1. **Call to Order**

- Andrew Fischer - Received emails from a number of SA members excusing themselves from meetings because they’re “busy/have a lot of work.”
  - Unless there’s a direct conflict with the time of the meeting, members can and should attend. (ie. exam scheduled during meeting time on Monday)
  - Fine until now, but more strict enforcement of the attendance policy beginning in two weeks.
  - Attend meetings, and be on time!

- **Attendance**
  - Present
    - Andrew Fischer
    - Silvia Radulescu
    - Caroline Reppert
    - Natalie Klingher
    - Alex Hollister
    - Conor Craven
    - Catherine Cooper
    - Abigail Armstrong
    - Sarah Nolan
    - Elizabeth Rodriguez
    - Erik Marks
    - Brady Sprague
    - Alex Reading
    - Marchel Holle
    - Ben Schafer
    - Evelyn Torsher
    - Alexandru Hirsu
    - Alexander Klosner
    - Cesar Renero
    - Tim Hartel
    - Zach Oscar
    - Maura Torres
    - Don Stayner
    - Zach Hardmeyer
  - Excused
    - Jordan Zeng
    - Lauren Mulligan
    - Han Joon Byun
    - Lizzi Tran
    - Sharif Shrestha
    - Ellie Ducommun
    - Sharon Liu
2. Old Business
   ● Andrew Fischer- Class and Charter Committee meeting this afternoon
     ○ Committee makeup
       ■ Administration
       ■ Student Assembly
       ■ Faculty
       ■ Interested students
     ○ More information to come in the next few weeks regarding schedule, other event details, etc. for Class and Charter Concert
   ● Don Stayner- Clarification from last week’s minutes: LITS Committee building the Hamilton iPhone App, not LITS

3. Public Comment Period

4. New Business
   ● NY6 Student Government Conference at Colgate - April 17-18
     ○ Marchel Holle, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Alex Hollister, Alex Hirsu (possible attendees)
     ○ Andrew Fischer- Still waiting for more information from Colgate.
   ● Dave Smallen (LITS) - New Password System
     ○ “Information Security Awareness 101”
     ○ LITS trying to raise awareness on campus about information security.
     ○ Introducing new password management system-
       ■ System will tell you if a particular password is strong or not.
       ■ System requires each member of the Hamilton community to use a strong password.
         ● Different password strength and complexity requirements- either use a password that is short and has a combination of upper and lower case letter and symbols, or one that is longer and less complicated but easier to remember (like a phrase or saying)
       ■ Everyone will be required to change password at least once a year.
       ■ System synchronises passwords across all Hamilton services (HillConnect, WebAdvisor, Blackboard, etc.)
If you forget your password, the system will send a text message to your cell phone with a code. You can enter the code into the website to retrieve your password.

- Will also have to update the password in your cell phone Wifi settings to access the college network once you update it using the new system.

- Students will be required to change passwords on April 23rd (Seniors excluded).
  - Starting with non-faculty employees this week, then faculty, and finally students

- Will receive reminders each year to update your password.
- System will not let you use a password you have used in the last 90 days.
  - Thank you Dave Smallen for coming!

- George Nehme and William Billiter (Communications and Development) - Donor Relations “Gratitude Initiative”
  - Three Parts/Goals: Educate, Celebrate, Participate
    - Educate- Make students more aware of the role of philanthropy in our educational experience
      - Last year- 11,000 individuals gave to Hamilton College. Over $25 million raised. A record number.
    - Celebrate- Students should stop and thank people with name tags on campus this weekend.
      - It’s Spring Volunteer Weekend.
      - Many college volunteers/alumni/donors will be on campus.
      - They want to know that their efforts/gifts are making a difference for students. It means a lot! Just a simple “Thank you!”
    - Participate- Stop at a station between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. this Thursday and Friday in the Science Center or KJ Atrium.
      - Write a tribute to one individual who has had an important impact on your Hamilton experience (friend on campus, professor, parent, etc.). Tributes will be posted on boards.
      - Lets alumni and parents see the gratitude of students. Important dinner on Friday nights.
      - Running the same initiative online. Want to get over 1000 tributes at www.hamilton.edu/who.
      - Stop by to help fill the boards!
      - Spread the word!
      - Andrew Fischer- Sending email to the student body on Wednesday with additional details.
  - Replacement for “STOP (Starting Today Others Pay) Day”
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
APRIL 06, 2015

■ Should be more natural and student-friendly way to show appreciation to donors.
○ Thank you to George Nehme and William Billiter for coming to the meeting!!

● Erik Marks - Pledging changes resolution
○ Resolution addresses changes to pledging policies enacted last year in light of the results of the recent Inter Society Council (ISC) survey (see previous SA Minutes).
    ■ Addresses the fact that the Dean of Student’s office is not planning to reverse the policy changes in light of significant student preference for freshman spring semester pledging.
○ Cesar Renero- We should have straw poll to see who supports the resolution.
    ■ Andrew Fischer- We haven’t even discussed it. Not ready yet.
○ Marchel Holle- Was the resolution endorsed by the ISC?
○ Erik Marks- ISC does not have formal voting procedures, but all the Greek Society presidents endorsed the resolution.
○ Andrew Fischer- We should tone down some of the language (i.e. naming specific individuals in association with not changing the policy). A little too abrasive/personal.
○ Erik Marks- Not sure what procedure is in terms of naming people/offices in resolutions.
○ Andrew Fischer- Paragraph 3 is a little harsh.
    ■ Missing paragraph about the purpose of the pledging policy changes. Would be more effective if there was a clear juxtaposition between purpose and results.
    ■ Erik Marks- Seems like administration isn’t listening to the students who went through pledging.
    ■ Andrew Fischer- The resolution sounds a bit too much like, “We don’t like the change, so you should change it back.”
        ● A more effective message would be: “The data shows this change is unpopular, initiates would have preferred spring pledging, initiates do not believe pledging negatively impacted their academics, ⅔ of Jans would have preferred spring pledging, etc. But this date isn’t being acknowledged. Why not?”
        ● That’s more focused.
○ Lisa Magnarelli- Has anyone met with Nancy and discussed this data?
    ■ Erik Marks- No, not from ISC.
    ■ Lisa Magnarelli- Then you can’t say that the administration isn’t willing to make changes because no one has formally presented the information.
Erik Marks- There was a *Spectator* article in which Nancy Thompson said that she “wouldn’t entertain” a return to freshman spring pledging. This was after Kevin Welsh (*Spectator* reporter) showed her the data.

Catie Cooper- It would add more weight to the resolution if we say: “The administration is still reluctant to acknowledge the significance of this data even after the ISC met with…” But we can’t officially say that yet.

We should also add why the committee changed the policy to begin with. More effective if we show that the changes in policy haven’t helped change whatever they were supposed to.

Andrew Fischer- We should add a line about how the change in policy was supposed to improve the pledging experience.

Abby Armstrong- We should ask the administration to take some sort of measurement of what they were trying to achieve, since we don’t have any evidence of if the new policies worked or not.

Conor Craven- Liked the resolution.

Who was on the Committee on Greek Recruitment?

- Erik Marks- Dean Thompson, faculty members, Greek and non-Greek students.

Conor Craven- Did students have a voice on committee?

- Lisa Magnarelli- Yes. There was a consensus to change the policy.

Conor Craven- There was lots of good information in the study, so we should use more of the results to strengthen the resolution. Especially the statistics from the Jan admits.

Tim Hartel- If this data hasn’t been submitted to Dean Thompson’s office, then the third paragraph in the resolution does not hold true.

- If the administration didn’t already receive information, then how could they respond appropriately?

Erik Marks- Both Lisa Magnarelli and Nancy Thompson know the results of the survey.

Tim Hartel- If this is directed at the Dean of Student’s office, then it’s a little uncomfortable to use such strong language on the issue when the evidence hasn’t officially been presented by the ISC to Nancy Thompson.

Erik Marks- It has been shown to Dean Thompson, just not in an official capacity from ISC/Erik Marks.

- She even responded to it in a *Spectator* article.

- Sympathetic to the idea that I haven’t met officially with Dean Thompson. Would be willing to meet with her about the results of the survey before we vote.
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**APRIL 06, 2015**

- Tim Hartel- Would feel more comfortable if we had an official response from Dean Thompson before we vote.
- Andrew Fischer- Let’s take a straw poll to see if people want data presented officially to Dean Thompson before we vote.
  - Almost ½ vote yes.
  - Erik Marks- Both Dean Thompson and Lisa Magnarelli have a copy of this resolution.
- Zach Oscar- Agrees there should be a formal meeting between ISC and Dean Thompson, but understands that Dean Thompson has already seen the results, informally.
  - Almost ½ vote yes.
  - Erik Marks- Both Dean Thompson and Lisa Magnarelli have a copy of this resolution.
- Almost ½ vote yes.
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- Almost ½ vote yes.
- Erik Marks- Both Dean Thompson and Lisa Magnarelli have a copy of this resolution.

- Agrees that we should strike the names from the resolution.
- Yes, the data shows something, but is a bit too narrow to really say what, specifically.
  - Pledges don’t know what it would have been like to pledge at an alternative time, so the data can’t be conclusive.
  - Erik Marks- No, it works. It’s like imagining this meeting an hour earlier.
- Wants to know what Dean Thompson’s reservations are to changing policies back to pledging in freshman spring
- Hard to imagine as a freshman what second semester would be like with pledging.
- If we can get data from the student body (as a whole ) of when people would rather pledge, that would be more powerful.
  - This data is from people in societies, so they inherently pledged regardless of the timing change. Data is not as relevant/powerful.
- Erik Marks- Attitude from the greek community is that sophomore fall is more strenuous (academically and with extracurricular involvement) than freshman spring.
  - Ex: *Spectator* article- President of DU expressed concern about pledging process because football is in season in the fall.
  - Also can’t really comment on pledging if you haven’t gone through it yourself.
- Zach Oscar- But the change in the timing of pledging only matters if it deters people in the general student body from pledging.
- Erik Marks- Yes, it matters more if it deters people from pledging, but some initiates responded to the survey saying that pledging in sophomore fall stopped them.
THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF STUDENT ASSEMBLY, HAMILTON COLLEGE

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

APRIL 06, 2015

○ Erik Marks- The change in policy was implemented in the interest of Hamilton students. Hamilton students are saying they don’t like the change, so why can’t we go back to the original system? The policy change isn’t doing what it was supposed to do.

● Silvia Radulescu- (In response to point that pledges don’t know what it was like to pledge in the spring) Greek Societies at Hamilton are small, so members get relatively close.
  ○ Since pledging is such an integral part of the Greek culture, it is a recurring topic of discussion.
  ○ My pledge class knows a lot about what pledging was like before the policies changes were made. We have had these conversations with the current juniors and seniors.
  ○ Yes… We can absolutely compare the differences in order to form a legitimate opinion on this change.

○ Cesar Renero- Can we ask ISC to confirm that pledging process was relatively the same as before the changes were made? Has the pledging processes changed from year to year?
  ■ Erik Marks- Yes, pledging processes have changed because pledging was made shorter as part of the administrative changes.
  ■ Cesar Renero- Is there any feedback from the Board of Trustees regarding this topic? If they like the changes, there really nothing Dean Thompson can do about this.
    ● Can we appeal to the Board of Trustees in the resolution?
    ● Lisa Magnarelli- There was a Trustee on the board when the changes were made, so they probably agree with the changes.
      ○ Can’t say whether Board of Trustees supports this data/changing back the policies because the data hasn’t been shown to them in any official capacity.

○ Conor Craven- How were students selected to serve on the committee?
  ■ Lisa Magnarelli- There were 3 society presidents, 1 Greek Jan, 2 non-Greek SA members, along with numerous others (professors, administrators, etc) on the board.

○ Elizabeth Rodriguez- This is a very good study. There is no reason to sample people who haven’t experienced pledging.
  ■ Current Sophomores who were polled are actually perfect for this study because they have experienced life at Hamilton both with and without pledging.
We can’t simply say we don’t like this policy change in the resolution, we need to give a better explanation as to why the changes have not been effective.

Greek life is inhibited by this new system because it is harder to get members in the fall. Every other club on campus has the ability to recruit new members in the fall, except Greek Societies.

Jans were actually benefited by the previous rushing process because a certain number of spots were reserved for them.

Catie Cooper- As a Jan who thought about rushing, it super hard to rush or pledge because we don’t have an identity on campus yet and its not fair to put Jans in that position.

Should there be a straw poll of asking Erik Marks to show numbers to Dean Thompson?

Andrew Fischer- Will do it after we get through talking order.

Marchel Holle- We should release facts to students and let people judge for themselves.

There is no need to formally put this to Nancy Thompson, everyone knows what’s happening. There is lots of unilateral feedback.

It makes sense that non-Greeks are not included in survey; they are not going to pledge.

Erik Marks- Comment about Jans: ⅔ of Jans who responded to the survey would have rather pledged during their freshman spring.

But understands concerns about Jans pledging right while they are trying to adjust to campus life.

Don Stayner- We should try to understand why the change in the pledging process was made in the first place.

If it had to do with Jans wanting more time to get acclimated with Hamilton, then there should be a larger dialogue regarding that issue.

Erik Marks- Jans were one reason the policies changed, but they are already in an awkward position and shouldn’t hold the whole Greek system back.

Don Stayner- Would like to know, directly from Dean Thompson, why the changes were made in the first place.

Tim Hartel- (In response to Elizabeth Rodriguez)- Agrees that this data has the right sampling of people, but thinks it was taken at the wrong time.

The survey was taken after pledging and is retrospective, which could change how people look at any process.

Instead, the survey should be taken while people are in pledging.
The pledging process was why the policies were changed in the first place, so the survey should reflect people’s feelings during that process.

(In response to Marchel Holle)
- Student Assembly survives off of our diplomatic procedure, so if we don’t have that, then we lose legitimacy in the eyes of the administration, so we should write the resolution after having the conversation with Nancy Thompson.
- It would be irresponsible to have a resolution without any formal communication between us and the administration.
- Erik Marks- Yes, Dean Thompson does have power over us and we really only have symbolic gestures, but that sometimes means making people uncomfortable and we should take action.
- Tim Hartel- But there was no formal communication regarding the results of the survey.
- Erik Marks- But there HAS been communication, Dean Thompson went on record in response to the survey and she is not willing to entertain the idea of changing policies.

- Andrew Fischer- Let’s take a straw poll to see who would vote in favor of this resolution if Erik Marks talks to the administration first and then makes some minor edits to the document.
- Resolution tabled and will be reviewed next week:
  - Erik Marks will work to edit the resolution it with Constitution Committee and Andrew Fischer.

5. Committees
- Constitution- Found some changes that need to be made to the Constitution. Meeting again later this week.
- Cultural Affairs- Successful food truck last week
  - Next food truck in two weeks with French Club.
- Facilities- Upcoming Facilities Appreciation Day
- Food- Suggestion sheet
  - Meeting next Monday around 4:30 pm
  - Zach Oscar- Some plates at the bottom of the pile in McEwen are not clean. Can we fix that?
  - Ben Schafer- Will bring it up with Manager.
- Health and Safety- Bone Marrow Registry-HUGE success!!!!
  - All 72 donor packets found donors!!!
  - If you have slogan suggestions for C&C posters, send them to Erik Marks.
    - ie. “Sloppy isn’t sexy”
LITS Committee- Executing stage of the iPhone app
  ○ 18 new movies on the movie channel- check it out!
    ■ www.movies.hamilton.edu

Philanthropy- Upcoming Super Smash Bros tournament
  ○ Saturday, April 11 at 2 pm on the first floor of Sadove
  ○ Free Tex Mex
  ○ All donations will go towards the ABC House

Social Traditions
  ○ Class and Charter shirts coming soon
  ○ Holi coming up as well

Student Interests- 119 to 114 Wigo Madness!!!!! We can do this!!! Download the app!!
  ○ Andrew Fischer- Dispute over whether Student Assembly is really an appropriate venue for Wigo.
  ○ Sara Nolan- Wigo Madness supports comradery on campus. When was the last time 700+ students were involved in the same activity?
    ■ madness.wigo.us LIVE UPDATE OF BRACKETS

Senior Week- Schedule coming out (the real one)
6. Funding
Amount remaining prior to Student Assembly meeting 4/6/15: $16576.61

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*Italics = Discretionary*

Total Amount Requested: $1214.03
Total Amount Recommending: $616.10
Amount Remaining if Budget passes: $15960.51

- Everything passed in full!

7. Announcements
- GHO 3v3 Soccer Tournament on April 18th which benefits Grassroots Soccer