

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Olin's unofficial,
student-run news
source.

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FREE, AS IN BEER

The Eminent Eighteen

Ian Hill and Logan Sweet

Contributors

Fellow Oliners,

The Student Government Restructuring last spring strove to make CORE more transparent and improve our communication with the administration. This fall, we're hoping to give Oliners a better understanding of how the administration operates, so in this edition of Frankly Speaking, we're going to pull back the curtain on the Board of Trustees.

Have you ever wondered who President Miller reports to? You guessed it – the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is the highest governing body at Olin College and is comprised of eighteen dedicated individuals who care deeply about Olin's mission. Two of the eighteen trustees are Olin alumni who are elected and rotate out every few years. Two other trustees, namely Mr. William Norden and Mr. Lawrence Milas, were trustees of the Olin Foundation before it dissolved to create Olin College. The trustees' backgrounds range from being investment managers to

lawyers to experts in STEM fields.

The Board meets three to four times a year where they address the most important business of the College – once in February, May, August (as needed), and October. In order for the Board to function effectively, the trustees established seven committees to handle various aspects of the College's operation. Faculty, staff, and (in certain committees) students are often present during meetings of these committees to give presentations and keep the Board informed, but only the trustees actually vote. Five committees handle particularly confidential issues and do not have any student representation present at their meetings.

"In this edition of Frankly Speaking, we're going to pull back the curtain on the Board of Trustees."

The Executive Committee works closely with the

President throughout the year and will act for the full Board on certain time-sensitive matters that may come up between Board meetings.

Unlike what you might think, the Governance Committee doesn't actually govern the college but rather considers how the Board itself should be governed. Trustees on this committee discuss the By-Laws of the Board and the candidacy of possible new trustees.

The Audit Committee oversees financial audits of the College and makes sure that we are keeping ourselves honest. This Committee also has oversight of all risk management activities at the College.

In cooperation with the Development Department of the college's administration, the Development Committee works to identify and cultivate major donors to the College.

The Investment Committee manages how Olin invests the endowment.

However, student representatives sit in on meetings of the two committees which handle issues most relevant to students.

The Finance and Facilities
continued on next page

ties Committee reviews and approves the budget for each fiscal year and performs financial monitoring for the College. They approve new faculty and staff positions and discuss our long term financial sustainability. Directly impacting students, they review Olin's tuition and fees as well as current, future, and long term facilities projects. This committee also considers the viability of returning the full tuition scholarship. Logan Sweet, CORE Vice President for Finance, serves as our student representative on this committee.

The Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee approves faculty promotions and appointments and spends

much of their meetings receiving updates and discussing academic life issues including faculty activities, admission, post-graduate planning, and student life. At their most recent meeting in May, the trustees expressed their excitement that Emily Roper-Doten re-joined Olin in May as our new Dean of Admissions. On a related approval and promotion note, they also awarded Emeritus status to founding Provost, David Kerns, and founding VP for Innovation and Research, Sherra Kerns. They follow new curricular innovation closely and were excited to see new sponsors for the SCOPE program – particularly Indico, Limbs

International, and SpaceX. The committee's concerns lately largely center around strengthening Olin's faculty and considering the expectations for external arrangements between Olin and its partners. Ian Hill, CORE President, serves as our student representative on this committee.

We hope this article sheds some light onto the operations of the Board of Trustees. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully yours,
Ian Hill and Logan Sweet
CORE President and Vice
President for Finance

Horoscopes by Drunk Editors

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22): You have problems with indecision. Corona or Sam Adams? Choose both for balance.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22): A fork lies in the road ahead. Ooh and a spoon too!

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21): Today, try something new. Not in the cafeteria though.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21): You'll meet a dashing person. Look for windows and mirrors. Preen when you find one.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 –

Jan. 19): Listen to your heart. Irregular palpitation is a bad thing. Go see a doctor.

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18): Think before you speak. Silence sounds nice doesn't it? Hey, maybe you should do this more often...

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20): Be aware of your surroundings. Seriously, how did you get here? The campus isn't even that big. Some might even consider getting lost a skill.

Aries (March 21 – April 19): You will lock horns with the scales of a Pisces. Messy.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): Don't be stubborn. Go to the party. Change your socks first. And your underwear. AND your gym shirt.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20): Your evil twin called. It wants its love handles back. Shape up. Or at least cut back on the ice cream and late night pizza.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22): You will be the life of the party tonight. Too bad it's a party of one.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22): Keep your political thoughts to yourself. No one cares. No, really.

Hey! Look Here!

This Box Should Have Copy In It!

You, yes YOU, should write that copy. You know you want to. You get to have your name in print, right next to whatever it is that you have to say.

It's not my job to push my own agenda here. It's my job to publish what you contribute. So make this paper your own.

Practicing

Engineering

Mitchell Cieminski

Contributor and Potential Columnist

Engineering is a profession.

It is not simply an occupation, something that ‘occupies’ us. For some engineers, it’s not a career (an occupation of significant length), or a vocation (an occupation that one feels strongly suited to do). But for all engineers, it is a profession, an occupation that requires a mix of technical and practical knowledge. A professional is the intersection between a tradesperson and an expert: someone with a particular set of skills and the knowledge-base to inform use of those skills.

A lot of occupations are professions. Being a car mechanic is a profession. Teaching is a profession. ‘Consulting’ is usually a profession. Practicing medicine or law is certainly a profession. And, as I said earlier, engineering is a profession. Why does this classification matter?

"A profession is the intersection between a tradesperson and an expert."

Academia does not (generally speaking) prepare people for professions.

Suppose one becomes a Master of Arts in literature. Does this degree necessarily mean that they are an author? What about somebody with a PhD in physics? Does that piece of paper make them a physicist? How about somebody with a BA in business? Are they a businessperson?

"Academia does not (generally speaking) prepare people for professions."

Contrast these degrees to the degrees of doctors or lawyers. An MD or JD is fundamentally different than a PhD. The former are professional degrees, and the latter is an academic degree. The difference is simply that academic degrees certify that the holder has completed a school and learned a certain amount of knowledge, but that professional degrees certify that the holder is capable of practicing the profession, and has the requisite knowledge to do it.

The fact that engineers receive academic degrees and then become practicing engineers seems, on the surface, as fine as letting people with BA's in business run businesses. It is, as many current engineers will tell you, fine. “Most of the skills you need you’ll learn on-the-job,” they say. They’re right.

But the reason that engineers receive academic degrees, I hypothesize, is because of a key historical assumption about engineers that cannot be made about doctors or lawyers: Engineers already have engineering experience by the time they attend school.

Engineers of the past were tinkerers, carpenters, and artisans. Formal training doesn’t matter nearly as much as experience when you’re making things. But as humanity needed more and more complex things to be made, we began schooling the makers so that they would have a good knowledgebase to build the things of the future. People went to engineering school because they were already good at engineering, and it was a way to enhance their knowledge. Their experience contextualized their knowledge.

"Engineering is more than a skillset that requires the use of [science or physics]."

Education for doctors began in the opposite way: the human body has always been complex. In order to be good at healing people, one must understand how the body works, and intuition covers almost none of it. Even ex-

perience in healing people doesn't make someone an expert; medicine advanced very slowly for thousands of years. But along the way, the formal training improved, and so did medicine. For doctors, knowledge contextualizes experience. You probably don't know any doctors who went to medical school because 'they were good at healing people.' Doctors can only get useful experience once they've attended some school.

This brings me to my major point: the assumption identified above is wrong. It could have been true at some point, but today, many people attend engineering school with no experience in engineering. Math and science are thrown at them under the promise of 'being useful', rather than because

they make easier what has already been done. That this assumption is wrong is a key reason for the Olin education being the way it is. We do projects to give us experience and knowledge simultaneously. It's literally the definition of "do-learn," as opposed to "learn-do," the way that engineering had been taught for so long.

"It's literally the definition of 'do-learn,' as opposed to 'learn-do.'"

Maybe a takeaway from this is that engineering is not an academic subject, any more than medicine or pot-

tery are subjects. There are certainly academic subjects that are important to engineers, like statics, or materials science, or semiconductor physics. But engineering is more a skillset that requires the use of these subjects. Engineering is more like research than physics, or information-gathering than history; it's a lot broader, and a lot harder to teach. So stop saying that you 'study engineering.' You're practicing being an engineer.

Most of this article was inspired by a conversation I had over the summer with some faculty. Especially influential were Ben Linder and Rebecca Christianson.

Thanks also to Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_professional_degree.

Updates for REVO

Luke Morris and John Sakamoto
Contributors

REVO will represent Olin College for the first time at Formula SAE Electric and Formula Hybrid in 2016. Formula SAE is a student engineering and racing competition. Teams design, build, and test a prototype based on a stringent rule set.

Formula Hybrid specifically emphasizes innovation and efficiency in a high-performance application and thus only hybrid and electric vehicles are sanctioned to compete.

Zero Motorcycles has generously donated two Z-Force brushless DC motors and Sevcon Gen 4 motor controllers. We plan to run each motor at 30 kW (100V/300A), for a power to weight ratio of 6.25 pounds per horsepower, just shy of a Ferrari 458!

Adit Dhanushkodi, John Sakamoto, and Lisa Hachmann are designing the battery pack, which contains 6.7 kWh of Nissan lithium battery modules. The pack must withstand a 40g deceleration crash while isolating the high voltage powering our vehicle. Two relays activate the powertrain after go-

ing through a rigorous series of system checks. Adit and John are senior mechanical engineering majors and Lisa is a sophomore electrical engineering major. Contact us if you are interested in learning more about the design.

We have partnered with General Motors engineers to advise the team. We meet with GM engineers regularly to discuss our designs and receive critical feedback. As alumni of Formula Hybrid, they also advise us on project management and execution.

Subscribe to these monthly newsletters : revo-contact@lists.olin.edu.

We're Here To Help

**Kevin Crispie, Ian Hill,
and Logan Sweet**
Contributors

Dear First Years,

Welcome to Olin! We're so excited to have you join our community, and we look forward to meeting you all over the next few weeks. But before you all get busy with problem sets and projects, we'd like to introduce ourselves. We are CORE.

"We are the 'movers and shakers' – the changers – the people who get things done."

What is CORE, you ask?

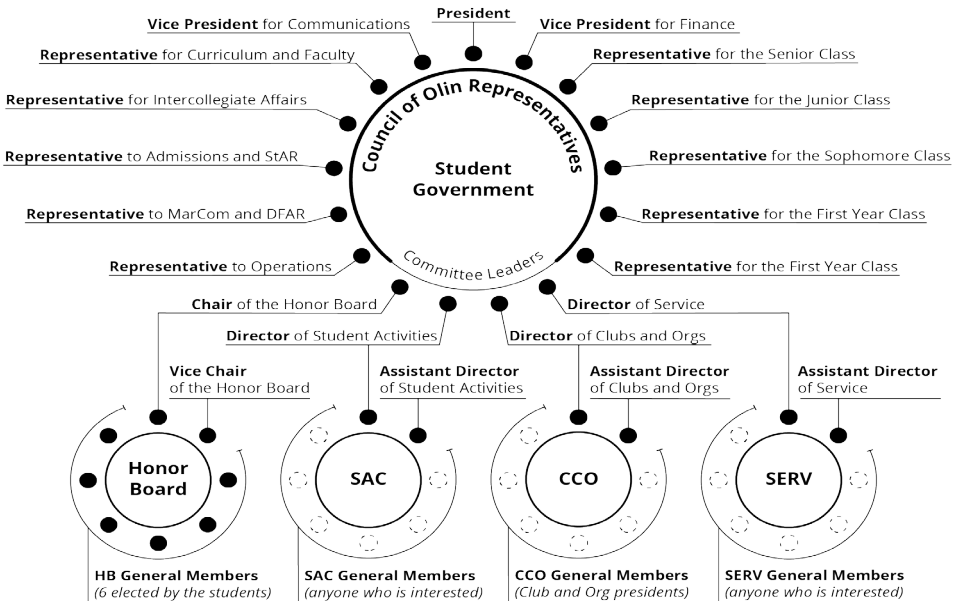
CORE stands for the Council of Olin Representatives – a fully elected council which represents the student body to the administration of the College. CORE is comprised of 13 dedicated students who have volunteered to help improve life at Olin. We are the “movers and shakers” – the changers – the people who get things done. We examine issues facing the student body and do whatever we can to make our classmates’ dreams a reality.

Unlike any other group on campus, CORE has the authority to make recommendations to the administration on behalf of the student body. We appoint student volunteers to faculty and operational committees, like the Dining Task Force or the Curriculum Innovation Committee, where the

administration has requested student representation. We also have a budget which we can use to improve student life, fund student initiatives, and make capital improvements to spaces around campus. Most people think of us as the student government at Olin (although the “Student Government” is actually a separate larger organization of which CORE is a part – feel free to reach out to us if you want to learn more!).

"Most people think of us as the student government at Olin."

CORE is structured a little differently from most student governments. We have 3 ex-



cutives who organize our activities and serve as primary points of contact, 5 specialized representatives who each represent the student body to different departments in the administration, and 5 class representatives who represent the interests of each class. Now, 5 may seem like an odd number, but there is a method to our madness. The specialized representative positions are open to students from any graduating class, and most of the elections occur in the spring before the first years have arrived on campus, so to compensate for first years being unable to run for those positions, they have an extra class representative.

"CORe is structured a little differently from most student governments."

Now that you understand how CORE is organized, here are the members of CORE for the 2015-2016 school year. (First years, the election for your representatives will be happening soon – stay tuned!) Let us know if you have any questions about CORE, if you need help reaching out to the administration, or if you have a cool new idea you want to share. We work for you, and we're here to help!

President

Ian Hill

Vice President for Communications

Kevin Crispie

Vice President for Finance

Logan Sweet

Representative to Operations

Mariko Thorbecke

Representative to Marketing and Communications and Development, Family, and Alumni Relations

Manik Sethi

Representative to Admissions and the Office of Student Affairs and Resources

Ellie Funkhouser

Representative for Curriculum and Faculty

Jamie Gorson

Representative for Intercollegiate Affairs

Maggie Jakus

Senior Class Representative

Lauren Froschauer

Junior Class Representative

Subhash Gubba

Sophomore Class Representative

Not yet elected

First Year Class Representative

Not yet elected

First Year Class Representative

Not yet elected

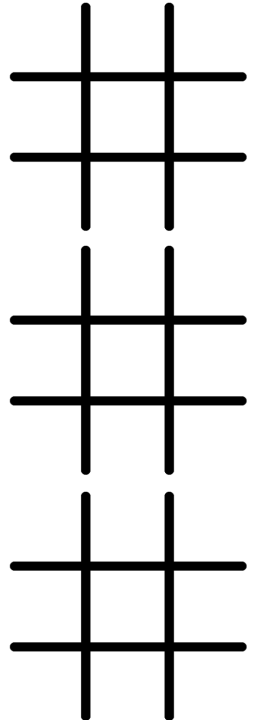
**Oh Look!
More blank space!**

Granted, there's not much that we could do with this one random column, but hey, you guys can get creative.

We could rearrange this article to fit a comic strip at the bottom.

We could feature a really skinny drawing from the margins of your notebook.

As it is, very few of you submitted anything. So y'all get to play tic tac toe. Congrats.



Welcome (Back) To Olin!

Jayce Chow
Editor in Chief

No, it's not the first day of the month, but it is the first day of school.

First off, welcome back to all returning students, faculty, and staff. Also, welcome to all the new first years and exchange students.

Now, down to business. For those of you that don't know (and for those of you that do, Frankly Speaking is a [very] small, completely stu-

dent run newspaper.

Basically, we don't exist if people don't contribute to the paper.

So what does that mean?

It means that you should write, draw, edit, glance over for grammatical errors or otherwise contribute.

Regardless of any prior knowledge or skill (though you should be able to string a sentence together), we need the man power, and you can feel good about yourself for having contributed to this

piece of processed tree that appears in the dining hall at random intervals.

Here's to a new school year. Here's to Pass No Record and long hours spent on bizarre projects. Here's to the sports teams that most of us aren't inherently loyal to.

And here's to all of the articles that I look forward seeing in my inbox shortly. Sixteen pages articles are more fun to print, and I'll reckon they're more fun to read as well.

Here's Who We *Still* Need Next Year:

Editors - reads, edits articles, helps with layout. Must be able to spell and edit.

Layout Editors - uses InDesign to lay out paper. Must be willing to learn InDesign.

Copy Editors - check the first print copy of

Frankly Speaking for grammatical errors, typos, and layout faux pas.

Staff Illustrators - sometimes we have these awkward spaces and they have to be filled with drawings. Can you draw things at

the drop of a hat? Be staff illustrator!

Contributors - the bread-and-butter of the paper. Everyone is a contributor!

Submit articles to:

submit@franklyspeakingnews.com

Want to write for Frankly Speaking?

Send us your articles at

CORINNE.CHOW@STUDENTS.OLIN.EDU

Or check out the website at

HTTP://FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM

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Editor-in-Chief: Jayce Chow

Editors: Jayce Chow

Contributors: Mitchell Cieminski, Kevin Crispie, Ian Hill, Luke Morris, John Sakamoto, Logan Sweet