The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2015

1. Call to Order
   ● Attendance:
     ○ Present:
       ■ Andrew Fischer
       ■ Silvia Radulescu
       ■ Caroline Reppert
       ■ Alex Hollister
       ■ Natalie Klingher
       ■ Conor Craven
       ■ Phoebe Greenwald
       ■ Jordan Zeng
       ■ Elizabeth Ughetta
       ■ Jose Olivares
       ■ Lauren Mulligan
       ■ Evelyn Torsher
       ■ Ryan McAlonan
       ■ Ilana Schwartz
       ■ Cesar Renero
       ■ Alex Hirsu
       ■ Kureem Nugent
       ■ Mariaelena Hiller-Chacin
       ■ Zach Oscar
       ■ Isabel Grieder
       ■ Lilly Pieper
       ■ Lizzie Tran
       ■ Zach Hardmeyer
       ■ Jeremy Cottle
     ○ Excused:
       ■ Ellie Ducommun
     ○ Absent:
       ■ Catherine Conroy

2. Old Business & Committee Reports

3. Public Comment Period

4. New Business
   ● Welcome and Brief Orientation for New Members
     ○ Andrew Fischer - Review of voting procedures

   ● Noelle Niznik - Acting Director of Student Activities
Changes in the Student Activities Office

- Noelle Niznik is the new (Acting) Director of Student Activities, taking over Lisa Magnarelli’s job. Lisa is Hamilton’s new (Interim) Senior Associate Dean and Title IX Coordinator.
- New Assistant Director - Ryan Davis
  - Advises CAB, the Student Assembly Treasurer, Sadove Programming, etc.

Campus Life Open House - Friday, September 4, from 12:00-3:00 p.m.
- Contact Ryan Davis (ridavis@hamilton.edu) if your organization still needs a table.

Club Leader Basic Training - Sunday, September 6
- Attendance is REQUIRED if your organization wants Student Assembly funding
- Registration is still open - contact Ryan Davis to register (ridavis@hamilton.edu)
- Organizations that send a representative receive a $50 credit.

Social Space Lottery - Sunday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Student Assembly Member Attendance

- Campus Life Open House Table - Friday, September 4
  - Andrew Fischer - Will send out an email with a spreadsheet. Fill out if interested in manning the table. Emphasis will be on advertising First-Year elections.
- Club Leader Basic Training Attendees - Sunday, September 6
  - Andrew Fischer - Members of the Funding Committee and new members should attend. Get a sense of both how SA advertises itself and how it explains the funding process to clubs. Brainstorm suggestions for improvement.

Chris Lee and Catherine Droppa - “Hamilton Student App” Development

- Joint effort between LITS and Student Assembly - Primarily a student-developed and maintained app
- Landing Page
  - Includes critical phone campus numbers
  - Other features for homepage still in development
- Different tabs for different features - Ex: dining hall hours, menus, campus map, Spectator news feed, etc.
- Wants student feedback for features to add to the app
- Goals:
  - Audience Specific Content: What do you want to have on the homepage, drawn from your MyHamilton account?
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- Evelyn Torsher- Could we include a feature to check the status of laundry?
  - Chris Lee- Unfortunately, we can’t access that information from the Blackboard/HillCard system.
- Evelyn Torsher- Could we also have a calendar of important dates for the school year?
  - Chris Lee- Yes
- Elizabeth Ughetta- Could the app list Opus prices?
  - Chris Lee- We could, but we would need Opus to send in the prices (as well as hours). Those kind of features are reliant on Opus/Bon Appetit communicating with the app developers.
- Ryan McAlonan- Could there be a rating system for dining hall food?
  - Chris Lee- Thinking about feature where students can ‘favorite’ a food and receive an alert when Bon Appetit serves it again.

■ Social Media Integration
- Have campus events posted, according to their location, on the campus map. That way, students can see what’s going on and where.
- Might integrate the #getscrolled feed
- Silvia Radulescu- Could you include an up-to-date list of clubs and club leaders?
  - Chris Lee- Yes. We’ll look into it.

■ If you have any other questions or suggestions, please email Chris Lee (cslee@hamilton.edu).
■ Thank you so much, Chris and Catherine!

- Silvia Radulescu - Class of 2019 Elections
  - Freshmen! If you are interested in joining Student Assembly, contact Silvia Radulescu (sradules@hamilton.edu).
  - Silvia will send out an email this week with election information.

■ Approval of Judicial and Appeals Board Nominees
  - Judicial Board
    ■ Carolyn Mitchell '16
    ■ Medjine Lucien '16
    ■ Kevin Anglim '16
    ■ Michael Ferguson '17
    ■ Emily Jeffries '18
    ■ Chidera Onyeoziri '18
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- Emma Bloom '18
  o Appeals Board
    - Brian Jung ‘16
    - Elizabeth Spangenthal ‘18
  o All passed! Congratulations to the appointees!

- Committee Assignments
  o Andrew Fischer- Want to move towards giving committees legislative functions and away from more programming-oriented focus. Simplify and focus Student Assembly’s purpose and attention.
    - We fund organizations who do a great deal of on-campus programming, so it is somewhat redundant to have Student Assembly Committees do the same thing.
  o Constitution- Chair: Conor Craven
    - Ensures that the Constitution accurately reflects the goals of Student Assembly
    - Edits and proposes changes to the Constitution, as needed
  o Cultural Affairs- Chair: TBD
  o Facilities- Chair: Zach Oscar
    - Works with Physical Plant on issues related to dorms, parking, snow removal, etc.
  o Food- Co-Chairs: Lauren Mulligan and Phoebe Greenwald
    - Works with Bon Appetit to improve dining services for students
    - Works to improve options for those with dietary restrictions
    - Solicits student feedback
    - Andrew Fischer- Want to more actively solicit student opinion on dining services this year. Personal surveys in the dining hall, etc. as opposed to waiting for email feedback or hosting coffee hours.
  o Health and Safety- Chair: Cesar Renero
    - Works with the Health Center and Campus Safety
    - Acts as liaison between Campus Safety and students to help the campus better understand college policies.
  o LITS- Chair: Chris Lee
    - Works with the Library and Information Technology Services
    - Heavily involved in the changes to the library’s first floor last year
  o Philanthropy- Co-Chairs: Zach Hardmeyer and Jeremy Cottle
    - Connects Hamilton to the greater community through both monetary and service donations.
    - Hosts events to raise funds for various charities.
  o Social Traditions- Co-Chairs: Ellie Ducommun and Marielena Hiller-Chacin
    - Organizes campus-wide programs- ex: Citrus Bowl, Fallfest, Febfest, etc.
  o Student Affairs- Co-Chairs- Kureem Nugent and Isabel Grieder
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- Formerly “Student Interests” Committee
- Andrew Fischer- Refocusing the purpose of the committee to engage with students and get feedback via active outreach. Will help determine what issues Student Assembly takes up over the course of the semester.
  - Like Food Committee in that we want to **actively** solicit student feedback.
- Will also deal with academic concerns (Ex: issues with Registrar, etc.)

- Conor Craven and Silvia Radulescu - Funding Policy Changes/Clarifications
  - **SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR NEW/CHANGED LANGUAGE**
  - Andrew Fischer- Want to collect more data on how organizations use Student Assembly funds, which will be useful when organizations apply for more funding in the future.
  - We can evaluate how effectively clubs used funding in the past. Student Assembly only has a limited amount of money and should fund the best events, serving as many students as possible.
  - Silvia Radulescu- Student Assembly is the steward of the students’ money. All students pay the “Student Activities Fee” (part of tuition).
  - We want students to feel confident their funds are being used appropriately and responsibly.
  - These changes implement a better system to make sure the money we distribute benefits as many students as possible.
  - These changes and clarifications will also help new organizations gain credibility faster. Organizations with good track records will benefit when they apply for funding again.
  - **Changes to the Bylaws:**
    - Student Assembly reserves the right to audit any event or organization funded by Student Assembly (Conor Craven - Note: The ability to audit is already in place, but the new language clarifies existing policy).
      - Such audits ensure funds are being used properly, as per the funding codes.
      - Organizations will have to fill out a short form after each event and submit to Student Assembly. Questions might include: number of people in attendance, amount of money spent, etc. Potential requirement: submit pictures from the event.
        - Pictures can also be used as a way to increase publicity
      - Executive Committee will determine sanctions for any organization that violates the funding codes (Ex: inability to receive further funding under current leadership, suspension of funding privileges, suspension of already awarded funds, additional auditing scrutiny, etc.)
○ Conor Craven- To clarify: Student Assembly can also ask for receipts to ensure that the funds are being spent where organizations are saying they are spending it.
○ Ilana Schwartz- We should make language more specific about what sort of information organizations need to submit after each event.
  ■ Andrew Fischer- Idea is to keep it reasonably vague so we can adjust the questions on the form with experience.
○ New Bylaws passed!
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5. **Funding**

Amount Remaining Prior to 8/31 Meeting: $131,297.50

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Items/Services Requested</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Recommended</th>
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<td>Student Assembly</td>
<td>New York Times Subscription</td>
<td>$4960</td>
<td>$4960</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Total Amount Requested: $6930.25
Total Amount Recommending: $6930.25
Amount Remaining if Budget and Discretionary Fund pass: $119,367.25

- Lizzie Tran- Does the amount for the New York Times include the online subscription feature for students?
  - Andrew Fischer- Yes. Will send an email shortly and invite the NYT Rep back to campus to host another information table in Beinecke, like he did last year.
- All passed!

Important Funding Dates:
- **Funding Information Session I**: Wednesday, September 2 at 7PM in the Sadove Living Room
- **Funding Information Session II**: Thursday, September 10 at 7PM in the Sadove Living Room
- **Strategic Budgets Due**: Saturday, September 12 at noon

- Approval of Student Assembly Discretionary Fund
  - Alex Hollister:
    - The Student Assembly Discretionary Fund is comprised of $5,000 out of the General Fund
    - May be used by Student Assembly for short-term needs and events.
    - May be returned to the General Fund if it runs out at the end of the semester.
    - In the past, Student Assembly debated the merit of this fund because we used to run out of money in the general fund early in the semesters, but due to the new Strategic Funding System, this is no longer an issue.
    - $3,700 remaining in the discretionary funds last year
  - Motion to continue Discretionary Fund passed!
Phoebe Greenwald- What has the Discretionary Fund been used for in the past?
- Andrew Fischer- It was used for events like the Fallcoming/Homecoming Tailgate, end-of-year smoothies from Euphoria for Student Assembly members, Student Assembly conference expenses, posters and publicity, etc.

Andrew Fischer- Technically, committees may not access the funds directly, but instead need to go through the Central Council. We should change this in the future to allow committees to draw from the fund.

Conor Craven- Each class delegation may draw up to 5% of the Discretionary Fund for their use/to benefit their class.
- It is not just a general “slush fund.” There are safeguards.
  - ⅔ of the general counsel needs to approve any withdrawals.
  - Andrew Fischer- This fund compensates for more relaxed time-limits and other funding provisions.

Motion passed to allocate $5,000 to the Discretionary Fund!

On-Campus Myths/Rumors to Address
- Silvia Radulescu and Andrew Fischer- Want to compile student rumors to investigate and set straight in an email to students. For example:
  - Are we on Bon Appetit’s “C” meal plan?
  - Is Bundy Dining Hall being torn down next summer?
  - May Campus Safety officers chase you?
  - May organizations host “closed” events in campus social spaces? With alcohol? Do they have to allow all students admission?
  - Do EMTs carry band-aids?
  - Will the Farmhouse be torn down this summer? If so, what will take its place?
  - Can RAs give points?
  - How much does Campus Safety charge to unlock your door? What about if you lock yourself out repeatedly?
  - How do bonuses at the Diner work?
  - What are the prices for different parking violations around campus?
  - How many parking tickets can you get before having your car towed?
- Send other “myths” or questions to Silvia Radulescu (sradules@hamilton.edu).

6. Announcements

- SA Member Photos: If she doesn’t already have one, please send Natalie Klingher (nklinghe@hamilton.edu) a photo for the SA website.
- If you have suggestions for the Student Assembly board outside the Diner, talk to Natalie as well.
● Chris Lee- The Hamilton Movie channel is back up!
  ○ A variety of movies that aren’t on Netflix! Access the “movie channel” at www.movies.hamilton.edu.