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6890 October Reflections

This past month has seen several paramount issues. One celebration I have had this past month is in advising a group of students in creating a new club on campus. The club is focused on creating a communal garden on campus, and throughout the past month, I have been overseeing the group meetings, making connections with the appropriate offices and contacts on campus to establish the club and the garden, and researching sustainable and efficient gardening practices. At this point, we have been approved as an on-campus organization, have secured a location on campus (and had it approved by the Vice Presidents), and have secured funding. Currently, the club leadership is in the process of researching and determining which plants to grow, as well as have begun writing grants to obtain further funding.

One challenge I have had this past month is in scheduling meetings with one of my supervisors, specifically finding time to hold one-on-ones. To this point in the semester, we have only held one one-on-one meeting, which was at the beginning of October. She has also been incredible busy this semester, as she assumed greater responsibilities in the college. As a result, I haven't established a very personal relationship with her, and have a surface level professional relationship. This morning I met with my other supervisor to see if he had any suggestions in bolstering that relationship, as he has worked with her much longer than I have. So, hopefully next month I will have a celebration note about having had more one-on-one contact and supervision from my supervisor.

Finally, one additional celebration I have had in the past month is having completed my first series of executive memos. Currently, the Baldwin-Wallace Explorations/Study Abroad Center is looking to add one full-time professional staff member, and it was my responsibility to conduct research that focused on the average number of students that go abroad for institutions and the ratio of students abroad to staff members in the office. The results showed that B-W is roughly in between the ratios of study abroad institutions that are adequately staffed and institutions that are overworked. My task was then to compile the results into a two page memo, complete with graphs and charts for comparisons, that was then presented to the Academic Dean. A second executive memo, which I am in the process of writing, is a compilation of national averages of the number of faculty members to students on study abroad trips. The memo will be used to determine if additional institutional funding will be provided to faculty-led trips at Baldwin-Wallace. So, ultimately, I can't complain about not having an impact, even if minimal, in my internship experience thus far.