1. Call to Order
   - Attendance
     - Present
       - Andrew Fischer
       - Silvia Radulescu
       - Caroline Reppert
       - Natalie Klingher
       - Alex Hollister
       - Conor Craven
       - Catherine Cooper
       - Abigail Armstrong
       - Elizabeth Rodriguez
       - Sarah Nolan
       - Erik Marks
       - Alex Reading
       - Jordan Zeng
       - Marchel Holle
       - Victor Oyadiji
       - Lauren Mulligan
       - Ben Schafer
       - Evelyn Torsher
       - Alexandru Hirsu
       - Sharif Shrestha
       - Cesar Renero
       - Han Joon Byun
       - Lizzi Tran
       - Maura Torres
       - Mariaelena Hiller Chacin
       - Zach Oscar
       - Don Stayner
       - Sharon Liu
     - Excused
       - Brady Sprague
       - Alexander Klosner
       - Tim Hartel
       - Ellie Ducommun
       - Zach Hardmeyer

1. Old Business
   - NESCAC Student Government Conference Recap - Don Stayner, Mariaelena Hiller Chacin, Alex Hirsu
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 2, 2015**

- Mariaelena Hiller Chacin - Tufts using app called OrgSync
  - Different departments have different pages to publicize their particular events.
    - Might be a good alternative to the mass emails we send
  - Don Stayner
    - Other colleges use a company that installs GPS for the Jitney, so students can track where the Jitney is themselves.
      - Andrew Fischer will look into the specifics and assign to a committee
    - Other student assemblies have positions for ‘Town Relations’
    - Residential Life - Most other schools have an online housing lottery
      - At Tufts, students receive all three numbers at the end of their freshman year, using a balancing system
        - If you get a bad number one year, it will be balanced with a better number for another year.

- Alex Hirshu - Good and Welfare sessions
  - Other student assemblies will have discussion about whether an event went well or not and why, at the end of every Student Assembly meeting.
  - Other schools post How-to’s on public boards. For example, how to approach a SA Representatives, how to write a resolution, etc.
  - Other schools publish their SA minutes in weekly student newspaper
    - Some schools even send the minutes to Trustees
      - Led to more donations
  - Tufts also has a ‘Diversity Representative’

- Marielena Hiller-Chacin - Tufts puts money in an endowment and uses the interest to fund student groups

- Don Stayner
  - Other colleges have a policy if you are requesting funding from Student Assembly, the group receiving the funding is required to have an event on Friday or Saturday nights that is open to the campus in order to create more all campus events on weekends.
    - Need more information about the specifics of their policies.
STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
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- We are underusing our dorm common rooms compared to other schools.
  - This largely has to do with the restrictions we place on those spaces re: alcohol consumption, gathering, etc.
- We have a relatively good relationships to the surrounding towns compared to other NESCAC schools
  - NESCAC Alcohol Survey began this Sunday
    - Please take it! And be Honest!

2. Public Comment Period

- Senior Week
  - Overview:
    - Catie Cooper- In the past, there has been a Senior formal every year during Senior Week. Tickets cost $75-$80 per person and it was held at the Hotel Utica. However, in the past, there have been many issues with student behavior.
      - Because there were many damages, this event costed the school a significant amount to clean up afterwards. It isn't fair to place the burden for those damages on the school every year.
      - Public urination, vomiting, pulling fire alarms (twice in the same night, resulting in the entire hotel being evacuated and the event being called-off at 10:30 p.m.), stealing, consumption of illegal substances, etc.
    - Hamilton could not enter into another contract with an outside vendor in good faith given the record of behavior, damages, etc.
  - Senior concentration dinner changing as well-
    - Attendance was low in the past, so now it is combined with a formal event. The school would foot the bill, so then students would only need to buy one ticket. Cheaper for students!
    - President's Gala Night- 2 parts
      - First part- with faculty and administration, formal sit-down dinner with student speakers, will sit with other majors in the same department (double majors will be addressed shortly)
      - Second part- students only, dancing, DJ, photobooth, etc.
STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
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- Beer and wine (possibly even Champagne) at both events.
  No hard alcohol
- Seniors may not bring non-senior dates.
- Conor Craven- There are some concerns about the seating--What if seniors would rather sit with their friends than with their concentration?
  - Catie Cooper- This event is taking the place of the concentration dinners, so yes, they would have to sit with other students with the same major, but they would only have to sit with fellow majors for an hour and a half or so.
  - Elizabeth Rodriguez- This event would not be a replacement of formal. It would be a revamping of the concentration dinners.
    ■ The Committee is trying to compensate for the cancellation of the formal by adding a second part to this event. This second part would not have an academic focus, it would be for fun.
- Abigail Armstrong- The idea of this event is to have mingling time before and after the dinner in order to combine hanging out with friends and visiting with other professors.
- Erik Marks: The goal is to create a more accessible event than what the Senior formal was in past years.
  ■ Elizabeth Rodriguez- The cancellation of formal is indicative of the larger problem that the student body can’t be trusted to behave appropriately.
  ■ Alex Hollister- When are the changes going to end? What is the end goal of changes to Greek life, housing, formal, jitney, etc.?
  ■ Lisa Magnarelli- These changes are in direct response to student behavior, which is not improving.
  ■ Conor Craven- Has there been progress seen since the changes in Jitney policy? Is there a review process in place in order to determine that the changes are having the desired effect?
    ■ Lisa Magnarelli- Yes, there have been some improvements but they are baby steps. At this point, review of the policy is based on feedback from the drivers, campus safety, ride-alongs, etc.
STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
MARCH 2, 2015

- Victor Oyadiji- Can this year be the probationary period for the Senior Formal? It’s the least the the college can do is to give the seniors a formal.
  - Lisa Magnarelli- Seniors are not entitled to a formal just for being students here. The college is already helping organize a whole week for seniors to enjoy themselves and celebrate.
    - Plus, what if this new event is better?
- Catie Cooper- When people hear specific examples of why the formal is cancelled, they are not really surprised.
  - Students have to take ownership of their actions collectively, even if those bad actions are only done by a few individuals.
- Cesar Renero- The larger problem is not that we are drinking more, but that we are drinking irresponsibly.
  - There is a problem with the campus conception of drinking in that we don’t allow alcoholic events. Why can’t we have wine and hors d’oeuvres with professors? We should learn how to drink responsibly, and look towards a culture change. Without change, students behavior and the culture on campus is just becoming more and more dangerous.
- Erik Marks-
  - Hamilton students, because of the way that they act, have to shoulder a lot of the responsibility for the changes such as the removal of senior formal. The College is looking out for students’ best interests by reevaluating their procedures.
  - This is not just a problem on Hamilton’s campus, but rather it shows a larger national trend that is concerning.
- Conor Craven- In regards to restrictions being placed on students:
  - Yes, the school is trying to do what it thinks is in the best interest of the students; however, the process is too arbitrary. There is no review process; it’s too subjective for the administration, and lacks of student input.
- Conor Craven- (in response to Cesar Renero’s previous point)
  - It is dangerous to restrict drinking to public, formal spaces. This restriction will only create a larger problem by burying drinking deeper and deeper and thus creating more dangerous situations.
We need a process by which to evaluate the procedures that have been put in place so that students and faculty can properly assess if they are working or not.

- Maura Torres - Students don’t know their [drinking] limits. We need to send a larger message about how to drink responsibly outside of lecture in orientation.
  - Lisa Magnarelli - We do this during Orientation every year. An extra session about alcohol education would not be received very positively by students.
  - Maura Torres - The extra session should be mandatory for students to attend.

- Elizabeth Rodriguez - This is a very complicated issue. Some may think that we act like children, but punishment by the college only furthers the cycle (ie: students do something bad and then something gets taken away).

  - In response to Conor Craven - On campus parties are fewer and fewer, so people stay in their rooms or in small groups which is probably where the heaviest drinking occurs.
    - When there is no visibility, no accountability, that is where dangerous situations arise.
    - People need to be in public situations where they are subjected to the judgment of their peers.

- Zach Oscar - Although we might want to educate people on drinking, the behavior of those 9 or 10 people who choose to go too far will not change.

  - We’re trying to fix the problem immediately, but the problem is actually much larger. It needs to be addressed in a more general context. We must accept there are still people who will continue doing dangerous things regardless of our efforts.

3. **New Business**

- Board of Trustee Committee Meetings - March 6-7
  - Attendees: You can’t appoint someone to replace you if you cannot make it.
  - Your replacement has to be someone who is already on the committee. Speak to Andrew Fischer with questions.

- Off-Campus Housing Resolution - Conor Craven
  - See separate email with the proposed resolution
Focus is less on having the college institute off-campus housing again, but rather more along the lines that students came with one expectation and are being presented something else. This is setting a dangerous precedent.

Evelyn Torsher- The fact that there is a plan to phase out off-campus housing is not news.

Cesar Renero- The resolution should also mention the other policy changes, such as the elimination of the Communications department, that were not grandfathered in.

Erik Marks- The school notified off-campus societies 2 years ago that off-campus housing was going to be eliminated. When greek houses were taken away in 1995, that change was made with the larger goal of ending off campus housing.
  ■ We should amend the language to show that this has been a long time coming but perhaps has not been publicised enough to current students.

Catie Cooper- Even though this is an issue that students feel passionately about, there were numerous meetings with students to address the issue in the past.
  ■ This discussion also goes to bigger issue of entitlement within the student body on campus. There is a pattern of becoming angry just because we don’t get what we want when we want it, even though the decision will not change.
  ■ Andrew Fischer- The proposed resolution is not trying to say that we want the housing reinstated, but rather it is asking for “grandfather” system.
  ■ Catie Cooper- But the resolution is, effectively, doing just that.

Alex Hollister- This is not an issue of entitlement, but instead about potentially changing reasons why students came to the college and the assumptions students had when they arrived.
  ■ It is about the bigger issue of students not being informed of decisions of the trustees.
  ■ Lisa Magnarelli- The change to off-campus housing was announced 3 years ago. The committee that made the decision had student representation on it, so there was previous conversation regarding the issue. It’s redundant to keep having this conversation.

Conor Craven- Tours are still advertising off-campus housing as an option.
  ■ Student consultation- Did the administration pick the students on the committee?
■ No accountability- Who reviews the effectiveness of policy changes? How is progress measured?
  ● Lisa Magnarelli- The Board of Trustees made this decision in 1995.
  ● Student on the board were selected by Student Assembly, so student interests were represented.
  ● Andrew Fischer- Agrees that it is important that potential students are properly informed about potential housing options.

■ Elizabeth Rodriguez- Likes the idea of the resolution, but has some reservations about the current language. Maybe it should include other points, such as:
  ● It is cheaper to live downtown.
  ● It is a way to develop our relationship with town and helps the local economy.
  ● The downtown spaces provide alternative social spaces for students- not only for those involved in Greek life.
  ● It helps seniors make the transition from college to the real world.
    ○ Living downtown is a more adult lifestyle.
  ● Downtown housing has a stigma that it is all Greek life. This is not true-- downtown housing has been open to everyone.

○ Don Stayner- The people who live downtown sign leases at the beginning of spring term. So, regardless of if the policy were to change, it is now too late for students to live downtown next year.
  ■ What is the next step with a resolution like this, since it is not totally focused on student issues? This involves other bodies than just students ie the administration, trustees, ect.
  ■ Andrew Fischer- This resolution would be a good starting point for the conversation with those “other bodies”.

○ Kevin Welsh (GUEST)- Tour guides say wrong things sometimes. They are not infallible.
  ■ Off-campus housing was never guaranteed to students here- lottery system, numerous conditions, etc.
  ■ Off-campus housing is not a deciding factor for some students in the college search.
  ■ Doesn’t agree with that downtown housing provides open social spaces.
Conor Craven- (In response to Kevin Welsh)
  - Tour guides are the face of the school. While, yes, they may make mistakes, you can’t ignore that they should provide accurate important information.
  - In regards to additional online research prospective students might do... There was no indication on the college website that downtown housing would be eliminated. First announcement/mention was last spring, after applications had already been submitted.
  - This problem goes to the larger issue that the school is promising things and then taking them away.

Catie Cooper- 2 years ago, students had conversations with administration numerous times.
  - The problem is that students don’t come out until there is a “punch in the face.”
  - The fact that this was a really intense year of changes only makes it more prevalent.
  - Understands why there are frustrations, but we have already had this conversation.

Erik Marks- Sympathetic to the fact that there was confusion about possibility of living situations for potential students because of a lack of publicity and to the idea that students shouldn’t have to fact check the tour guides.
  - There are a number of good points in resolution (dysfunctional relationship between students and administration, lack of student involvement, no accountability, no review process, etc.), but nothing we do is going to save off-campus housing. The issue has already been resolved.
  - The more important issue to address is the relationship between the administration and student body.

Conor Craven- This is a conversation starter.
  - The problem lies with the disconnect between administration and students as well as with the lack of student involvement. Now students will have a conversation about the larger issues.

Marchel Holle- There is a chicken and the egg problem-
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
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- The idea of students not being able to take care of themselves, so policies change in order to help us,
- The larger problem of college culture is accountability.
- Agrees that student are gradually being treated less like adults.
- Problem with “changing of the guard.” There is a short institutional memory. Current students can’t look back at what was discussed previously and what was decided in past years.
- There is a lack of clarity as to why decisions were made. Even with student representatives, we still don’t know what went on in the meetings. There should be a clear record.
- Conor Craven should redraft the resolution to better fit the conversation we’re having now.
  - Cesar Renero- Ashley Place should have told the students more about how, why, etc. regarding the decision.
  - Rather than Nancy Thompson sending the information in emails to the student body last year, we should just have the details up front.
  - This change is happening, so why should we be trying to change policies made by the Board of Trustees?
  - We should concentrate on the cons of this change. Ex: Students will still go downtown which will concentrate Greek life off campus.
  - Elizabeth Rodriguez- Just because the message is new to freshmen, doesn’t mean we shouldn’t talk about it.
  - Straw poll results- Student Assembly will reconsider this resolution next week, with edits.
    - Let Andrew Fischer know if you want to help re-draft the resolution.

4. Committees
   - Constitution
   - Cultural Affairs
     - Food truck on Wednesday was a success!
     - Let Cultural Affairs Committee know if you have suggestions!
     - Alex Hollister- Is there a way to organize how people get the food in a more efficient manner?
      - Catie Cooper- Not really, because the food is only in one place. We are definitely considering solutions, though!
StudENt ASsemBlY MEETING
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• Facilities
  ○ Let Zach Oscar know if you have comments/concerns.
• Food
  ○ Working to form a group of students to meet with Bon Appetit before spring
    break about vegan/vegetarian/gluten-free options. Info to follow via email.
  ○ Send any food suggestions to Ben Shafer (bschafer@hamilton.edu.)
• Health and Safety
  ○ Meeting with Dave Thompson on Tuesday, March 3rd regarding how Student
    Assembly can become more involved in the initiatives that his office is taking
• LITS
  ○ In regards to WebPrint being down: the program doesn’t report itself when there
    is a problem, so when it’s down, call the help desk.
  ○ New printer on the second floor of the library
• Philanthropy
  ○ Heart Run/Walk this Saturday
  ○ Trying to get Hamilton students registered because Colgate has had higher
    participation in the past. (And because it’s a great cause)
    ○ Heart Run/Walk registration tomorrow in Beinecke from 11:30-1:00pm.
• Social Traditions
• Student Interests
  ○ Looking into having a Tuesday coffee hour
  ○ Also looking into a solution regarding laptop chargers in Sadove

5. Funding
Rollbacks: SPAC, $118.28
Amount remaining prior to Student Assembly meeting 3/2/15: $16115.04

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Total Amount Requested: $847.12  
Total Amount Recommending: $847.12  
Amount Remaining if Budget passes: $15267.92  
Amount Remaining in Discretionary: $4261.55  

- All passed in full.  

6. Announcements  
- Sharon Liu-- Proposed idea. Once a week, in Commons, we should have different on-campus groups get to know each other by sitting in random seating in the dining hall. It would be like a mixer, but during meals. See below  
  - **Our event**: One Saturday afternoon for lunch (probably 12pm), students will have the option to join this event. The event lasts one hour, but that does not mean students have to participate for the entire hour. As students swipe their Hillcards into Commons dining hall, they will be given a number, indicating which table they’re assigned to sit at for their lunch. Every student’s number will be completely random, in hopes of creating tables of students that wouldn’t necessarily sit with one another and who may not know one another. In addition, there will be thought-provoking questions placed at each table to help ignite conversations between the students. This event can only be successful if we have a large number of students from all types of different organizations engaged and supportive.  
  - **Organizations willing to support initial message**:  
    - Ultimate frisbee (Contact: Jonah Boucher)  
    - Powder Club (Contact: Maxwell Coleman)  
    - Student Assembly (Contact: Sharon Liu)  
    - Campus Activities Board (CAB) (Contact: Sharon Liu)  
    - HAVOC (Contact: Kelly Watts)  

- Osvaldo Adames (via email)- The Brothers Organization and SLU are working on a project called "To Unborn Daughter, Son, Child." This will be a whiteboard campaign where students on campus write a message to their future child. However, "the goal of
this project is to provide an opportunity for students to record sincere statements of advice, concern and hope for their future child or children in an effort to encourage people to reflect on the role or roles they themselves might play in efforts to address issues of oppression. This advice may relate to difficult or eye-opening experiences from your life as well as various ways of interpreting and understanding certain aspects of society. Ultimately, we hope that this project will inspire Hamilton students to engage in honest and genuine dialogues concerning our individual and collective responsibilities in relation to future generations and also inspire students to go beyond conversation to take action on campus."

- Will take place March 2nd - 5th (Monday 5-7pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 4-6pm) in the Sadove Living Room.