



Student Assembly

Resolution 22: Approval of the SAIFC's Recommendation

Abstract: This resolution provides for the disbursement of \$8,000 to the Dilmun Hill Student Farm in support of the construction of an outdoor learning area and the clarification of decisions for the other two applications submitted to the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission (SAIFC) by December 10th, 2024.

Sponsored by: Flora Meng '27

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 01/20/2024

Current Status: Adopted by the Assembly, Unanimous Consent, 01/30/2025

Whereas, the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission has received three applications for the 2024 Fall semester.

Whereas, the \$8,000 proposed allocation to Dilmun Hill Student Farm will fund the construction of an outdoor learning area on the Cornell Ithaca campus.

Whereas, the Pi Delta Psi Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council Renovation project is proposed to be tabled indefinitely due to an eligibility concern.

Whereas, the decision for the Crosswalks on University Avenue project is proposed to be postponed till the second hearing of the 2024-2025 funding cycle to collect more information about alternative funding sources, such as the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council.

Be it therefore resolved, \$8,000 be transferred from the Infrastructure Fund Disbursement Account to Dilmun Hill Student Farm for the construction of an outdoor learning area.

Be it further resolved, the Dilmun Hill Student Farm shall submit a report to the SAIFC no later than 6 months following the transfer of funds on how the allocated fund has been used, the expected time of project completion, and the latest person of contact. The report shall be provided to the SAIFC Chair at the time, or the President of the Student Assembly should such office be vacant.

Be it finally resolved, the resolution shall take effect upon approval of the Dean of Students.

Respectfully Submitted,

Flora Meng '27



Student Assembly

- 30 *Undesignated Representative at Large*
- 31 *Chair, Infrastructure Fund Commission*



SAIFC 2024 Fall Semester Report

Summary

The Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission (SAIFC) is a committee under the Student Assembly that has delegated authority to allocate the funds generated by the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund (SAIF). The primary objective of the SAIF is to provide financial support for projects and initiatives that enhance infrastructure or facilities on campus, thereby enriching the undergraduate experience at Cornell University. For the 2024-2025 funding cycle, the commission comprises 15 voting members, including 7 community members and 8 assembly representatives. As of this cycle, the commission has \$61,702.00 available for allocation, which includes \$61,670 transferred from Funds From Endowment (FFE) and a carry-over of \$32.00 from the 2023-2024 funding cycle.

During the past semester, the commission focused on restructuring operations, publicizing funding opportunities, and reviewing funding applications. In total, 3 complete applications were received: (1) **Crosswalks on University Avenue**, (2) **Outdoor Learning Area at Dilmun Hill Student Farm**, and (3) **Pi Delta Psi Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council Renovation**. The application of *Pi Delta Psi Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council Renovation* was tabled indefinitely due to eligibility concerns. The other two applications were advanced to hearing. On Dec 10th, 2024, the first hearing for the two applications ((1) *Crosswalks on University Avenue* and (2) *Outdoor Learning Area at Dilmun Hill Student Farm*) took place. The commission finalized its decision on Dilmun Hill's application but postponed the decision for the *Crosswalks on University Avenue* project to the spring semester of 2025. To date, \$8,000 (13% of available funds) has been allocated, leaving \$53,670 (87% of available funds) available in the coming semester.



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66 Applications Review

67 Project applications are submitted through [a Qualtrics survey](#), accessible via the assembly's
68 official website with the following prompt provided as guidance:

- 69 **1. Project Idea ***
70 (Be sure to include details about your idea, its location on campus, the impact on
71 undergraduate students, etc.)
- 72 **2. Problem/Beneficiary**
73 What is the problem you are trying to address? Who are the main beneficiaries?
- 74 **3. Motivation**
75 What motivated this idea?

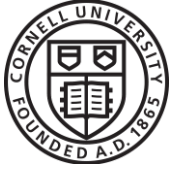
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77 *: Applicants are strongly suggested to include a timeline of the project, sponsor from school
78 offices, and budget estimation.

79
80 Below, applications are organized under the headings "Project Name+Represented
81 Organization/Individual" in chronological order based on the commission's decision-making
82 dates. The details provided below in the Project Idea, Problem/Beneficiary, and Motivation
83 sections directly reflect the submissions of the respective applicants. Additional information and
84 presentation materials for all submissions are available in the SAIF Box folder of 2024-2025.

85 **1. Multicultural Activity Center Renovation- Pi Delta Psi** 86 **Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council**

87 **Applicant:**
88 Ivan Lin, Information Science, CALS
89 I1226, il226@cornell.edu, 9172086868

90
91 **Project Idea**
92 Pi Delta Psi has a house on 124 Triphammer Rd in the North Campus that has held events for the
93 greater Cornell community, such as BBQs, rush events, and more. However, the house has not
94 had renovations for decades due to the lack of resources, resulting in safety concerns. Some areas
95 that need renovation include chipped paint on the walls, a broken boiler, and broken roof tiles.
96 My project idea involves renovating areas in the house to ensure it meets necessary safety
97 standards and becomes a more inclusive and functional space for hosting community events.
98 Renovations will include:



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- 99 - Painting interior walls to improve the atmosphere for gatherings.
100 - Replacing water heater to allow for warm water to be used in the house.
101 - Repairing holes in the concrete in the parking lot to eliminate potential safety hazards. -
102 Upgrading bathroom facilities and replacing damaged ceiling tiles to enhance safety and
103 hygiene. With the house renewed, we can further enable the house to serve as a safe space for the
104 Asian American community and a more welcoming venue for events hosted in collaboration
105 with student organizations. The renovated space will also expand our scope of events that can be
106 held, such as networking nights and cultural celebrations. We have consulted our MGFC
107 president, Cyan Crayon, and the Assistant VP of Student and Campus Life, Jenny Loeffelman,
108 for support of our project.

109 **Problem/Beneficiary**

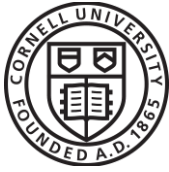
110 The key issues are the deteriorating condition of the Pi Delta Psi house and the need to address
111 safety hazards to meet Cornell's fire inspection and safety standards. Current problems include
112 damaged walls, concrete hazards, and bathroom facilities that require updates to ensure the
113 building is safe and accessible for all who use it. Without these renovations, the house's ability to
114 host events and meet university safety requirements is compromised.

115 The main beneficiaries include:

- 116 - The broader Cornell community, as a safer and compliant building ensures the well-being of
117 everyone attending events.
118 - Asian American student organizations and other campus groups, which will gain access to a
119 functional and inviting venue for hosting cultural, educational, and community-building events.
120 - Cornell students who attend events like rush events, cultural dances, and future events hosted in
121 the space, fostering inclusivity and cultural awareness.
122 - Members and residents who live in the house.
123

124 **Motivation**

125 This project was motivated by the need to address both safety concerns and the broader lack of
126 institutional support that co-op and house-run residences like the Pi Delta Psi house often face
127 from Cornell. These types of houses play a critical role in fostering community engagement and
128 providing spaces for cultural, educational, and social events, yet they often lack the resources
129 and support needed to maintain safe and functional infrastructure. The current condition of the
130 house, including safety hazards and outdated facilities, limits its potential to serve as a venue for
131 inclusive and culturally impactful events. By addressing these issues, the project seeks to not
132 only ensure compliance with safety standards but also to position the house as a resource for the
133 broader Cornell community while promoting cultural exchange, inclusivity, and community
134 building.
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137 Budget Estimation

Item	Number	Price per unit	Total	Link
Paint + Labour	1	(?)\$2,000	\$2,000	
Roof Covering	1	(?)\$6,000	\$6,000	https://www.fixr.com/costs/roof-replacement-new-york
Water Heater + Labour	1	\$2,000	\$2,000	https://www.homedepot.com/p/Rheem-Performance-Platinum-40-Gal-Tall-40-000-BTU-Natural-Gas-Water-Heater-with-12-Year-Warranty-XG40T12HE40U0/204697784?source=shopping&locale=en-US
Boiler	1	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Concrete filler	1	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Total			\$22,000	

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139 Commission Decision

140 The application was tabled indefinitely by a simple majority vote during the regular commission
141 meeting on Nov 26th, 2024.

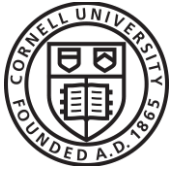
142

143 Rationale

144 The project involves renovating a fraternity house, which is Cornell housing with a designated
145 funding system. Typically, such housing is expected to rely on the rent collected from residents
146 and funding from its parent organizations to sustain daily operations.

147

148 In the 2023-2024 funding cycle, a similar application was submitted by the Triphammer Co-op
149 for house renovations. While this application was initially approved by the commission and the
150 general Student Assembly, it was later rejected by the school administration before any fund



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151 transfers were made. The administration's feedback indicated that co-op housing, designed to
152 operate within its own financial ecosystem, should minimize reliance on external funding
153 sources. Instead, financial challenges should be addressed through measures such as rent
154 adjustments, expense management, and structural reforms to the housing's financial model.

155
156 Given the parallels between the Triphammer Co-op application and the Pi Delta Psi project, the
157 commission anticipated a high likelihood of rejection from the administration, even if the Pi
158 Delta Psi proposal was approved by the commission and the Student Assembly. Therefore, the
159 commission decided to table the application indefinitely.

160
161 However, the commission recognizes the risks that inadequate infrastructure poses to the health
162 and quality of life of residents. Additionally, these housing facilities have the potential to serve
163 as valuable community hubs for broader Cornell groups. Similar concerns have also been raised
164 by other co-ops. As a result, the commission recommends addressing these systemic issues in
165 collaboration with the administration and relevant offices to reform the financial structures of
166 such housing and identify immediate solutions for the identified problems. The commission calls
167 for the general assembly to participate in this process.

168 **2. Crosswalks on University Avenue- Watermargin Co-op**

169 **Applicant:**

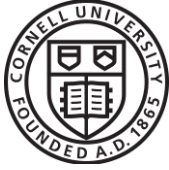
170 Zada Stuart, Fashion Design, CHE
171 Zks4, zks4@cornell.edu, 6176862707

173 **Project Idea**

174 This project aims to increase pedestrian safety by implementing a new crosswalk and crosswalk
175 sign across University Ave at the intersection of McGraw Place, University Ave, and West Ave.
176 This project would make undergraduate students feel more safe commuting to and from class.
177 According to the campus planning office, an informal rough estimate for paint on the ground and
178 two yield signs is \$3000.

180 **Problem/Beneficiary**

181 Drivers often speed on University Ave, and I have witnessed at least 3 incidents of roadkill this
182 semester alone not far from the proposed location of the crosswalk. This location is ideal as there
183 is a lot of foot traffic across the road at this point. On the McGraw side, there are multiple living
184 complexes, fraternities, and Watermargin coop that house undergraduate students who would
185 cross the road at this point daily to get to class. On the West Ave side, there lies a path that



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186 directs one from the bottom of the slope to the heart of campus, as well as West Campus, a
187 highly concentrated area of undergraduate residents as well. As the road curves above the
188 proposed location, pedestrians have limited time to assess safety before crossing the road, and
189 drivers have limited time to react. If students have any impediments that may cause them to cross
190 the road at a slower pace, or a driver is not paying close attention, there is an unnecessarily high
191 risk of an incident. The main beneficiaries would be students residing on and just North of West
192 Campus, though all undergraduate students would likely benefit as this part of campus is well
193 trafficked for various reasons, and is on campus at an 'exit corner' where students living further
194 in the west direction would likely use fairly often. The feasibility of the idea was backed by
195 David Cutter from the Campus Planning Office.

196

197 **Motivation**

198 This idea was brought to my attention by members of my house as they cross the road at this
199 point every day to get to class! As a driver and pedestrian, I have experienced worry in this area
200 that I think could be successfully and easily mitigated.

201

202 **Updated Information During Hearing**

203 The information below is from the presentation by Zada Stuart on Dec 10th, 2024.

204 This central area on University Ave at the North Westernmost corner of the Slope (points C and
205 A) is heavily trafficked by undergraduate students.

206

207 Effected Daily:

- 208 ● Off-campus, Cornell-affiliated student living options (Watermargin Co-op, fraternities)**
- 209 ● Off-campus, non-affiliated, predominantly student housing (Campus Hill Apartments)**
- 210 ● Cornell Food Pantry
- 211 ● Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards

212 **Students on West commuting to North Campus

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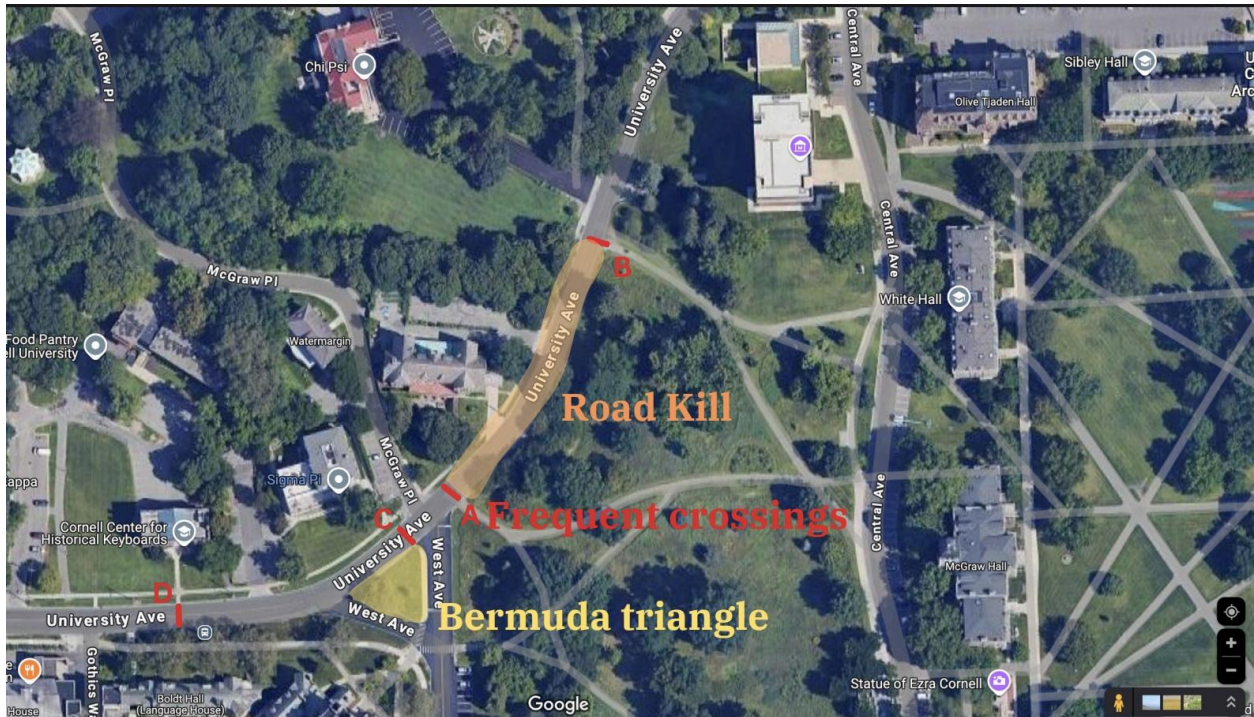
214 Demonstrated need during slope day with crossing guard at the described location. High
215 speeding on University Ave, frequently seems to be over the campus speed limit of 20mph + at
216 least 4 instances of road kill this semester.

217

218 The project's latest proposal is for 4 crosswalks to be added at locations of red dashes and
219 alphabet characters. The priority is descending from A to D.



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Budget Estimation

Item	Number	Price per unit	Total	Source
Paint + 2 Yield Signs for 1 location	4	\$3,000	\$12,000	Campus Planning Office Estimate
Total			\$12,000	

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Decision of Commission

The decision for this project funding was postponed to the next hearing in the spring semester of 2025 by a simple majority vote during the first hearing on Dec 10th, 2024.

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Rationale

The Campus Planning Office has reviewed the proposed project and indicated that the university plans to reconstruct a section of West Avenue near Baker Flagpole within approximately five years. This reconstruction includes considerations for improving crosswalks on the avenue. If students wish to implement temporary crosswalk markings promptly to mitigate safety risks, the proposed project could deliver immediate benefits. However, due to the location of the crosswalks on University Avenue, approval from the city’s transportation department is still required for the installation of yield signs and crosswalk markings.



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236
237 The commission acknowledges the critical need for enhanced crosswalk safety, particularly at
238 locations A and C, to better protect pedestrians. The project is low-cost, straightforward to
239 execute, and has the potential to significantly improve student safety and quality of life. For the
240 commission to approve the other two crosswalk locations, stronger evidence of support from the
241 broader undergraduate community, beyond residents of nearby housing, would be beneficial.

242
243 Additionally, there may be funding opportunities available through the City of Ithaca or other
244 local government departments that could support the project without relying solely on SAIF
245 funds. The commission encourages the applicant to work with the local transportation
246 department and Campus Planning Office to assess alternative funding sources and whether the
247 use of SAIF could accelerate the project's implementation.

248
249 Given these considerations, the decision on this project has been postponed to the next hearing,
250 scheduled for late March 2025. This timeline is subject to changes in the SAIF spring application
251 timeline. The chair may call an additional hearing before this date if the majority of the
252 commission agrees to bring up the decision time for the project.

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254 **3. Outdoor Learning Area - Dilmun Hill Student Farm**

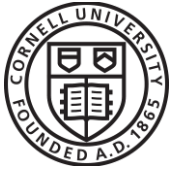
255 **Applicant:** Elinor Behlman, ENV5, CALS
256 Elb265, elinorbehl@gmail.com, 9737807899

257

258 **Project Idea**

259 ***Outdoor Learning Area at Dilmun Hill Student Farm***

260 We propose to create an outdoor learning area at Dilmun Hill Student Farm, located at
261 705 Dryden Road, near the pollinator garden on the farm. This space will be designed to support
262 interactive and practical education for a diverse range of users, including visiting classes, Dilmun
263 Hill community members, and participants in educational workshops. The attached document
264 "Dilmun Tour and Outreach Log.xlsx" has a list of the classes and workshops that Dilmun has
265 hosted in the past 2 years. The space will feature four picnic tables arranged to facilitate group
266 learning and discussions, as well as a whiteboard for presentations and hands-on instruction. A
267 large shade canopy will provide protection from the sun. These additions will enhance the
268 functionality of the farm as a teaching and learning space by providing a designated area for
269 structured activities while allowing students and educators to connect with the natural
270 environment. The location near the pollinator garden offers opportunities to integrate lessons on



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271 agriculture, ecology, and environmental science across disciplines and colleges. This project will
272 significantly impact undergraduate students by creating a unique venue for experiential learning,
273 fostering collaboration, and deepening their engagement with sustainable food systems and
274 environmental stewardship. The project idea is backed by CALS staff and has been
275 communicated with the Campus Planning Office.

276 **Problem/Beneficiary**

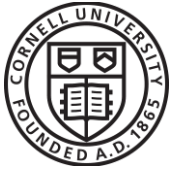
277 The problem we aim to address is the lack of formal learning space at Dilmun Hill Student Farm.
278 Currently, visiting classes and workshops often have no choice but to sit on the ground, which
279 can be uncomfortable and limits the accessibility of the space for individuals who require seating
280 accommodations. Additionally, there is limited shade at the farm as the only available structure
281 is a barn used for the storage of farm equipment and produce. By creating a shaded outdoor
282 learning area with picnic tables and a whiteboard, we will provide a more inclusive and
283 functional environment for education. The main beneficiaries of this project include
284 undergraduate students, who will gain access to a dedicated space for hands-on and collaborative
285 learning, as well as community members and workshop participants who will benefit from a
286 more accessible and inviting environment. This project enhances equity and ensures that all
287 visitors can fully participate in the farm's educational offerings.

289 **Motivation**

290 This idea was inspired by other university student farms that serve as both productive
291 agricultural spaces and dynamic learning environments. Observing their success highlighted the
292 potential for Dilmun Hill Student Farm to expand its role as an educational hub. Currently, the
293 farm lacks sufficient infrastructure to accommodate the growing number of students and
294 community members who visit for classes, workshops, and events. We envision this outdoor
295 learning area as the first step in creating a more functional and inclusive space for experiential
296 education. Our long-term goal is to continue building on this project, eventually developing
297 additional outdoor learning spaces and, potentially, an outdoor amphitheater. These
298 enhancements will further transform Dilmun Hill into a central location for environmental and
299 agricultural education, fostering engagement and collaboration.

302 **Budget Estimation**

Item	Number	Price per unit	Total	Link
Recycled plastic A-frame picnic tables	4	1,370	5,480	https://www.ubc.ca/line.com/Product/ProductDetailRootItem?modelnumber



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				=H-2564
				https://www.uline.com/Product/Detail/H-7804/Boards-Easels/Magnetic-Steel-Mobile-Dry-Erase-Board-8-x-4?pricode=WA9642&gadtype=pla&id=H-7804&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiArva5BhBiEiwA-oTnXatGXrG3XQYY-w7BcqHxOw2m7UW-Of50O9FLp2_p-bHt487oqIwG1xoCZFgQAvD_BwE
Whiteboard	1	1,325	1,325	
Uline estimated shipping	1	724.95	724.95	
				https://www.theparkcatalog.com/square-picnic-table?srsltid=AfmBOopec7St-nr3at8oVK6b47ddnDf4qbKHs7CMHtyG1mCmVbjLBqStRdQ
Recycled plastic square picnic table	1	1370	1370	
28'x42' rectangle hip shade - 12 foot entrance, surface mounting	1	16,568.00	16,568.00	https://playgroundoutfitters.com/playgro



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				und-shade-structures/rectangle-hip-shade-12-foot-entrance/
		Total	25,468	

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304 **Updated Information During Hearing**

305 *The information below is from the presentation by Dilmun Hill Student Farm managers on Dec*
 306 *10th, 2024.*

Item	Number	Price per unit	Total
Recycled plastic A-frame picnic tables	4	\$1,370	\$5,480
Whiteboard	1	\$1,325	\$1,325
Uline estimated shipping	1	\$724.95	\$724
Recycled plastic square picnic table	1	\$1370	\$1370
28'x42' rectangle hip shade	1	\$16,568	\$16,568
Design review and installation costs for shade		\$5,000	\$5,000
Total			\$30,468

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308 Hundreds of visitors come to the farm every year. In the fall semester of 2024 only, there are
 309 700+ visits. Most visits happen during the fall and summer, making use of the outdoor education
 310 space. The only existing building on the farm is the barn for equipment right now, which only
 311 workers on the farm can enter, so no public events can be hosted there. Typically, visitors need
 312 to sit outdoors in the sun and rain depending on the weather.

313

314 The hip shade chosen may not be able to shelter people from rain as the canvas is permeable to
 315 water. For maintenance purposes, the shading canvas will need to be taken down to prevent
 316 damage from winter weather. The reason that the farm would like to have a permanent
 317 installation is to reduce the need for labor, particularly for summer when only 2 student
 318 managers are around.



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Decision of Commission

The application was approved with an \$8,000 (13% of available funds) funding allocation with a simple majority vote during the first hearing on Dec 10th, 2024.

Rationale

The commission decided not to approve the full funding request as submitted, recognizing opportunities to use the budget more efficiently. Cost savings can be achieved by exploring less expensive alternatives. For example, while recycled materials are commendable, the non-recycled, more affordable options or secondhand options can provide equivalent functionality. The commission recommends the organization consider sourcing items such as whiteboards and other supplies from platforms like Amazon and Walmart.

Additionally, reevaluating temporary but mobile event tents could satisfy the project's needs more effectively. The justification for the high-cost hip shade was deemed insufficient. The chosen hip shade with its permeable canvas does not offer significant functional advantages over mobile event tents, particularly as both require similar labor for setup and takedown. Furthermore, the farm's summer operations primarily serve the off-campus community, which is not a main consideration for SAIF.

As a result, the commission approved only a portion of the requested budget to better align with these considerations.

Suggested Reference	Number	Price per unit	Total
Plastic A-frame picnic tables	5	\$400	\$2,000
Whiteboard	1	\$400	\$400
Event Tent	4	\$150	\$600
Total			\$3,000

343

Voted Funding Amount	Yes	No	Abstain*	Total



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\$4,000	9	0	2	11
\$7,000	9	0	2	
\$10,000	3	6	2	
\$9,000	3	6	2	
\$8,000	7	2	2	

344 *: Conflict of interest was claimed for one of the abstain. Jessie Chen abstained from the voting for
345 Dilmun Hill Student Farm project considering her membership in the organization.
346