cOinB: Participatory Budgeting for Oberlin College
By Natalie Mattson

The intent of cOinB is to be able to give the students and faculty of Oberlin College more of a say in the school's financial decisions. The Board of Trustees has voiced interest in the importance of hearing student input. We as students made a choice to come here, and for whatever motivated that decision, we deserve to have a say about the direction our school goes in. We have a right to understand where the finances of the school are going and voice our concerns.

This application would allow for the education of Oberlin finances and also allow students, faculty, and staff to vote on where they believe needs the most help. This would help ensure that people were making educated votes and keeping in mind the basic needs in Oberlin's finances.

Oberlin Finances

There have been recent cuts made by the Oberlin Administration that have resulted in negative responses from the student body. These include, but are not limited to, the closing of Dascomb dining hall, the closing of the Wilder Desk, the firing of Tom Reid, and many other staff cuts.

The school has considered hiring a consulting firm to help them cut down on finances. While they may be able to assist the school on paper, the recommendations do not take into consideration the impact that could have on student and faculty campus life. Oberlin Students should have an easy and accessible way to learn about the college's finances and give their input.

A good way to display information about the campus's finances would be through a 3D interactive map of Oberlin's campus. Allowing people to visualize the buildings that need to be kept up and the amount of use they get could factor into their decision. An interactive website displaying a 3D diagram of Oberlin Campus will be available to show all the buildings owned by campus, the money that is allocated to that location, and the amount of use it gets. Energy costs will also be included. The same will be done for all the departments on campus, their funds, and the amount of activity in the branch. Money allocated to other resources such as financial aid will be included in a pie chart representation of all the college's spending. The visualization component gives people an easier way of comparing the school's spending

cOinB

Student Senate would be in charge of putting forward people's proposals for potential investment. This would allow it to be presented in an organized way, and not put too much pressure on the individual for publicizing their idea. Proposals for investments allow for every participant to make a case for how they want the money to be allocated. If a person doesn't feel like any proposals sufficiently meet their criteria, they can choose a specific location or resource which they believe requires more funding and submit their own proposal.

The votes would happen each semester so that people who went abroad or were taking the following semester off would still be able to have an input.

Participants use their cOinB to cast their votes from a phone or computer, where they are then logged into an immutable blockchain that verifies where their vote goes. There is no chance for manipulation, recording errors, or tampering. It encourages participation from the students and faculty to get involved with understanding the College's investments.

cOinB distribution
How many tokens you're issued is based on their intended time at Oberlin and involvement on Campus. The total OBcoin at time of the vote will determine how the vote is weighed.
- Everyone gets one cOinB to start off.
- For every intended year left (i.e. graduation date or contract date), .25 cOinB.
- Involvement in a Campus organisation, club, job, ect., .25 cOinB.

Once data collected from the vote will represent what the students, faculty, and staff believe to be the most important places to allocate resources to on campus. All data will be provided to the administration. Having a voting system based on proposals ensures that people will be making informed decisions about where their want their college's resources to go.