



So the Next Generation Fund was born, a process that illustrates how a change in the basics (Financial Aid) can have enormous impact on the larger composition (scholarship and endowment). Many of you have noted the uniquely Haverfordian quality of this new plan, your comments reminding me of how a musician's unique voice (in this case, the voice of our core values) inflects a piece (Financial Aid reform) with unique character. We take our inspiration, our cue, from the collective sensibility, formed over generations, that is Haverford.

...we'd scrap loans in favor of grants but we'd add something different. We'd invite those who receive such grants to contribute to a new scholarship endowment fund in the years after graduation "as their means allow and the spirit moves" to help ensure that future students—our next generation—enjoy similar opportunity.

On to example #2. One of the beautiful things about Haverford athletics is that our size enables so many to play varsity. Indeed, 35 percent of our students are on a varsity team. That's a lot of good news. But there's bad news: Soccer, lacrosse and field hockey players suffer under the yoke of antiquated field conditions that are often muddy and frozen and, because they are unlit, unusable beyond late afternoon.

Moreover, because most of this athletic activity happens between the hours of 4-6 p.m., it conflicts with research talks by faculty and distinguished visitors. Not even Jerry Gollub, Haverford professor of physics and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, has figured out how to be two places at once. So student athletes often miss some of our most exciting academic activities—or miss practices or games. But, in the spirit of jazz, we asked whether one small change can inspire big changes, so that the solution to one problem might overcome others.

What if...we installed a field made of artificial turf? Overnight, our legacy of mud, divots and hopping balls would be a thing of the past; illuminate the field and suddenly games and practices needn't be limited to daylight hours....

....and if they don't have to be over by 6 p.m., students could attend lectures from 4 to 6...

...to say nothing of our leveling the playing field from a recruiting standpoint (Haverford will soon be the only Centennial Conference school without turf) and the environmental and expense benefit of reducing our use of fertilizer and the need for watering...

...finally, to make the effort resonate with everything that's good about Haverford, let's call it Swan Field, in honor of former coach and Athletic Director Dana Swan...

Fast forward and we're excited by the plan to put a turf field next to the tennis courts, and the dramatic response by many "varsity alums" whose generosity is making this possible.

In both cases, we heard the music and then worked with our fellow "musicians" to shape and grow it. Now that I've experienced the jazz-funk workshop, I consider these two examples a sort of "administrative Mixolydian": Start on the fifth note of the scale rather than the root and see what happens.

Just don't ask me to try it with a guitar (ask my friends)! 🐼

All the best,

Steve