

Hey! That Actually Sounds Like Fun: Make Your Classics Club Thrive

This paper talk proposal is based on a talk I gave for the Illinois Classical Conference many years ago but with additional pragmatic tools I have picked up since then. At all levels of education in Classics, an engaging Classics Club can be a massive boon to a program's success, and it is sometimes even the critical component to maintaining healthy enrollment and enthusiasm for our field. If accepted, this talk, while based on best practices for high school teachers, will explore the process of establishing a Classics Club and fostering it into an organization that is 1) almost entirely student-run, 2) engaging and fun for students who may not necessarily know Latin or Greek, and 3) consistently active throughout the year.

Together, we will examine how to create an officership where more experienced officers mentor new ones, creating a self-sustaining pipeline of quality leadership. We will also go over the philosophy of a Classics Club and critical ways to approach it if we truly want our clubs to thrive. Finally, I will also provide a thorough catalog of Latin Club activities that is updated each year.

I consistently meet people at all levels of this field who are at a loss for how to approach one or more of these areas, and very few of us ever receive explicit instruction on how to do these "extracurricular" activities for our programs. My hope is that I can help clubs to exist or grow where they have struggled in the past and that I can lower the workloads of educators and professors who are tasked with sponsoring such organizations.