

Proposal for Establishing the Happy Medium Center for Political Activity



Senior Administrators
2023-24

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Respectful. Productive. Political.

Happy Medium's mission is to create a space for Binghamton students to respectfully and productively discuss the politics of our nation and world.



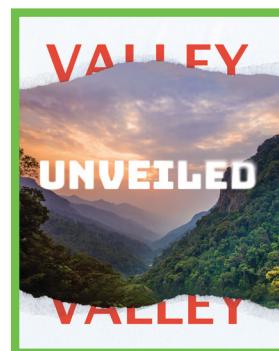


What we do

Happy Medium is a student-run, nonpartisan, political publishing group at Binghamton University created by students in December 2021. The group's flagship publication, *Happy Medium Magazine*, started as a website and successfully expanded into a quarterly print magazine that is free to all members of the Binghamton University community.

In 2023, Happy Medium built a bipartisan coalition of student organizations to promote collaborative programming and establish cross-aisle relationships between student leaders on campus. Member organizations including Happy Medium, College Democrats, College Republicans, College Libertarians, and the Center for Civic Engagement's student organization BingVotes.

Happy Medium's High School Magazine Development Program concluded its pilot at Chenango Valley High School in April 2023. HM members worked with high school students to start a political magazine at their school. The first print edition of *Valley Unveiled* was released in May 2023, and the magazine will continue to publish semesterly print and web editions as an extracurricular club at the high school, creating opportunities for BU undergraduates to mentor students in political journalism.



OUR GOAL:

Foster collaboration between student organizations and promote constructive dialogue as a solution to campus polarization by creating a physical space for political organizations to use for programming and access communal resources.

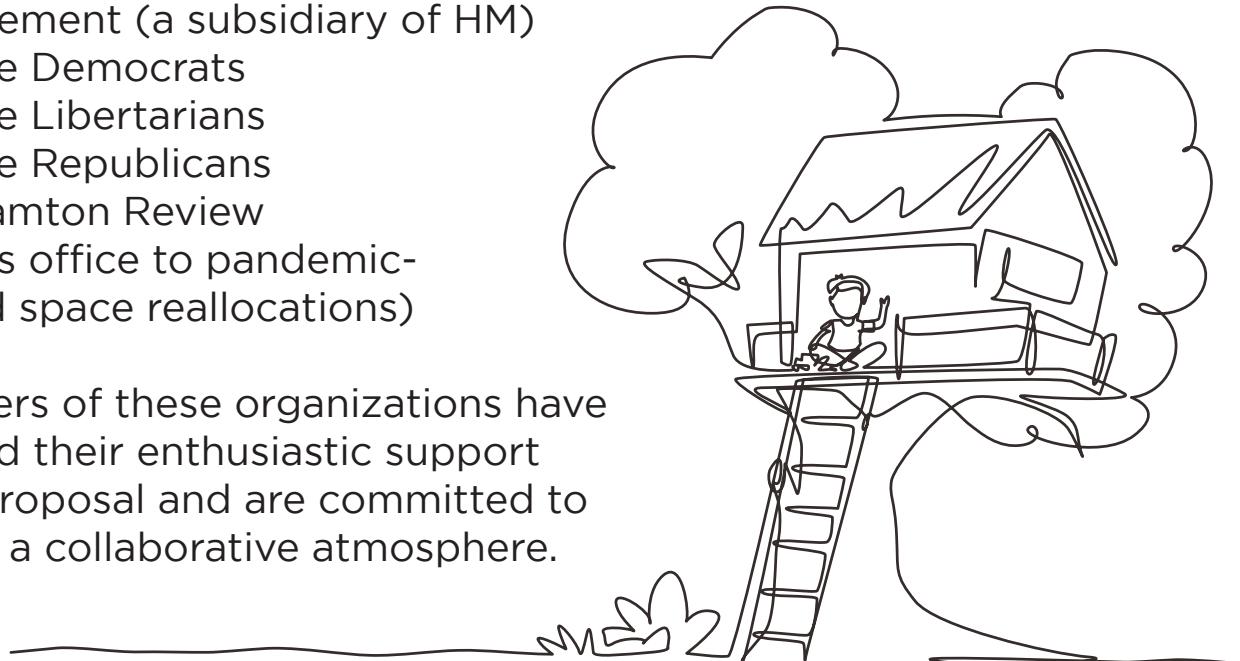
OUR VISION:

The Happy Medium Center for Political Activity, nicknamed “The Treehouse” is a conceptual proposal for a collaborative office space for the member organizations of the Summit on Student Political Engagement and other organizations that share similar missions. The space would be managed and funded in full by Happy Medium.

The following organizations will be able to book the space for meetings and access communal resources:

- Happy Medium
- Summit on Student Political Engagement (a subsidiary of HM)
- College Democrats
- College Libertarians
- College Republicans
- Binghamton Review (lost its office to pandemic-related space reallocations)

The leaders of these organizations have expressed their enthusiastic support for this proposal and are committed to fostering a collaborative atmosphere.



HAPPY MEDIUM CAN PROVIDE...



A new senior administrative position at Happy Medium responsible for managing a system for our partner organizations to book the space for meetings and ensuring the space is treated with respect and kept clean



Office hours for Happy Medium members 5 days a week



A color printer, kept stocked with paper and ink



A computer, television, and all necessary cords and adapters

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Access to Happy Medium's software subscriptions, including Adobe Creative Cloud and Grammarly Premium



Access to the Happy Medium Library, which contains over 100 donated books about political science, philosophy, history, law, and journalism



Access to a collection of all print editions of all publications on campus since December 2021



Snacks and beverages, including a Keurig and minifridge, kept stocked



Safety and emergency equipment

OUR PREVIOUS SPACE SOLUTIONS

SPRING 2022

Happy Medium's first office space was the political science department's conference room in the basement of Bartle Library. The department lent us space twice weekly to host office hours for our writers. However, departmental scheduling conflicts did not allow Happy Medium to continue using the room. An attempt to acquire permanent space in the political science department was unsuccessful.

2022-23

Reservable conference rooms in the University Union provided a lifeline to Happy Medium while we struggled to meet the space needs of our operational practices. By holding our board meetings, HSMDP planning meetings, and office hours back-to-back, we were able to get by with one weekly room reservation. However, this will not be possible going forward, as new programs like the Summit on Student Political Engagement and our plan to create content for social media will require additional recurring meetings.

Happy Medium aims to increase community within our organization as well as fostering connections with other political organizations on campus.

Our organization has experienced significant growth in terms of membership and the impact we have made within the campus community. As a result, we find ourselves in need of a dedicated space where our members can come together to collaborate, exchange ideas, and work on various projects. Having a designated office space will greatly enhance our ability to achieve our goals and provide our members with a supportive environment for intellectual engagement and creative expression.

We feel that having a permanent office space will allow us to establish a central hub for our activities, facilitating regular meetings, discussions, and brainstorming sessions. It will provide our members with a sense of community, fostering a stronger bond within our organization. Additionally, a dedicated office will enable us to showcase our past publications, research, and initiatives, thus raising our visibility and attracting more students who are passionate about political science and journalism.

Having a permanent office will also create opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with other political organizations on campus. We strongly believe in the power of interdisciplinary, constructive dialogue and building bridges between various groups. With a designated space, we will be able to organize joint events, panel discussions, and workshops with other organizations, fostering a vibrant political community on campus. This collaboration will not only benefit our members but also contribute to a more inclusive and diverse campus environment.

Our club members are passionate about our mission, and we are committed to making a meaningful contribution to the intellectual and social atmosphere of our university.

Thank you for considering our request,



arwen

Arwen O'Brien
Editor in Chief and President, 2023-24



THE TREEHOUSE NEEDS A STRONG FOUNDATION

Our plan to fund a one-of-a-kind non-partisan, student-run, donor-funded center on campus to support political activity:

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

HM Publishing, a subsidiary of Happy Medium, operates a subscription service through the mail for all Happy Medium publications. Revenue generated through these subscription services will partially support programming at the Treehouse.

DONOR SUPPORT

Gifts from alumni, parents, and community members who support our work will be used to grow existing programs and invest in student initiatives that align with our mission statement.

PARTNERSHIPS

When possible, Happy Medium will seek to partner with University offices, academic departments, and other student organizations on programming to cultivate buy-in and share expenses.



A special thanks to
the members of BU
faculty and staff
who have helped us
along the way.