

# Community Government Survival Guide

(or, a guide to helping Community Government survive at Antioch.)

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dedicated to the Antioch College community:  
past, present, and future.

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## COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT SURVIVAL GUIDE v1.0

The Community Government Survival Guide was a collective effort by a variety of Antiochians, including current students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

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"Community at Antioch can be an elusive and fuzzy concept; like breathing, you only realize you're doing it when you stop."

- From the Antioch  
College Survival Guide  
2005-2006

## I. INTRODUCTION

You've probably heard the term community about 1 million times in various different contexts at Antioch. Community is one of the "three Cs" (Classroom, Community, and Co-Op) that are central to the Antioch education. There's a "Community Meeting," a "Community Day," something called "Community Council," and finally "Community Government." What, you may have asked yourself, makes a day a "Community Day" or a bunch of meetings a "Community Government"?

This zine is intended to help answer those questions. It was drafted by a motley group of alumni from all different eras, as well as current students, faculty, and staff. Some of us were Community Managers when we were students, some of us are or were on the Board of Trustees that helps govern the college, and some of us are currently on ComCil or College Council. If you don't know what those things are, this document is the place to find out.

We wanted to show you, the current students, what community governance was intended to do, what it has done in the past,

what it means for a community to self-govern, and what Community Government (CG) can accomplish now. Perhaps most importantly, we want to show you these pieces of history, of ideals and ideas, so that you can envision HOW you can conceive radically democratic self governance for yourselves.

In this document we hope to give some context for community governance, but we also hope this zine serves as an artifact of that very system. Initiated in the 1920s by students at Antioch, community governance has evolved in response to social and cultural pressures, the needs of community members, and the shifting financial circumstances of the college over the past 100 years.

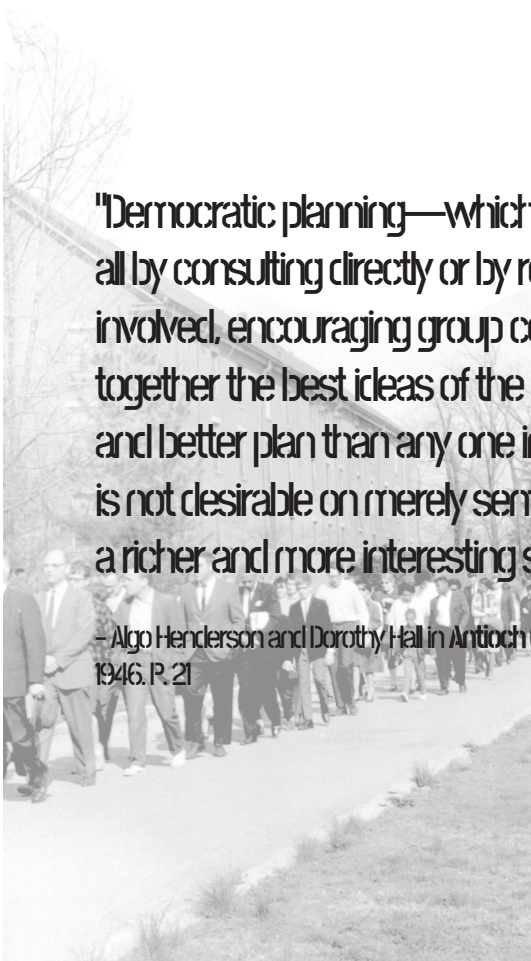
The opening epigraph captures that community is something that we do. Community at Antioch can sometimes be frustrating and amorphous. Community should not be exclusively conflated with harmony and good feelings. Community signals a commitment to live together meaningfully and to navigate the dynamic range of experiences this entails. Community Government provides mechanisms to facilitate this process. CG should also not be conflated with the administration, or the institu-

tion, as sometimes—or even often—the community conflicts with both. Antioch presents a unique opportunity and context to participate intimately in—and to actively struggle for—a radically democratic existence. This is as much a learning experience, both structured and unanticipated, as life on co-op and in the classroom.

In this zine you will find a brief overview of the history of Community Government at Antioch, the structure of CG and its various elected positions and governing bodies, how those groups relate to the College administration, how decisions get made collectively in these bodies, how fun stuff like Community Day relates to CG, and how you can get involved and make change on campus and beyond. We encourage you to take this information and talk to each other about CG, sit in on a committee meeting, or join one.

## Values and Purpose of Community Government

Over the past 100 years of CG, Antiochians have produced countless documents—zines, pamphlets, committee reports, articles in *The Record*, senior theses, and more—extolling the virtues of Community Government and bemoaning its faults and friction points. You will



"Democratic planning—which all by consulting directly or by involved, encouraging group co together the best ideas of the and better plan than any one is not desirable on merely seen a richer and more interesting s

—Algo Henderson and Dorothy Hall in Antioch  
1946. P. 21

surely hear about some of these throughout your time at Antioch and within this survival guide. But what is the point of all this Community Government stuff anyway? Why do we spend so much time “doing it,” and even more time pondering how to improve it?

Community Government’s purpose and key values are

ch looks to the advantage of  
representing all the people  
contributions from all, putting  
the group to produce a stronger  
individual can frame alone—  
ontinental grounds. Through it  
g society can be created.”

ch College: Its Design for Liberal Education.

entwined with those of the college as a whole. From Horace Mann’s time as president onward, Antioch has been engaged in what Algo Henderson and Dorothy Hall called “the American search for utopia.”<sup>1</sup> There’s a key detail that many have discovered about utopias, however — they’re never finished. You’ll probably get a taste of this engaging in democracy at Antioch.

Henderson and Hall go on to say that “Antioch’s continuing heritage is its desire for a better world and a will to help achieve it.”<sup>2</sup> Community Government plays a key role in preparing all of us to build a better world in whatever ways we can, small or large.

Take a look at Antioch’s mission today:

“The mission of Antioch College is to provide a rigorous liberal arts education on the belief that scholarship and life experience are strengthened when linked, that diversity in all its manifestations is a fundamental compo-

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1 Henderson, Algo D. and Dorothy Hall, *Antioch College: Its Design for Liberal Education*, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1946), p.1

2 Henderson, Algo D. and Dorothy Hall, *Antioch College: Its Design for Liberal Education*, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1946), p.8

ment of excellence in education, and that authentic social and community engagement is vital for those who strive to win victories for humanity.”

Implied throughout this mission statement is the shadow of Community Government. Through CG, the college works together to build and maintain a community where everyone can have their voices heard. Now, not every voice will win the day — this is one of the key frustrations many of us experience with CG. But that community engagement, “successful” or not, is vital for building a place where community members work collaboratively to solve problems. CG teaches all of us to be (in the words, again, of Henderson and Hall) “habitually sensitive to the welfare of a community as a whole.”<sup>3</sup> It gives us practice creatively participating in community life, strengthens and reveals leadership and organization skills we may not have known we had, and teaches us how to use all of our collective strengths and aptitudes to solve problems.

## Community Government is the

place where Antioch’s “laboratory in democracy” is most realized. But it requires all of us to buy-in to its key values: that every member of our community has a fundamental dignity and something to bring to the table; that we have a more vibrant and dynamic environment when we all create it together; and that practice and experience will always teach us something.

As you’ve surely seen across all of your admission materials, Antioch’s educational landmarks tell us to “Own Your Education,” “Learn Experientially,” and “Act for Justice.” Community Government is one way we’re putting those landmarks into action every day.

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3 Henderson, Algo D. and Dorothy Hall, *Antioch College: Its Design for Liberal Education*, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1946), p. 160.

*“But the notion was, for Algo Henderson, If you want people to be leaders, if you want them to be problem solvers, if you want them to be good citizens in society, then they’ve got to have a meaningful experience in making decisions that are problematic decisions.*

*What was never understood by the critics at the University, and some alums, and certainly by donors and the business community, and by a lot of board members, what was not understood was that shared governance was not the strategy for running the college and administering it: it was a pedagogical strategy.”*

- Bob Devine, “University (Mis-)Management of the College and the Renewal Plan”, excerpted from *Teach-In Transcript* <sup>4</sup>



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<sup>4</sup> The *Teach-In Transcript* can be found (along with other links) here: <https://linktr.ee/AntiochCommunityGovernment>

## II. BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT AT ANTIOCH

In this section, we are including a detailed timeline of the development of Community Government, for you history nerds. For everyone else, suffice to say that CG has been a central part of Antioch's identity since the early 1920s, when it was first introduced by students. In the late 1920s the Community Manager role was introduced. Initially, this role was appointed by ComCil, but later the structure was revised so that the CM (or sometimes a CM collective of multiple people) was elected by a voting process of the entire community, overseen by an elections committee.

"Community governance" is a very broad term and generally is defined as a method by which a community governs and manages itself, and shares power among different social groups in the community, rather than having external administration. At Antioch, Community Government was developed both as a way for students, faculty, and staff to equitably and democratically share power and represent their needs with the administration, and as a pedagogical tool to provide a hands-on, lived experience of democratic community management.

1925

The Blaze, an independent campus newspaper, starts publishing. The Blaze advocated for a city manager type of "community" government with weighted voting and proportional representation.

The Antiochian published an interview with President Arthur Morgan in which he stated "One of the forms of reorganization suggested here, and one which I am inclined to favor, provides for community government elected by the student and faculty at large with student and faculty representations."

1926

The Constitution of Student Government of Antioch College was officially changed to a Constitution of Community Government. A little more than 60% of students cast votes in the election.

1929

The A-Book of 1929-30 (which was the student handbook or Survival Guide of the time) declares: "The Community Manager's task is that of organizing an effective government."

1940

President Algo Henderson gives the Administrative Council (AdCil) real decision making powers.

1941

The Blaze runs a demand that faculty-only committees be abolished and all committees contain some student reps, including admissions and tenure review.

1942

Faculty votes to establish student representatives on AdCil.

1973

Students strike in response to President's decision to halt an affirmative action program due to budget cuts. The college was shut down for more than 6 weeks.

1975

A new Constitution of Antioch College Community Government is passed. This Constitution codified the role of the Community Council (ComCil) as the legislative body in relation with the Advisory Council (AdCil) and the Community Manager.

1985

Regular weekly community meetings, led by the CM, are institutionalized (by then-CM Jennifer Berman) "to provide a forum for raising and discussing community concerns."

1996

AdCil creates Strategic Plan for the College with broad community participation, continuing its envisioned role as an "advisory body for the President that deals with the College's budget, personnel, and program."

2001

The University takes control of the College's budget, undermining AdCil's "power of the purse." Increasing outside control of the College's administrative functions coincided with a decline in enrollment and undermining of Community Government.

2005

Faculty forms the Faculty Senate, which reports directly to the President over concerns about AdCil's role, especially with regards to tenure.

2006

The "Constitution of Antioch College Community Government" (in place since 1975) is dissolved by the College under President Steve Lawry (2006-2007).

## 2007

The University Board of Trustees makes a unilateral decision to close the College based on claims of financial exigency.

A controversial report from college President Steven Lawry decries “toxic culture” on campus as responsible for the decline of the College. The University’s behind-closed doors decision making process raised faculty, student, and alumni concerns about transparency.

The 2007 Reunion rallied alumni, students, and friends of the College to begin the effort to buy and eventually reopen the College.

## 2008

During the summer Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute starts up to continue Antioch’s teaching work. During this phase CMs were incorporated into the Institute.

## 2011

The college is officially reopened as a “non successor entity” to Antioch University.

Neither CG or the CM role exist at reopening, but a “Governance Task Group” is formed to help reconstitute CG, led by former CM Jennifer Berman, alum John Knox and others.

A “Council of Conveners” is organized to replace AdCil and ComCil

## 2012

A new iteration of ComCil is formed.

A new Constitution of Community Governance was developed by the Governance Task Group and approved by the Council of Conveners.

## 2014

Community Government’s purpose according to the 2014 bylaws was: “The Community Council will consider policies and issues in all areas pertaining to the non-academic life of the College in which students, faculty, and/or staff share mutual concern. On matters in which the Council has interest but no legal or financial accountability, it may recommend actions to the president and administration.”

The President of ComCil reports to the College President but ComCil as an entity can only make certain limited decisions, mostly around student life.

## 2017

College-wide discussions occur called Antioch@175. Governance is a key topic.

These discussions result in a need for more intentional long term focus on governance issues. These conversations lead to a new group being enacted to come up with a new governance structure for the college: Comcil B. Comcil A continues working on the day to day tasks of Comcil but Comcil B is solely working on brainstorming new models for governance.

The structure of Comcil A is similar to previous iterations but with a new community facilitator position.

“ComCil B will be the transitioning ComCil body. They will be the creators of the future ComCil iteration and in charge of collecting community input

and buy-in. Their duties include but are not limited to: creating new bylaws, elections, community feedback loops, hosting design-builds, world cafés, connecting faculty assembly, students, staff, and SLT (Senior Leadership Team).

## 2018

“General Council” is created.

The updated bylaws state: “The authority of the General Council is vested by the Antioch College Board of Trustees. The General Council is accountable to carry out the mission of the College as guided by the Board. The General Council is also accountable to conduct the affairs of the College in accordance with all local, state and federal laws and regulations.”

General Council (GenCil) oversees and sets processes and policies for the annual budget, hiring of executive administrators, hiring tenure and promotion of faculty, the College calendar, and major program additions or changes.

## 2019

The 2019 updated bylaws state: “Though the jurisdiction of the ComCil is non-academic, the body reserves the right to make recommendations or present a position on academic and administrative issues as they affect the community.”

## 2020

Coco Gagnet is elected as community manager via a vote during Community Meeting. She is the first CM in more than a decade.

The ComCil description is updated to read: “ComCil is the body of the

Antioch College Community Government responsible for the social, cultural, political and community life on campus. The ComCil Bylaws are the governing policy for the ComCil jurisdiction and decision-making process. ComCil is responsible for recommending and maintaining community policies and the various committees, policies, and procedures detailed in it. ComCil works with the College Council and its committees and they are jointly responsible for various policies including the SOPP, the Civil Liberties Code, and Community Standards. ComCil approves the CG budget, helps decide on expenditures, and approves CG hiring.”

## 2021

To ensure the sustainability and integrity of the Community Manager position, and Community Governance as a whole, Coco's tenure as CM is extended into the end of Winter Term of 2022 to facilitate the transition to President Jane Fernandes.

## 2022

The CM job is posted online, subsequently resulting in the hiring (rather than election) of CM Austin Korner.

## 2023

Austin Korner resigns from the Community Manager Position in mid-January.

CM responsibilities, including Community Meeting and Community Day, are delegated to Comcil members until Spring 2023, when Pamela Martinez-Ibarra and El Mele are hired as temporary Community Co-Coordinator.

### III. STRUCTURE OF ANTIOCH COLLEGE'S GOVERNANCE

Antioch College's community governance structure is meant to meaningfully involve all community members in decision-making, including faculty, staff, and students. All community members should feel empowered to engage with the decision-making processes of the College as equals. Many of these structures are malleable and are intended to be flexible, in order to respond to community needs. In brief, the governance structure at Antioch consists of traditional governing bodies like the Board of Trustees, Office of the President, Faculty Assembly, and the Alumni Association and Alumni Board (ACAB), as well as nontraditional governing bodies like College Council and Community Council (ComCil), which require student, faculty, and staff representation for quorum. The overall governance structure includes these collaborative community structures in addition to the more traditional President and Board of Trustees as fiduciary governing bodies.

The Alumni Association, governed by the ACAB, is not

formally part of community government, nor is it a fiduciary body, but it has special duties and responsibilities to represent alumni stakeholder interests and maintain institutional memory. We'll walk you through the bodies discussed above in the order they were listed.

- BOT
- President
- Faculty Assembly
- Alumni Association
- ACAB
- College Council
- ComCil
- Community Manager (CM)

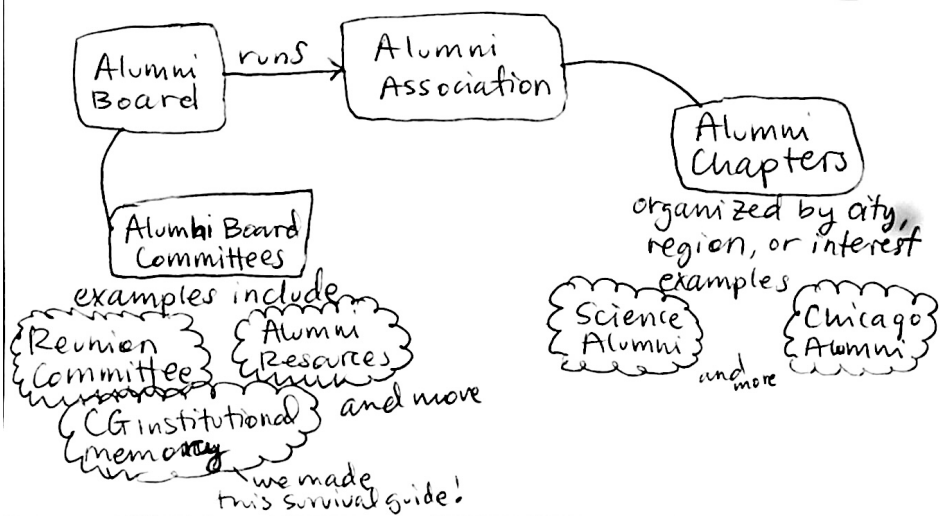
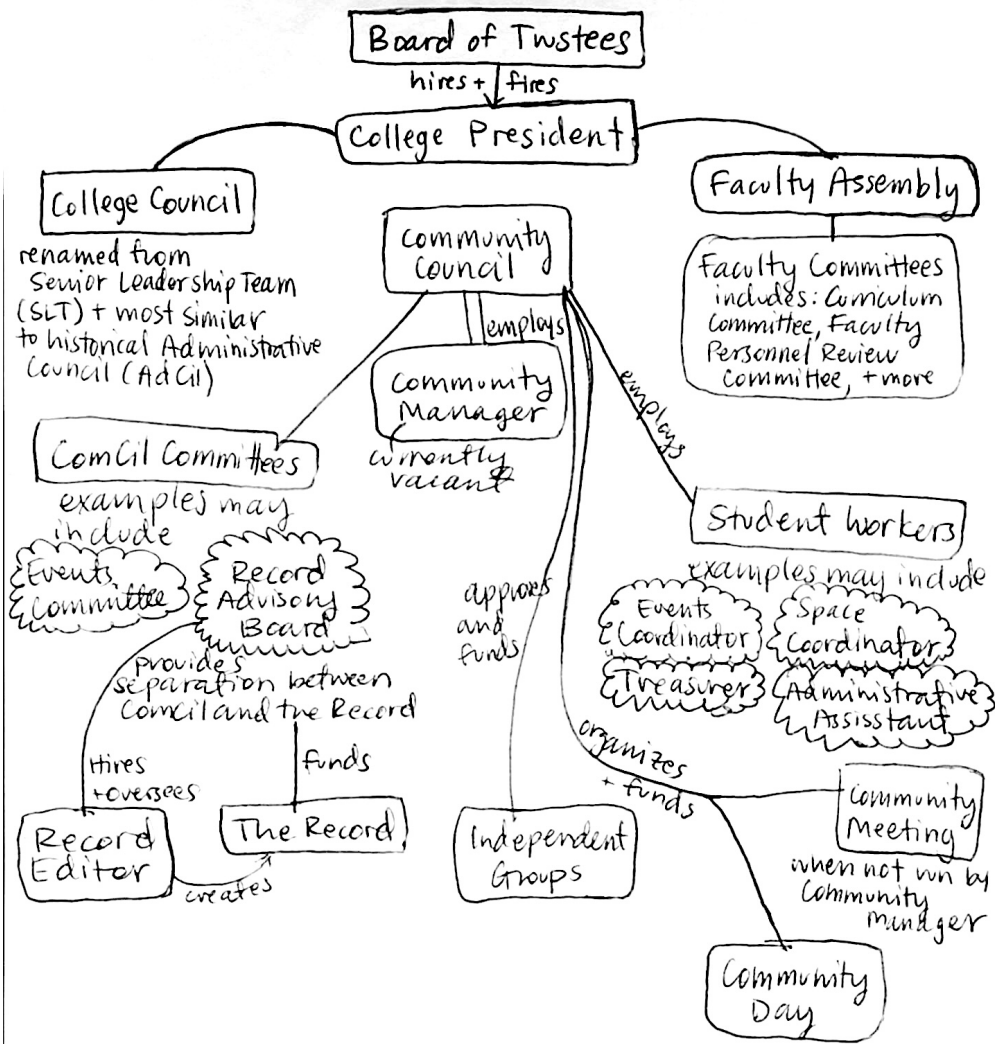


Left to right: Academic Affairs Administrative Assistant Cheryl Wood, Idalease Cummings '16, Ellie Burck '19, Jonina Kelley, assistant director of Alumni Relations, Louise Smith, associate professor of performance, Tyler Clapsaddle '19, and Sam Eagleburger '19 discuss the Academic Honesty Policy in McGregor during the sit-in on Nov. 17. Photo credit: Odette Chavez-Mayo '18

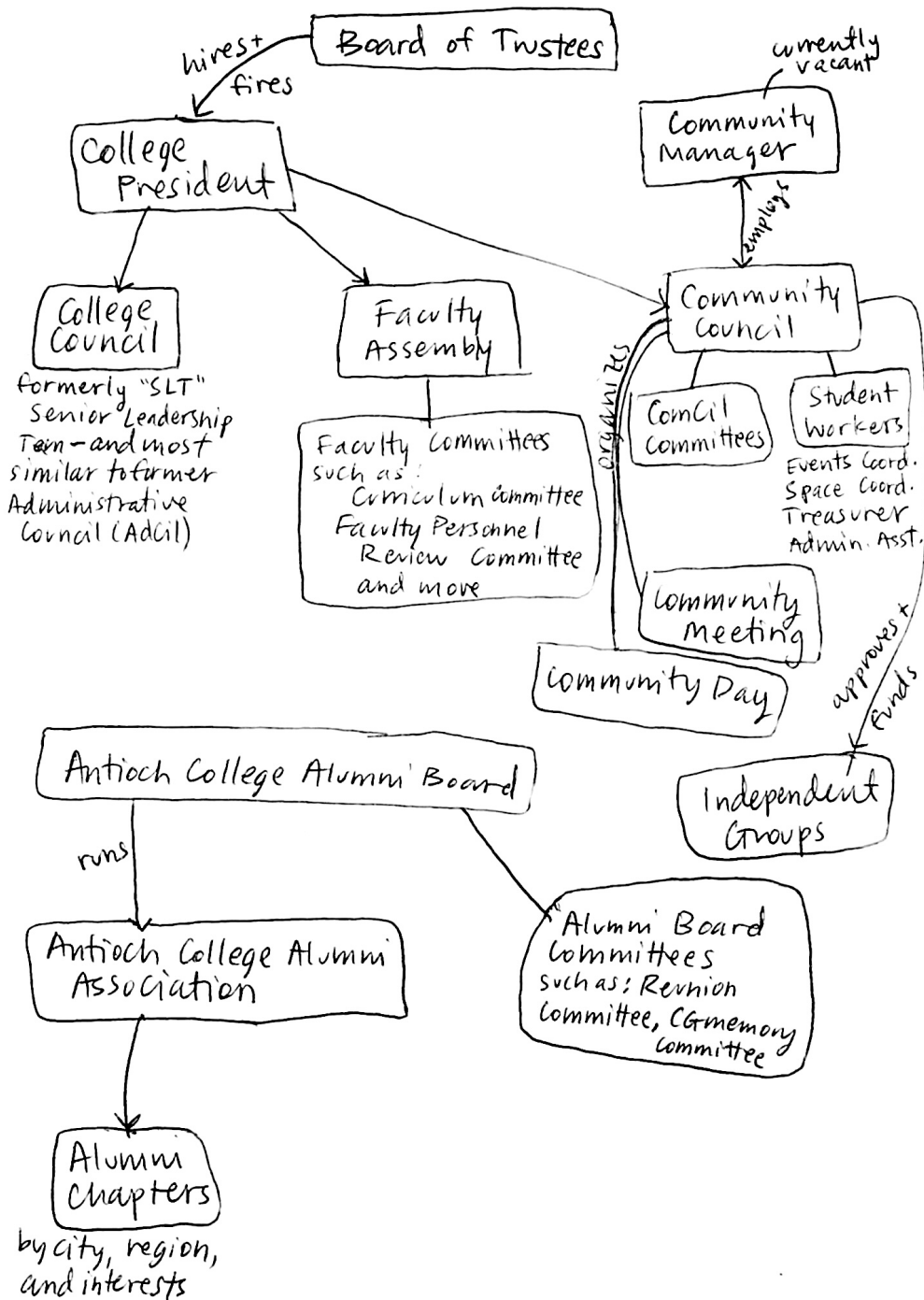


Left to right: Kevin Mulholl, reference and instruction librarian, Joshua Lucca '16, Hassan Rahmanian, dean of Global Education, Ruthie Lane '17, Cleo van der Veen '16, Malka Berra '18, Katie Sherman '19 discuss the APRC at the McGregor sit-in on Nov. 17. Photo credit: Odette Chavez-Mayo '18

Students occupy McGregor to protest a student suspension



# Antioch College Governance Structures



## **The Board of Trustees (BoT)**

The Board of Trustees (BoT) is the ultimate authority presiding over Antioch College. The Board is responsible for all legal and fiduciary decisions as the final authority for the College, although it may choose to delegate some authority. The duties of the Board of Trustees include the periodic consideration of the mission, purposes, and goals of the College. The Board is also responsible for hiring the college's president. The Board has shifting membership. However, one elected staff, one elected faculty, two elected students, one elected alumni representative, and the Community Manager sit on the BoT.

## **The President of Antioch College**

The president is the chief executive officer, chief administrative officer, and a member of the faculty of the College; is responsible for the general and active management, control, and direction of the educational activities, financial operations and other affairs of the College; and has the general powers and duties usually vested in the office of the president of a college. The president is hired by the

BoT and answers directly to the Board.

## **Faculty Assembly**

Faculty Assembly (commonly referred to as Faculty Meeting) is a meeting of all members of the Faculty and invited guests, where matters of curriculum, policy, and faculty life are discussed and approved. Faculty Assembly has several major subcommittees dedicated to selected aspects of its business, such as Curriculum Committee (CC), the Faculty Personnel Review Committee (FPRC), the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC), the Academic Policy and Review Committee (APRC), and the Executive Committee of the Faculty (ECF), to name a few.

Most colleges and universities have an equivalent structure where decisions are made by faculty.

## Antioch College Alumni Association (ACAA)

The Antioch College Alumni Association is an organization for anyone who attended Antioch for at least one year, regardless of graduation status.

There are no dues; you automatically become a member for life. The Association, guided by its Board of Directors (the Alumni Board, or ACAB) and various committees, develops projects and initiatives that allow alumni to contribute their skills and experiences to the College's needs. These efforts include admissions support, co-op job development, Reunion planning, and student-focused events.

The Association also facilitates communication among alumni

and between alumni and the College. With approximately 14,000 members worldwide, the Alumni Association aims to foster a lasting connection between alumni and the College.





## Antioch College Alumni Board (ACAB)

The Alumni Board, comprising up to 30 elected alumni volunteers serving staggered three-year terms, includes alumni from the 1950s through the 2010s across various regions, professions, and backgrounds. Alumni Board members are elected by members of the Alumni Association. All but the president, vice president, and secretary are limited to two consecutive terms. An Alumni Board member who has served for six years is eligible to run again after at least two years off the board.

The Alumni Board's primary role

is to guide and support alumni activities in collaboration with College leadership. This includes developing chapters, fostering communications, fundraising, recruiting class representatives for the annual Reunion, and helping to plan and conduct the event each summer, all aimed at encouraging alumni involvement and connection with the school. The Alumni Board always selects an Alumni Representative to serve on the College's Board of Trustees. This alumni trustee is chosen from the Alumni Board and is a voting member of the College's Board of Trustees. The Alumni Board's Community Government Institutional Mem-





ory committee, with current student and faculty members, created this survival guide!

## College Council

College Council serves as the primary on-campus body advising the College President on the review, revision, and approval of administrative policy. The College Council makes recommendations to the President on issues like personnel policies, the campus judicial process, and even meal plan offerings. Membership consists of: the President, the Chief Academic Officer, one appointed administrator, two faculty, two staff, two students, and three at-large representatives. College Council requires participation of the faculty, but there are currently no available faculty representatives on College Council. From the college website: "Voting members of College Council are three administrators (including

the President), two elected representatives from each constituency group (students, faculty, staff), and three elected at-large representatives (students, faculty, staff). Non voting members include the Community Manager and others appointed by the President.

Meetings are open to the campus community, and are announced in the weekly One Morgan Place e-newsletter.

## Community Council (ComCil)

ComCil is the body of the Antioch College Community Government responsible for the social, cultural, political and community life on campus. ComCil is composed of 10 elected members, five students, two staff members, and two faculty members; one Community Manager as an ex-officio voting member, and the Dean of Students as an ex-officio non-voting member. Additionally, Community Council employs students. Jobs include: the Events Coordinator, Space Coordinator, Treasurer, and an Administrative Assistant.



Khara Scott-Bey, Monika Perry '17, Jessica Steinrueck '17, Amelia La Plante Horne '18, and Lillian Burke '16 beginning work around 2016 on the Antioch Apothecary Garden in between Weston Hall and Pennell House.



### Community Manager (CM)

“The Manager is the government’s chief executive...”

A-Book, 1929-30

While the nascent beginnings of Community Government at Antioch were introduced in the early 1920s, the Community Manager (CM) role was introduced in The A-Book of 1929-30 (which was the student handbook or Survival Guide of the time). That document declares: “The Community Manager’s task is that of organizing an effective government.”

The CM role was initially conceived as being similar to city

or town manager — someone who would carry out day to day functions of the community, implement some of the decisions of a legislative body (in Antioch’s case ComCil), and coordinate community activities.

At Antioch, the CM’s role historically encompassed a wide variety of responsibilities, some of which were practical and some of which were more symbolic. Some duties of the CM (or CM collective) included: administering CG fees, creating a budget in collaboration with ComCil, and using those funds to put on parties, events, and shows, and distributing them to Independent Groups (IGs); plan-

ning and implementing activities for new student orientation, Community Day, and campus wide events like Div Dances; facilitating Community Meeting; presiding over or sitting in on other Community Government meetings such as ComCil, and the former Administrative Council (AdCil); helping to guide the campus through the inevitable intermittent crises (internal and external); and generally being a person community members could come to with concerns or questions about CG or life at Antioch more generally.

The Community Manager candidate (or candidates) would be nominated (or self-nominate) from the student body. Sometimes the CM would be a recently graduated student, other times they would be finishing up their studies. The entire campus community — which was originally conceived of as encompassing students, faculty, and staff — would vote on the Community Manager candidates in an election administered by the Elections Committee.

The CM or CMs would usually hold their full-time role for an entire year. Before Antioch's closure in 2007 the CM was a paid position funded by the CG

fees collected from all community members, and they would be "supervised" by ComCil. Very rarely, a CM would be removed from their elected position by a vote of ComCil.

After Antioch reopened in 2011 (following its 2007 closure and subsequent split from the University) students attempted to revive Community Government, alongside staff and faculty who had institutional memory of the previous CG structure and understood how crucially important Community Government is to the Antioch ethos. ComCil was revived in 2012, but the CM position remained unfilled until 2020 when Coco Gagnet was elected via a vote during Community Meeting. She was the first CM in more than a decade.

The Community Manager does not substitute for the work of the Community Council or any other elected body. The Community Manager works to build strong relationships with every campus constituency, supports the efforts of, and ensures the critical functioning of the CG's elected bodies and their symbiotic ecology.

## Decision Making Processes and Procedures



Above, Sean Allen '17 performing in the basement of the Sontag-Fels Building, which served as student space from 2012 to 2018.

If you have a proposal, contact the responsible governing body in advance of their meeting to reserve time on the agenda. You can also speak to any of your elected representatives about your idea. The precise process will depend on the governing body.

Historically, CG fees were paid by all community members (students, faculty, and staff) and went into a separate budget which was administrated by the Community Manager and ComCil. These funds would then

be used for Community Government activities such as Community Day, Independent Groups, events on campus, speaker honorariums, workshops, and community meeting snacks.

Today, ComCil has a small budget for Community Day and for discretionary funds that can be requested by registered Independent Groups. These funds are now allocated in the main budget by the Board of Trustees and distributed to ComCil by the Office of Student Affairs.

Right, student prepares to cook quails over open fire for a community salon

## IV. GETTING INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

### Independent Groups

Independent groups, or IGs, are just that – they are groups that cater to special interests, activities, or projects that are outside of the scope of academic study or other parts of College governance. Typically IGs are student-initiated special interest groups, but they can involve faculty, staff, and other community members at times and at the IG's own discretion. IGs use college resources like screening spaces and campus land, and

limited funding for IG activities is available through ComCil.

Examples of IGs in the past have included a Queer Center, an Alternative Library, an Anarchist Reading Group, Skate Club, Ultimate Frisbee teams, pick-up soccer teams, graffiti collectives, baking clubs, video artists, various bands and performance art groups, and many many more. Some IGs last for just a term, some last for decades!



Here is a list of the currently existing (as of Fall 2024) IGs:



- Anime Club, run by Cody Arreola (carreola@antioch-college.edu).
- Antioch Coven, run by Juniper Glazier (oglazier@antiochcollege.edu).
- Cinema Club, run by River Esquivel (resquivel@antioch-college.edu).
- Gaming Club, run by Anthony Maldonado (amaldonado@antiochcollege.edu) and Daris "DJ" Riley (driley@antiochcollege.edu)
- Ping Pong Club, run by Heather Cain (hcain@antiochcollege.edu) and Liv Johnson (ojohnson@antiochcollege.edu)
- Task Force, run by Katie Hayes (khayes@antiochcollege.edu)
- The Apothecary Collective, run by Gogisgksoquili Isadora Dimalanta (ndimalanta@antiochcollege.edu) and Heron Schleeter (mschleeter@antiochcollege.edu)
- TTRPG Club, run by Brennan Mumper (bmumper@antiochcollege.edu) and Izzi Lyons (slyons@antiochcollege.edu).

## How to form an Independent Group

Email Community Council ([com-cil@antiochcollege.edu](mailto:com-cil@antiochcollege.edu)) with a filled out IG registration form that includes a mission statement, contact information for coordinators, meeting information, and at least 5 signatures.



## Committees

Committees are an integral part of Antioch's governance process. ComCil and College Council recognize that they cannot be intimately aware of every aspect of Antioch life, and so they invest some of their authority into committees.

Participating in the committee process is one avenue to empower yourself and gain a voice. Committees may be established by formal decision-making procedures, or set up on an ad-hoc basis to accomplish a particular task.

In the past, committees have included the Record Advisory Board (RAB), which hired The Record's editor, the Yearbook Advisory Board (YAB), which hired a yearbook editor, Diversity Committee, and the Antioch College Food Committee, which brought together student farm and kitchen workers with staff farm and kitchen workers to consider issues like ethical food procurement and harmonious kitchen-farm harvest planning. One currently active committee is the Teaching, Learning and Advising Committee.

If you think you might want to



be on a committee, listen for opportunities at Community Meeting or ask someone on ComCil what committees could use some more people power.

## Community Meeting

Community Meeting serves as an open forum for sharing information, holding dialogue, and addressing issues as they relate to the Antioch community. While Community Meeting is planned and facilitated by the Community Manager or members of ComCil, anyone can present an agenda item or request space to present. Community Meeting has been a site of historic changes in the Antioch community, notably when Antioch community members disrupted Community Meeting in the initiation of Antioch's pioneering Sexual Offense Prevention Policy. The pulse of the Antioch community is felt in Community Meeting.

Community Meeting occurs every Tuesday from 2:30-3:20 in McGregor 113, and always begins with announcements and appreciations. Community Meeting is important because it creates a ritual and routine space for the Antiochians to gather and exercise mutual investment in community wellbeing.

## Community Day



Community Day occurs on the Tuesday of week 6 in each quarter. Every Community Day is different, but there are generally service projects such as the cleanup of the greenhouse or planting on the farm, fun activities such as knitting, cider-pressing, jewelry-making, or sustainable crafting, and social justice work incorporating campus activism.

Community Day is currently put on by ComCil members in coordination with the rest of the community, which makes it different each term, but generally: there are various outdoor/

indoor activities incorporating service and community care or outreach. Community Day can always use more helpers, so read on for ways you can help in the next section.



"Antioch's favorite phrase about Community Government is that it is a "laboratory in democracy." This laboratory makes use of the community group as a place to work out and practice democratic methods."

- Algo Henderson & Dorothy Hall, Antioch College: Its Design for Liberal Education (1946), Ch. IX: Students as Citizens

## **Community service and volunteer opportunities**

There are several opportunities to get involved around campus without a position on a body or a committee!

### **Antioch Farm**

Our Farm Manager, Bruce Linebaugh, and our Assistant Farm Manager, Jessica Licis, are always taking student and Community volunteers on our 2 acre farm, including cropland, pasture, and greenhouse. There are plenty of opportunities to get experience cultivating different types of produce in different environments. Bonus - you may get to ride in or even drive the golf cart! If you're interested, contact Bruce at [blinebaugh@antiochcollege.edu](mailto:blinebaugh@antiochcollege.edu).

### **Weston Hall Student Union**

Do you like organizing and cleaning? Volunteering in Weston is right up your alley, then! Help arrange the free store after an influx of donations, making it shopper friendly. You get the first pick of the new items! Or help deep clean after a campus party. Party animal or not, we are always in

need of cleaning animals! For more information, contact the Space Coordinator of Comcil at [studentspace@antiochcollege.edu](mailto:studentspace@antiochcollege.edu) or Comcil at [ComCil@antiochcollege.edu](mailto:ComCil@antiochcollege.edu). Or, participate in maintaining community trust every day by taking it upon yourself to leave the place a little tidier than you found it.

### **Community Day**

Community Day presents a variety of opportunities to serve campus alongside fellow community members. Help with meal prep for community meals in the Antioch Kitchens. Participate in various service projects across campus. Sign-ups for volunteer slots are sent out in the weeks before Community Day. Or, you can volunteer to help plan it! If you're interested, contact ComCil at [ComCil@antiochcollege.edu](mailto:ComCil@antiochcollege.edu).

## Volunteer Work Project

After the University closed the College in 2007 alumni stepped in to save the historic Antioch College in Yellow Springs. In 2010, Volunteer Work Project was launched to sustain the work of stewarding the campus. Four times a year a dedicated group of alumni volunteers offer their labor, expertise, and time to lead in campus clean up projects. Their skills run the gamut from painting, and carpentry to electrical and automotive maintenance and beyond. The Volunteer Work Project cooks meals for one another and hosts students, staff, and faculty at their famed lunches. Volunteer Work Project embodies the participatory spirit and sense of initiative that animates CG. If you don't know how to fix something—you can learn.





## To Sum Up

Much of participating in Community Government is a mix of formal process, organic emergence, and all the ambiguity in between. It's important to show up to meetings and exercise your voice. It is also important to remember that a proposal is different from a complaint. Both are important. If you want to challenge a community practice or its absence, can you imagine how it could be otherwise?

Ruthie and Seth claim Camelot victory



Steffi Hoffman, Idella Burmiester, Drea Brown, Bethany Saltman, Juliet Brown, and Chrystelle Evans

## V. CORNERSTONE POLICIES

The QR code below links to a google site that hosts all of the most up-to-date versions of college policies. Older versions of policies and obsolete documents can often be found at Antiochiana, and Scott Sanders can help identify when things were changed (and he can sometimes even speak to why they were changed).

A list of the most important documents (according to us) is also below. While some of this material can be dry reading, it is the scaffolding upon which daily life at the College is built. If you are wondering why things are and how they got that way, it often helps to look at the foundational documents. Keep in mind however, the way things

are written down is not always the way they actually function. But having the agreed upon policy in hand can often help move governance away from autocratic and opaque decision making and toward transparency and collaboration.

Importantly, Antioch had a Community Government Constitution before closure that summed up the functioning of CG. That Constitution was dissolved in 2006 and not yet recreated.

Some key CG-related policies include:

- SOPP
- RDPP
- ComCil Bylaws
- Honor Code
- Community Day Policy
- Elections Committee Bylaws
- Student Conduct Policy



## VI. IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY

It's not given that student autonomy and community decision making will be honored. Instead it must be stepped into or owned directly, and with responsibility. The structures and historical formulations of CG are tools that can help achieve the aim of community self governance, but like any tools they must be used to be useful. They can also be altered or improved upon over time. The focus isn't and shouldn't be on maintaining CG as a tradition. Instead it's important that CG be seen as an ongoing means to practice radical egalitarian self governance at Antioch. It is not a perfect or linear process, but there's richness in the struggle.

Despite or perhaps because of the unique size and scope of Antioch, CG is capable of holding and wielding power in parallel to faculty and administration. Holding real administrative power and responsibility as a student is a transformative experience, and it is one of the things Antioch offers that cannot really be found in other institutions of higher ed.

Learning to participate in com-

munity intertwines with learning to participate in your life.

### Contact info for further information:

For more information about getting involved in Community Government, contact Community Council at [comcil@antioch-college.edu](mailto:comcil@antioch-college.edu) and attend Community Meeting.

You can also find CG related documents, ways to contact us, and materials on the Linktree here: <https://linktr.ee/AntiochCommunityGovernment>

Aubrey Hodapp '17 and Lauren Gjessing '17







***“Student power may be looked at from several points of view: the right of students to be informed about the affairs of the College and to discuss them with the appropriate officers; the ability of students to have their views taken into account, and the extent to which students may initiate and implement decisions.***

***Beyond this, one may pose what are perhaps classic questions about power: do students have the power to force the removal of officers of the College who carry out policies which the students view as unfriendly or unwise? Second, are the rights of students to participate in the governance of the College guaranteed in some fashion or can they be taken away?”***

Governance, Behind the ‘Laboratory in Democracy’, from the 1989  
Survival Guide



I am so glad I had the opportunity to be a part of Antioch's Community Government. It's one of the unique things about Antioch that sets us apart from other schools.

- Shannon McCarville '02

Serving as a Co-Community Manager with David Benson in 1990-91 was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life to date. We considered it an opportunity to put our community organizing skills and democratic principles to the test and they were truly tested. That was the year the Sexual Offense Policy — as it was originally called — was born. CG was an experiment in democracy that empowered students, staff, faculty and administrators to work together to make a more equitable, and fun, community.

- April Wolford '92







