

2023

Annual Report

Student Council | Salisbury Academy

2024

Annual Report

1st Student Council

Prepared By

Baxter Heilig and Noah Bardinas

Summary of Student Council Activities Between

October 5, 2023 - May 16, 2024

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
MISSION STATEMENT.....	3
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.....	4
MEMBERSHIP.....	5
LEADERSHIP PROFILES.....	6
COMMITTEE REPORTS.....	8
STATISTICS.....	9
ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	10
ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW.....	11
GOALS.....	15
HISTORY.....	16
PAST OFFICERS.....	17
DIRECTORY.....	18



MISSION STATEMENT

“Empowering academic excellence, fostering unity, and promoting student representation, the Salisbury Academy Student Council is dedicated to cultivating a collaborative and inclusive environment. We strive to uphold the values of leadership, unity, and service, bridging the gap between students and faculty for an enhanced educational experience.”



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Reader,

Being a founding student of a new school is both an exhilarating and daunting experience. The chance to shape an institution from its beginnings is a unique privilege, but it also comes with a fair share of challenges. One such endeavor was starting a brand new club at Salisbury Academy. Establishing a club from scratch required a great deal of dedication and effort, as we faced numerous obstacles such as gaining initial support, defining our club's purpose, and navigating logistical hurdles. One of the first major tasks was drafting a constitution to provide a solid foundation and clear guidelines for the club's operation. This document was crucial in outlining our mission, goals, and the structure needed to ensure smooth functioning. These challenges forced us to be resourceful and persistent. The process of establishing the constitution, for instance, encouraged collaboration and critical thinking among our members and instilled a sense of ownership and responsibility as each member contributed to shaping the club's future. Our collective efforts in overcoming these initial hurdles strengthened our resolve, setting a positive tone for our activities and projects. Despite the difficulties, these challenges eventually paved the way for remarkable achievements and growth, both for the club and its members.

Since its creation, our club has accomplished several significant milestones. One of our proudest achievements was organizing the school's first prom. This event required meticulous planning and coordination, from selecting a theme and venue to managing finances and ensuring all attendees had a memorable experience. Additionally, we undertook the project of restructuring the social contract at Salisbury Academy. This initiative aimed to foster a more inclusive and cultural school environment, reflecting the values we uphold as a club and a school. Looking ahead, we have set goals for the coming year. We plan to expand our membership base, increase our community outreach, and host more events that engage and benefit the student body. We also aim to refine our constitution to adapt to the evolving needs of our club and its members.

Our vision for the club extends beyond immediate goals. We aspire to create a lasting legacy at Salisbury Academy by establishing a dynamic club structure. This includes developing leadership pipelines to ensure continuity and sustained impact. We also seek to deepen our involvement in school governance and community service, making meaningful contributions that align with our values and mission.

None of our successes would have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of several key individuals. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all club members for their enthusiasm and hard work. A special thanks to our officers, whose commitment has been instrumental in shaping the club's path. Lastly, we are deeply appreciative of the Upper School Head and our Club's Advisor, Mrs. Williams, for her guidance and support in helping us realize our vision.

Sincerely,



Noah Bardinas

President

Salisbury Academy Student Council

MEMBERSHIP

Officers

President	Noah Bardinas
Vice President	Sara “Ebbie” Lescoe
Secretary	Baxter Heilig
Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>
Advisor	Mrs. Meredith Williams

Class Representatives

Junior Class Representative	August Hoffman
Sophomore Class Representative	Luke Bardinas
Freshman Class Representative	Addison Beckham

Committee Chairpersons

Social Committee Chair	August Hoffman
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Members

Addison Beckham	<i>Freshman Class Rep</i>
Ariel Mineran	<i>Member</i>
August Hoffman	<i>Junior Class Rep., Social Committee Chair</i>
Baxter Heilig	<i>Secretary, Sophomore Class Rep</i>
Eve Rich*	<i>Member</i>
Kylie Bailey	<i>Member</i>
Levi Holman	<i>Member</i>
Luke Bardinas	<i>Sophomore Class Rep.</i>
Noah Bardinas	<i>President</i>
Sara “Ebbie” Lescoe	<i>Vice President</i>

* Denotes a new member. A new member is defined as someone who joins the Student Council during the current school year.

LEADERSHIP PROFILES

Noah Baridinas

President



Noah Bardinas was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. He attended Salisbury Academy for eleven years for his elementary and middle school education. He then went on to attend Jesse Carson High School for his freshman and sophomore years of high school. Noah returned to Salisbury Academy at the start of his junior year becoming one of the founding students of Salisbury Academy Upper School. He was elected to serve as the first President of the Student Council. Noah also serves as Vice President of the Junior Civitan Club, is an active member of the Engineering Club, and works as a Legal

Intern for the law firm Wallace and Graham.

Sara “Ebbie” Lescoe

Vice President



Sara Lescoe was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. She spent her eighth-grade year attending Salisbury Academy middle school. During her freshman and sophomore years of high school, she attended Salisbury High School. There she was a member of the Junior Civitan club. Sara Lescoe returned to Salisbury Academy and became one of the inaugural students of the Salisbury Academy Upper School. She was elected to serve as Vice President of the Student Council after dropping out of the election for President. Sara also serves as President of the Junior Civitan Club.

Baxter Heilig

Secretary



Baxter Heilig was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. He attended elementary and middle school at Salisbury Academy and, after attending East Rowan for freshman year, returned to Salisbury Academy in his sophomore year of high school becoming one of the inaugural students at the Salisbury Academy Upper School. Baxter was originally elected to be Sophomore Class Representative jointly with Luke Bardinas, however, upon the establishment of a Secretary position, he resigned as a representative and assumed the role of Secretary. Baxter also co-founded the Chess Club, serves as

Sergeant-At-Arms for the Junior Civitans Club, and works for Downtown Salisbury, Inc. as a Property Inventory Contractor.

August Hoffman

Junior Class Representative, Social Committee Chair



August Hoffman was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. At the start of her Junior year of high school, August began attending Salisbury Academy Upper School, becoming one of the founding students of the new school. She was elected to represent her class as the Junior Class Representative for the Student Council and also was appointed by Noah Bardinas to chair the Student Council Social Committee. August serves as Secretary of the Junior Civitan Club, is Captain of the Girl's Tennis Team, and is an active member of the Social Media Club.

Luke Bardinas

Sophomore Class Representative



Luke Bardinas was born and raised in Salisbury, North Carolina. He attended Salisbury Academy for ten years from Junior Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. He then completed his freshman year of high school at Jesse Carson High School. Luke returned to Salisbury Academy, becoming one of the inaugural students of the new Salisbury Academy Upper School, at the start of sophomore year. He was elected to represent his class, becoming the Sophomore Class Representative for the Student Council. Luke also co-founded the Chess Club, is an active member of both the Junior Civitan

Club and Engineering Club, and is a highly regarded entertainer in local theater.

Addison Beckham

Freshman Class Representative



Addison Beckham was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. She attended Salisbury Academy for six years through fifth grade. For her middle school education, she went to Graystone Day for sixth through eighth grade. At the start of her high school career, Addison became a founding student of Salisbury Academy Upper School. She was elected to represent her class as the Freshman Class Representative for the Student Council. Addison also serves as the Captain of the Envirothon team and is an active member of the Junior Civitan Club.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Committee

Purpose

Plan, organize, implement, and execute various school social functions and events

Established

September 12, 2023

Incorporated Into Student Council

November 16, 2023

Status

Active

Current Chairperson

August Hoffman - 25august@sajags.org

2023-2024 Accomplishments

- ❖ Organized two spirit weeks
- ❖ Planned three socials including Prom
- ❖ Organized a pancake breakfast and movie event
- ❖ Arranged for students to attend "See You At The Pole" at the main campus
- ❖ Organized an end-of-year field trip to Carowinds

History of Social Committee Chairpersons

No.	Name	Appointed By	Term	Student Council
1	August Hoffman	Noah Bardinas	November 28, 2023 - Present	1 st

STATISTICS

Below is a list of all notable statistics relating to the Student Council for the 2023-2024 school year.



Total Meetings

12



Total Meeting Hours

4.75



Members

10



Change in Membership

+ 1



Change in Membership (Percent)

+ 11.1%



Attendance (Percent)

85.8%



Total Revenues

\$ 2,795.00



Total Expenditures

\$ 2,729.06



Socials Planned

3



Spirit Weeks Planned

2



Standing Committees

1



New Committees Established

2

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below is a list of all notable Student Council accomplishments from the 2023-2024 school year.

- ❖ Unanimously approved the Constitution governing the Student Council.
- ❖ Established the Social Committee which is responsible for organizing school events such as socials and spirit weeks. This was the first committee ever established under the Student Council.
- ❖ Campaigned to implement a source of clean filtered water for students.
- ❖ Organized three student socials including the Upper School's first-ever Prom held at Fahrenheit Restaurant in Charlotte.
- ❖ Decorated the school's windows as part of a city-wide window decorating event.
- ❖ Planned two spirit weeks, one of which centered around clubs to promote to student clubs they may not be a part of.
- ❖ Implemented a campaign to seek discounts from local businesses for students at Salisbury Academy
- ❖ Collaborated with Upper School Administration to rename the Social Contract.
- ❖ Planned the Upper School's first-ever overnight field trip.
- ❖ Explored the possibility of implementing a school-wide smart speaker network.

ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

The following is a comprehensive list of all agenda topics from the past school year.

Filtered Water Initiative

This item was proposed because at the time there existed no source of filtered drinking water. Several ideas were proposed including installing a water fountain, purchasing a water cooler, and simply building a water filter directly into the water lines. Ultimately, after communicating with school administrators, a standing water cooler was purchased and placed in the kitchen area. There is a planned installation of a water fountain scheduled to occur over the summer between school years.

Fundraising

Early on in the school year the Student Council had no money to speak of due to just being established. The Community Class was also working on projects which required funding so this item was proposed in the idea that the Student Council could collaborate with the Community Class to raise funds that could be distributed between the two groups. Several ideas were proposed including doing a raffle and designing upper school apparel that could then be sold. The latter inspired the item: "Upper School T-Shirt Design". Neither proposed fundraiser was ever implemented, however, the Upper School T-Shirt Design project is still ongoing.

The Constitution

With the Student Council being a completely new organization, a governing document was created—the Constitution. This document was initially approved and signed by all student members of the Student Council, however, the Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Williams, requested to read over the Constitution thoroughly before signing. At her recommendation, Article II §3 and Article V §4 were removed.

Establishing the Social Committee

The Constitution taking effect gave the Student Council the ability to create committees. The Social Committee had already been established as a separate entity but was absorbed by the Student Council. August Hoffman was appointed to chair the committee upon the recommendation of the members of the Social Committee.

Discounts from Businesses

One of the Student Council's first projects (and longest-running project) is securing discounts from local businesses for students and staff of Salisbury Academy. This project was partially inspired by the discount Koco Java offered, however, Koco Java later retracted its discount. The pamphlets that were originally designed to be given to businesses were deemed too wordy and needed to be reworked. Ultimately a simple succinct 4"x6" card design was chosen. This project is still ongoing with discounts being actively sought from businesses with a deadline at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

Thank You Gifts for Businesses

This was one of the first service-based projects that the Student Council completed. It involved stuffing thank-you bags for local businesses. The bags included Salisbury Academy branded items including a mug, pens, and notepad.

Espresso Machine

At the request of a majority of the Student Council, Noah Bardinas was able to acquire an espresso machine. Noah taught a brief instructional lesson on how to use the machine. The espresso machine currently resides in the entrance area of Salisbury Academy Upper School. It is open to all students to use.

Upper School T-Shirt Design

This item was proposed as a way to raise funds for the Student Council. This project however has been advancing at an imperceptible rate. Currently, the deadline to have a design created is early in the 2024-2025 school year.

Spring Spirit Week

This spirit week was the second organized at the Salisbury Academy Upper School but the first in which the Student Council had direct oversight of it. The idea for this spirit week was to have each club have a day on which the whole school would participate in an activity relating to that club. There was a day for the Junior Civitan Club, the Chess Club, the Engineering Club, and the Creative Writing Club.

Prom Planning

This was originally planned to be simply a formal spring social which would be a prom equivalent but it eventually became known as "Prom". Plans were for the whole school to have a formal dinner in Charlotte sometime in mid-April. Several restaurant venues were proposed but due to budget constraints, Fahrenheit Charlotte was selected as opposed to the Student Council's first choice of Hestia's Rooftop. The date of the event was set firmly to March 22 and ticket prices were set at \$65 for students and \$115 for guests. Prom Favors were also created which consisted of "Prom 2024" picture frames which were handed out to students and guests following the event. Elizabeth Roy, Director of Marketing and Communications for Salisbury Academy, took photographs preceding the event at The Depot. A party bus was also rented for transportation to and from the event. Currently, Fahrenheit Charlotte will likely be the venue for Prom 2025.

End-of-Year Trip

It is customary at Salisbury Academy for there to be an overnight field trip towards the end of the year. For the end of the 2023-2024 school year at the Salisbury Academy Upper School, the Student Council planned a three-day, two-night, trip to the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) in Bryson City, North Carolina. The trip consisted of a walking tour of Western Carolina University on the drive to the NOC, an elevated ropes obstacle course, ziplining, whitewater rafting down the Nantahala River, an evening campfire, and individual ducky rafting.

Social Contract Rebranding

The existing document known as the “Social Contract” is a set of values agreed upon by the student body at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. The school administration tasked the Student Council with redesigning the Social Contract so that it can be more easily integrated into the school’s culture and identity. After much debate, a new name was chosen to replace the name “Social Contract”. The set of values at Salisbury Academy Upper School became known as the Valor Key. The Valor Key is still under development by the Student Council but the structure of it will consist of a set of social pillars with associated quotes and phrases that can be incorporated into day-to-day school life.

School Wide Smart Speaker System

Communication being important for any organization, the Student Council took it upon itself to establish an interconnected smart speaker network that could make announcements, signal class change, and play music. Research was conducted on the smart speaker options offered by Amazon and Google. Ultimately, Google Nest speakers were chosen to make up the infrastructure of the speaker network due to being more responsive and feature-dense. The Student Council then debated the number of devices to purchase. It was determined that general coverage of the school would require four compact speakers and one main hub. Currently, this project is in its trial phase with two Google Nest Mini speakers having been purchased and set up to test out the viability of a school-wide network. Currently, this is the Student Council’s largest school improvement project.

Kidsbloom

This item was brought to the attention of the Student Council as another service opportunity. Kidsbloom is an annual event organized by Salisbury Academy. Students from the Upper School could sign up to volunteer for the event. The Salisbury Academy Kidsbloom 2024 took place on May 10, 2024, at the Salisbury Academy main campus. There were a total of eight Student Council members volunteering at the event managing music, making announcements, selling raffle tickets, face painting, and being the Jaguar mascot.

Establishing a Treasurer Position

Once the Student Council began earning revenue and incurring expenses this item was brought to the attention of the Student Council regarding the possibility of establishing a dedicated Treasurer. After discussions, it was decided that such a Treasurer position would be an informal joint role shared by the President, Secretary, and Advisor. There is still a plan to add a Treasurer position at an undetermined point in the future.

Calendar Committee

A temporary committee was established at the beginning of 2024 to assist the school administration in drafting an upper school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Several suggestions were taken into account and changes were made to the calendar but there were no major changes that merit acknowledgment here. The committee had one meeting and then was disbanded immediately during that same meeting. It is likely that in the future a permanent Calendar Committee will be established.

Bake Sale

This item was proposed as another fundraising idea in which the funds raised would be used to subsidize some of the costs associated with Prom. This project was set in motion but never completed. The Student Council did produce several items in bulk to be sold however an actual bake sale never occurred. There was a brief baked goods sale that was organized by Eve Rich and Sara Lescoe at the request of the Student Council which generated some revenue that was put into the general fund.

Recognition Awards

In preparation for the end of the first year of Salisbury Academy Upper School. The Student Council drafted a list of awards that could be handed out to students who had excelled over the school year, including an award for the student who embodies the Valor Key the most. In addition to awards, the idea of having graduation cords for next year was explored.

GOALS

Ongoing Goals

- ❖ Assisting in the growth and development of Salisbury Academy Upper School.
- ❖ Encouraging students to join the Student Council and take on leadership roles.
- ❖ Fostering culture and positive values within the school.

Short-Term Goals

- ❖ Establishing a school-wide interconnected network of Google Nest smart speakers.
- ❖ Creating an awards system to recognize students for outstanding accomplishments or actions over the course of the school year.
- ❖ Approving the Valor Key and implementing it into school culture.

Long-Term Goals

- ❖ Sponsoring more culture and team-building events outside of school such as a rafting trip or luncheon.
- ❖ Deciding on colors and styles for graduation gowns and offering graduation cords.
- ❖ Creating and improving internal school spaces such as adding soundproof work rooms or a lounge, adding a pool table, updating and expanding the gym, and creating a more complete and functional kitchen.
- ❖ Redesigning the chapel experience to be efficient and effective at its core purpose.
- ❖ Defining clear fundraising strategies and goals for each year such as setting an annual fundraising goal.

HISTORY

Below is a list of all notable events in the Student Council's history in chronological order.

2023

October 5 - Noah Bardinas becomes the first President of the Student Council.

October 19 - Baxter Heilig is appointed to the newly created position of Secretary.

October 19 - The Student Council Constitution is approved unanimously.

November 16 - The Social Committee is officially incorporated into the Student Council.

November 28 - August Hoffman is appointed to chair the Social Committee.

December 7 - The Upper School's first Prom begins being planned

2024

February 1 - Eve Rich becomes the first non-founding member of the Student Council to be admitted.

February 1 - The School Wide Smart Speaker System project is proposed. At the time, the Student Council's largest school improvement project.

March 22 - The Upper School's first Prom is held at the Fahrenheit Restaurant in Charlotte.

April 18 - The first amendments to the Student Council Constitution were proposed.

May 10 - The first constitutionally outlined Student Council election takes place.

May 16 - The last regular meeting of the inaugural Student Council.

PAST OFFICERS

Below is a comprehensive list of all past and current officers of the Salisbury Academy Upper School Student Council.

President

No.	Name	Term	Student Council
1	Noah Bardin	October 5, 2023 - Present	1 st

Vice President

No.	Name	Term	Student Council
1	Sara "Ebbie" Lescoe	October 5, 2023 - Present	1 st

Secretary

No.	Name	Term	Student Council
1	Baxter Heilig	October 19, 2023 - Present	1 st

Advisor

No.	Name	Term	Student Council
1	Meredith Williams	October 5, 2023 - Present	1 st

Junior Class Representative

No.	Name	Term	Student Council
1	August Hoffman	October 5, 2023 - Present	1 st

Sophomore Class Representative

No.	Name	Term	Student Council
1	Luke Bardin	October 5, 2023 - Present	1 st
2	Baxter Heilig	October 5, 2023 - October 19, 2023	1 st

Freshman Class Representative

No.	Name	Term	Student Council
1	Addison Beckham	October 5, 2023 - Present	1 st