

Key Discussion Points

1. RSO Recognition & Student Org Structure

Concerns raised regarding RSO application restrictions, particularly limitations on forming or operating before the application process officially opens.

A club already receiving \$7,500 from a department expressed interest in RSO status for long-term sustainability.

Departmental support exists, but becoming an RSO would offer institutional legitimacy and continuity.

2. Student Club Funding & Budget Allocation

Funding requests from student orgs range from \$400 to \$17,000, with dance teams and debate clubs among the highest.

Discrepancy noted between student need and funding eligibility. Some students cannot afford expenses but do not qualify for financial aid.

Proposal made to restructure event funding based on financial need, potentially by combining event and aid budgets.

3. Student Travel & Competitions

Students representing Johns Hopkins at national competitions (e.g., iGEM, MUN, dance teams) often pay out-of-pocket for travel and registration.

Concern voiced that other universities fully fund such travel while JHU does not.

Proposal: Establish a Competitive Student Team Travel Grant to cover major upfront costs (e.g., iGEM's \$6,000 registration due in October).

Brown, Harvard, and Cornell were cited as examples of universities with larger per-student funding models.

4. Dining Hall Feedback

General dissatisfaction with:

Early closing times (no more late-night hours, now closes at 9 PM)

Unseasoned and inconsistent food quality, particularly chicken

Lack of clear communication about changes to food (e.g., switch to halal beef pepperoni without notice)

Suggestions included creating a Dining Panel, raising concerns with Student Life, and pursuing better staff communication and accountability.

5. Structural and Administrative Barriers

Previous attempts to increase the student activities budget were rejected by the Board of Trustees.

Trustees argue that not all funds are used each year — though students point out funds are often held in reserve for mid-year events.

Suggestions to spend leftover funds strategically (e.g., “end-of-year bash”) were discussed half-seriously.