



Dartmouth College Student Assembly
Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Undergraduate Finance Committee
May 6, 2014

**Undergraduate Finance Committee
Budget Request (FY 2014-2015): \$70,500**

Requesting Organization: Student Assembly

UFC Board Member: Yesuto Shaw
Advisor: Eric Ramsey, Collis Center Director

Presenter: Casey Dennis, President
Presenter: Frank Cunningham, Vice-President
Presenter: Thomas Wang, Chief of Staff

Historical Funding Information

UFC Allocation Current Year 2009-10

Requested: \$113,450
Approved: \$75,000

UFC Allocation Current Year 2010-11

Requested: \$101,500
Approved: \$75,000

UFC Allocation Current Year 2011-12

Requested: \$92,000
Approved: \$76,250

UFC Allocation Current Year 2012-13

Requested: \$82,800
Approved: \$69,500

UFC Allocation Current Year 2013-14

Requested: \$112,500
Approved: \$58,000

Student Assembly Budget Request for FY 2014-2015:

Introduction

Dartmouth is at a critical juncture in its existence. We can allow Dartmouth to go down two paths: one in which we allow external forces to fracture the line of communication among our student body; or a path in which the students restore the name of our school, rebrand it, and make it the Dartmouth we want and know it can be. Within the last month, the students have spoken in record-breaking numbers and have elected an administration whose main priority is to create a more united, resilient, and understanding student body.

Following a systemic decline in membership during the 2009-2010 academic year, Student Assembly has frankly been in a state of repair-and-rebuild. Past presidencies have struggled to restore functionality to Student Assembly, but their efforts have been hindered by dwindling membership and a lack of transparency. Because of this lack of transparency, no centralized organization exists for students to express their concerns and opinions. Given our current campus climate, it is crucial that Student Assembly takes a firm stance to be active in addressing the needs of the student body it serves, while simultaneously restoring the relevancy, transparency, and legitimacy of our student government.

The following proposal outlines a series of initiatives aimed at bringing the campus together, increasing the visibility and outreach of Student Assembly, and addressing some of the most pressing issues Dartmouth faces. This proposal is unique, in that it represents a plan of action to directly target serious issues on campus like mental health, economic inequality, sexual assault, and diversity awareness. After carefully reviewing past Student Assembly budgets, we have slashed projects that were unsuccessful and replaced them with new initiatives that fulfill our goal--to ensure a safe and inclusive campus, in which students have the ability to thrive intellectually, emotionally, and socially.

Expenses for Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs committee responds to student needs and interests in all facets of Dartmouth academic life. Successful initiatives have included: the effort to expand course offerings that satisfy the requirements for the CI credit; establishment of an online research database which will serve as a guide for students seeking to participate in research; and the establishment of an online schedule of lectures and talks that will allow students to know of these events well ahead of time, thus allowing them to plan accordingly and attend.

1. Profiles in Excellence Teaching Seminars (3)

Requested allocation ~ \$3,000

The Assembly uses these funds to hold three Profiles in Excellence Teaching Seminars. These are dinner discussions in which a professor is honored with a non-monetary award recognizing outstanding commitment to undergraduate teaching. Nominations are solicited from the entire student body and compiled by the Academic Affairs Committee. The committee then selects a faculty member among the nominees to receive the award at a dinner open to all of campus. The focus of the dinner is a discussion on the current state, and future, of undergraduate education at Dartmouth. These seminars are met with solid attendance and high response rates for applications.

Expenses for Diversity & Community Affairs

The Diversity & Community Affairs Committee is designed to cater to the needs of a diverse and ever-changing student body. By working to unite the multitude of diversity organizations on campus, Student Assembly hopes to influence the processes of integrating current students, welcoming new students to campus, and educating the greater student body in pluralism. The history of hate crimes and discrimination on campus, as well as recent campus incidents, further justify the existence and importance of this committee and its task.

1. Diversity and Community Initiative

Requested allocation: ~ \$8,000

The purpose of the Diversity and Community initiative is to educate the student body and celebrate the diverse cultures that students bring to Dartmouth's campus. We believe Student Assembly has not only a duty to hear students' voices, but also to generate and foster dialogue that can create bonds across multi-cultural barriers in the community. These events should feature guest speakers & facilitated discussion sections, highlighting the cultural importance of such initiatives, and presenting methods to ensure the proper representation of multiple cultures on campus. Potential events include, but are not limited to: Hispanic Heritage Month, National Women's History Month, Black History Month, National American Indian Heritage Month, and Gay-Lesbian Pride Month.

2. Task Force: Campus Climate

Requested allocation: ~ \$4,000

Over the past year, Dartmouth College has experienced great turmoil and unrest. Currently, a palpable friction exists among our close-knit student body, encouraging entrenched divisions in the community we all love and cherish. This year's Student Assembly will have a Campus Climate Task Force. This Task Force will address the various issues facing our campus, including: sexual assault, binge drinking, bias incidents, cultural misappropriations, etc. The Task Force will be responsible for creating and distributing quarterly campus climate surveys, orchestrating weekly meetings with affinity groups and organizations, and hosting monthly open forums between Student Assembly and the greater student body. The goal is to enhance the lines of communication among students, and to ensure a campus in which students have the ability to thrive intellectually, physically, and emotionally.

3. Physical Education Scholarship Fund

Requested Allocation: ~ \$6,500

Physical Education classes at Dartmouth are a graduation requirement, but are not covered in each term's tuition payments. These classes can be extremely expensive and serve as a burden for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. As such, Student Assembly should have the ability to alleviate the burden of these costs for students by offering a Physical Education Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be awarded to the students that complete the application process and demonstrate the need for the scholarship. The Physical Education Scholarship Fund will make great strides to ensure economic equality for every student on Dartmouth's campus.

4. Discover Dartmouth Initiative

Requested Allocation: ~ \$6,000

As a top academic institution, it is imperative that Dartmouth takes all steps necessary to expose the opportunities the College has to offer to students from underrepresented demographics and backgrounds. In pursuing that goal, we believe the Student Assembly can take a more active approach in exposing the benefits of an Ivy League education to students from these communities. The Discover Dartmouth Initiative, a student-led pilot program, will aim to partner Student Assembly with Boston-area high schools to target underrepresented communities and students who may not otherwise be exposed to the College. Student Assembly would identify candidates through partnerships with high schools, accept a select group of distinguished scholars through an application process, and welcome them to campus during fall term for a look into the life of a Dartmouth student.

During their day on campus, students will receive a welcome ceremony, tour the campus, participate in workshops with student leaders and faculty, receive tips on the necessary life skills to succeed in college, and attend a Dartmouth football game. The full-day experience on campus, an opportunity many of them might not otherwise be afforded, will give these students a unique preview of the vast benefits and opportunities Dartmouth has to offer. The fund would cover students' transportation costs to and from Hanover, food and beverage costs, Student Assembly giveaways including t-shirts and prizes, and tickets to a Dartmouth football game. Pursuant with our goal of increasing diversity on campus, we believe a commitment to expanding the scope of Dartmouth's outreach to these communities is paramount to creating the campus culture we envision. The Discover Dartmouth Initiative is just one step in a long list of initiatives we hope to pursue in realizing this vision.

Expenses for External Affairs

1. Ivy Policy Conference

Requested Allocation: ~ \$1,250

The Ivy Policy Conference (IPC) is either a Fall or Spring colloquium that serves as a policy-based conference for student leaders in the Ivy League. Typically, the money will go to transportation for the delegates traveling to the conference; however, this year the Dartmouth Delegation had the pleasure of hosting a 100+ person conference that was highly rated by attendees.

2. Ivy Leadership Summit

Requested Allocation: ~ \$2,500

The Ivy Leadership Summit (ILS) is a conference not only for Dartmouth Ivy Council Delegates, but also for other student leaders in the Dartmouth Community. This year, ILS brought 40 Dartmouth students to Princeton University. Funding from the Student Assembly helped bring Ivy Council to a broader range of Dartmouth students who might not otherwise have been aware of it. The conference featured a series of panels and workshops that addressed leadership in an unstable economic climate. Dartmouth students would not have had the opportunity to attend this conference had transportation not been funded by Student Assembly.

3. Ivy Council Executive Board

Requested Allocation: ~ \$750

The Ivy Council Executive Board serves as the steering committee for cross-Ivy projects and joint operations. This stipend allows representation from Dartmouth student body leaders at Ivy League events, and ensures continued coordination with our peer universities' respective student council organizations. In a time of great change and unrest across the Ivies, this continued interaction is important to preserving institutional memory and shaping campus initiatives designed to combat the problems facing our institution.

Expenses for Student Affairs Committee

The work of the Student Affairs Committee tends to be the most visible on campus. Whether working with DDS to voice student opinion about dining options, revamping the cable TV lineup, or collaborating with Computing Services to create an online document management system, the services provided by the Student Affairs committee have a significant impact on day-to-day life for Dartmouth Students. In many cases, students have come to rely on the services provided by the committee; however, the services are not provided by the administration, which makes sufficient ongoing funding for the programs extremely important.

1. Student Assembly Mental Health Initiative

Requested Allocation: ~ \$8,500

Mental health is a serious issue on college campuses today. In a recent study conducted at the University of California-Berkeley, it was discovered that “nearly half of all college students said they were so depressed that they found it difficult to function in the past school year.” Additionally, researchers discovered that “suicide is the second leading cause of death of college-aged students.” It is time for Dartmouth students to take the lead in combating this condition, which continues to hinder the success of students in our community. Student Assembly should organize and run a Mental Health Awareness Week, consisting of programs that examine the seriousness of mental health on college campuses, the relationship between binge drinking and mental health, and tools to combat depression, stress, and anxiety. This week would highlight the outlets, counselors, and resources that Dartmouth currently offers regarding mental health. It should also serve as a movement to take a serious stance to improve the lifestyles of Dartmouth students at all levels. It is up to Dartmouth to offer a first-class education, while simultaneously ensuring a healthy mental state for its student body.

2. Textbook Exchange Program

Requested Allocation: ~ \$2,000

Again, the prices of textbooks are relatively high and become a financial burden for most students on campus. At the end of every term, some students sell back these expensive textbooks to vendors and in return, are paid close to nothing. Student Assembly wants to provide a different outlet for students to re-sale and purchase textbooks to possibly acquire a portion of their initial investment while simultaneously helping other. The Textbook Exchange Program will create an online forum for students to sale their textbooks to one another at a fair and reasonable price. This program is a method to ensure economic equality by providing students with a diverse set of solutions to help cut down termly fees that can problematic for certain members of our community. Given the complexity of the website, the requested allocated funds will be spent on outsourcing a site developer.

3. Orientation Week BBQ and Meet & Greet

Requested Allocation: ~ \$2,000

Student Assembly serves as the voice of the greater student body to the faculty, administration, and the Board of Trustees. It is upon us to capitalize on every opportunity to speak with students, especially the new '18 class this upcoming fall. This Orientation Week BBQ and Meet & Greet serves as an opportunity for the new freshman class to meet and speak with their Student Assembly executives, addressing any concerns they have about campus life right at the beginning. Additionally, this event provides a chance for SA to recruit new members and provide information on first year elections, which happen during the very first week of Fall Term (thus making early info campaigns essential). Given that students are so overwhelmed by a variety of different organizations to join, a large-scale event during Orientation draws particular attention to SA.

4. Student-Professor Lunches & Coffee

Requested Allocation: ~ \$8,000

The Take a Professor to Lunch (TPL) & Coffee Program (TPC) would be an arrangement with the Hanover Inn, local restaurants, and local coffee shops in Hanover where Student Assembly would purchase vouchers that would be available for students to take professors out to lunch and coffee. TPL and TPC would give students a chance to interact with professors outside of a classroom environment and in a less formal setting. These were programs initiated in past years that had a lot of positive feedback and we would like to continue them.

5. College Readership Program

Requested Allocation: ~ \$8,000

This past year saw the Student Assembly's tenth full year of a very unique and special program—the Collegiate Readership Program. This program offers free newspapers to students, and the Assembly pays a discounted price for each newspaper sold. This program has been a huge success, with newspapers selling out on a regular basis. Next year we would like to continue the program. Given the high success and satisfaction, we are asking for \$10,000 for the Newspaper program next year.

Expenses for Sophomore Summer Programming

Student Assembly does not do much programming during fall, winter, or spring terms. However, the sophomore Student Assembly works with other campus organization to provide programs for class unity.

1. Drive-In Movie Night

Requested allocation: ~ \$5,000

Sophomore summer is known for its beautiful summer days and strong bonds of friendship that are created throughout the sophomore class. Given the lack of communication amongst students in regards to our current campus climate, Student Assembly wants to use the summer as an opportunity to address and heal certain divisions within the sophomore class. The Drive-In Movie Night will provide students with a different social experience that gets them away from Dartmouth and into a new and different environment. This event will allow students to interact with new friend groups and share an awesome experience under the stars with their classmates while watching a movie. Our business will also aid the Fairlee-Drive In Theatre in various renovations to ensure their ability to stay open for the greater Upper-Valley. Not only do events such as this provide opportunities for the sophomore class to become closer, but it shows Dartmouth's commitment to the Upper Valley. This event highlights two very important character traits of our College: our ability to foster a close-knit community and our dedication to service.

Expenses for Public Affairs Committee

The Public Affairs Committee is vested with the responsibility of making Student Assembly more visible to the rest of campus. We believe Student Assembly should have a larger presence in the press, on social media, and physically on campus. As such, the Public Affairs Committee serves to enhance the communication, transparency, and accessibility of communication of Student Assembly.

1. New Admissions Video

Requested allocation: ~ \$1,000

Given our recent application percentage drop, Student Assembly wants to create a new admissions video that highlights the positive aspects and exciting components of the Dartmouth student body. Over the past year, the student voice has been drowned out by national media sources portraying our community to be something we know its not. It is time for the students of Dartmouth to communicate directly with future students; ensuring them that this community is second to none and that we are working on daily basis to better our beloved college and the world that we live in.

2. Internal Budget (misc.)

Requested Allocation: ~ \$4,000

In order to increase our transparency on campus, Student Assembly should have an internal budget through which it can allocate funds directed at enhancing its visibility and image. Student Assembly can use this fund to generate interest in SA amongst the student body whether it be through marketing tools, banners, and posters. We hope to create SA clothing (Student Assembly t-shirts, wristbands, and sunglasses) that will initially be distributed to the assembly for their hard work and dedication over the year. This fund will also aid in paying for promises we made in our platform such as equipment for our termly "State of the Student Body" videos, BBQ's on major game days to encourage school spirit, and Executive dinner meetings with different affinity groups and organizations throughout campus. Other miscellaneous items consist of office supplies and any new initiatives created throughout the year. The newly elected administration has vowed to the student body that if they were elected, Student Assembly will become transparent, relevant, and visible throughout campus. The Internal budget is critical to the administration fulfilling their goals and the promise made to the students that voted for us in an unprecedented way.

Conclusion and Consequences of Reduction

At a time when the student body has looked to their student government for leadership, we must respond accordingly. These above initiatives have been carefully crafted to address the serious problems that campus faces and to ensure students that we are working hard every day to achieve our ultimate goal for Dartmouth's student body--unity. Though the task will not be easy, we are confident that these initiatives critically examine and address the dilemmas facing our student body. Unprecedented times require unprecedented effort, and this budget represents how serious we are in our commitment to lead this body through these trying times. Ultimately, this is not simply the budget for Student Assembly but is the voice of the student body calling for action.

Best Regards,

Casey A. Dennis '15, Student Assembly President

Frank M. Cunningham III '16, Student Assembly Vice President

Student Assembly Budget Request for FY 2014-2015

Budget Item	Request	Improve Dartmouth Approval	Committee
Profiles in Excellence	\$3,000		Academic Affairs
PE Scholarship Fund	\$6,500	(+350/-22)	Diversity & Community
Diversity & Community	\$8,000		Diversity & Community
Task Force: Campus Climate	\$4,000		Diversity & Community
Discover Dartmouth Initiative	\$6,000		Diversity & Community
Ivy Policy Conference	\$1,250		Ivy Council
Ivy Leadership Summit	\$2,500		Ivy Council
Ivy Council E-Board	\$750		Ivy Council
Textbook Exchange	\$2,000	(+255/-2)	Student Affairs
Drive-In Movie Night	\$5,000	(+133/-12)	Student Affairs
Mental Health Week	\$8,500	(+229/-3)	Student Affairs
Student-Professor Lunches	\$8,000		Student Affairs
Orientation Week BBQ	\$2,000		Student Affairs
Readership Program	\$8,000		Student Affairs
New Admissions Video	\$1,000		Public Affairs
Internal Budget (misc.)	\$5,000		Public Affairs
Total	\$70,500		