The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

1. **Call to Order**
   - Attendance
     - Present
       - Jon Stanhope
       - Gillian Mak
       - Ramisa Tasnim
       - Nani Suzuki
       - Jake Engelman
       - Max Kohn
       - Lily Pieper
       - Noam Barnhard
       - Kureem Nugent
       - Marquis Palmer
       - Zach Oscar
       - Ysabel Coss
       - Jonathan Kirshenbaum
       - Casey Codd
       - Jack Fischman
       - Max Phillips
       - Harry Dubke
       - Cesar Guerrero
       - Ben Katz
       - Jodan D’Addio
       - Nadav Konforty
       - Julian Perricone
       - Keith Ruggles
       - Gianni Hill
       - Elizabeth Groubert
       - Amanda Kim
       - Jiin Jeong
       - Maria Valencia
       - Diana Perez
       - Eseosa Asiruwa
     - Excused
       - Marquis Palmer
     - Absent
       - Molly Clark

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Public Comment Period**
3. Old Business
   ○ **Dean Martinez: End of Semester Recap**
     - **Dean Martinez:** Good evening and welcome back! I hope you had a great Thanksgiving, got lots of rest, and binged on Netflix. I was thrilled to have my parents visit from Florida! I met with Gillan and Jon last week. I wanted to come to this meeting wrap up the semester with you all and share my thoughts around the work we all need to do as we move forward. I heard a quite bit from the students this semester and I want to begin by saying that I appreciate all the conversations. I appreciate all the dinner invitations from all students, especially time in Co-Op and Milbank. It gives me insight from different perspectives on the student experience. It is interesting to see that in the conversations I’ve had the personal narratives of students paints a very diverse picture of our campus. I have gotten quite a few emails and in person meetings to talk with me about the culture here on campus. I will continue having conversations on binge drinking, and students feeling heard and accepted as members of this community.

     This semester, transparency was very important to students and I pledged that we would work on that in the beginning in the semester. I know that Reslife is putting together a student advisory team as you discussed earlier in the semester. Travis is ensuring that a process is being created. My goal is to have a Dean of students Advisory Committee with student from all parts of the community. If you have any thoughts on individuals outside of Student Assembly let me know. I’m also looking at ways to communicate with the student body. I have a blog that I will activate next semester to connect with students. I will post my thoughts, updates, impressions there. Zach and the Student Affairs committee will take that and make it into a quick table flier or something.

     - **Zach Oscar:** Let's call it the Dean’s Daily Bull! No I didn’t share that information with the Central Council yet.

     - **Dean Martinez:** Certainly mental health has been a big issue. We launched the community cares initiative this semester. There are students that are working on many aspects of that. I will continue looking at the work on the recommendations of the Jed foundation. I will ensure that we are delivering these recommendations. I want to explore other methods of service delivery for individual and group counseling. Other institutions have piloted initiatives that I will look at. As we look at the new health and wellness center we are thinking about expanding the space. That will be recommended to the board this week. Title IX is also on my mind, and creating a process that is safe. I am in the process of hiring a person for Community Standards who will oversee the Title IX process and will help us address our conduct issues and educate our community. The search committee for this has met and completed their orientation. My goal is to
have candidates in Campus when you return in the spring so that we an
meet and have good conversations with students. The pool is looking nice!
So I am excited about that.

I’ve also been working with Greek orgs. I had a conversation with
Caroline and Matt at the beginning of the semester to talk about Greek
orgs and how their members live their mission. They are working with
student subcommittees to talk about standards and how to hold each other
accountable. I will be meeting with them next week to receive an update
on their progress. Those are the things that I have had on my agenda.
Certainly there were things I could not get done but there will be time for
that. I am looking at the residential life experience amand happy to see
that it will be part of with the strategic planning process. We need to look
at our residential experience and think about how students connect with
each other. Co Op as an example of students engaged on their living
experience. Some of the things I would like for us to do in the future
include looking at our technology. We will be looking at student
organization platforms and housing lottery platforms. It is important to me
that administrative it is a seamless process and that it is a student
experience that is easy and quick to navigate. Any questions or comments?

- **Jiin Jeong**: I was wondering what you are doing with the mental health initiatives
  that you and President Wippman came in previously to talk with us about. I
  remember that you had short term and long term goals, and I was curious how
  much of that was actually put in action.
  
  - **Dean Martinez**: We pulled together some students. I asked Laura Chase,
    she has met with individual and a group of students. There were 40
    students and faculty who expressed interest. The meeting was scheduled
    the day after Professor Sam Pellman's death so here wasn't as many
    students. But there were 20 students.
  
  - **Julian Perricone**: I thought it was a super successful meeting. Students
    who expressed interest came such as peer counselors, and those who want
    to fix things. There were some faculty. I think we are having our second
    meeting this week. We have a lot of ideas in the works, and we will get
    some tangible things going.
  
  - **Dean Martinez**: Because there was so many ideas the group just has to
    prioritize. We have Nadav ‘s art project and a video project in the works.
    Certainly the community dinners have been happening around campus.
    There was also a logo developed by a student. We will be using that as we
    do our education promotions so students can identify with the logo. We
    are also looking closely at the protocol and process for students who need
    to take a leave of absence. I don't want students to feel bad about taking
time off. We are looking at the messaging to take a leave of absence. It is a
pause-- it does not mean you will not finish. We need to articulate that so
students don't think we will prevent them from graduating on time if possible.

- **Max Kohn:** I mostly want to say thank you for taking the time you have to listening to the student body. It is clear that you have really done exactly what you said you would when you came and spoke before us during the first week of school and said you needed more time to give any concrete answers. You have followed through on your word and clearly shown a commitment to understanding student voices, and it’s important to acknowledge and thank you for that. I also remember from that first meeting you predicted your top priorities to be diversity and inclusion, and binge drinking. I am curious how everything you have learned over the semester has shifted your priorities or how approaching other issues could help solve these problems?

  - **Dean Martinez:** There were a couple things that I had set as goals for myself that is of general importance as the Dean of Students. Many of the initiatives we are planning and have done connect with these goals. The role of RA’s as campus leaders is essentially about providing meaningful opportunities for students. Having a safe and healthy campus is taking a look at Title IX and binge drinking. They are all intertwined. Coming in, I saw Mental Health as important but not as a top priority, and during this semester that shifted with the course of events. As we talk about mental health, we need to talk about other things as well. You need to address all these things simultaneously but also address the critical ones first. How do we continue doing this sustainably? We have to think about sustainable ways to address campus issues. I didn’t address Diversity/Inclusion in my remarks. I just finished a job description of an Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion. I am aligning some areas in my portfolio to look at that. To look at race, religion, ability–how we look at these intersections and how they affect the student experience.

- **Gianni Hill:** Can you speak to the transparency and communication between your office and SA?

  - **Dean Martinez:** I love it! Very often we agree to disagree but we do it with tremendous amount of respect. Every time we create a committee, Jon and Gillian are asked to serve or find someone to serve on it. It has been a great partnership. If there are ways to enhance this relationship, I am open to that.

  - **Gianni Hill:** Are there any ways we can sustain this?

  - **Dean Martinez:** We need to continue having conversations. If you want to create a resolution, then meet with me and have a conversation before. Maybe we can fix that without creating a resolution. This semester has been a very collaborative semester and I really hope to continue it in the future.

- **Jon Stanhope:** Where are we at with the judicial board amendment process?
Dean Martinez: I had a convo with Wippman about that and he wanted to set up a time to talk about that. His concern was that the way the parliamentarian’s suggestions were written would slow down the amendment process. We want to have a conversation about changing some of the language on that, so that we can make amendments in an efficient way.

Max Kohn: Will that happen before the end of the semester?

Dean Martinez: I will let you know.

Noam Barnhard: I was going to propose this earlier, you mentioned that even before proposing something we should have a conversation with you. Right about this time of year everyone is stressed about and what I have been hearing for years is the lack of reading period really makes a difference. We don't have one at all. While it is too late for this semester. Even next semester we can discuss having one or two days off. Some schools have a week off. This is a viable option to help boost success and help students remain calm. Do you have any ideas on this?

Dean Martinez: I haven't engaged in this in conversation yet and no one has put forth a proposal. That is something that needs to be brought up with the Dean of Faculty, because it is an academic calendar issue. But I would put my support behind it. I’d also add that one population that doesn't get any air time is students with disabilities: students who need more time in their exams and in their approach to academics. That is not a conversation I’ve heard much about on campus. I have asked Allen Harrison to send me a report about the services we provide. We don't even have a testing room on campus. Faculty have to find a room when students need time. I would suggest putting forward recommendations. I don't know how far in advance academic calendars are done.

Gianni Hill: I believe it is two years in advance.

Dean Martinez: I know that in NYS you have to be at school a certain amount of weeks in a semester. I’d love to see a proposal and please let me know of there is anything I can do to lend support to this.

Final Review: Residential Life Resolution-- Harry Dubke

Harry Dubke: As we went over the first two articles last week, I’ll just cover Article III and a couple of small changes to the other Articles. The first change I made was under Article I resolved number 4; it talks about substance free housing. I changed it to “any portion of residence hall,” in order to include all substance-free areas. I also changed the wording to include any housing change from or to substance-free in order to reflect all changes made (not just the creation of new sub-free areas). In Article II, all of the “Resolved’s” are changed to reflect some of the things we talked about with Travis. We broadened the language in order to give Travis more leeway in creating his own committee. Finally, Article 3 addresses mental health on campus. It advocates for residential communities such as the Co OP and adding various types of themed housing that we might want to
see added on campus (such as Spanish or French-Housing). Another suggestion is the creation of a yearly online survey that can be reused each year by Res Life in order to understand students’ relationships to their residence halls. We need some metric to determine how students feel about their housing, especially in regards to its various effects on students’ mental health. Hopefully this would help reslife respond better to students needs. Under Article III, Resolved 2, the updated language calls for various groups on campus to review the recommendations made through the Strategic Planning Committee and to **review Hamilton’s current housing policy** and create recommendations for future changes that better prioritize mental health. Does anybody have any questions?

- **Elizabeth Groubert**: Harry, you’ve done a wonderful job with this resolution. We’ve had several conversations about it and I was wondering what the results of the residential life survey that was sent out were.
  - **Harry Dubke**: Yes I will be doing that this week. We had 522 people respond, which is over a quarter of the campus. We had it broken down with class year and gender. If you were graduating we didn't count your results (sorry). The results will be posted with the minutes next week.

- **Max Kohn**: How many students live in sub-free housing?
  - **Harry Dubke**: I'm not sure
  - **Jack Fishman**: Around 250

- **Max Kohn**: As we’ve previously acknowledged, the resolution process is not in the Constitution. Are you looking for a simple majority?
  - **Jon Stanhope**: I am looking for two thirds
  - **Max Kohn**: I think that’s completely acceptable, but I would add that we have an opportunity to set a powerful precedent here. The process we have gone through for this resolution has taken so long because we have essentially been finding a consensus. It’s taken us 5 weeks to agree on this thing because none of us have any substantial objections anymore. I think acknowledging that consensus sends a powerful message. I think at the very least we should be intentional about whatever voting majority we do go with.
  - **Jon Stanhope**: The reason I said two thirds is because the Constitution generally has two options: simple majorities for funding etc. and ⅔ majority for more important issues and this would be staying consistent with the latter. My only problem in doing a consensus is in the future we might have resolutions we don't agree with and it could set a dangerously hard standard for other assembly’s. Going forward we can maybe put resolutions in the constitution as a ⅔ vote.
  - **Max Kohn**: I agree that a ⅔ vote is at least fine, but I would caution against putting in the constitution because we have been afforded an amount of freedom that I think would be helpful for future Assemblies.

- **Gianni Hill**: If we do get everyone here to vote yes, we should note that and send it out to campus. I believe looking for a consensus would set a dangerous
precedent, but we should definitely highlight a consensus if we are able to reach one.

Residential Life Resolution Passes Unanimously. As Dean Martinez was attending this meeting, a member of the administration does not need to attend one of our next two meetings.

4. New Business
   ○ Bylaw additions: Duties of Vice President-- Gillian Mak

   Proposed Language:
   Article IX. Additional Obligations of Specific Positions
   Section 3. The Vice President’s responsibilities are as follows:
   A. To serve as an advisor to the Student Assembly President with regard to setting the policy agenda, use of discretionary powers, day-to-day operations, and organization of committees;
   B. To confirm guests and speakers for Central Council meetings;
   C. To assist the Student Assembly president in organizing meetings and the secretary in editing and distributing meeting minutes;
   D. To represent the Student Assembly in all dealings with members of Hamilton College’s administration, faculty, and trustees;
   E. To plan bonding and training events for the Central Council including, but not limited to, new member orientation and Central Council Retreat;
   F. To communicate with the Central Council regarding relevant campus events, trainings, and programming;
   G. To provide logistical support to class and committee initiatives.

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   ■ Gillian Mak: Earlier in this semester I mentioned this. In the Constitution all that it says about my responsibilities is “the Vice President will assume all responsibilities of the President in their absence” It’s important to have future VP’s know what their responsibilities are especially because the VP does not have to have attended a signal SA meeting before running. I tried to fill in holes that I saw in the president's role and make it so it adequately reflects what I did this semester.
   ■ Jon Stanhope: To pass this, we need a simple majority as these are changes to the bylaws.
   ■ Zach Oscar: If you feel like this accurately represents your position then I have nothing to add

Bylaw Additions Pass Unanimously as Recommended
Compiling end of semester report-- Gillian Mak
- Gillian Mak: I am compiling an end of semester report in the hopes of for continuity in the future. I made a Google Doc about every speaker, event, every resolution, and project we’ve worked on this semester. I will send it to you all for review this week.

SA Welcome Packet -- Gianni Hill
- Gianni Hill: Adding on to Gillian’s goal of creating more continuity from term to term, I am working on creating a welcome packet. Essentially, it would include everything new members need to know about how the assembly functions and their specific roles as well as a lot of logistics. For example, reserving spaces on campus and writing resolutions. I will be working on fielding input on what our roles look like. I want to clearly establish what our roles are in SA, and I plan on getting this started at the beginning of next semester. I would appreciate any input for outlining these roles. This welcome packet will be completed by the end of this academic year and ready for next fall.
- Amanda Kim: I think that's an amazing idea. Can you put in something about Student Assembly vocabulary in the packet? When I first came in and we started talking about strategic and nonstrategic, I was super confused.
- Jordan D’Addio: I just unsure what you mean about the purpose of this packet specifically since we’ve mentioned in the past for example, needing to add specific language to the constitution regarding the roles of the Class Presidents vs. the Class Reps. Will the packet be explaining existing roles or are we working on new language with this?
- Gianni Hill: I would like to put that in. It’s essentially a guide for SA.
- Gillian Mak: Please feel free to help Gianni. Especially those who have been here a while.
  - Zach Oscar: I’m new here.
- Harry Dubke: I am going abroad next semester. If anyone would like to keep this ball rolling on ResLife initiatives, please contact me.
- Jiin Jeong: I read in the Constitution that the Class President appoints the new delegates in place of members going abroad, and was wondering how that exactly worked.
- Lilly Pieper: The president will appoint the new members in the general counsel and within the group they vote.
- Jiin Jeong: I brought this up because I was concerned since a lot of juniors are leaving, and we would have members filling in who were elected by the Class President, not the general student body, and that may be based on personal choices and not reflect the majority. Was this a precedence in the past?
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

**Student Assembly Meeting**

**November 27, 2017**

- **Jon Kirshenbaum:** Presidents have done this differently depending on the year. Last year in 16-17 we had a lot of appointments in the class of 2019 delegations. It fluctuated from posting in the class group asking to write statements. Other presidents have just appointed people.

- **Jon Stanhope:** The official way it is supposed to happen is the Class President appoints and central council confirms. There is no election for appointees.

- **Elizabeth Groubert:** Jon Kirshenbaum, I know that you're studying abroad next semester. What is the procedure for when a class president is studying abroad?
  - **Lilly Pieper:** As for appointing people it has never been me just appoint anyone. Usually there is not an excess of people, sometimes it is difficult finding people. Once those members are approved within their group, they will decide.

  - **Elizabeth Groubert:** Is it the same procedure for a treasurer or representative?
  - **Lilly Pieper:** yup, in my experience people who have left have appointed someone in advance.

  - **Max Kohn:** There is definitely some leeway. That being said, the constitution says that if the Class President goes away, that president puts forward a candidate to replace them and that candidate needs a simple majority to be confirmed by the Assembly.

**Club Recognition Process Recommendations: Max Phillipps**

- **Gillian Mak:** Student Activities will use this to vet clubs more thoroughly. Sometimes they are redundant. Currently Student activities does not have an official way to do this and they asked for policy from us in a similar format to our funding codes. Max, Jiin, and Elizabeth worked on these recommendations over the past semester and met with Kaity Werner in Student Activities. The class registration process would go into the Constitution’s bylaws.

- **Max Phillipps:** Jiin, Elizabeth and I have been working with Kaity on the club recognition process. Kaity and Noelle have been the main people working on the current club recognition process, and they usually use a firm commonsense approach. Our method was to create a formalized process that included student voices. It is broken into two parts. There are certain things we wanted to talk about but most of the suggestions come from comments people made. In the first page, there is an overview of what we have to do. We want to create a subcommittee in SA that is responsible for vetting clubs. The committee we create will be a new committee that operates under Student Affairs. Part b 1-3 includes the general criteria that Kaity uses. In point A3 we looked into accountability measures. We decided that clubs should submit a report after a year about their membership and the events they hosted. Currently, the club recognition process occurs in Spring, but we want to move the bulk of it in the first semester and filter the application in the beginning of the semester. The
subcommittee would meet in the beginning of the fall semester. There would be a probationary period where new clubs can set be structured and find ways to increase membership levels. Probation has a negative connotation but it is an opportunity for the club to set itself up and get assistance from the subcommittee. For example, the treasurer in the subcommittee can offer financial advice to clubs. On the second page, it states that there is a funding limit on new clubs. This stems from the Model U.N example, it is a way to stipulate that we are not throwing away money on clubs we just approved. Once again the process is in the fall semester, and the subcommittee would meet once in the beginning. We can open up this for discussion.

- **Jake Engelman**: Under point 4, in regards to the probationary period, they would not get nonstrategic. On 5a, I disagree-- I don’t think it is necessary, we do look at the fundamentals when we review funding. Personally, I think it’s a shame to limit clubs. For example if you're a Junior and you have a great idea of a club you would have to wait two entire years and then you would graduate. It should not be a two year thing. If anything, five weeks is enough.

- **Elizabeth Groubert**: We currently fund 70 clubs and have a very tight budget. My concern is that a new club will come along and ask for 10 percent of our budget. We’ve seen this happen in the past and there are new clubs currently putting a tremendous strain on the budget. Without properly assessing a new club’s capabilities and demonstrated interest over an extended period of time, I cannot in good conscience fund said organization 10% of the student activities budget. There are only so many clubs we can allocate 10% of the budget for without limiting the capabilities of other student organizations. Too often in the semester we find ourselves in a situation where we are unable to fund a club like coding club because we have run out of money. Furthermore, I don't think 10 percent is realistic to fund any one club given that we have 70.

  - **Jake Engelman**: I think the time and funding percent thing is unrelated to the club. Obviously we had this deal with Model U.N., but I think that's a matter of circumstance. At the end of this day it is unfortunate that we had a hostile relationship with them. I think once you are a full club, you’re a full club and it's not fair for us to put this limit in place.
  - **Harry Dubke**: This is about establishing precedent about creating clubs. We should add funding related things to the funding codes.
  - **Lilly Pieper**: I think that it's something we can talk about in the meeting and discuss. I can see us having to suspend the rules in the future if we do adopt this limit. There are a lot of great clubs that have been here for two years, and bringing in speakers is definitely expensive
  - **Zach Oscar**: We are forgetting that just because a club applies for an absurd amount of money does not mean we don't have to fund them. I agree with Jake-- we should leave off the two year period.
  - **Jon Stanhope**: It seems like everyone wants to nix 5a. Any other issues?
- **Jake Engelman:** I think I’m looking into extending the five week program. It is good to see how a club can do programming without any money.
  - Noelle Niznik: There are definitely more than 70 clubs, there are over 200 organizations in the database. We need to evaluate the process. Just wanted to clarify that.
  - **Jake Engelman:** Is the probationary period one semester now?
    - Noelle Niznik: No it is five weeks.
    - Jon Stanhope: We changed it from 10 weeks to 5 weeks during last year’s review of the funding codes.
    - Elizabeth Groubert: The reason why we shortened the probationary period from 10 weeks to 5 weeks was because it is very hard for clubs to run without supplemental funding from Student Assembly. I agree that there is merit in the idea that it is good to see what programming a club can do without our assistance. However, extending the probationary period discriminates against students who don’t have the resources to fund a new club on their own dollar.
  - **Jon:** Max, do these changes affect only new clubs looked to become certified, or do the changes also require existing clubs to go through a recertification process?
    - Max: It deals only with new clubs.
    - Jon Stanhope: Interesting. Well if the whole point of this new certification process is to cut down on redundant clubs or non-serious clubs, why don’t we make all of our existing organizations go through that process as well? If we have 70 clubs that regularly ask for money and hold events, but there are 200 clubs on the books, many of which are inactive, we can probably cut down on some of those through the filter of a re-certification process.
    - **Max Philipps:** What's the cost of keeping them as registered organizations?
    - Lilly Pieper: Every year they have to renew and submit constitutions. How are these clubs that have no members still existent?
    - Noelle Niznik: They have to update online. We can have a more thorough renewing process. Our hope is that if we come up with a solid recognition process that will eliminate some of the issues with funding we are having.
  - **Diana Perez:** On the first page point two, section b, language regarding voting procedures of the subcommittee needs to be clarified.
    - Max Philipps: Let me connect them to the stipulations on the second page. It is more a general overview here.
    - Diana Perez: Maybe just clarify the way the vote could work. How can ties be broken and ect?
    - Gianni Hill: What do you mean by universal vote?
    - Max Philipps: I mean unanimous.
    - **Jon Stanhope:** How about galactic vote?
Max Phillipps: There are four people on the board, so it seems like an unanimous decision is the best option. I’ll work on the language of these before next week.

Club Registration Processes Tabled for Next Week’s Meeting.

5. Committee Reports
   Note: all committees must submit a final report for next week’s meeting to SA@Hamilton.edu.

6. Working Group Reports
   Note: All working groups must submit a final report for next week’s meeting to SA@hamilton.edu.

7. Funding
   Amount Remaining Non-Strategic: $1,370.13
   Amount Remaining Discretionary: $722.56

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If funding passes, Remaining Non-Strategic: $1,227.13
Remaining Discretionary: $484.56

- Jake Engelman: Minds for Change wants snacks for their Speak Out event this coming Wednesday. They submitted this week’s ago when we didn’t have money. The budget comes in under $5 a head!

Minds for Change funding passes as recommended

- Jake Engelman: Snacks for Citrus Bowl! They’re requesting $238.00 for the social traditions event.
- Casey Codd: It is orange juice and cookies. Citrus Bowl is December 2nd at 7 pm!

Discretionary funding passes as recommended.

- Org Leaders, please roll your unused/leftover funding back by emailing Jake Engelman at satreas@hamilton.edu.
- Funding Codes, Club Registration Processes-- Working groups please set up a time to meet with Kaity to review your recommendations this week.
8. Announcements

- Voting for Student Assembly President and Vice President is scheduled for December 4-6th. The ticket is uncontested and campaigning may begin today. Write ins are welcome.
- Citrus Bowl is December 2nd! Keep an eye out for an email from Social Traditions Committee with more information!
- Campus Safety Director Frank Coots will be holding a lunchtime "Dessert and Discussion with the Director" (similar to "Coffee with the Chief" events that local police departments do) **next Tuesday, Dec. 5th from 11:30 AM -1:30 PM in McEwen.** Director Coots will be available to talk about campus safety's role on campus, Hamilton's social scene, student life, and other questions or concerns students may have for his office.