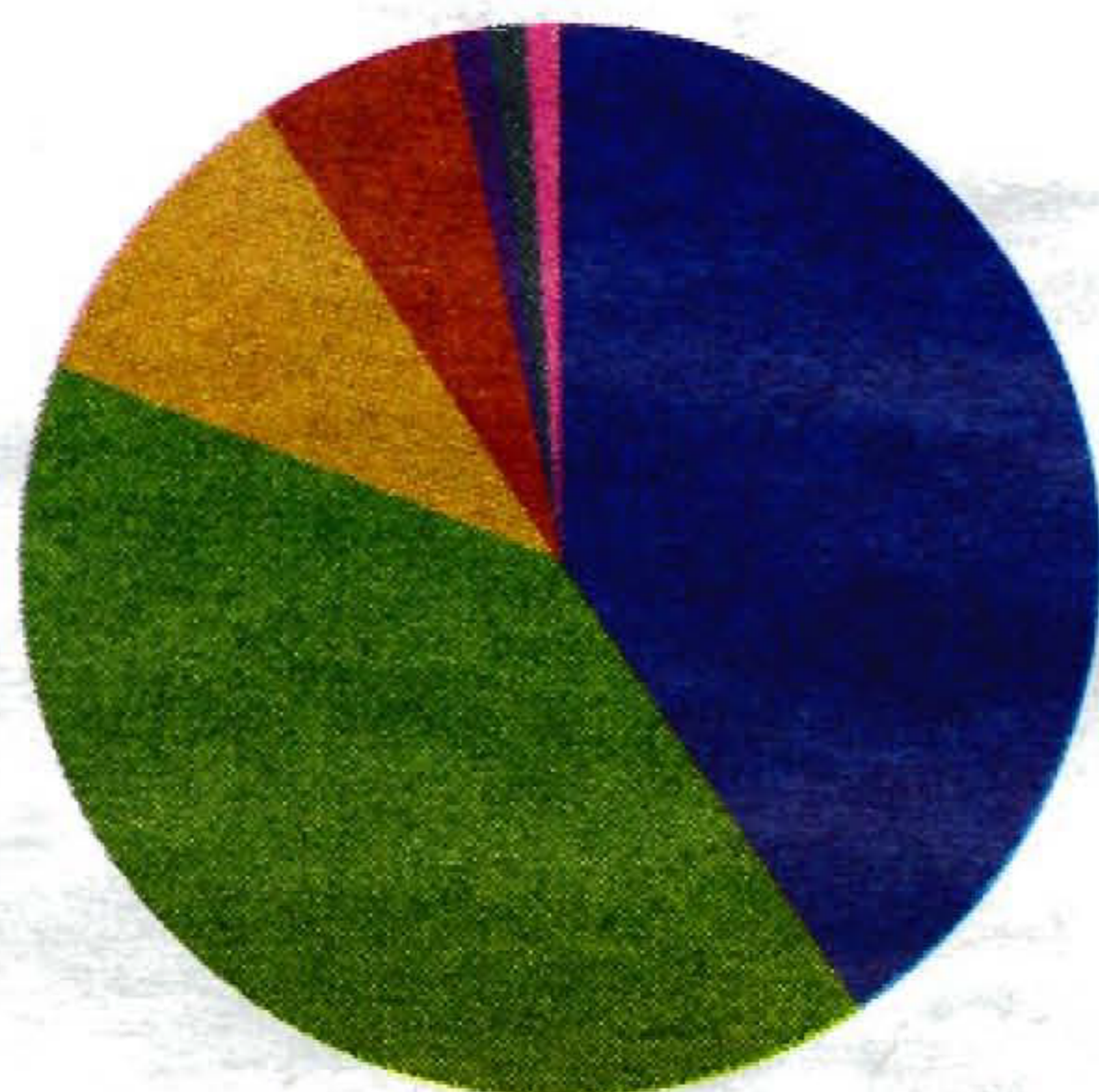
change in the process of submitting a budget proposal to the Finance Board. Now there are two weeks of advising prior to each FB hearing. More importantly, the form on HawkLink to create a budget proposal has been modified. Previously the form was "too free-form," says Jacob Aynessazian, and the new form creates a more uniform and structured system for proposal. Now the system "does all the math," and "organizes everything for you," rather than requiring each treasurer to come up with their own budget proposal layout. As line items are filled out within the new system, there are limitations in place that do not allow organizations to propose for money outside the FB guidelines. If treasurers plan on exceeding the limits of the guidelines reasonably, though, the excess can be proposed for in the "other" category. Aynessazian reported that student organizations with lots of line items found the new budget proposal system to be more difficult than the old, but he estimated that about 85 percent of treasurers found the new system to be easier. Since this new system was first employed for the Finance Board hearing on September 12, it has not been tested much yet.

If anyone has a problem, concern, or question about Finance Board, where SAF money goes, or if you have an interest in becoming involved with FB, Aynessazian welcomes you to email him at iitgsfinanceboardchair@gmail.com. He is also often in the Office of Campus Life (OCL) if you want to stop by and chat with him. As Aynessazian said, "I just want people at IIT to be happy. Whatever you guys want, that's my goal. That starts with telling me what you want."

was made based on merely 200 responses. Jacob "would like the best representation of what the student body wants" so that changes with allocation can be pursued that would make students happy.

However, students have experienced

SAF Allocation: September 12, 2015



●	Programming: \$55,404.10 at 40.7%
●	Conferences & Competitions: \$54,812.40 at 40.2%
●	Capital Items: \$13,527.40 at 9.9%
●	Projects: \$7,935.50 at 5.8%
●	Other: \$1,672.00 at 1.2%
●	Operations: \$1,509.90 at 1.1%
●	Prizes & Giveaways: \$1,300.14 at 1.0%
●	Career Fairs: \$96.00 at 0.1%
	Total Allocation: \$136,257.44

Image by Khaleela Zaman

there were about 70 responses collected. Now that number is only approximately 200. In the Fall of 2014, IIT had a total enrollment of almost 8,000 students, with just over 3,000 undergraduates. This means that only about 2.5% of all IIT students have been represented

Museum of Science & Industry offers unique volunteer, internship positions for IIT students

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) is the largest science museum in the western hemisphere, holding over 35 thousand artifacts and nearly 14 acres of interactive exhibits and experiences. The museum's home is the former Palace of Fine Arts building from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood, and it opened in 1933 under philanthropist Julius Rosenwald's vision to create a hands-on industry museum in the United States. Each year, the museum works toward achieving its mission to "inspire the inventive genius in everyone" with the help of several Illinois Tech students.

Each semester, undergraduate students from IIT have a unique service learning opportunity at the Museum of Science and Industry through the MSI Internship Program. Students apply to spend a few days during the semester volunteering at the museum, present-

ing science demonstrations to the museum's general audience. Volunteers who complete a required minimum number of volunteer hours at the museum qualify to apply for a paid internship at MSI over the summer. Last year, seven interns selected to work at the museum as interns learned a variety of demonstrations and presented them to over 35 thousand museum guests.

In order to become eligible for the internship, students must first attend an information session held early in the semester and apply to volunteer at the museum over the course of the Fall or Spring semester during the academic year. During the semester, these students learn to present three interactive and hands-on demonstrations to museum guests. Volunteers work alongside lead interns, students who were summer interns in previous years, to receive coaching and support as they learn more about presenting to different audiences and speaking in public. Demonstrations done by volunteers cover topics including sound, electricity, and Newton's Laws. While

presenting the demonstrations, student volunteers develop skills in public speaking, vocal projection, questioning, and positive reinforcement.

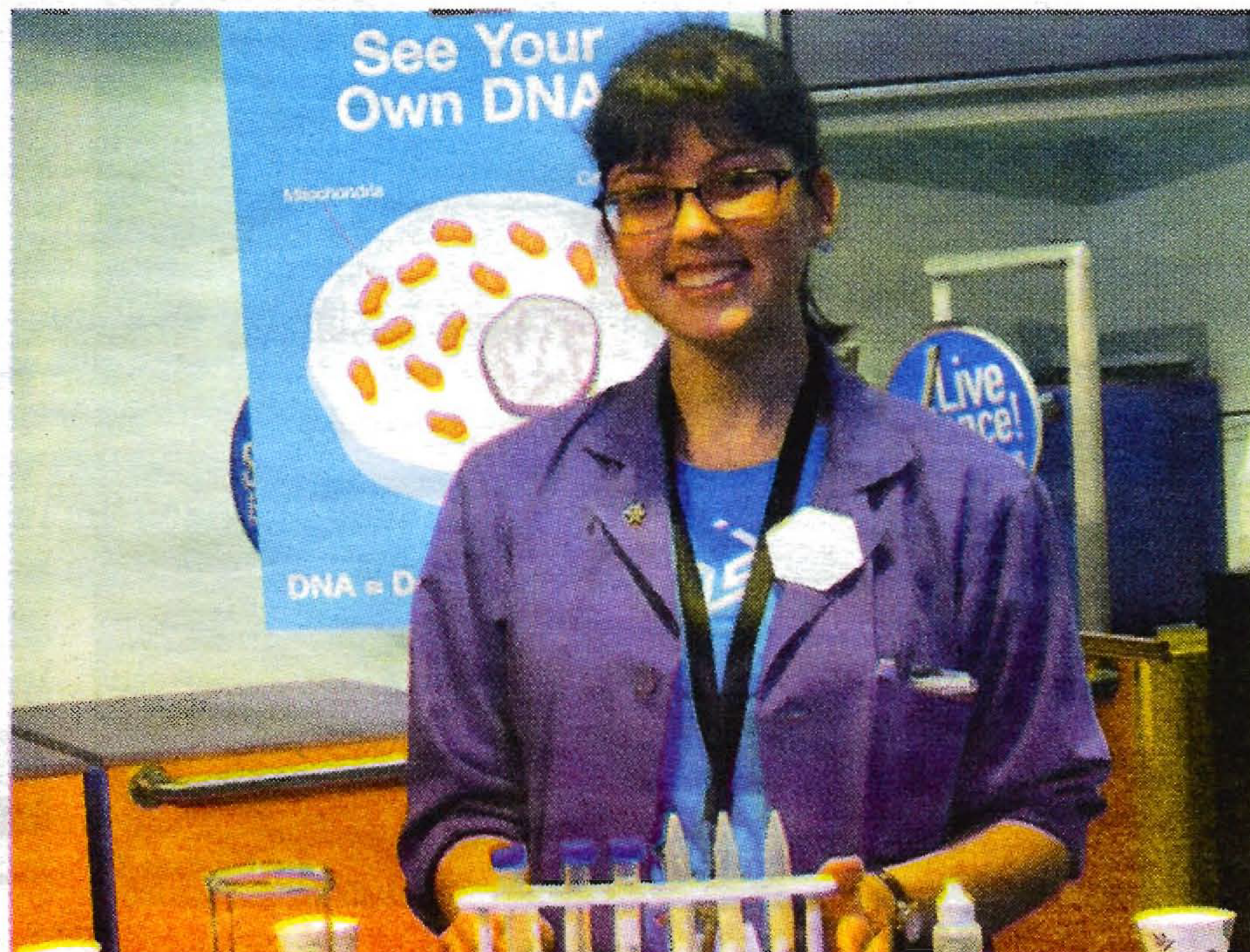
Twelve volunteers are accepted to the program each semester. Upon completion of 20 total volunteer hours in a semester, the volunteers qualify to apply for one of the paid summer internship positions, where they learn larger programs and work full-time during IIT's summer break.

The MSI-IIT internship partnership is now entering its 9th year. This partnership began with a common trustee between IIT and MSI, and the program aims to foster communication skills in students while making science education accessible to the community through the delivery of several fun and interactive live science demonstrations at MSI.

Rubab Fatima and Kathleen Mullin, two IIT students who completed the internship this past summer, say they've learned a lot by being volunteers and interns with the museum. Fatima says that the communication

skills she has gained are valuable. "A lot of us are in STEM fields; it helps a lot to have a job where we're not holed up in a lab somewhere and we have to communicate science with others," she said. Mullin added, "We get to talk to people who don't have the same background as us, which will be useful training for any future job." Students who complete the internship and volunteership also report increased confidence, more comfort with public speaking, and positive experiences in working in a team.

The MSI-IIT volunteership and internship program is open to undergraduates of all majors at IIT. In order to apply for the program, students must attend one of several information sessions being held this week. Information sessions are taking place on Monday and Tuesday in The Bog at 12:40 p.m. and Wednesday in E1 102 at 12:40 p.m. Questions about the program can be directed to Patrick Fina at pfina@iit.edu.



Photos by Kori Bowns