



## Student Activities Committee

### Candidate Statements for Spring 2013 Elections (elected officers serve Fall 2013 to Spring 2014)

*Candidates' Forum: Tuesday April 16, 9pm, AC113.*

#### **SAC Activities Chair**

*Graham Hooton '13.99*

#### **SAC Clubs Chair**

*Trevor Hooton '14*

*If you have any questions please contact [eric.jones@students.olin.edu](mailto:eric.jones@students.olin.edu).*

*Name: Graham Hooton*

*Position: Activities Chair*

*1. What do you feel the goal of the Student Activities Committee (SAC) should be?*

SAC meets weekly, and attempts to fill the calendar. We look far ahead into the future, and we learn from the experiences of the past. With our years of accumulated resources, wisdom, and energy, we run and facilitate great events.

As the central hub for event planning on campus, SAC has the power to ensure that the best all-students events from past years happen again, but better. SAC also provides legitimacy to all-students events thrown by clubs, groups, and individuals.

*2. What are your thoughts on level of student attendance at SAC events? How would you encourage student attendance?*

This is always a big issue. We win when everybody who would want to go to an event and has the time knows enough about it to choose to go. We also win by having enough events that every type of person can find something that appeals to them.

So, we need good communication. SAC is a brand, and the brand works. We've done a lot of things that work on this front this year (e.g. the SAC calendar), but we constantly need to shoot for better. I will continue to get the information out early and often.

The other goal, to have a wide variety of events that will, all together, appeal to everyone, means that I would have to get a range of input – not everyone likes what I like. I adhere to the list of successful past events, listen to my team, and take input from diverse members of the community.

*3. What do you think the frequency and scope (size, "wow" factor, involving other campuses) of events should be?*

SAC should focus our budget and energy on our own student body, although if collaboration with Babson or Wellesley is beneficial, such as this spring's Sustainability skill-share and the Olinsidelands concert, then that is acceptable.

We've been aiming to throw or host at least one event a week this semester, and we've done way better than that on all but one or two weeks.

4. *How do you plan to motivate and organize people in order to get things done and achieve goals? How would you deal with the situation if there were too few volunteers?*

A lot of my friends are currently dutiful SAC members, and Spirit Week pushed us almost to our limit. In the end, I took on the excess responsibility personally, and allowed myself to fall behind in my other obligations. For the most part, I can trust in my team and the community at large to make set-up and clean-up light work.

When it comes to organization, we have weekly meetings to check in, and we get started thinking about events a long time in advance. I make sure large projects are proceeding quickly enough. Bigger events are tackled by teams, so there's always a helper or an understudy.

5. *What are your opinions on the manner in which SAC members are selected? What do you think is an ideal size for SAC?*

I like the current method, where we offer different levels of commitment with SAC and SAC lite. I am concerned about past years in which there was almost no support, but in that situation, I'd not give up on recruiting if numbers dwindled. Given the current nature of the student body, I don't believe it will be an issue this or next year.

6. *What other commitments do you have next semester? How will you balance those with the responsibilities of SAC chair?*

I'm planning on taking just 16 credits. I'll be an R2, and will also be coordinating (re)Build Day and running the Design Build. I will have time to- and have proven that I'm invested in- making the school a better place.

7. *Do you have any ideas for specific events that you would like to see happen? Explain.*

I have so many ideas, you wouldn't believe.

*Name: Trevor Hooton*

*Position: Clubs Chair*

*1. What are your motivations in running for SAC Clubs Chair?*

The position of SAC Clubs chair is a perfect venue for my commitment to enhancing the student experience. My goal is to help Olin's existing student organizations interact with the student body the best they can throughout the school year, and to help every club fulfill its individual mandate.

Olin has plenty of clubs. Most people are signed up for dozens of mailing lists. Club fair is overflowing with awesome student groups. But for the better part of the year, many organizations seem to vanish into the woodwork, and pop up (pleasantly, but) unexpectedly without much warning. The problem is twofold: some groups lack extrinsic motivation to host events. Others do throw events but are may not be able to adequately reach the majority of the student body.

An active club is a good club. Clubs are validated by having an involved membership and being able to reach out to the student body. I want to help clubs be the best they can be for their own sake and to best enrich the student experience.

*2. How do you feel about the past distinction between "clubs" and "organizations"? What is your plan for budgeting and allocating money to student groups?*

The distinction between "clubs" and "organizations" boils down to money and consistency, but most people don't know that. The points the distinction intended to highlight would be better stated more explicitly. Organizations have fixed budgets, with well thought out internal financial systems (often a treasurer), consistent spending from year to year, and have proven successes in generating value from their budgets. If any club can demonstrate that consistency and responsibility, they can earn the right to a fixed budget. If a current organization fails to perform, they may have to revert to a monthly budget or line item-by-line item model. So then, the distinction becomes: fixed budget club or flexible budget. This allows clubs to be both flexible and independent.

In general, I want to strive for purchases that add concrete value to a club and to the college. Requiring every club to have a charter detailing its purpose (see below) will certainly help with this.

*3. Are there any other specific policies or plans would you like to implement during your term?*

I will create an events calendar, your one-stop-shop for all activities on (and off!) campus. I will communicate with club leaders directly to plan a full schedule of events evenly spaced throughout the semester and to make sure that they do happen and that they go well. There should be no surprises, lulls or scheduling conflicts in the student activities calendar.

I also want to help clubs communicate and fulfill their mandate by instituting a charter, (could be as simple as a paragraph) that explains the purpose of the club. Currently, every club can be as little as a

name, a mailing list, maybe some equipment, and an idea that changes from year to year. A charter gives a club a solid identity and intent.

A charter also establishes the space of what sort of events might get thrown and what purchases ought to be made, which will enable better communication. Students will know what a club is really about and what events to expect. I can work with club leadership to make sure they do host those events and continue to make purchases that further their club's mandate.

*4. What other commitments do you have next year? How will you balance those with the responsibilities of SAC Clubs chair?*

I'll continue to be a member of clubs and I want to continue to help organize and run certain SAC events, but I'll be in a standard amount of credits, and I would think that after three years at Olin I've more or less figured out how to pull it off. I will continue place the needs of my peers and my responsibilities toward the college very high on my priority list.