



2020/2021
Academic Year

ANNUAL REPORT

Tara L. Pickens, MSc, President
Tarik Acevedo, Treasurer

<https://sites.psu.edu/psusciencepolicy/>



*"It was like a new world opened to me,
the world of science, which I was at last
permitted to know in all liberty."*

— Marie Curie

Contents

- 1. Overview and Objectives**
- 2. Achievements and Output**
- 3. Finance**
- 4. Planning Ahead: 2021/2022 Academic Year**

Thank you...

Because of your unwavering support, SPS is able to continue providing valuable professional development opportunities for our membership and collaborative events to raise awareness throughout our community and beyond.

OVERVIEW OF SPS

Scientific and technological advancements have come with their own cadre of unique, complex issues. The economic, societal, environmental, and cultural challenges of today require that we harness the power of science-policy-society interfaces, and create policy-based solutions for the betterment of all of Earth's inhabitants. The problems facing us today are time-dependent. This will require a burgeoning generation of scientists with the skills to bridge the gap between the scientific community, the public, and decision-makers. This is where PSU Science Policy Society comes in.

OUR OBJECTIVES

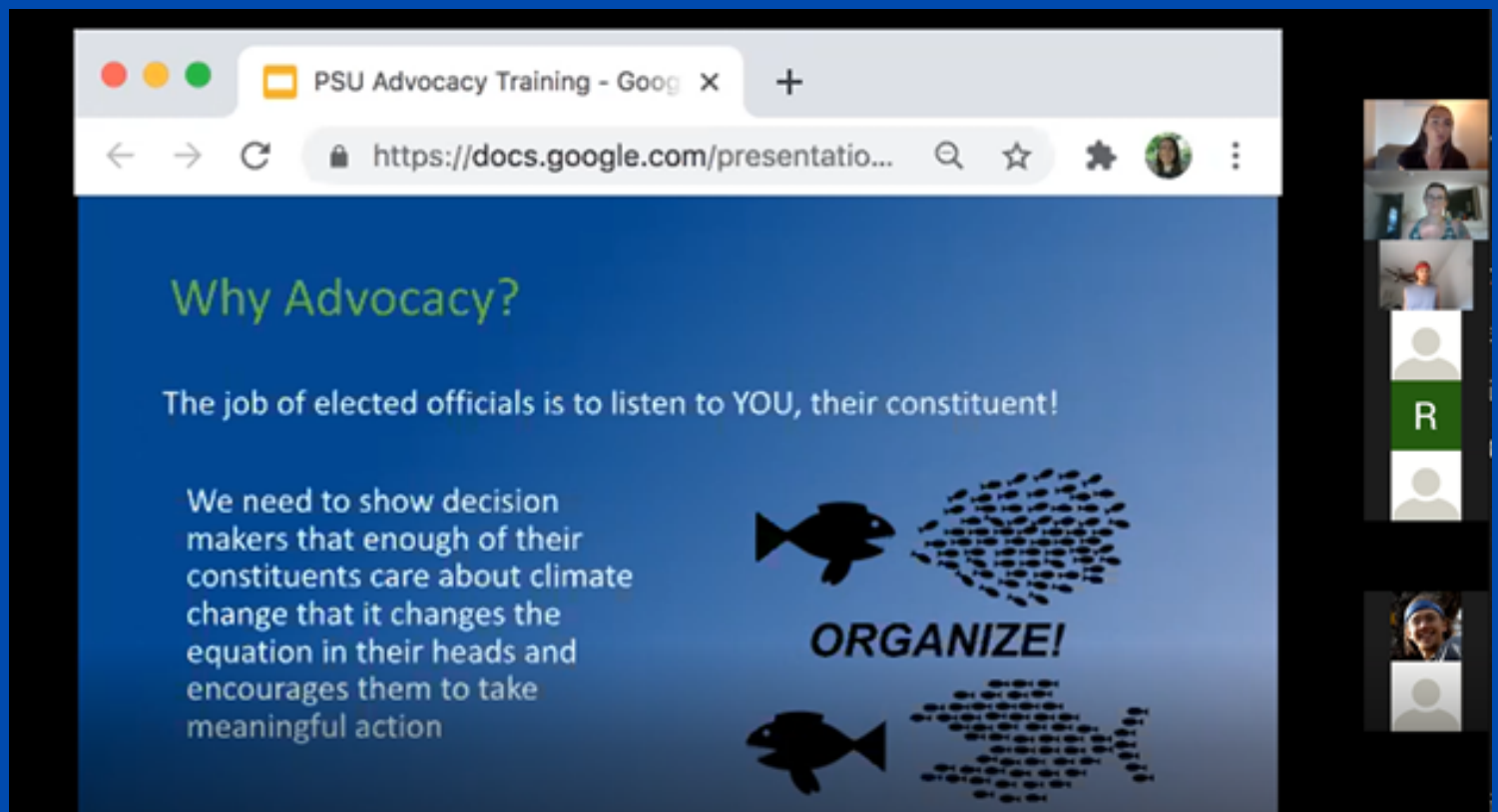
The Penn State Science Policy Society aims to provide the next-generation of scientists and engineers with the skillset to work in the policy arena and advocate for solutions that we want for our planet.

We do this through three main outlets: *self-education*, *legislator engagement/advocacy efforts*, and *community outreach*.

Achievements and Outputs

2020-2021 Academic Year

August 2020: Legislative advocacy workshop hosted by Flora Cardoni of PennEnvironment



PSU Advocacy Training - Goog x +

https://docs.google.com/presentatio...

Why Advocacy?

The job of elected officials is to listen to YOU, their constituent!

We need to show decision makers that enough of their constituents care about climate change that it changes the equation in their heads and encourages them to take meaningful action

ORGANIZE!

The slide features two graphics of a single fish on the left and a large school of fish on the right, illustrating the concept of organizing.

Video call interface on the right side of the screen shows several participants, including one with a green 'R' on their name tag.

Achievements and Outputs

2020-2021 Academic Year

September 2020: Voting initiatives discussion with Ava Bosco of the Centre County Democrats (representative from Republican party was invited, but had a prior obligation)

October 2020: PSU Career Services Workshop
"Strengthening your LinkedIn Presence"



October 2020: Transitioning from academia to policy discussion hosted by PSU alumna Caroline Normile, PhD

October 2020: Public comment submission:
Petition for deregulation of Darling 58 genetically engineered American Chestnut

Achievements and Outputs 2020-2021 Academic Year

December 2020: Big Tech Reform: Informational website advocating for necessary reform is officially LIVE!!!



Check it out here:

<https://sites.psu.edu/bigtechreform/>



Achievements and Outputs

2020-2021 Academic Year

December 2020: SciPol Connect: This podcast aims to connect listeners with the experiences of those working in science policy. Our first podcast episode is LIVE!!!

Check it out here:



Apple Podcasts:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/scipol-connect/id1542805632>

Listen Notes:

https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/scipol-connect-psu-science-policy-j_CpJbfoy6E/

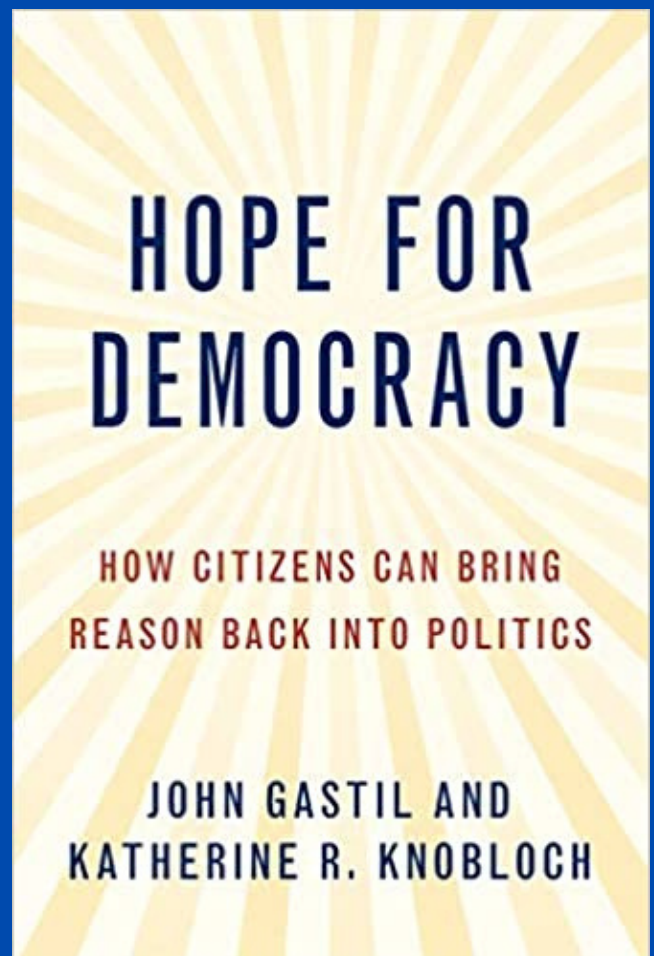


Logo designed by Jeremy Sutherland

Achievements and Outputs

2020-2021 Academic Year

March 2021: Discussion about the various models of democracy that educate and empower citizens. Hope for Democracy book discussion hosted by Dr. John Gastil of PSU Departments of Communication Arts and Sciences and Political Science.



March 2021: Furthering our objective to educate ourselves and others and advocate for reform in Big Tech, we partnered with the PSU Law, Policy, and Engineering Initiative to host Decoding Big Tech. More information on page 9.

[Law, Policy, and Engineering Colloquium]

Decoding Big Tech

Friday, April 2, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Free Virtual Event

Register at bit.ly/LPE-Big-Tech.

Tackling issues in technology requires robust solutions that prioritize people's interest. To initiate productive conversations, the Penn State Law, Policy, and Engineering initiative has collaborated with the Penn State Science Policy Society student organization to host Decoding Big Tech, a Law, Policy, and Engineering Colloquium.

A expert panel comprised of Penn State faculty members including Andrea Matwyshyn, Sascha Meinrath, Margaret Hu, and Daniel Susser will discuss big tech in the context of data privacy laws, anti-trust enforcement, broadband access in rural and underserved communities, content moderation and tech-ethics. Sandra Allain will serve as the colloquium moderator.

Panelists



Margaret Hu

Associate Dean for non-JD programs at Penn State Law at University Park and Professor of Law and International Affairs



Andrea Matwyshyn

Associate Dean for Innovation and Technology and Professor of Law and Engineering Policy at Penn State Law at University Park and Professor in the School of Engineering Design, Technology, and Professional Programs



Sascha Meinrath

Palmer Chair in Telecommunications in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications



Daniel Susser

Assistant Professor of Information Sciences and Technology in the College of Information Science and Technology



Moderator

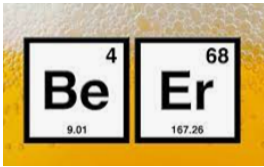
Sandra Allain

Director of Law, Policy, and Engineering; Professor of Practice in the School of Engineering Design, Technology, and Professional Programs; and Lecturer in Law

LPE is an initiative of Penn State Law in University Park, College of Engineering, and the School of International Affairs.

www.lpe.psu.edu

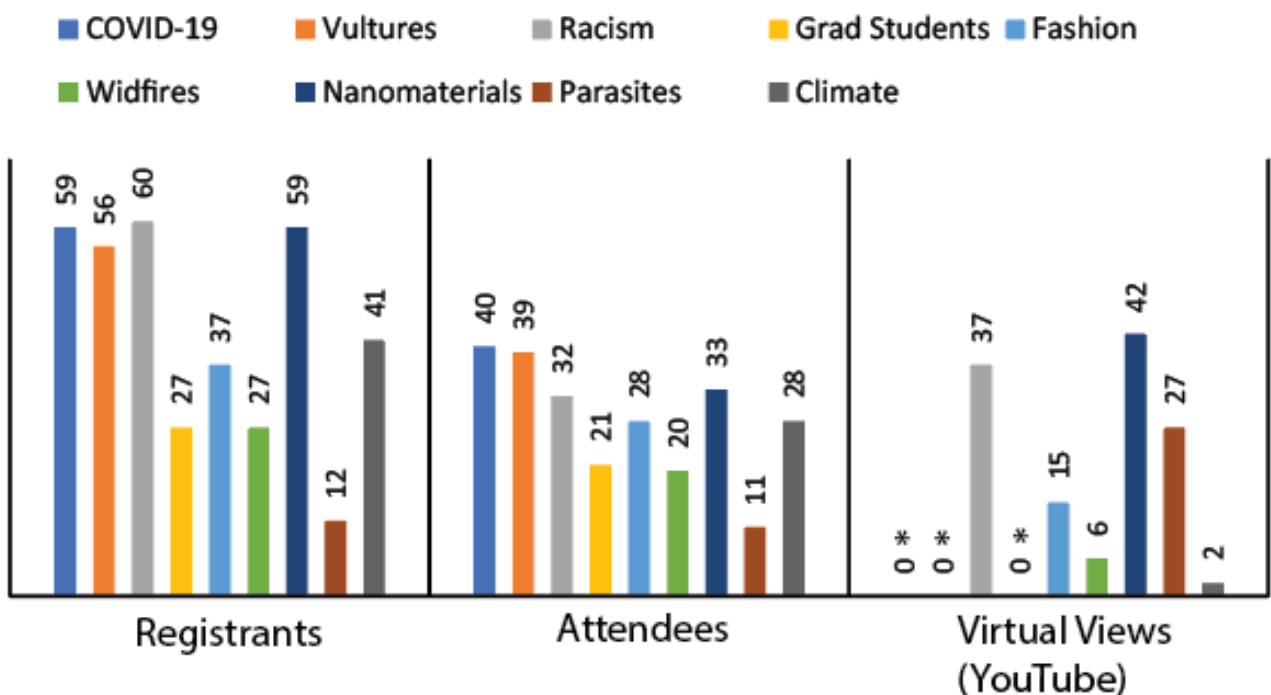
SCIENCE ON TAP IN QUARANTINE EDITIONS



Science on Tap is an event that seeks to connect the community with scientific research. We went virtual due to COVID-19, but that didn't stop eager folks from learning at our events! Check out our "In Quarantine" editions on our YouTube channel! https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOXaraVW6_wterh5rfF-wUg

May	Building Climate Resilient Communities
April	Parasite Pu-Pu Platter: A sampling of PA's peculiar pests
March	Nanomaterials: Thinking small for BIG ideas
January	Wildfires in a warming world
October	Fashion's Footprint: The environmental price tag of the textile industry
August	Grad Students Present: From acylation to wildlife
June	Reflections on racism in the U.S.
May	Vultures: Nature's decomposition crew
April	Mental well-being in the time of COVID-19

SCIENCE ON TAP STATS 2020/2021



* SoT events with 0 virtual views is due to no recording published for public viewing.

SCIENCE INSIDER IN QUARANTINE EDITIONS



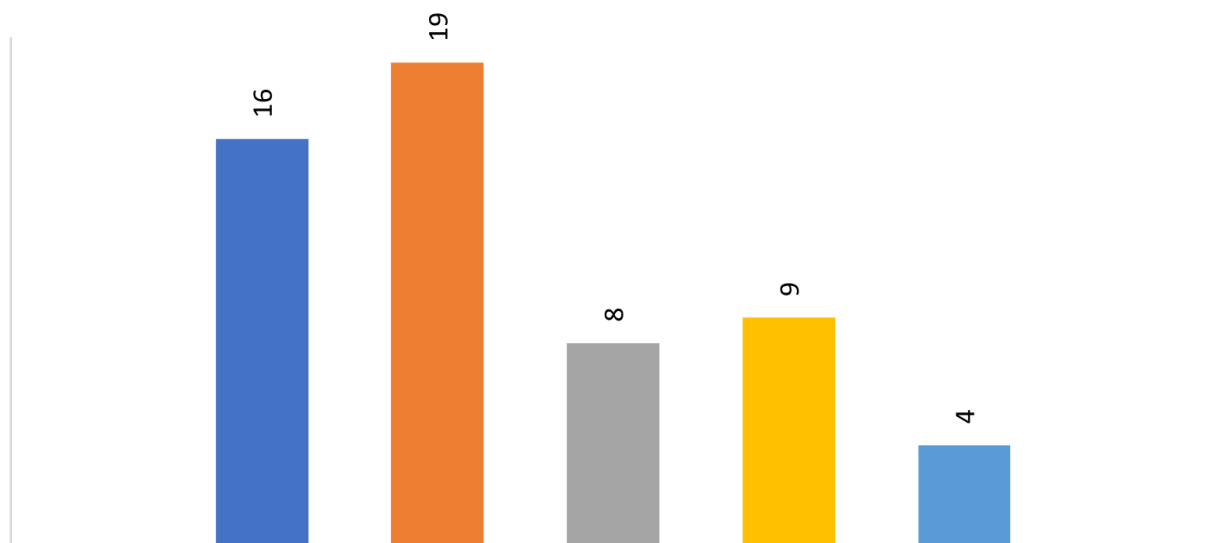
Science Insider offers valuable insight into the realities of working in the science policy arena. It also serves as a way to improve communication and networking skills by offering a chance to engage in an informal conversation with professionals in the field.

Our "In Quarantine" editions will be soon be posted to our YouTube channel for your listening enjoyment! Check them out...you just might find some inspiration!!

May	Dr. Keith Holtermann	Department of Homeland Security, CISA Chief Learning Officer
April	Brandi Robinson	Faculty and Advisor for Energy and Sustainability Policy at PSU
March	Dr. Llinus Manuel	PSU; Professor Dept of Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology
February	Dr. Robin Worthington Woo	Georgetown University, AAAS, GWIS, FDA
January	Carol Hodes	PA Dept of Education

SCIENCE INSIDER STATS 2020/2021

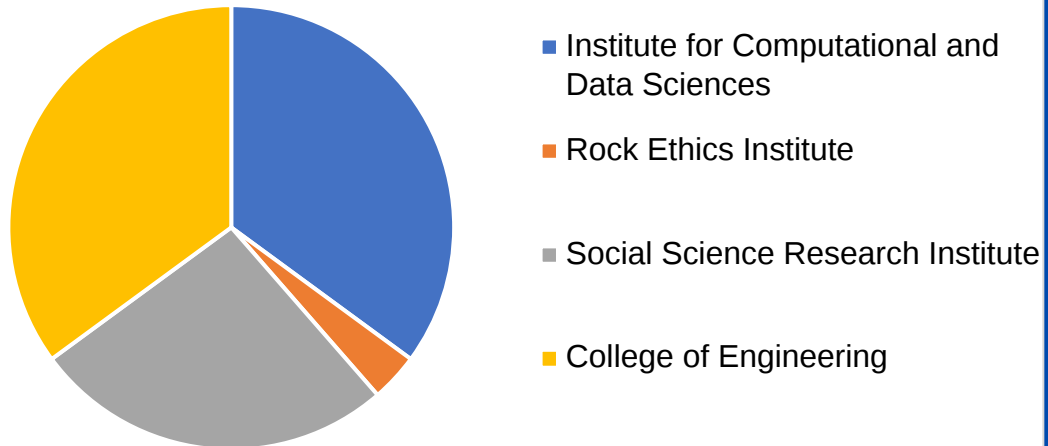
■ January ■ February ■ March ■ April ■ May



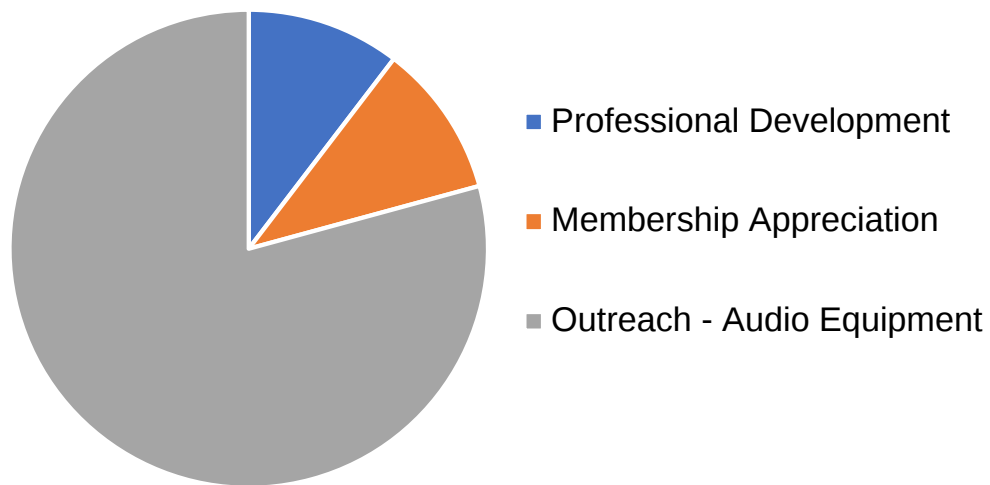
Finances

2020-2021 Academic Year

SPS Funding Sources: 2020/2021 Academic Year



SPS Expenditures: 2020/2021 Academic Year



Since March 2020, the world has been on "pause," but SPS has striven to remain engaged with our Membership and provide opportunities for professional growth and development within the virtual workspaces that defined the past 15 months of our lives.

A very special thank you to all of our generous donors: The Institute for Computational and Data Sciences, Rock Ethics Institute, The Social Science Research Institute, and the College of Engineering.

We couldn't fulfill our mission without your generosity and support!

Looking Forward

2021-2022 Academic Year

Thanks to the scientific advancements that beget the development of mRNA vaccines and the diligent work of scientists and public health officials, we are on the brink of a "new" normal and more in-person experiences will define 2021/2022. SPS learned so much by navigating the virtual environment. A website advocating for reform in Big Tech, a podcast, and our newly-curated YouTube Channel have helped to propel our organization's mission and output beyond the brick-and-mortar university! This upcoming year, we will continue to work in the virtual space but also welcome the return of in-person workshops and events. We hope to see you at one of our events!

On the Horizon:

Professional Development:

Engaging Policy Makers: Writing workshop hosted by AAAS

SciPol Careers: CV workshop hosted by NSPN

Student Leadership Practices Workshop by Career Services

Professional Conference: AAAS 2022 Empower with Evidence

Legislature Engagement and Advocacy Efforts:

State Capital Visit

National Capital Visit

Public Comments and JSPG Submissions

Community Outreach and Education:

Kiss the Ground Screening featuring Q&A with soil scientists

Science on Tap Returns to Federal Taphouse in Hybrid Format!

Further episodes of our SciPol Connect Podcast

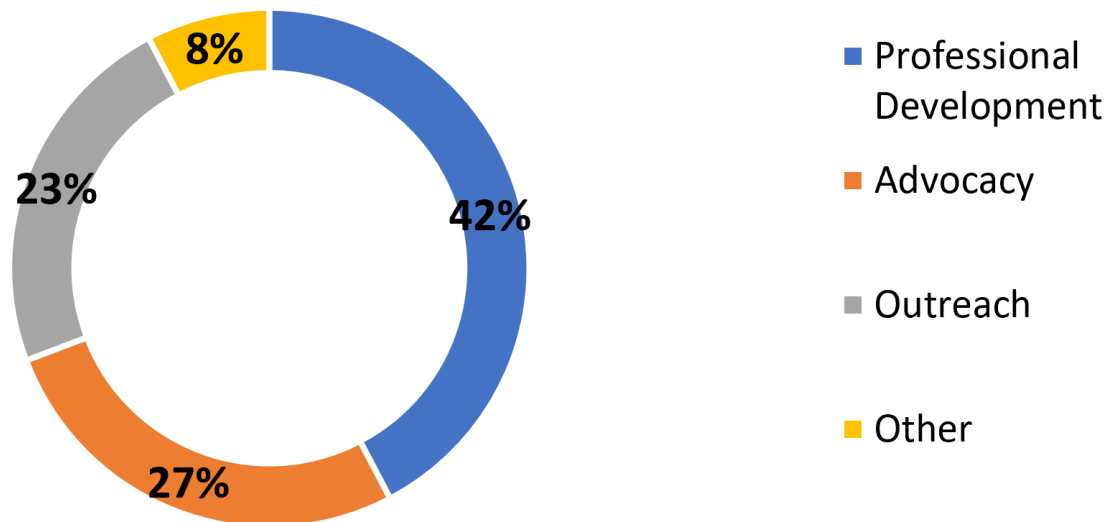
Big Tech: Focusing on Solutions

Proposed Spending

2021-2022 Financial Goal

\$13,000

Proposed Spending: 2021/2022 Financial Goals, excluding UPAC



Professional Development	5500
Advocacy	3500
Outreach	3000
Other	1000

Proposed Spending

2021-2022 Financial Goal

Reasons for increased funding:

- *Professional Development:* Workshop and travel fees associated with in-person AAAS Workshop hosted on campus.
- *Professional Development:* Conference and travel fees associated with AAAS 2022 conference, February 17 - 20, Philadelphia, PA, USA for no less than 10 interested SPS Members.
- *Professional Development:* Reimbursement for annual membership to National Science Policy Network for all interested SPS Members.
- *Advocacy:* Travel fees and one meal for visit to Harrisburg, PA to engage with legislators at the State Capitol for up to 12 members.
- *Advocacy:* Travel fees and two meals for 2 day, 1 night visit to Washington, D.C. to engage with legislators and NGOs for up to 10 members.
- *Outreach:* Kiss the Ground screening and discussion with soil scientists; advertising, honorarium for discussion leaders, and other associated costs. Anticipated venue Elk Creek Café.
- *Outreach:* Science on Tap goes hybrid! Funds needed to purchase video and audio equipment to record and produce SoT episodes for our YouTube Channel.
- *Outreach:* Funds needed to purchase additional audio equipment for our podcast.
- *Outreach:* State-wide advertising costs associated with our Big Tech: Focusing on Solutions event.
- *Other:* Lunch at our monthly General Meetings for those attending in-person.