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
    - Brady Sprague- Late
    - Alex Reading
    - Jordan Zeng
    - Marchel Holle
    - Victor Oyadiji
    - Lauren Mulligan
    - Ben Schafer
    - Evelyn Torsher
    - Alexandru Hirsu
    - Alexander Klosner
    - Cesar Renero
    - Han Joon Byun
    - Tim Hartel
    - Lizzi Tran
    - Zach Oscar
    - Don Stayner
    - Sharon Liu
    - Zach Hardmeyer
  - Excused
    - Cesar Renero
    - Ellie Ducommun
    - Sharon Liu
  - Absent
    - Sharif Shrestha
    - Maura Torres
    - Mariaelena Hiller Chacin
2. Old Business

- Board of Trustee Committee Meetings - March 6-7
  - Lizzi Tran - Attended the Planning Committee meeting
    - Committee working to revise Hamilton’s mission statement, discussing specific wording issues
    - Marchel Holle- Does Student Assembly have input on the mission statement?
      - Andrew Fischer- A survey was sent out a few weeks ago. Silvia and I are also on the committee re-writing the mission statement.
  - Abby Armstrong- Surprised that the trustees generally did not acknowledge students’ presence at the meetings.
  - Alex Hollister- Attended the Funding Committee meeting
    - Tuition will increase by 3.5% next year
    - Discussion need-blind finance planning
  - Evelyn Torcher- Attended the Admission Committee meeting
    - Agreed with Abby Armstrong that she felt as if she didn’t have very much input in the meeting
    - Number of applications higher than ever
  - Erik Marks- Did anyone else not feel acknowledged in the trustee meetings?
    - Silvia Radulescu-- They did not ask me any questions.
    - Abby Armstrong-- I could have answered questions from personal experience but didn’t feel comfortable offering my opinions.
    - Lizzi Tran-- I was not at the physical table, but rather off to the side (in a corner) instead.
  - Don Stayner-- Is the fact that trustees don’t acknowledge students in their meetings a common occurrence?
    - Andrew Fischer-- Not sure. Off-campus this last weekend and was unable to attend the meetings. Silvia attended the Student Affairs meeting, alone. From everything that I have heard, it does seem to be a common sentiment.
  - Alex Hollister-- Is it worth students going if they are going to be treated this way?
    - Andrew Fischer-- Trustee resolution from 2001 requires Student Assembly President to appoint student representatives to each committee. Resolution states: “the students and faculty members shown… be invited
to attend meetings of Standing Committees of the Board of Trustees with voice but not vote.”

■ Erik Marks- This sort of treatment is very concerning.

■ Marchel Holle- Seems that its just a tokenism to say that there was a student there. Can we pass a resolution so that we can at least be at the physical table?
  ● Silvia Radulescu-- Had physical seat at table. Other meetings were probably more crowded than the Student Affairs meets. Students were not given name tags.

■ Lisa Magnarelli-- Erik Marks has a good point, but it may be more appropriate for Andrew Fischer and Silvia Radulescu to talk to President Stewart about it.

● Follow-up on last week’s proposed resolution
  ○ Resolution tabled until after Spring Break for additional revision time.
  ○ Zach Hardmeyer- Received positive feedback to the fact that there was a resolution regarding this issue.
  ○ Catie Cooper- Also received positive feedback from the upperclassmen
    ● However, students realize that we have been through this already. Some feel this is just opening an old wound.
    ● Some students are annoyed that we are discussing this again, but there was positive feedback that we are showing our disapproval of what the administration is doing.
  ○ Lauren Mulligan-- Also received positive feedback that we are talking about this issue.
  ○ Catie Cooper-- People have resigned themselves to the decision, so there is some frustration that we are talking about this again.
  ○ Zach Oscar-- Received feedback that its a bit much to ask that off-campus housing be reinstated. It could create unnecessary tension between class years if some did not have the option of off-campus housing but others did.
  ○ Conor Craven-- Feedback that people are “being trampled on” by the administration
    ● The resolution was radical, but the purpose was to get people talking.
    ● Yes, it is opening old wounds, but people are talking.
    ● Wants to bring light to the fact that the student’s voices aren’t necessarily being heard.
Lauren Mulligan-- Speaking with Juniors, some were not aware of what was going on until after the meetings took place sophomore year.

- Junior class has had to fight against changes beginning their year on a number of occasions.

Chris Wilson (Guest)-- There should be more student involvement in Trustee meetings. It seemed as if (from the number of people on SA who attended) that there were very few students at these meetings.

Cole Trager (Guest)-- Shows the student body’s lack of participation in administrative decisions.

- Would like to see more student participation in a number of areas—off-campus housing, trustee meetings, etc.

Connor Cantrell (Guest)-- When did the original announcement come out for housing changes?

- Andrew Fischer-- In 1995, the Trustees decided that all housing would come on-campus, but the implementation of that decision was left up to the administration.
  - There won’t be enough beds on-campus until Minor Theater’s completion this summer.

- Connor Cantrell-- Supports the general “radical” nature of the resolution. Students do not have much say or control about what happens here at Hamilton College. It seems as if a lot of the decisions are being made to mirror peer institutions.

Cole Trager-- It is important that we don’t group apathy and not caring into one category.

- Some people just don’t care because they don't feel like they can have an impact.

- Most people don’t think particular change is in the students’ best interests.

Jack Young (Guest)-- Downtown housing is a lost cause, but this discussion and resolution is showing the administration that we are aware of what is going on and that we care.

- Decisions that will affect only certain groups… Those groups should be specifically consulted. Not just random members of the student body who may not be as involved or affected.

- It isn’t enough to send something like a survey out to the entire student body. The school should reach out to specific individuals that will be directly affected.
Student Assembly Meeting
March 09, 2015

■ Is it really that uncomfortable to speak up at the trustee meetings?
  ● Silvia Radulescu - Attended the Student Affairs Committee meeting.
    ○ Nancy Thompson informed the trustees about issues concerning the student body.
    ■ Seemed like less of a discussion and more of a presentation.
  ● Abby Armstrong - Attended the Committee on Instruction meeting. Felt like a catch-all committee.
    ○ Discussion of professors eligible for tenure, changes in athletics, etc.
    ○ Also more of a presentation.
    ○ There should be a change in how the trustee meetings are run so they can be more conducive to student involvement

■ Connor Cantrell - What sort of power do students have?
  ● Andrew Fischer - We fully control student club and organization funding.
    ○ We can pass resolutions, statements, letters, etc. on issues of concern to the student body, but the administration is not obligated to react/respond. We work hard to engage relevant offices, groups, and individuals, though.
    ○ Nancy Thompson (and many other members of the faculty, staff, and administration) take notice of Student Assembly minutes and resolutions.

■ Zach Hardmeyer - Off-campus housing was discussed at accepted students day two years ago.
  ● There should be more than one student on each trustee committee.
  ● Andrew Fischer - Limited by trustee resolution on how many people SA President may appoint to each committee.

■ Elizabeth Rodriguez - Agrees with Cole Trager.
  ● Senior week is going through the same thing. Student organizers’ names are associated with events, but the decisions are essentially already made regarding their organization. Senior Week Committee has minimal input (“We can choose the color of the napkins.”)
Cole Trager- Lack of student involvement is not a new issue; it is just becoming more and more of a problem every year.

- Level of student democracy here is minimal compared to other schools.
- Why isn’t there a more radical discussion occurring?
- Everyone sounds like they want more of a voice and want to be encouraged by the administration to contribute... Why are we accepting the status quo?
- Students want to have more of a voice, and it sounds like our Student Representatives do too, so let’s do something about it.

Zach Oscar- Discussed with Matt Doyle the issue that tour guides are still advertising the option of off-campus housing to potential students. Will be resolved as soon as possible.

Catie Cooper-- When students do want change, it can happen. We can’t just complain in dining halls or on social media, but rather there needs to be an active student body who will voice their opinions to Student Assembly and to the administration.

- How do we fix these problems? It seems as if we don’t react to issues as a student body, until we are knee-deep. This is problematic.
- It is on us to make more of an effort, but we can only go so far without students here giving us their arguments and opinions.
- If you have a problem, please come to the meeting!
- With more students behind Student Assembly, we could change minds.

Cole Trager- We need to do something more radical, like a sit-in.

- Catie Cooper- The administration does listen, but we need student support.
- Cole Trager- We need a more concerted effort to get change to happen.

Tim Hartel- In response to the comment that we have no student democracy:

- This is not really true.
- Compared to other NESCAC schools, some of which have no control over what happens, we do have a say. Bates students have little to no input on campus policies.
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 09, 2015**

- Nancy Thompson listens to us.
- Yes, we need to be proactive, but we also don’t want to risk the positive aspects of the relationships that we do have.
- Erik Marks- If there were a sit-in, if 30 people came to a Student Assembly meeting, then that would be something. We have never had a ground swell of people come to us.
- We have student apathy because people think that our voice doesn’t matter.
- All parties involved (Student Assembly Representatives, students, and the administration) have some fault in this situation.

■ Marchel Holle-- Thank you, to the students who attended the meeting!
- Meeting is a little limiting to conversation with guests because of the physical set up of the room. (Note from the Executive Committee: We will fix this for the next meeting. Students will also receive a copy of the agenda.)
- Is the resolution pragmatic? The mindset is that the resolution is just to start a conversation reinforces the notion that we actually can’t do anything.
- Because SA doesn’t respond the day-to-day and we don’t have the political support or respect of the administration, we can’t take action when we need to.
- BUT we can change this sentiment gradually over time.

■ Jack Young- What exactly are the new downtown policies? Alumni are concerned.
- Andrew Fischer- Spoke with Nancy Thompson about the likelihood of students paying room and board next year but also leasing downtown. According to Dean Thompson, this issue hasn’t been considered before. There is probably little the school can do to stop students from doing this, but will look into what the situation is.
- Lisa Magnarelli- Student are NOT permitted to live in off-campus housing paid for by a private society.
  ○ See Point 5:
**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**  
**MARCH 09, 2015**

- **Erik Marks** - Information should be sent out from the ISC (Inter-Society Council).
  - This issue has been discussed in ISC meetings
  - If private societies pay for housing downtown and members live there, there will be disciplinary action.
- **Jack Young** - What if alumni group owns the house and your group just meets there?
  - **Erik Marks** - Believes that this is a violation of policy. Lisa Magnarelli agrees.
  - **Erik Marks** - If an individual owns/leases the house, this is not a violation of policy… Maybe.
- **Conor Craven** - The fact that Nancy Thompson didn’t know that this was an issue shows lack of communication between the student body and the administration.
  - If students were more involved, then she may have known that students could do this.
- **Elizabeth Rodriguez** - These policies could cause a lot of problems.
  - Reinforces the idea that students always have to skirt the decision of the administration.
  - If individual students pay for their own houses downtown, this could create a separation in the student body, specifically around socio-economic class.
    - Same with the Senior Gala (if some Seniors choose to have their own instead of attending the school sponsored event. There is already talk of this among Class of 2015.)
- **Chris Wilson** - There isn’t enough of a forum for people to come talk to Student Assembly. A couple of students did not want to come to the meeting tonight because they think Student Assembly has no say and that their presence would be useless.
  - Student Assembly should find a way to connect with the students better and then make more changes happen on campus.
  - Would like to see a town-hall style meeting/forum to discuss particular issues.
- **Marchel Holle** - Agrees with Chris Wilson.
- **Catie Cooper** - (and everyone else) Thank you to the students who came and spoke tonight!
Everyone’s fault in creating this environment and everyone needs to be involved in changing it.

- Erik Marks- Regarding individuals paying for downtown housing (instead of a private society)- Not sure what would happen if a group of people who happened to be in the same society who got a house together
- Don Stayner- We should change the arrangement of the room/meeting location to make it more inclusive.
- Han Joon Byun- Meeting time also inconvenient for some students.
  - Forum-style meeting on a Thursday or Friday afternoon as a supplement?
  - Andrew Fischer- Moving main meeting time would be difficult, but possible for discussion. We can definitely do supplementary meetings/forums.
- Victor Oyadiji- There should be more communication between students and Student Assembly leadership (specifically Andrew Fischer and Sivia Radulescu).
- Marchel Holle- Maybe no one would come at first to supplemental meeting, but it’s a step in the right direction. Over time, attendance would rise.

3. Public Comment Period
   - See “Guest” comments in Old and New Business sections.

4. New Business
   - NY6 Student Government Conference at Colgate - April 17-18
     - Marchel Holle, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Alex Hollister, Alex Hirsu, Zach Oscar (possible people interested).
   - “Gratitude Initiative”: Sponsoring/staffing tribute stations on Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10.
     - Volunteers?
       - STOP Day- no longer the theme campaign
       - Need volunteers to staff “tribute stations” so students can write messages
         - Catie Cooper, Victor Oyadiji, Alex Hirsu, Evelyn Torscher, Alex Reading (possible volunteers).
   - Academic Advising ePortfolios (Prof. Yee emailed Andrew Fischer)
     - Volunteers for committee?
Lauren Mulligan, Don Stayner, Abby Armstrong (possible volunteers).

Discussion ePortfolios

- Help students reflect, plan and organize their lives here at Hamilton.
- Extra curriculars and academics.
- Could potentially send to employers to show fuller picture of who the student is.

Alex Reading- If students can access it without their advisor, this would be helpful.
- Could help pre-professional tracks.
- Lauren Mulligan- Would also help freshmen advisors be more aware of what their advisees are doing
- Don Stayner- Should be accessible after graduation indefinitely.
- Catie Cooper- Students should be able to choose what goes in and what doesn’t.
  - It shouldn’t be a transcript.
- Zach Oscar- Not sure how well different professors would use this if they aren’t particularly tech savvy.

ISC Pledging Survey Results - Erik Marks

- Changes made to allow students a full year to adjust before pledging starts
- Wanted to see how people responded to the new pledging process
- Each society president has society-specific data
- Vast majority of pledges felt that the process was valuable, that it helped with their social life, and were happy with pledging length.
- 74% of respondents would have preferred to pledge in their freshman spring.
- 10 out of 15 January admits who would have rather pledged freshman spring.
- Some people could not pledge in sophomore fall because of the increased workload.
- ISC feels that the level of hazing is independent of whether pledging is in the spring or fall
  - Not sure why the school changed when the pledging process takes place, based on the numbers.
- Jack Young- Has the administration seen the results of the survey?
  - Erik Marks- They have now.
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
MARCH 09, 2015

- Jack Young- Shows that changes did not make sense, so they should be changed back to freshman spring
- Erik Marks- The numbers speak for themselves
  - Too late to change things for this year, but it’s important for everyone to know the results.

○ Tim Hartel- Were the students polled currently members of societies?
  - Can people who pledge but did not finish pledging process be polled?
    - Elizabeth Rodriguez and Erik Marks- That number of students is very small

○ Catie Cooper- Any other ways to get information beyond a survey?
  - It may give the results more clout with the administration if there was a broader group of students surveyed.
  - The survey is a good indicator to how people feel, but this may not be the whole picture in the eyes of the administration.
  - Erik Marks- It is clear who responded to the survey- can record usernames (but the results themselves are anonymous)
  - Catie Cooper- Could there be a survey about rushing to show different phases of the rush/pledge process?
    - Erik Marks- Hard to do for a large number of reasons.
      ○ Interesting to know, but there isn’t an indication of bias because of the timing of the survey.

○ Don Stayner- Findings go along with feedback, but the academic affect may not necessarily be that true.
  - Bias could play a role because people don’t want the administration to see that pledging could negatively impact a student’s GPA.
  - Maybe change the wording of the question related to academics to target the effect on students’ GPAs?
  - Erik Marks- Agrees that there might be a better way to phrase it.

○ Connor Cantrell- It would be interesting to poll members right after pledging and then each year thereafter to gain fuller perspective of the process and to see if student opinion changes over time.

○ Victor Oyadiji- There is room for bias in the survey because students are aware as to why the survey is being sent out.
  - Maybe get the names of the people who receive bids and then ask those students questions at different points during the process.
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 09, 2015**

- Silvia Radulescu- As someone who took the survey, there was no incentive to lie or be dishonest.
  - Elizabeth Rodriguez- If you are involved in the process, then you should be involved.
    - People who were surveyed have experience and can answer the questions accurately.
  - Austin Lokre (Guest)- Agrees with Catie Cooper.
    - The survey should ask people about the rushing experience to gain larger sampling of the student body.
    - Some pledges seemed socially isolated by pledging in the fall semester (vs. the spring). We should look into that using numbers.
  - Marchel Holle- Do those in greek life have a higher GPA than the student body?
    - Erik Marks and Lisa Magnarelli - Some societies do, but the average of all societies together is not higher than the student body average.

5. **Committees**

- **Constitution**
  - Meeting on Thursday.
- **Cultural Affairs**
  - Meeting on Thursday.
  - Cultural Food Truck on Wednesday after Spring Break. Hosted by LaVanguardia.
- **Facilities**
  - Talk to Zach Oscar if you have any questions/suggestions.
- **Food**
  - Dairy-free labels on food in dining halls.
  - Food Committee has an email! Contact food@hamilton.edu with comments, suggestions, etc.
  - BonAppetit wants to know if you have dietary restrictions that aren’t being met.
  - Daily menu emails available. Check BonAppetit's website.
    - Can filter by dining hall.
- **Health and Safety**
  - BeTheMatch (Bone Marrow Registry Registration) table at the Wellness Fair-April 1st
    - Volunteers needed! Sign up sheet: http://bit.ly/1AamD4
  - Meeting with David Thompson- SA involvement in HamTrek
Misconceptions about HamTrek- Wants to make it more of a carnival/hangout event.
   - If you/your group want to contribute to the festivities, email Dave Thompson.

LITS
   - Meeting this week about the Hamilton App
   - Reaching out to different departments about recording lectures to see if different professors are willing to try it out
   - Meeting with Lisa to talk about the number of emails being sent out

Philanthropy
   - Weekend after break, Super Smash Bros tournament
   - “Mix It Up”- details coming soon.

Social Traditions
   - Possible “Jackie Robinson Classic” event.

Student Interests
   - Coffee hour coming up.
   - Will look into having New York Times representative visit campus.

Senior Week
   - Met with tent company regarding the Senior Gala tent.
   - Schedule for the week should be coming out soon.
6. **Funding**

Rollbacks: ACS, $638.36

Amount remaining prior to Student Assembly meeting 3/9/15: $15267.92

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*Italics= Discretionary*

Total Amount Requested: $1653.91

Total Amount Recommending: $268.91

Amount Remaining if Budget passes: $15637.37

- Passed in full (as recommended).
  - HEAG request exceeded 25% limit on non-strategic funding after submitting a strategic budget.
  - French Club applied for funding after event had already occurred.
  - Arabic and Middle East Club applied for funding after the deadline.

7. **Announcements**

Thank you to the following students for attending tonight’s meeting and providing their input: Austin Lokre, Chris Wilson, Jack Young, Cole Trager, Connor Cantrell.