

Dear Hampshire College community,

For those unfamiliar with what we do, FundCom is the student-run governing body which manages funding for student groups and activities on campus. FundCom is the backbone of student activity at Hampshire, and there are three officers who ensure FundCom runs smoothly, Juliana Saxe, Ida Kao, and Jess Jimenez. However, FundCom has been impossible to run smoothly this year, which has caused an immense amount of stress, and our mental health and academics have deteriorated. After reaching out to staff, all the way up to President Ed Wingenbach and receiving no support, we are issuing our final plea.

We have been told that our mere existence makes a white student uncomfortable. The two Asian officers have been continuously misidentified and treated as one person. We have had specific issues with two organizations on campus, The Portfolio and the Hampshire College Student Union, both of which started and became active in the 2021-2022 school year.

We have been “jokingly” informed that we deserve to be impeached, and “jokingly” informed that we “take everything from them, as always.” We have had eyes rolled at us, we have been yelled at, and disinformation has been actively spread about us as both individuals and as officers of FundCom.

Despite constant communication and requests for help from staff, our basic humanity has not been recognized. There are no structures to support FundCom at Hampshire. Staff ignore our questions and requests or simply don't even know who we are or what we do. If a student or student group mistreats us, we have no recourse. As a result, FundCom officers and voting members will be going on strike; no funding for student activity will be approved for the time being.

The strike will only end when our demands are met or addressed.

Demands of The Portfolio and HCSU

- The Portfolio must stop asking for exemptions from the Guidelines (such as posting issues to HampEngage/the Daily Digest) and portraying unreasonably large requests that have been cut down to a reasonable amount as unfairly targeting The Portfolio
  - The Portfolio signers must fill out their funding request forms correctly or be willing to ask for help from FundCom or Student Engagement
- HCSU must have accountability mechanisms put in place (a Charter, bylaws, and oversight by staff)

- Both groups must issue a public apology to FundCom for their actions and correct disinformation that states or suggests that FundCom is not a governing body, does not make funding decisions independent of staff, etc.
- The Portfolio signers must act appropriately during FundCom meetings; no more eye rolls, no more side conversations that make it difficult to hear conversation about funding requests by other student groups, and no more insults portrayed as “jokes.”

#### Demands of the President and Dean of Students

- President Ed Wingenbach and Dean of Students Zauyah Waite must issue a public apology to FundCom for directing HCSU to FundCom to receive their stipends and refusing to act despite consistent communication from the FundCom officers about the harassment and mistreatment.
- Due to the toll the situation has taken on the academic and personal lives of FundCom officers during the 2021-2022 school year, they will be compensated for their time spent on FundCom with academic credit as well as their current stipend.
- The FundCom officers will receive a letter of academic commendation to their transcripts.
- All staff, up to and including President Ed Wingenbach, *must* understand how FundCom operates as well as how to access funding from the SAF.

#### Demands of Student Engagement

- When Student Engagement approves an event, trip, etc., the staff will notify FundCom via email that it is ready for discussion and voting by FundCom.
- During the academic year, when staff in Student Engagement are communicating and working directly with a student group the staff will notify FundCom via email.
- During the academic year, staff in Student Engagement and the Dean of Students office will plan and execute outreach events on behalf of FundCom to educate the community about how the funding process works once a month.
- Advisors must work with and not against FundCom; they will trust the work FundCom does and trust that we are acting professionally and well intentioned.
  - Should advisors believe otherwise, protocol must be set and followed to resolve the conflict between the parties in a mutually understanding and respectful way.
- A staff person will be expected to ensure that FundCom officers are not overwhelmed by their responsibilities and that their academics are not suffering because of their position.
  - Staff must understand that being a FundCom officer is overwhelming and must have their best interests at heart.

If you would like to have your funding requests reviewed and approved by FundCom in the near future, please contact The Portfolio at [tpzine@hampshire.edu](mailto:tpzine@hampshire.edu), the Hampshire College Student Union at [hcsu@hampshire.edu](mailto:hcsu@hampshire.edu), and President Ed Wingenbach at [ecwPR@hampshire.edu](mailto:ecwPR@hampshire.edu), and express your concerns. This is a direct outcome of the dehumanization and harassment by HCSU and The Portfolio and enabled by the inaction by President Ed Wingenbach.

Sincerely,

Juliana Saxe (FundCom Director)

Ida Kao (FundCom Financial Director)

Jess Jimenez (FundCom Secretary)