

Student Congress Executive Board  
2023-2024 Year Summary  
April 22, 2024

Dear Hope College Community,

In an effort to better document the inner workings and initiatives of the Hope College Student Congress, a summary of the 2023-2024 School Year has been compiled. The following summary and appendices, as advised by Dean of Students Becky Starkenburg, will allow for a history of Congress membership, initiatives, and ideas.

This will now become a yearly installment rather than by semester. This is the second installment of an extensive Student Congress Summary, but we hope this is the beginning of a long historical record of the leadership power students have in Hope's unique shared governance system.

Spera in Deo,  
2023-24 Student Congress Executive Board

Kate Kalthoff '24, *President*  
Cecilia Casper '24, *Vice President*  
Mariah Shaver '24, *Chief of Staff*  
Ben DuBay '24, *Controller*  
Sara Cerda '24, *Chief of Culture and Inclusion*  
Eric Alsgaard '25, *Chief of Assessment*  
Grace Hammers '25, *Vice Controller*  
Aaron Vazquez '26, *Vice Chief of Culture and Inclusion*  
Dean Becky Starkenburg, *Advisor*

## 1. Overview

The following summary will detail the initiatives and actions of Student Congress during the 2023-2024 school year. In addition to this detailed summary, other information about Student Congress projects throughout the year can be found on the Student Congress Instagram (@hopestudentcongress). The summary is broken down into these sections:

2. General Congress
3. What's New
4. Outreach
5. Appropriations
6. Assessment
7. Culture & Inclusion
8. Academic Affairs Task Force
9. Administrative Affairs Task Force
10. Campus Life Task Force
11. Critical Issues Symposium
12. Looking Ahead

Appendix A: Student Congress 2023-2024 Organizational Chart

Appendix B: Student Congress 2023-2024 Membership

Appendix C: Parking Expansion Letter of Recommendation

Appendix D: Outdoor Leadership Program Program Proposal

Appendix E: DAR Representation Faculty Handbook Revision Proposal

Appendix F: Fall 2023 Assessment Reports

Appendix G: Spring 2024 Assessment Reports

Appendix H: Ad Hoc Requests

## 2. General Congress

- 2.0 General Congress Overview:** General Congress met every Monday this semester, excluding Mondays when class was not in session, to discuss, brainstorm, and vote on various issues relevant to the Hope College community.
- 2.1 General Congress Membership:** This semester, General Congress consisted of 53 total members, continuing the growth of our organization. Fourteen of these members also sit on Cabinet. Eight of the fourteen members make up the Executive Board. Since the 2018-19 school year, Student Congress has grown from about 35 members to its current size.
- 2.2 General Congress Committee Placements:** Each General Congress member sits on one of nineteen committees that are part of the Shared Governance System. Select members sit on one of the three Shared Governance Boards: Academic Affairs Board, Administrative Affairs Board, and Campus Life Board. These students sit on the committees alongside Hope College administration, faculty, and staff. As a student representative, each member is responsible for attending their committee's meetings and representing the student voice whenever applicable.
- 2.3 Monday Night Schedule:** The structure of Congress on Monday Nights started with Cabinet from 7-7:30 PM. Task Forces met from 7:30-8:15 PM, followed by General Congress from 8:15-9:15 PM.

### 3. What's New

- 3.0 What's New Overview:** 2023-2024 saw the addition of new positions and functions to Student Congress. These include the addition of the C&I Committee to General Congress, the faculty advisory position of the Critical Issues Symposium, and Constitutional Revision led by Chief of Staff and Committee.
- 3.1 C&I Committee:** This year the Culture & Inclusion Committee members were all invited to sit on General Congress and act as full voting members. This was done in an effort to remedy past suggestions to increase diverse perspectives present on General Congress, as it is the group that passes larger resolutions like the Masterbook and Assessment Reports. Led by the C&I Committee and specifically the Chief and Vice Chief, all of General Congress also participated in a mandatory Cultural Intelligence (CQ) Training in the fall.
- 3.2 Critical Issues Symposium Advisor:** During the fall semester, the Critical Issues Symposium had one faculty advisor to aid in decision-making, finding speakers, and overall support. This fall Dr. David Ryden generously served in that position. Because of the value of having faculty support, CIS adopted a new pilot program to start a co-curricular "class" where the committee would meet once a week on Tuesdays with Provost Gerald Griffin and Associate Provost Heidi Kraus to discuss, work on, and plan the 2024 Critical Issues Symposium. This program was met with great success.
- 3.3 Constitutional Revision:** Throughout the fall semester, the Chief of Staff met with a committee of General Congress members to discuss updates to the Constitution which were presented to the General Congress body in January. The changes were approved and the new Constitution is available for viewing on the Hope College website.

## 4. Outreach

**4.0 Outreach Overview:** Outreach for Student Congress this year consisted of a series of popup events and social media messaging. All outreach aimed to increase Congress visibility on campus and to answer any questions or concerns students had.

**4.1 Popup Events:** Student Congress planned several popup events this semester. The first event was the annual Meet and Greek Ice Cream Social partnership that was co-sponsored by Greek Life. This event allows Students to come and mingle with members of both Student Congress and Greek Organizations. The Critical Issues Symposium Committee hosted several pop up events and handed out donuts and cider in the Bultman Student Center to raise awareness for their event. The Academic Affairs Task Force hosted an event where Dean of Humanities Stephen Maiullo was present to answer questions about the new Anchor Plan curriculum and 4-3 Credit Switch. The C&I Committee hosted an event in February answering questions about their work and fielding concerns from students. Each event sought to uniquely tackle specific issues identified by the student body.

**4.2 Social Media:** Student Congress used a variety of Social Media tactics this semester in order to further its mission. Public Affairs Chief Chloe Yonkus (Fall semester) and Coordinator/Chief Acacia Dykstra (Spring semester) created and posted graphics advertising Congress events and partnerships and intentionally shared and boosted events and posts from other Hope College Student Organizations. As well, the Instagram was home to several reels made by the Task Forces informing students about Course Evaluations, FAFSA changes, and more.

## 5. Academic Affairs Task Force

- 5.0 Academic Affairs Task Force Overview:** During the 2023-2024 school year, the Academic Affairs Task Force focused on a few main issues and tackled different projects relating to them, including academic advising, changes to the credit and general education requirements, art supply costs, ASL as a World Language, and active shooter protocol.
- 5.1 Academic Advising:** Members of the Academic Affairs Task Force worked with Assessments and director Ryan White to prepare for the Spring '24 assessment cycle that included Advising programs. Members also continued conversations with Krista Carter about the first pilot year of the Peer Advising program, which was a Congress-sponsored program introduced in the 2022-2023 school year. This established partnership meant that the Academic Affairs Task Force was able to offer student experiences and insight while Krista analyzed data and prepared for the second year of the program.
- 5.2 Anchor Plan & 4-3 Credit Changes:** As mentioned in the previous Outreach section, The Academic Affairs Task Force hosted a Questions & Concerns Event with Dean of Humanities, Dr. Stephen Maiullo, about the Anchor Plan & 3-4 Credit Switch changes and how those affected students. They fielded questions from students and offered insights about how best to cope with the changes. In an effort to encourage students to properly voice any concerns and successes they had regarding these changes, members of the Task Force made an informative video to advise the student body about how to effectively fill out course evaluations.
- 5.3 Art Supplies:** After hearing concerns from many students on campus about the high cost of art supplies, particularly for non-majors, The Academic Affairs Task Force collaborated with Dr. Anne Heath, chair of the Art Department, to establish ways to reduce costs of art supplies. Some of the solutions that were suggested and will begin to be implemented are supplying a voucher for studio classes and holding a supply collection drive at the end of each semester. The project is ongoing.
- 5.4 ASL as World Language:** Members of the Academic Affairs Task Force held conversations with Dr. Daniel Woolsey about adding ASL to the World Languages Department after fielding questions from students asking why it was not already a viable course for students to fulfill their General Education language requirements.. These conversations led to increased transparency and helped students understand that the department is unable to do so at this time without impacting the integrity of the department or putting a strain on current established language programs.

## 6. Administrative Affairs Task Force

**6.0 Administrative Affairs Task Force Overview:** During the 2023-2024 academic year they worked on multiple informational campaigns to serve students. The three main areas of work centered on: the 2024 FAFSA rollout changes event and information, questions surrounding how the college is funded, and active shooter training protocol in residential halls.

**6.1 2024 FAFSA Rollout:** The task force worked with the Office of Financial Aid to produce a short video in the fall semester addressing the major FAFSA changes in 2024. In the spring semester, the task force again partnered with the Office of Financial Aid to host an event led by the Office focusing on helping students fill out the FAFSA and answer any questions. A short presentation focused on the changes to the 2024 FAFSA.

**6.2 Active Shooter Training:** The task force partnered with Campus Safety and the Academic Affairs Task Force to tackle the topic of active shooter training in residence halls. Student Congress recognized a need and a gap in information among students on what to do in an active shooter situation. Devin White, chair of the Administrative Affairs Task Force, and Maya Favors, chair of the Academic Affairs Task Force met with Michael Kasher, the director of Campus Safety in the fall semester. In the spring semester events were hosted in residence halls to talk about active shooter protocol. These events were held in collaboration with Campus Safety and Residential Life.

**6.3 Hope College Funding Questions:** During the fall and spring semesters Student Congress questions of how the college received money and allocated its money were brought to Student Congress. From these conversations, Nichole Duntman, Hope Forward's Senior Program Director met with the Administrative Task Force to answer the question of how to talk about Hope's funding model. These conversations are ongoing and tentatively a video produced by Public Affairs and Marketing is planned for the summer.

## 7. Campus Life Task Force

**7.0 Campus Life Task Force Overview:** This year the Campus Life Task Force, led by Chad Perrine, made new efforts to help the student body including dealing with several campus issues brought before Student Congress.

**7.1 Creative Dining Services:** Campus Life began the year meeting with Creative Dining Services. (CDS) The task force members brought to the attention of CDS numerous complaints including but not limited to the following: removal of table napkin dispensers, whereabouts of the Bubly™ machines, and the lack of alternative milks available for those with dietary restrictions. Campus Life Task Force members also discussed new solutions with CDS like a system for green cups, similar to the green box system, given that the dining services team decided to remove disposable cups for sustainability reasons. Campus Life discussed various ideas regarding meal swipes and met with CDS to discuss a potential rollover of unused meal swipes. The chair of the task force was invited to a meeting with faculty and administration to discuss the future of Phelps Dining Hall potentially expanding into the Maas Center.

**7.2 BSC Furniture Installation:** In Spring 2023, Physical Plant worked with Student Congress and the Campus Life Task Force to order new furniture from Herman Miller for the Bultman Student Center to increase social and eating areas around the Kletz and in the Great Room. Throughout this summer and fall, Physical Plant Director Kara Slater worked with Task Force Chair Chad Perrine to get the furniture installed and gather feedback from students about the most effective set up for this new furniture.

**7.3 Parking Lot Solutions:** Task force members continued an ongoing discussion about new solutions for the parking space issues that students face. This year, the Campus Life Task Force executed a plan to allow students to park overnight in lots reserved as “Faculty” in order to allow students to park close to their place of residence late at night. This resolution was passed. (See *Appendix C*) Task Force members also discussed potentials for different parking packages to give students more options and avoid paying extra amounts whenever possible. These conversations often included Mike Kasher, Director of Campus Safety, and Kara Slater, Director of Physical Plant. An ongoing project for the Task Force is an effort to work with administration to put security cameras in parking lots for safety.

**7.4 General Campus Life Concerns:** Other concerns that the task force has worked to tackle include: handrails with anti-skateboarding bumps on them raising accessibility concerns for vision impaired students, students wanting music in the Dow weight room, and the replacement of dirty shower heads. More information about these general projects can be found in the Student Congress Campus Life Task Force archives or by contacting the chair directly.



## 8. Appropriations Committee

**8.0 Appropriations Committee Overview:** Appropriations oversaw the distribution and utilization of the student funds for all student groups, as well as making updates internally to the structure and policies of the Committee.

**8.1 Charter/Policy Revisions:** The Committee, led by Vice Controller Grace Hammers, revised the 20 year old charter to reflect updated policies and processes. This included a revamp of the former “Controller-Elect” position to better reflect the responsibilities and scope of the position, and it was renamed as the Vice Controller. The group also created a travel policy for all overnight travel for student groups to provide structure and consistency to the travel ad hocs that the group commonly receives.

**8.2 Budgeting:** In February the Committee met with all student groups as they presented their budgets for the 2024-2025 school year. The Committee ended up allocating about \$800,000 for the 2024-2025 School Year, pulling from the student activity fee funds and drawing from contingency funds left from past years. The group began the ongoing process of creating a contingency fund request process for large (~\$10k or greater) student fund requests in the future.

**8.3 Ad Hoc Requests:** As a committee, Appropriations saw many Ad Hoc requests. The largest approved are listed here and can be found in *Appendix H*:

- Latino Student Organization - Harvard Latina Empowerment and Development (LEAD) Conference
- Ski Club - Mid winter break trip to Boyne Highlands for 100 students
- Hope Catholics - SEEK Conference
- Student Congress - Tree Lighting event collaboration with the President’s Office
- Students Cherishing Life - Funding to attend March for Life in Washington D.C.
- FSAE - New welder
- Nykerk - Down payment for the Holland Civic Center for Nykerk 2024
- Hope Republicans - CPAC conference

## 9. Assessment

**9.0 Assessment Overview:** The **Assessment Team** completed their last rotation of departmental assessments of the assigned departments. Assessment is a collaboration-based function of Student Congress that works with the Frost Center for Data and Research to gather data on eighteen student-facing Hope College offices, services, and entities over a six semester cycle. This data assesses how well each department serves students' needs and then informs the recommendations for improvement offered by the Assessment Team and the Student Congress task forces. In collaboration with The Frost Research Center, the Student Congress Assessment Committee (Eric Alsgaard '25, Feilx Cruz '27, Carly Shepard '26, Mary Kapitula '25) has worked to reverse a previous scheduling decision. This entails completing one extra department's worth of Assessment reports, which means that nine reports have been processed since the last yearly review.

**9.1 The Reports:** In the Spring of '23 the committee assessed Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Residential Life and Housing, and Disability and Accessibility Resources (DAR). These departments saw a 42% response rate (n=1244). Fall '23 the committee surveyed students on Orientation Programs, Physical Plant, and Van Wylen Library. This survey saw a response rate of 41.51% (n=1148). The spring semester saw the assessment of Advising, Off-Campus Study, and Financial Aid. Each past report, once approved by General Congress, is presented to the President's Cabinet. *See Appendix F and G for full reports.*

**9.2 The Future:** Moving forward, Assessment is focused on documentation, publication, and revisiting formerly-assessed departments. The committee is developing a formal process to archive past department action plans to ensure continuity and administrative accountability across different Congress administrations. We continue to investigate ways to further publicize the actions taken in response to your experiences. In Fall of 2024, the Assessment Committee will formally begin the reassessment process and assess the first three departments originally surveyed in the Fall of 2021. Finally, the committee said thank you and goodbye to two long-time members of Assessment: Dr. Kathy Kremer, staff advisor and friend, and Carly Mursch, a senior who has been with Assessment since its inception. On behalf of the Student Congress Assessment Committee, it has been, and continues to be, an immense privilege to empower the voice of the Hope College student body through data. Thank you all for continuing to complete our surveys and improve Hope College's co-curricular structures!

## 10. Critical Issues Symposium

**10.0 Critical Issues Symposium Overview:** During the Fall 2023 Semester, the Critical Issues Symposium (CIS) Committee, through partnership with the Provost's Office, hosted the 2023 Critical Issues Symposium, which took place on September 27, 2023. In past years, the symposium has offered a space for students and faculty to engage with an important topic. This year's symposium continued as a student-led spin on a traditional event that Hope College hosted in years past. The title of this year's event was "Discerning Truth In A World Of Uncertainty".

**10.1 CIS 2023 Topic:** The symposium focused closely on the topic of public discourse and how to disagree effectively and confidently. This topic was chosen particularly due to the social and political strife that the country and the college have seen in the past decade. The keynote address was entitled "Beyond Fake News: Finding Truth in a World of Disinformation." The breakout sessions were titled as follows: "Music: The Universal Language," "The Truth Will Set you Free: Christ, Creeds and Commitment in a Confused Age," "Critical Race Theory: From Arcane Academic Theory to Political Lightning Rod," and "Climate Change and the Search for Truth."

**10.2 CIS 2023 Team/Preparation:** Much of the work done in preparation for this event took place during the Spring and Summer of 2023 by CIS Director, Maddie Chrome, who worked closely with Provost Dr. Gerald Griffin as well as faculty advisor Dr. David Ryden (Political Science). This work included deciding on the topic based on student input, contacting keynote speaker Dr. Justin McBrayer, planning breakout group speakers, and organizing incentives for students who would attend the event.

**10.3 CIS 2024 Team/Preparation:** The 2024 CIS Committee is made up of Director Ryann Dykstra, Speaker Chair Ethan Adams, Marketing Chair Kylin Barr, Events Chair: Elle Boetcher, and Treasurer Sam Byrne. New IDS295 course Minding Mosaics taught by Provost Griffin and Associate Provost Kraus attended by all members of committee (sans Elle) for 0 or 1 credit options. Course focuses on co-creation. At the end of the Spring 2024 semester, the team solidified the following for the Fall 2024 CIS event:

- Topic: Growing Distrust of/in/within National Institutions
- Keynote: Chloe Valdary, Anti-Racism advocate
- Breakout Sessions: Government, Higher Education, Religion (Church), Media, and the Prison System (closely working with Hope-Western Prison Education Program)
- Endnote address, a collaboration between a student and faculty member to present a topic relevant to the theme, encouraging mentorship and student engagement.

## 11. Culture & Inclusion Committee

**11.0 Culture & Inclusion Overview:** The Culture and Inclusion Committee had another productive year, including some changes to its structure and membership and new initiatives, as well as a new role sitting on General Congress.

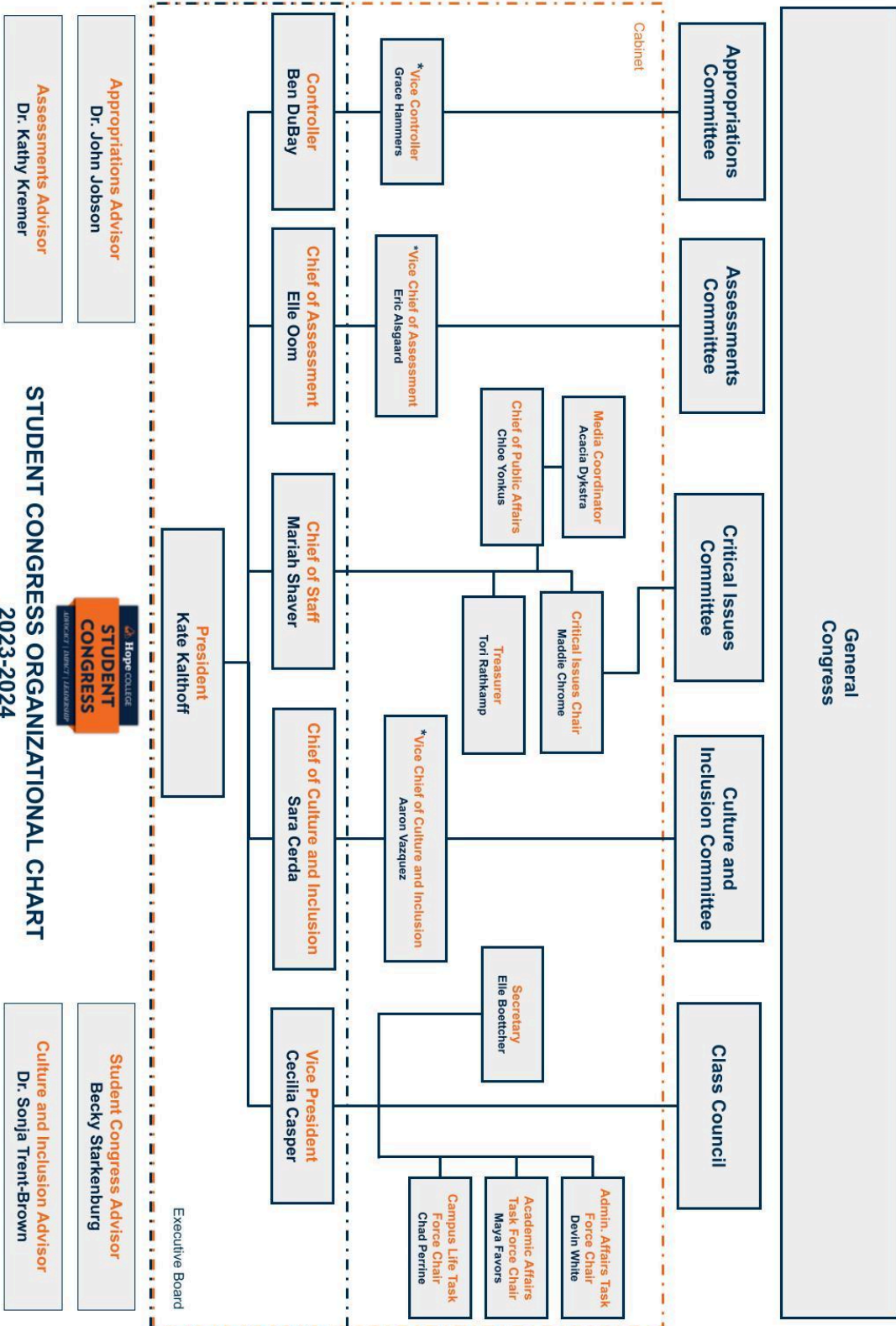
**11.1 Culture & Inclusion Committee:** This year the committee members joined General Congress meetings on Monday nights and became official voting members of the Congress body. This also allowed members to participate in the shared governance structure, sitting on campus-wide boards and committees. A new member from the new student Multicultural Student Organization the Pan-Indigenous Student Organization (PISO) joined the Culture & Inclusion Committee as well.

**11.2 General Meeting C&I Time:** The Culture & Inclusion Committee, led by Chief Sara Cerda and Vice Chief Aaron Vazquez, led General Congress through a series of educational presentations during each General meeting on Monday nights throughout the year. These presentations varied in topics but all aimed at increasing the cultural competency of each General member in hopes of creating a more inclusive and educated representative body. The Committee led General Congress through a cultural intelligence workshop (CQ Workshop) in the fall and a racial healing circle in the spring.

**11.3 Culture & Inclusion Initiatives:** The members of the committee worked on the following projects throughout the year:

- Had conversations with Residential Life regarding potential Gender Inclusive Housing.
- Attended and spoke at Higher Learning Commission evaluation meetings in the fall.
- Discussed Student Medical Leave and departments that play a role in this process. For example, advisors, student support and retention, Disability and Accessibility Resources (DAR), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), financial aid, registrar's office.
- Advocated for DAR, proposed a change to the faculty handbook that ensured that DAR became part of the shared governance structure within the administrative affairs board under the diversity and inclusion committee. (*See Appendix E*)
- Discussed and met with different faculty/staff in order to decrease retention rates, specifically within the BIPOC community.
- Implemented a new medication pickup where students are now able to get weekly doses dropped off in the lockers of DeWitt in efforts to address student attempted overdoses.
- Worked with Student Development to have the meijer shuttle available over the summer.
- Discussed inclusive rooming for non binary students during overnight trips, conferences, etc.

## Appendix A: Original Fall 2023 Organizational Chart



## Appendix B: Student Congress 2023-2024 Membership

\*\* Just Fall 2023 Semester \* Just Spring 2024 Semester

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President** – *Kate Kalthoff*  
**Vice President** – *Cecilia Casper*  
**Chief of Staff** – *Mariah Shaver*  
**Chief of Assessment** – *Elle Oom\*\*/Eric Alsgaard\**  
**Vice Chief of Assessment** – *Eric Alsgaard\*\**  
**Chief of Culture & Inclusion** – *Sara Cerda*  
**Vice Chief of C&I** – *Aaron Vazquez*  
**Controller** – *Ben DuBay*  
**Vice Controller** – *Grace Hammers*  
**Advisor**, Rebecca Starkenburg, *Dean of Students*

### CABINET

**CIS Director** – *Madeline Chrome\*\*/Ryann Dykstra\**  
**Chief of Public Affairs** – *Chloe Yonkus\*\*/Acacia Dykstra\**  
**Public Affairs Coordinator** – *Acacia Dykstra\*\**  
**Secretary** – *Elle Boettcher\*\*/Stephen Price\**  
**Treasurer** – *Tori Rathkamp\*\*/Sam Byrne\**  
**Administrative Task Force Chair** – *Devin White*  
**Campus Life Task Force Chair** – *Chad Perrine*  
**Academic Task Force Chair** – *Maya Favors*

### CLASS COUNCIL

**Senior Class Representative**, Josh Abbas  
**Senior Class Representative**, Taryn Meyer  
**Junior Class Representative**, Alex Mahan\*\*  
**Junior Class Representative**, Bella Jansen\*\*  
**Sophomore Class Representative**, Ethan Adams  
**Sophomore Class Representative**, Ryann Dykstra  
**Freshman Class Representative**, Katie Capuano\*

### CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES

**Durfee Hall** – Spencer Toth\*\*  
**Dykstra Hall** – Hope Watts, Julia Jensen\*\* / Abigail Truax\*  
**Kollen Hall** – Catherine Rodrigues\*\*, Emilia Portelli\*\*, Sam Byrne\*\*  
**Gilmore Hall** – Hayley Kennedy  
**Phelps Hall** – Owen Harries, Kali Coppess\*  
**Scott Hall** – Felix Cruz\*

**Voorhees Hall** – Ross Winters

**Lichty Hall** – Marcus Westphal

**Van Vleck Hall** – Samantha Eriks

**Neighborhood Representatives** – Taylor Lee, Erika Hubbard, Sullivan Moran,  
Alex Cook\*

**General Campus Representative** – Mariel Domnenko\*\*

#### **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Connor Bricco

Sam Byrne

Yoezer Cassell

Alex Cook

Amina Dubois

Angela Green, *General Congress Representative*

Will Pinkerton

Estella Somo

Tetiana Trach

#### **CULTURE AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE**

Isabella Tafarello

Kristen Gonzalez

Kaniya Houston

Alegría Guzman

Rubben Jerome

Estherqueen Koomson

Maddie Zeitunian

Laniah Dennis

Evelyn Addison / Eli Arrondo\*

Ella Shergill

Clayton DeKam

Casiana Gibson

Danya Ortiz

Julia Voyt\*\* / Shirly Solyom\*

## Appendix C: Parking Expansion Letter of Recommendation

CAMPUS LIFE TASK FORCE  
Parking Expansion Letter of Recommendation  
November 30, 2023

**Project:** Parking Expansion

**Requestor:** Campus Life Task Force

**Rationale:**

1. Need – As Campus Life Task Force, with the support of the Student Congress general body, we recommend Hope College prioritize parking efficiency and availability per the needs of the student body. As the entire student body is able to purchase a parking pass to park on campus, parking spaces are a commodity. And as the student population of Hope College increases, there is also an increasing need to provide students with more parking opportunities. We hope this letter of recommendation, as requested by Campus Safety, would signify both a partnership between the Student Congress and Campus Safety, and a plan to improve the On-Campus parking situation.
2. Impact – Parking efficiency and availability impacts a large portion of the student population. While there are numerically enough parking spots available for every parking pass-owning student to have a place to park, there is no guarantee that students are able to find a parking space close to their residence. Students who need to take trips in the evening (to work, to get groceries, etc.) forfeit their daytime parking place close to their residence, which may require them to walk a greater distance from a farther parking lot—potentially through unlit areas or inclement weather. Faculty lots are close to residences and in well-lit areas, and as the physical and emotional security of the student body is a priority for Hope College, opening up empty faculty lots closer to residences would contribute to shorter, safer walks. Additionally, a lack of convenient parking may lead to students parking illegally, such as on the street overnight. We hope that by opening up more overnight parking that the student experience will be safer, more convenient, and more efficient, as Hope College uses all of its possible resources to assist their students.

**Action Steps:** Our desire upon passage of this letter of recommendation is threefold:

- I. That Campus Safety, at the beginning of the spring 2024 semester, will open all lots labeled “Faculty and Staff” for student use between the hours of 4 pm and 7 am on weekdays, and from Friday at 4 pm to Monday at 7 am on weekends.
- II. That Campus Safety, working in tandem with Student Congress, will make information regarding the new parking additions readily available for the student body.



- i. This could include Scannable QR Codes on signs outside faculty and Staff lots, advertisements in Hope Weekly, and slides on the various info TVs around campus, etc.
  - ii. Distributed information would include the specific hours faculty and staff lots are open to the students, as well as the price of subsequent fines that will be issued to any drivers who are found parking in these lots outside of allocated parking times.
- III. That the rate of any fines issued will be fair, and would attempt to proportionally affect the student population.

Date Reviewed: 12/24/2023

Recommending Body: Campus Life Task Force

Date Presented to Student Congress: 12/4/2023

Decision: Resolution passed.

## Appendix D: Outdoor Leadership Program Proposal

### Hope College Outdoor Leadership Program Proposal

#### **Introduction:**

A liberal arts education at Hope College is not just about the academic but also the holistic development of individuals. The college's mission includes the goal of preparing students for lives of leadership and service. While there are various avenues for leadership development on campus, including traditional roles like club leadership, resident assistants, and involvement in various organizations, there is room for a distinctive leadership context that goes beyond the business-oriented model. This proposal seeks to introduce an Outdoor Leadership Program at Hope College to facilitate student led leadership experiences and increase access to outdoor exploration.

#### **Mission Statement:**

*The Outdoor Leadership Program at Hope College aims to offer students experiential opportunities for leadership development, community exploration, and self-discovery through group adventures in the outdoors.*

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

The program has four primary areas of focus:

1. **Leadership Development:** Through hands-on learning, students will enhance their leadership skills in areas such as planning, coordination, group management, teaching, and risk management.
2. **Community Exploration:** Students will examine their roles within communities, fostering active followership, effective communication, and a deeper sense of connectedness to others.
3. **Personal Discovery:** The program will encourage individuals to push their limits, develop self-confidence, and find a sense of purpose while embracing qualities like determination and gratitude.
4. **Interaction with the Outdoors:** The program provides diverse outdoor experiences for students of all experience levels, offering a range of benefits from learning outdoor ethics to tackling physical and mental challenges.

#### **Integration of Outdoor Adventure Club**

Under the proposed model, a paid staff member would serve as the advisor to OAC. OAC will continue to act as its own student group, funded by the student activities fund. OAC will help facilitate a few of the program's functions, and hold a similar role to Student Congress with dual responsibilities as a student group, and functioning element of the

administration.

**Narrative:**

The program's approach involves engaging students in a multi-tiered process, moving from introductory participation to advanced leadership roles. It fosters leadership through training, practical experience, and mentorship. It offers various levels of commitment, ensuring that students can engage according to their interests and availability.

The key elements of the program include:

1. Leadership Training Seminar Series
2. Educational Training Trips
3. Opportunities to practice leadership in overnight and day trips
4. Mentorship from educated and experienced peers in the program
5. May Leadership Expedition

Students who engage in this process progress from novices to skilled leaders over their undergraduate careers, taking on progressively greater responsibilities. The transformational power of leadership and the development of personal philosophy are core components of this journey. - Example progressive leadership model:

- First-Year: Attends OAC welcome event and several OAC outings
- Second Year Fall: Attends leadership seminar series and Fall Break Backpacking Trip
- Second Year Spring: Helps teach some elements of leadership seminar series and attends Spring Break Leader Training Trip
- Third Year Fall: Obtains Wilderness First Aid certification and assists leaders on Fall Break Backpacking Trip, Leads OAC day outings and co-leads one overnight weekend adventure
- Third Year Spring: Leads OAC day and weekend outings; Assistant Instructor on Spring Break Backpacking trip; Attends May Leadership Expedition
- Fourth Year: Responsible for teaching elements of leadership seminar series; Leads OAC day, weekend, and break outings; Mentors less experienced instructors; Helps lead Spring Break Leader Training Trip; Assists Professional Staff Instructor on May Leadership Expedition

**Support and Resources:**

To realize this vision, the program needs a dedicated home on campus, financial investment for a part-time professional coordinator, and a policy change regarding risk and responsibility that allows for student-led outings with proper certification. The program will enhance the campus community by providing valuable experiential learning opportunities, promoting non-competitive recreational activities that support mental health and resilience, and nurturing a culture of personal and group development, mutual benefit, and service to others. It aligns with Hope College's leadership mission and experiential learning strategy, enabling students to lead their peers through transformative experiences that transcend traditional classroom education. In summary, the proposed Outdoor Leadership Program at Hope College will cultivate resilient and capable leaders while providing a unique and experiential context for liberal arts education, ultimately enriching the lives of students and the campus community as a whole.

**This proposal was presented by Josh Abbas, discussed, and approved in General Congress on December 4, 2023. There was no formal vote, but General Congress voiced strong support for the idea and offered to sign off on a resolution for this proposal to come before administration.**

## Appendix E: DAR Representation Faculty Handbook Revision Proposal

Culture and Inclusion Committee  
Change in Faculty Handbook  
January 23rd, 2024

**Project:** Change in Faculty Handbook - A6.C4.3

**Requestor:** Culture and Inclusion Committee

### **Rationale:**

The mission of the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion is to support, advise, and work with campus offices and departments throughout the college to support the college's commitment to diversity and inclusion. The topics related to the recommendation within the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion include but are not limited to:

- Increasing recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of students
- Increasing recruitment, promotion, and retention of faculty and staff
- Assessing the impact of campus diversity on students
- Reflecting on the commitment to diversity and inclusion in policies and position descriptions

When addressing the topic of diversity and inclusion, it is essential to recognize the significant role that equity plays in this context. The Disabilities and Accessibility Resources (DAR), which is dedicated to providing students with the essential tools for success, plays a crucial role in influencing recruitment, retention, and overall graduation rates for students. To enhance the effectiveness of the Diversity and Inclusion committee, it is proposed to incorporate DAR into its structure under A6.C4.3 in the faculty handbook. This inclusion would ensure that the committee possesses the requisite information to equip every student with the necessary tools for their academic journey.

### **Partnership:**

1. During discussions with Carrie Dattels, the Director of Disability and Accessibility Resources (DAR), it was observed that DAR has encountered challenges in advancing its efforts to enhance support for students. It was communicated to us that DAR has experienced significant growth in recent years. For example, note-taking assistance has increased 417% from spring of 2018 to fall of 2022, and text to speech resources have increased at a staggering 1700% from spring of 2018 to fall of 2022. Given this substantial increase, it has become imperative for DAR to actively participate in dialogue aimed at ensuring its enhanced capability to engage and collaborate effectively with various stakeholders in the realms of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

2. In the course of our discussions on the proposal initiative with Dr. Sonja Trent-Brown, we were guided to incorporate DAR into the Diversity and Inclusion Committee within the Administrative Affairs Board. In light of anticipated adjustments to the shared governance system in the coming years, with an emphasis on refining services for the Hope College community and consolidating committees, we have opted to forgo an independent committee specifically for accessibility. Instead, we will integrate discussions pertaining to accessibility within the existing structure of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, aligning with our rationale.
3. As the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Jevon Willis strongly advocated and agreed with the inclusion of a representative from DAR to better enhance the overall presentation of DEI work at Hope College. Recognizing the evident correlation between accessibility and equity and aligning to the committee's overarching objectives, Jevon is committed to collaborating closely with the DAR representative. Together, they will bring forth initiatives and projects essential for advancing the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the institution.

Date reviewed: January 22nd, 2024

Recommending body: Culture and Inclusion Committee

Date presented to Student Congress: January 29th, 2024

Decision: Approved by General Congress, 1/29/2024

## **Appendix F: Fall 2023 Assessment Reports**

Linked Below

[Orientation](#)

[Physical Plant](#)

[Van Wylen Library](#)

## **Appendix G: Spring 2024 Assessment Reports**

Linked Below

[Advising Services](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[Off-Campus Study](#)



## **Appendix H: Ad Hoc Requests**

**Name:** Sara Cerda

**Email:** lso@hope.edu

**Organization:** Latino Student Organization

**Date Requested:** 10/24/23

**Date Needed:** 11/07/23

**Amount Requested:** \$6,100

**Are the students on this trip contributing to the costs? \*Indicate yes or no. If yes, please list how much each student will be paying and what costs their contributions will cover.**

If we go over budget, I am planning to have students pay for the remaining cost. Plane tickets are about \$250, but the more we wait the more expensive they will become. (\$250 for flights X 20 students = \$5,000) (\$40 for admission X 20 students = \$800) An additional \$300 is for a hotel room for two nights for the advisor.

**Cost of Conference/Event: Indicate if there is a fee for your organization to go on this trip. Please also indicate if the cost is one fee for the whole organization or cost per student. If cost per student, specify both the cost per student and the total cost of the conference.**

The cost for this conference is per student. Individual tickets are on presale now starting at \$40, then will be increasing overtime to \$75. These costs will cover admission to the conference, breakfast, lunch, dinner, workshops, keynote speakers, and housing!

**Type of Trip**  
- Overnight Trip

**If this is an overnight trip, you must pick up and fill out the Assumption of Risk and Release Form in the Student Development Office. This must be submitted no later than one week prior to your trip. If you do not submit this form, you will not be allowed to travel.**

**Room and Board: If traveling overnight, indicate how many days and how many nights the group will be away. Include cost per room/location per night, number of rooms needed, how many students in each room, and total cost for lodging.**

Three days, two nights. Housing is free because students participating in the conference will be placed in Harvard housing with prospective students. This will be added to the admission fee for the conference and prices vary from \$40 to \$75, the sooner we buy the tickets the cheaper!

**Destination: Indicate the name of your destination and city, state (ex: Grand Rapids Civic**

Theater, Grand Rapids MI).

Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Mileage: List both the one way and round trip mileage to your destination** One way:  
958, round trip: 1,915

### **Mode of Transportation**

- Hope car or van
- Hope Bus
- **Approved non-Hope transportation**

**Vehicles: If using Hope Transportation, indicate the number of vehicles needed, and include cost of the vehicle(s) per mile.**

**What will students be doing or learning on this trip? Include a rough itinerary if known.**

Students will be able to learn from three keynote speakers, participate in workshops, and network with students, faculty, alumni, activists, non-profits, and government elected officials within the Harvard community and outside of it. The conference will begin at 4pm on Friday with panels, workshops, and dinner with the first keynote speaker. We will begin Saturday at gam and have time to network, panels, and workshops, followed by two more keynote speakers. There is nothing planned on Sunday.

**How does this trip support your organization's goals and mission?**

The Harvard Latina Empowerment and Development (LEAD) Conference strives to enable a community where we can realize our impact in the professional and wider world. Creating a space for Latinx where we once didn't exist, the LEAD Conference was made to celebrate Latinx innovation, diversity, and strength in order to affirm positions to lead.

**How will this trip benefit group members, other Hope students, or the greater community?**

This conference is crucial for our community to be able to be surrounded by individuals that look like us that are creating a well-rounded world. The networking, learning, and conversations that will come from this conference will be incomparable to any conference and will be used in our personal lives and in the work in Hope College. The members that will be joining the conference will have the tools necessary to lead in order to benefit other Hope College students and the greater community by giving the tools necessary to become Latinx leaders.

**Explain the ramifications of not receiving funding for this request.**

If we don't receive the funding for this request, it will be possible that more than a two-thirds of the students invited won't be able to join because of financial reasons. Most of the Latinx students at Hope College are low-income students and they won't be able to spend money on their flights or admission into the conference. Making fundraisers at Hope is very difficult and will put a lot of stress on students to find a way to come up with this amount of money,

**Provide any additional detailed information that will aid the committee in making a decision about your request.**

In past years their keynote speakers have been famous speakers and activists such as Dolores Huerta, which Hope's CDI has an ENTIRE lecture series for! This is a huge opportunity I personally feel strong for because I applied to be an ambassador for this conference and was accepted among 30 others nationwide. I am only allowed to recruit 20 students to join me on this conference. This may be a one time opportunity for LSO and Hope College students to be in Harvard and we desperately need to take advantage of it! For more information you could google Harvard LEAD Conference and it'll be the first link.

**Ad Hoc was approved by General Congress on 11/6/2023.**

**Name:** Ashley Lauraine

**Email:** clubanimalia@hope.edu

**Organization:** Club Animalia

**Date Requested:** 11/28/23

**Date Needed:** 01/08/24

**Amount Requested:**

Event: \$950 Travel: 1379 (+tax) Hotel: \$512 (+ tax)

**Are the students on this trip contributing to the costs? \*Indicate yes or no. If yes, please list how much each student will be paying and what costs their contributions will cover.**

The current plan does not include student contributions

**Cost of Conference/Event: Indicate if there is a fee for your organization to go on this trip. Please also indicate if the cost is one fee for the whole organization or cost per student. If cost per student, specify both the cost per student and the total cost of the conference.**

The fee for our entire club is \$25 and each student has to pay \$185 to register. The total cost for five students is \$950

**Type of Trip**

- Overnight Trip

**If this is an overnight trip, you must pick up and fill out the Assumption of Risk and Release Form in the Student Development Office. This must be submitted no later than one week prior to your trip. If you do not submit this form, you will not be allowed to travel.**

- Got it

**Room and Board: If traveling overnight, indicate how many days and how many nights the group will be away. Include cost per room/location per night, number of rooms needed, how many students in each room, and total cost for lodging.**

We will be spending three days and two nights at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills for \$123 and \$133 per night for double and triple occupancy rooms respectively. We will be needing 2 rooms (one triple and one double occupancy) which totals to \$512 (+ tax) for two nights.

**Destination: Indicate the name of your destination and city, state (ex: Grand Rapids Civic Theater, Grand Rapids MI).**

North Carolina State University, Raleigh North Carolina

**Mileage: List both the one way and round trip mileage to your destination**

One way: 796 and Round Trip: 1592

**Mode of Transportation**

- Hope car or van
- Hope Bus
- **Approved non-Hope transportation**

**Vehicles: If using Hope Transportation, indicate the number of vehicles needed, and include cost of the vehicle(s) per mile.**

We are planning to fly to the symposium. The estimated cost of tickets is \$385 per student for a round trip (2 students total) and \$203 for one way (3 students total do not need transportation back) = total cost of \$1379 for 5 students

**What will students be doing or learning on this trip? Include a rough itinerary if known.**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in one hands on lab (such as suturing, canine rehab therapy, necropsies, hematology, etc) and attend many lectures (such as Navigating the VMCAS, Lab Animal Medicine, Pet Obesity Epidemic, Common Mistakes to Avoid in Applications, Exploring the DVM/PhD Path, etc). This symposium will also have representatives from many different veterinary schools present for networking opportunities with designated time to do so. There will also be a keynote speaker, APVMA e-board address and elections, along with a Feed the Pack service event for the food bank on campus.

**How does this trip support your organization's goals and mission?**

This trip supports our goal of educating and supporting pre-veterinary students by giving them the opportunity to talk directly with representatives from various schools, get hands on experience in various labs, and learn more about how to apply to vet school intelligently and the different ways their future can look by hearing from DVMs of many different specialties and disciplines.

**How will this trip benefit group members, other Hope students, or the greater community?**

This trip gives our pre-veterinary group members with education and experience that is unrivaled compared to anything they've experienced before. The opportunity to talk to DVMs that have been where they are is something that they will never forget.

**Explain the ramifications of not receiving funding for this request.**

If we do not receive funding for this request, many of our members will not be able to attend without financial assistance. This will leave them missing out on what could be incredibly pivotal to their future in veterinary medicine.

**Provide any additional detailed information that will aid the committee in making a decision about your request.**

Ad Hoc was approved by General Congress on 12/4/2023.

**Name:** Isabella Rodriguez

**Email:** isabella.rodriguez@hope.edu

**Organization:** Women of Color United

**Date Requested:** 02/21/24

**Date funds are needed (MUST be requested two weeks prior):** 04/26/24

**Amount Requested:** \$1,743.75

**Please provide a specific breakdown of costs and where you plan on purchasing these items.**

We are asking for \$1,743.75 to fund the MSO stole ceremony afterparty. \$400 will be for the lighting

\$800 is for the DJ

\$543.75 will be our food order from catering. From Hope Catering we are going to order 5 gluten-free pizzas, 15 pizzas, fruit salad, cupcakes, half a sheet of cake, a vegetable tray, and pink lemonade

**Explain how this fits your organization's vision?**

These materials will support our goals of proving and creating a community of intersectionality. We will be celebrating our leaders who have devoted their time to setting a foundation for the next students.

**How could you accomplish the goals of this request if funding is not provided?**

If funding is not provided for this event, we will not be able to celebrate our seniors. We must receive funding for the afterparty because it is not just for WOCU but for the whole MSO community.

**Include who else you have contacted about the use of these funds (i.e. Student Development, CIT, etc) and what these other contacts have communicated thus far.**

We have contacted Margo Walters, who is the assistant director of CDI. She is the one who advised us to fill out the Ad-Hoc form on behalf of all the MSO's.

**Provide any additional detailed information that will aid the committee in making a decision about your request.**

As a Multicultural Student Organization on Hope's Campus, we have declared a commitment to advancing and establishing a community for women and women of color to be empowered and united. We are responsible for providing a welcoming, inspiring, and safe community for women to unite and celebrate differences and intersectionality. This event will allow us to



create community amongst all the MSO's on campus while celebrating our seniors. Since this will be an event for all seven MSO's it is very important that we receive funding. For us to accomplish our mission and serve our marginalized communities on our campus we need the support of Hope College.

**Ad Hoc was approved by the Exec Board of Student Congress on 3/6/2024.**

**Name:** Abby Wieringa

**Email:** abigail.wieringa@hope.edu

**Organization:** Nykerk Cup

**Date Requested:** 1/30/24

**Date funds are needed (MUST be requested two weeks prior):** 10/26/24

**Amount Requested:** \$4,800.00

**Please provide a specific breakdown of costs and where you plan on purchasing these items.**

Rental of the Holland Civic Center for goth Nykerk Cup Competition taking place on October 26, 2024.

**Explain how this fits your organization's vision?**

The Devos fieldhouse was unavailable for the goth Nykerk Event, so we contracted with the Civic Center where Nykerk was historically held for many years.

**How could you accomplish the goals of this request if funding is not provided?**

Our advisor, Ellen Awad, talked to John Jobson about the immediate need for funding to secure the location. Student Life has paid for the space.

**Include who else you have contacted about the use of these funds (i.e. Student Development, CIT, etc) and what these other contacts have communicated thus far.**

John Jobson, Student Life has paid for the space.

**Provide any additional detailed information that will aid the committee in making a decision about your request.**

Ad Hoc was approved by General Congress on 2/26/2024.

**Name:** Ross Winters

**Email address:** formulasae@hope.edu

**Student organization:** Hope College Formula Racing Team

**Date Requested:** 1/9/24

**Date funds are needed (MUST be requested two weeks prior):** 1/24/24

**Amount requested:** \$5672.22

**Please provide a specific breakdown of costs and where you plan on purchasing these items.**

The welder in the formula garage abruptly broke. After talking with experts it may not be able to be fixed and certainly wouldn't be able to be fixed in a sufficient time frame to compete in May. Because of this, we have had to buy a new welder.

We are planning on buying the welder from Purity Cylinder Gasses in Holland.

**Explain the mission and goals of your organization and how this request supports those goals.**

A welder is required to build the car safely and have it finished in time for competition.

**Explain the ramifications of not receiving funding for this request.** We would not

be able to finish the car without going over our budget.

**List anyone you have contacted about funding already (i.e. CDI, Student Life, CIT, etc) and what these contacts have communicated thus far.**

Carl Heideman, Advisor got the quote and told us to submit an AD HOC.

**Provide any additional detailed information that will aid the committee in making a decision about your request.**

Ad Hoc was approved by General Congress on 1/22/2024.