

# Application for Alumni Trustee Ballot

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If you are interested in running for a Board of Trustees Alumni Trustee position Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship requests that you fill out this application. In order to achieve our goal to vote out the Alumni Trustees, we need to focus our effort to submit the best candidates possible and not flood the ballot.

The Alumni Board of Trustees Committee will review the applications. If more than five (5) applications are received, the committee will review the applications to select the top five (5) applications. The top five (5) applications will be put forward to the larger, Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship for a vote to pick the top three (3) candidates to be nominated.

The top three (3) will then be formally submitted to the Board of Trustees for the ballot. The Group will then provide support for the proposed candidates and campaign for them.

## **Timeline for process:**

January 8, 2012 – All candidates who would like to be considered for the 2012 Alumni Ballot need to submit applications by the end of the day.

January 15, 2012 – The committee posts the top (5) applications for the larger committee to vote for if Applicable.

January 22, 2012 – Voting closes for the top (5) applications if applicable.

January 23, 2012 – The three (3) nominating candidates are announced.

January 23, 2012 – The work begins to get the signatures required to fill get the three (3) nominating candidates onto the ballot.

By February 25, 2012 - We need to have all the criteria organized for the (3) nominating candidates

April 10 - May 3, 2012 – The ballots are sent to Alumni for voting.

BOT Bylaws: <http://www.psu.edu/trustees/pdf/bylaws.pdf>

Charter: <http://www.psu.edu/trustees/pdf/charter.pdf>

Email the application and attachments to [michelle.murosky@comcast.net](mailto:michelle.murosky@comcast.net)

# Application

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## Personal Information

First Name	Ryan
Middle Name	M
Last Name	Bagwell
Address	5219 Shorecrest Drive
City	Middleton
State	Wisconsin
Zip	53562
Phone Number	608-466-6195
Cell Phone	same
Email	ryan@ryanbagwell.com
Website or Blog (if applicable)	<a href="http://www.bagwellforpennstate.com">www.bagwellforpennstate.com</a>

## Board Specific Information

<p><i>(1) Members of the Board of Trustees shall be natural persons of full age who need not be residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.</i></p> <p>Are you older than 18 years of age?</p>	<p>Yes. I'm 32 years old</p>
<p><i>(2) A person who is employed in any capacity by the University shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees. This qualification for membership shall not apply to a person who is an ex officio member of the Board, nor to a person who is a student employed part-time by the University.</i></p> <p>Are you an employee of the University in any capacity? Are you an ex officio member of the Board?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><i>(3) A person shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for a period of three (3) years from the July 1 coincident with or next following the date of last employment in any capacity by the University. This qualification for membership shall not apply to a person who is an ex officio member of the Board, nor to a person who is a student employed part-time by the University.</i></p> <p>Can you comply with the above statement?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>(4) Only graduates of The Pennsylvania State University who shall have received an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree from the University shall be eligible to serve as a trustee elected by the Alumni. No member of the faculty or the governing board of any other college or university in Pennsylvania shall be eligible to serve as a trustee elected by the Alumni.</i></p> <p>Can you comply with the requirements above to be an Alumni Trustee?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Can you comply with the <a href="#">statement of membership</a> by the BOT?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

## Penn State Information

Only alumni of the Pennsylvania State University are qualified to run for Alumni Board of Trustees Seats

Year of Graduation	2002
College	Arts & Architecture / Communications
Degree	BA in Journalism and a BA in Music
Branch Campus (if applicable)	

Are other members of your family Penn State Alumni?	No, I'm a first-generation Nittany Lion. Hopefully, the first of many generations of Penn Staters.
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### As an alumnae or alumnus:

Are you a member of the Alumni Association?	Yes, a lifetime member
Are you a member of a local Alumni Association Branch?	Yes - the fledgling Madison, WI chapter
Do you volunteer with the Alumni Association? If so – in what capacity?	No
Do you hold a leadership position in an Alumni Association?	No
Do you donate to the University?	Yes
Have you established a scholarship fund?	No
Have you ever received an award from the University?	No

### As a student:

Did you hold a leadership position in a campus organization?	Yes
Were you a Lion Ambassador?	No
Were you on an athletic team?	No
Did you receive any awards from the university?	No

### Career Information

Current Job	Senior Web Developer (computer programmer)
Company or Employer	Hirshorn Zuckerman Design Group, Rockville, MD
Number of years in this position	1.5
Provide a Description of your position. List responsibilities, leadership activities, day to day tasks, etc.	I build and maintain web sites, plan their construction and guide and mentor junior developers on our team.

Past Job	Reporter
Company or Employer	The Arundel Muckraker (now defunct)
Number of years in this position	1
Provide a Description of your position. List responsibilities, leadership activities, day to day tasks, ect.	I built, produced and wrote for a Web site that covered news in Annapolis, MD. It competed directly with the local daily papers.
Past Job	Reporter
Company or Employer	The Capital newspaper of Annapolis, MD
Number of years in this position	3

Provide a Description of your position. List responsibilities, leadership activities, day to day tasks, etc.	Served as this daily newspaper's education reporter for a little more than a year. Also covered the town of Glen Burnie for The Capital's sister paper, the Maryland Gazette.
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Past Job	Reporter
Company or Employer	Montgomery Newspapers
Number of years in this position	1.5
Provide a Description of your position. List responsibilities, leadership activities, day to day tasks, etc.	I was a reporter who covered two towns in the Philadelphia suburbs for the Times Chronicle/ Glenside News.

## Volunteer Information

Do you currently volunteer for an organization? If so please list the organization or organizations.	No, I recently moved to Madison, WI, and am still trying to get used to the area.
What is your role as a volunteer?	n/a
What is your commitment to the volunteer organization	n/a

## Additional Questions

### Why do you want to be an Alumni Trustee?

The board's conduct during the recent child sexual abuse crisis renewed my interest in running. I first sought a board seat in 2003, but failed to garner the requisite 50 nominations. But during the crisis, I saw a complete lack of leadership from all members of the board, and believe that I would have taken a different tack.

### Do you have previous experience serving on a board?

While I don't have any experience serving on boards, as a reporter I covered hundreds of public board meetings and interviewed board members hundreds of times. I know how they work, both publicly and behind the scenes.

### **Provide examples of past Leadership Experience**

- As an undergrad at Penn State, I was the founding director of the Penn State Jazz Festival, which still exists today.
- As The (Annapolis) Capital's education reporter, I organized a group of reporters who uncovered problems in security at dozens of public schools.
- As a senior web developer at the Hirshorn Zuckerman Design Group, I'm routinely asked to mentor and assist junior developers.
- I'm also a former rock climbing department director, and an Eagle Scout.

### **What does Penn State mean to you?**

While I enjoyed my undergraduate experience at Penn State, my pride in being part of the university family has grown tremendously as an alum. My years at University Park were a period of growth, learning and soul searching, and I am thankful for the opportunities I was afforded by attending such a large, highly-regarded school. But it wasn't until I graduated that I truly discovered the benefits of the network I am now a part of. Enthusiasm among graduates for their alma mater is unmatched. It's enormous alumni association offers camaraderie wherever you go. It's a very special group of people, bound by pride in an institution that always sought success with honor over success at any cost. I'm proud to be a part of that family.

### **If you were on the Board of Trustees how would you have handled recent events?**

The trustees were negligent in their handling of this crisis. They were slow to react. When the world demanded answers, they chose more secrecy. And when they chose to speak, they did so with vague, meaningless paper statements that did little to quench our thirst for answers. I would have advocated for a far more proactive tactic.

The first thing I would have done is encourage Graham Spanier to retract his statement of support for Curley and Schultz. I was surprised that it didn't happen within a few hours, because it was so obvious to the rest of us that his statement only hurt Penn State even more in the wake of such horrible allegations.

Next, I would have focused my attention on the media. Someone needed to talk to reporters, answer their questions to the extent possible at the time, and express sympathy

for the victims. The board needed to show it was aware of the seriousness of the allegations, and that it was taking them seriously. Normally, the chairman of the board would take on this role. Since that didn't happen, I would have stepped up and taken on that role myself. To this day, I remain in disbelief that not a single board member stepped up and showed the necessary leadership at the time.

Curley and Schultz's suspensions were prudent. But Spanier also should have been suspended immediately. His statement of support for those charged left me with no confidence in his ability to lead us through the crisis.

Given the facts known at the time, I would not have voted to fire Joe Paterno. With so many unanswered questions, giving such an honorable man the benefit of the doubt was the only prudent tack. I would have urged my fellow board members to allow Paterno's Tuesday press conference to continue as planned. If my questions had been satisfied, I would have made a judgement on his future at. Cancelling that press conference only confirmed critics' observations that Penn State valued secrecy over transparency and accountability.

**Do you feel the current board members should be held accountable for their actions? To what length?**

Steve Garban, who showed an extraordinary lack of leadership, should resign immediately. Other board members should demand his resignation. Additionally, I hold a general view that all board members should resign, given the universal lack of leadership, and continued steps to promote secrecy.

**Do you think a motion should be filed requesting that the Board of Trustees provide a formal apology to Joe Paterno in person for their action?**

I'm withholding judgement until the facts are known, and don't think such a motion should be filed at this time. When we officially learn that his actions were proper, I would support a board resolution to honor his legacy in some way, as well as additional measures to show our appreciation for his contributions to Penn State.

**Do you think you share the same interests and desires of this group?**

We share an interest in restoring honor and integrity to Penn State and the board of trustees. Additionally, we share a commitment to honoring Joe's legacy.

**Do you have the time commitment required to be a member of the Board?**

Yes. Though I live in Wisconsin, I work from home, and have the flexibility to travel as needed. And since I don't have a family to support just yet, this is probably the last chance I'll have to commit as much time as this position demands.

## Biography

Ryan Bagwell is not a politician or the CEO of a major company, and he's not a prestigious donor with ties to the so-called "good 'ol boy's" club. He's a former journalist with innovative ideas to restore leadership, integrity and transparency to his alma mater and the Board of Trustees.

A Web developer and proud member of Penn State's Class of 2002, Ryan graduated with bachelors degrees in music and journalism. He wrote for newspapers in Pennsylvania and Maryland before creating his own local news Web site devoted to holding local officials accountable.

Using his experience fighting for public accountability and transparency, Ryan has proposed [plans to create a culture of openness at Penn State](#). They entail creating policies that would give citizens access to most university records while protecting the privacy of employees and sensitive financial information.

Ryan's knowledge of public ethics laws are the foundation of his plans to require top university officials to disclose their financial interests each year. It's an initiative that public bodies everywhere already follow, which is intended to prevent conflicts of interest.

To combat insularity and prevent reinforcement of the same culture over and over again, Ryan wants to limit trustees' service to two terms. And he wants to implement specific ethics rules that would improve Penn State's vague statements on what is and isn't ethical conduct.

Ryan left the news industry in 2009 to pursue a career in computers. Presently he's a senior Web programmer at the Hirshorn Zuckerman Design Group, an advertising and marketing agency located near Washington, D.C. He holds a Web Development Certificate from Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts.

During his undergraduate career and as an alumnus, Ryan has been a devoted member of the Penn State community. He was the founding director of the Penn State Jazz Festival, a student-produced event that is still held annually. Today, he is a very proud football season ticket holder, a lifetime member of the Penn State Alumni Association and member of local alumni groups.

Prior to his career as a computer programmer, Ryan was [The \(Annapolis\) Capital's](#) education reporter, where he covered Anne Arundel County Public Schools in Maryland. He also wrote for the Maryland Gazette, The Capital's sister paper. And his first journalism job was reporting for the Times Chronicle/Glenside News, a weekly newspaper that covered the Philadelphia suburbs.

A graduate of Council Rock High School in Newtown, Pa., He grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs of Bucks County.

In September, Ryan moved from Annapolis to Madison, Wisconsin with his fiancée, where she's pursuing a doctoral degree. They're planning a May wedding.

Though he lives on the doorstep of a rival Big Ten school, he's always proud to fly his Penn State flag where all can see.

### **Character References**

Please provide a list of three to five character references below. Provide a letter from each person on why they feel you are qualified to be nominated for the Penn State Board of Trustees.