

The George Washington University Band Alumni & Friends  
Summary of Actions by the Board of Directors  
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

This document serves as the annual summary of actions taken by The George Washington University Band Alumni & Friends as mandated by Section 3.05c of the Bylaws of the organization. The scope of this summary spans from June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Any questions relating to this document should be directed to the Secretary at [secretary@gwubaf.org](mailto:secretary@gwubaf.org).

**Board of Directors**

President:	Patricia Simione, B.B.A '12
Vice President:	Scott Backer, B.A. '12
Treasurer:	Daniel Israelsson, B.A. '20
Secretary:	Simon Lazev, B.S. '19
Members At-Large:	Alex Greene, B.A. '18 Blake Kraus, B.A. '17, M.A. '19 (July 1, 2020 - August 17, 2021) Alex Klein, B.A. '15 (November 1, 2021 - Present)
Immediate Past President:	Melissa Kincaid, B.A. '07, M.B.A '11

## **Dr. Benno P. Fritz Spirit Award**

Since Dr. Fritz's passing in 2016, the Board has been pursuing the establishment of a financial award to be given to GW Bands students in his honor. After the official establishment of the fund with the George Washington University in April 2021, members of the Board and the GWUBAF fundraising committee worked towards the goal of fully funding the award by the end of the year.

In November 2021, the award fund surpassed its goal of \$25,000 and was fully funded. The [Dr. Benno P. Fritz Spirit Award](#) is now officially established as a self-sustaining, recurring award to be given to a student each year. The Board worked with Professor Schmitz to create an application for students interested in the award. The Board also solicited applications from its members to serve on the award selection committee, and selected two members to serve on the committee. The first award winner was chosen and announced in May 2022.

## **Bylaws**

After years of review and discussions, the Board presented the Membership with a proposal to amend the organizational bylaws. After member comments, gained through open discussion at the Members Meeting Alumni Weekend 2022 and via offline email, and subsequent edits, the membership approved the proposal in March 2022 by a membership vote approval 96%. This amendment was the first complete overhaul of the bylaws since GWUBAF's founding. [The Bylaws](#) provide an updated vision for the organization and an improved framework to reach those goals. Major updates include:

- An update to the organization's statement of purpose
- A change of fiscal year to June-May to better align with GW Commencement and Board elections
- Defining the types of members, including an official designation for Introductory Members
- A change in the titles and roles of the Directors, creating seven elected Board positions
- Creating staggered 2-year terms for Directors
- Defining a strict Board election procedure
- Defining the types of meetings
- Defining the types and purposes of committees

## Alumni Weekend 2022

GWUBAF hosted Alumni Weekend 2022 in Washington, DC in February 2022. This was GWUBAF's first in-person Alumni Weekend since 2020. GWUBAF provided opportunities for students and alumni to attend both in-person and virtually, welcoming over 50 members of our community.

## Events

This past year, GWUBAF returned to hosting in-person events for our members, alumni, and future alumni. These included:

- A pre-game happy hour before GW Day at the Washington Nationals in September 2021
- A GW Basketball home opener happy hour in November 2021
- A GW Men's Basketball Game where alumni supported C-Brass as they traveled for tournaments in March 2022
- Various study breaks and events with current GW Bands students throughout the academic year
- A welcome happy hour for new Introductory Members in May 2022

## Other Actions

During the past year, the Board has taken various steps to achieve its mission:

- Continued to hold regular meetings with the GW Bands Student Officers to improve communication between the two organizations
- Continued to encourage member involvement, through committees, open board meetings, and open Director office hours
- Continued social media outreach on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
- Continued to educate ourselves and our community through our [Staff Picks](#) newsletter