The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING
DECEMBER 5TH, 2016

1. Call to Order
Present:
  ● Kureem Nugent
  ● Lizzi Tran
  ● Gillian Mak
  ● Alex Hollister
  ● Kaitlin Dunne
  ● Jonathan Stanhope
  ● Silvia Radulescu
  ● Kacy Hobbis
  ● Aleta Brown
  ● Jeremy Cottle
  ● Danny Reyes
  ● Ilana Schwartz
  ● Ryan Bloom
  ● Isabel Grieder
  ● Ryan Franquiz
  ● Gabby Troya
  ● Zach Oscar
  ● Jack Martin
  ● Annalie Garcia
  ● Adrian Summers
  ● Harry Dubke
  ● Maggie Horne
  ● Jonathan Kirshenbaum
  ● Jordan D’Addio
  ● Ben Katz
  ● Ishan Bhatia
  ● Cesar Domenech
  ● Julian Perricone
  ● Nani Suzuki
  ● Eseosa Asiruwa
  ● Ram Franqui
Excused:
  ● Lilly Pieper

2. Public Comment Period
   ○ Thank you to Aimee Germain, Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion for
     attending our meeting!
Thank you to all the students who attended the meeting tonight to hear the candidates speak.

3. New Business
   ○ Student Assembly President and Vice President Candidates Q&A.
     ○ Kureem Nugent: I want to be clear that this is not a debate. It should be an open forum for students to discuss their stances and platforms. Gillian typically transcribes and edits the minutes, but Lizzi and I will do this portion tonight so there is no conflict of interest.
   ■ Jack Martin ‘19 and Adrian Summers ‘19
     *****NOTE: Jack Martin and Adrian Summers have withdrawn their application for the President and Vice President Positions. This portion has been retracted per their request.  *****
   ○ Jonathan Kirshenbaum ‘19 and Sam Gordon ‘19
     ■ Jonathan Kirshenbaum: Hi, I’m Jonathan, you all know that. Before I get into the platform that Sam and I will be running on, I want to take a few seconds to introduce my running mate as she is not actually on Student Assembly.

     This is Samantha Gordon and you’ll hear a little more later on about what our vision for both Student Assembly and for Hamilton is, but I want to explain a little bit about why I approached Sam to be my Vice President candidate for Student Assembly. I think there is value to bringing in students who are not currently not on Student Assembly into Student Assembly affairs. Now that doesn’t necessarily exclude anyone who is on Student Assembly, but it’s a different frame of nuance. More importantly, Sam is brilliant and certainly a lot smarter than I am. She has absolutely no problem disagreeing with me, but takes our discussions beyond disagreement helping me shape my and our ideas so they are stronger, so they are improved at their conclusion. I think this will be extremely valuable in a Student Assembly administrative position. In addition to that, what I’ve seen from Sam in her interactions with her peers, her professors, and other students and faculty, is a degree of professionalism that I have not seen frequently in students of her age or otherwise. For the element that being Student Assembly President and Vice President have requires positive and productive interactions with administration and faculty to be the liaison for student positions, I think there are few on this campus that are more qualified to do this.

     With that being said, our platform rests on three broad categories and we will run through those now. The first is improving the de facto partnership we have with the administration and with the faculty. When Student Assembly passes a resolution, we want to take steps on Student Assembly to elicit some sort of tangible response, dialogue, or interaction from the relevant administrative offices. So whether that is President
Wippman’s office or Dean of Students, etc. we think there are things that SA can do within it’s current framework to improve its operational tangible influence on campus beyond current levels and including a piece of paper and the minutes. I think that especially with this incoming Dean of Students that we are going to have next year going along with a 2nd year College President, this coming year will be incredibly crucial for the Student Assembly—Administration relationship, but also the student body—administration relationship. We definitely see a tremendous importance in hitting the ground running there. Sam is going to talk about one of the second points of our platform.

- **Sam Gordon ’19**: Hi everyone, I’m Sam. I know I am an outsider so if you have any questions or anything about my intentions for running, please feel free to reach out to me. I’d be more than happy to have a conversation with you guys.

  Our second main point has to do with the entire process of registering for classes. While this is incredibly specific to be one of our main platform goals, Jonathan and I believe that it is vital to improve the system because it affects every single student on this campus at every single moment they are in class, preparing for class, or meeting with professors.

  One of our main ambitions is to set up a system where we could publicize some kind of evaluations of professors. Students spend hours evaluations for professors and they are confidentially done and go to the department heads, professors, etc. to be used for reviews for tenure track, etc. Jonathan and I want to set up a platform where we have a forum for discussion. This is not to bash professors, but to increase the knowledge about the style of teaching, the type of class it is, what the workload is, what the professor’s office hours are, how flexible they are when it comes to illness, that would have been great to know. Similarly, how the actual day-to-day classes relate to whatever may be written on the course description. We want to set up a platform where we can have open conversations, again, not bash professors but do something more than just write these evaluations that go into space. Additionally, we want to finalize and continue efforts toward bringing the add/drop forms online and get rid of the paper forms, which are not working. It’s things like that were taken up by Silvia during her administration that may not have been pursued to their absolute ends. We want to set up a system where we can bring initiatives like that back and hold ourselves accountable and increase transparency. Those are our two main points that we’d want to address in terms of class schedules.

- **Jonathan Kirshenbaum**: Yes, and that also extends into PlanitHamilton. For those of you who aren’t freshmen, if you remember, last year there
was that amazing software where you could input the classes you were going to be taking so you could get a more picturesque view of what your schedule was going to be. That code was written by a student who then graduated. So if you go back now and try to input your classes, it’s based on data from last year. We want to bring that back so that students could have a better idea of their plan going forward. Obviously, there is software that allows students to plan their classes out for years in advance, but that software is not related to what classes could be offered at a given time. So we also want to take steps to improve transparency and longer future projections about the college’s intent to offer XYZ classes.

The last broad category of our platform involves campus social vibrancy. This is purposefully vague. We chose that language so that it could include social movements that allowed for the march that took place before Thanksgiving break, that allowed for the Crucial Conversations to be started, but also day-to-day social activities. It’s our view that Student Assembly has a role it can improve on campus, independent of empowering and providing clubs with the tools to enact those social movements. But we don’t personally think that there is a need for Student Assembly as a body to replace some of these clubs that already act upon their given initiative. Our students in general have done an amazing job so far of taking the mantle on social drives on campus. It also extends to a kind of more touch and go subject on campus, relating to the relationship that Hamilton students have with administrators, and more specifically with Campus Safety. We believe that, again, with the new incoming Dean of Students, with the new structure of executive faculty and the new relationship SA will have with that executive faculty, there is a lot that can be done to provide for students on a social level, whether that be what they do on the weekends or the activist movements that do take place on campus. A lot can be done to open more avenues for things like that, in addition to giving clubs more utility to plan their own events. That sums it up. Thank you very much.

Jonathan Stanhope ‘18, Maggie Horne ‘19, and Gillian Mak ‘18

Jonathan Stanhope: We want to say first of all, that we appreciate the hard work you guys have put in all semester. Kureem, Lizzi, and Alex do a great job and we have been proud to be on it over the last year. There are, of course ways we can improve. That’s why we are running for SA President and VP. We have a three pronged plan that we want to put into place.

The first part is discussion, then action, and finally, fairness.

The discussion prong is pretty straightforward. We are going to get right to work discussing three key social issues on campus. One is the way
sexual assault is handled, and the fact that sexual assault happens in the first place. The second is stigmatization of mental health issues on campus, we want to work close with the Counseling Center. And the third is the inclusivity of marginalized groups on campus, which on a very white campus, a very privileged campus, can be improved.

Now, when Zach talks about going into KJ and talking to students and it’s really funny, we actually want to do this. We’ve already started—we have some posters up in KJ, the Diner, Commons, and the Science Center, with a marker and a big poster board saying “What would you like changed?” where students can write their concerns. We are going to do a lot more of that. We are going to different clubs and club meetings, bringing new voices to the table, especially student guest speakers. Figuring out what the best plan of action is to address these three concerns.

The second prong of “action” is us making concrete steps toward change. We are not just going to pay lip service to some of these things. When we talk about how we value inclusivity, how we value ending sexual assault, we are not listing that alongside a Class and Charter food truck. This is one of our big things. It goes back to our first prong of discussion, then leads directly into making things happen. Part of that will include appointing special committees to work closely with different groups, such as the DMC, the Counseling Center, or even S.M.A.R.T., to be the liaisons between student groups and the administration.

For “Fairness”, our third prong, we see value in Student Assembly being an unbiased group, being impartial in working with different groups. We think that if SA does become a “political activist group” then Student Assembly will begin pushing a political agenda, which we don’t want. We talked about being transparent and being fair to different groups, not playing favorites, and if you are an activist group, it is hard to say that you are impartial. We will work closely with organization leaders throughout the year. We will solicit feedback as we go, and see how we can improve our funding process.

- **Maggie Horne:** We are very happy to have the opportunity to both speak in front of you right now and have the opportunity to possibly be Kureem and Lizzi’s successors.
- **Gillian Mak:** I wanted to add that as someone who came on to Student Assembly last year in Kureem and Lizzi’s administration, it’s been very great to get to know all of you and to see what Student Assembly does from a Student Assembly point of view. As an org leader coming in, I knew a lot about the funding part, but I didn’t know the whole breadth of what we do here. I think it is really important that we are really proud of what we do. I’m really proud to say I am on Student Assembly. I talk
about it a lot to friends. I think that for me personally, there are definite steps we should take, but it is a really cool group and you do a lot.

- **Maggie Horne**: As the person on our ballot who has been on SA for a year and a half, I’ve been able to be a part of both Andrew and Silvia’s tenure and Kureem and Lizzie’s tenure. It’s been interesting to see how both teams have improved Student Assembly and has given me the ability to see how Student Assembly can move forward with what both groups have done.

- **Gillian Mak**: Thank you all for your time!

  - **Caroline Kriedberg**: I was wondering what you think your individual leadership styles in terms of implementation. How do you plan to use these to accomplish your goals on Student Assembly?

- **Maggie Horne**: I’m a middle child, so I’m a mediator. I think as Vice President following what Lizzi does, is being a mediator and keeping order of the Central Council. I’m also a very busy person, so I’ve been able to see how the different clubs weave together and collaborate well. I feel like I’d be able to reach out to specific groups and attend various meetings. I’d do this to help build a strong network.

- **Alex Hollister**: I’ve been on Student Assembly since my freshman fall and I’ve seen Student Assembly through the administration of Anthony, Leah, and Andrew. I understand that Student Assembly has flaws and it is not perfect. But I’ve taken quite offense to the implications made. As members, we should be proud to be a part of this organization because we’ve done great work. For those running, please be realistic during campaigning. There are limitations to what Student Assembly can do because of the administrative authority. Focus on the fact that Hamilton has systemic problems, not that SA has systemic problems.

- **Kacy Hobbis**: I’m a part of the funding committee this semester and I discovered that being a part of this particular committee is a lot more work than I expected. The amount of time that members put in weekly is tremendous and goes unnoticed. In most of your platforms, you mentioned changing budgeting and funding process. I feel like especially this semester, we have done well with funding. If funding passes this meeting, we will have just finished the nonstrategic funding, which is incredible. We made changes to the funding codes a few weeks ago. What areas would you like to change?

- **Gillian Mak**: I sat in on the long funding meeting before the strategic budget meeting and I think it was very helpful in allowing me to understand the amount of time and effort goes into looking at each budget. However, I also recognize the need for Student Assembly representatives to understand what they are voting on. As an organization leader, I’ve
been on the other side where I’ve spent hours developing budget and worried about it not being passed. We are proposing that the long funding meeting be moved to a weekend day where we can give organization leaders the time they deserve to understand our worries and work with Student Assembly. This will also give you all adequate time to understand what you are voting on.

○ Aleta Brown: I have a practical question: How would you run your first meeting? Especially if you want to make changes.

■ Jonathan Kirshenbaum: In terms of the first meeting, since most of you guys will still be here besides Juniors, I think Student Assembly as a Central Council has always had a character to it and particularly in how we interact with one another, which is something I very much want to protect. There are times that this allows us to be productive while still maintaining a sociable atmosphere and there are times we have been a lot less productive and/or cohesive. I think that Student Assembly has done a lot to improve its own operations. It goes beyond limiting side conversations and extends to the flavor of the conversations we have. Productivity does not equal bland or dispassionate. I think what I would do with the gavel and the President’s chair wouldn’t change so much how we speak to each other, but more so in terms of the tacit substance. I think things like the talking order and knock rule are amazing and allow us to be more effective. My goal for meeting management would be to develop a sort of ‘Inter-representative empathy’ among our student reps. It’s more about understanding what someone is really saying and why they are saying it/where they are coming from, what their goals are that are prompting what they’re saying, etc.

■ Jonathan Stanhope: In terms of setting the first meeting, I think Jonathan Kirshenbaum had it completely right. I think we need to sit down, organize committees, spread around the room, and make set plans and goals for the semester. How we are going to do it is that I want to see those plans at the end of the meeting. Once we have that framework, the rest of the semester will be making progress towards those goals. It’s about setting a tone and a productive plan to refer to weekly.

○ Eseosa Asiruwa: This is is for Jonathan and Sam: during your platform you were talking about registration form. From a LIT standpoint, there might be technical reasons why the online add/drop form is not available. But besides that, is there anything else you plan to fix with the Registrar?

■ Sam Gordon: To respond, as a general concept to the add drop form, we feel very strongly that there may be possible alternative solutions to at least bridge some of the gap based on what LITs or other avenues have available. We want to increase transparency between the student body and the administration. As far as the system that the registrar implemented is
based on concentration requirements and course catalogue, there’s a disconnect between what is written in the course catalogue, what requirements are, and what is actually being offered. It is difficult, even with registrar’s new planning service, to plan out where you will take certain classes—many of which may be required for the concentration—if there is no indication that X course will be offered. As far as other things we wanted to add, our biggest project would be creating open interaction. Hamilton’s open curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary concentrations and education. But if there is not some level of awareness across student concentrators in different departments, there is no way of knowing if a class that is required for your major is actually still being offered in the given component department.

- **Silvia Radulescu**: I have a comment about the online add/drop thing. We worked on this problem last Fall. We met with the Registrar’s office and came to conclusion that we can’t have a complete overhaul of the Webadvisor system. However, we were in the process of implementing a system of electronic signatures from professors during the add/drop period. I coordinated with Karen Brewer, who was the chair of Committee on Academic Policy (CAP). Then I went abroad and she stopped responding to my emails. I’m willing to pass along all the progress that me and the ad-hoc committee made. Thankfully it’s not as complicated as IT stuff because I know that’s expensive.

- **Lizzi Tran**: Unless this is new information, we had Karen Brewer come in earlier this semester to talk about it and she said it has been approved and underway. It will be implemented in the Spring or Fall of next year. It has to do with webadvisor being an older version. But Karen said it will happen.

  - **Ilana Schwartz**: I don’t want to speak for Alex and I don’t want to clarify what you were saying before because I agree with it, but my interpretation of that is not that we can’t be criticized, because that’s what you said. Obviously we should be criticized. We are representing students and we want to get student opinion. There is something to Student Assembly that makes a lot of students here on Student Assembly actually proud of what we do.

  - **Kureem Nugent**: I’d like to thank all the candidates for coming tonight and the students in the back!

4. **Old Business**

  - **Gillian Mak**:
    - I just wanted to let you know that the Sanctuary Campus petition was discussed at the December Board of Trustees Meeting. President Wippman should be releasing a statement shortly. I also wanted to bring attention to President Wippman’s new Sexual Misconduct Working Group, which Aleta Brown ‘17 will be serving on.
NOTE: for more information on this, please see President Wippman’s email sent out Tuesday morning.

- Ilana Schwartz: How many signatures did the petition end up with?
- Gillian Mak: I closed it after our last meeting, with the total at 1,150 signatures.

5. Committee Reports
   - Constitution:
     - The gender pronoun constitutional changes made earlier in the semester will require approval by the student body. Survey will be sent out with the Presidential and Vice Presidential election poll on Saturday.
   - Cultural Affairs:
     - Discussed outreach for new members outside SA next semester.
     - Meeting with Aimee Germain, Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion, about the oral history project for next semester.
   - DMC:
     - BLSU Annual Kwanzaa Dinner Celebration on Thursday, December 8th at 6pm in the Annex (all were invited, but you had to RSVP)
   - Facilities:
     - Posters up tomorrow for Tracmanager!
   - Food:
     - Juice station staffing in McEwen: If you'd like a juice and no one is at the station just ask an employee. There should be a sign going up saying that.
     - Update: The food on display is rotated out and used. It is not thrown out.
     - All complaints about cleanliness have been communicated to Bon Appetit and they are working towards improving these issues.
     - Bon Appetit is hoping to work with athletes and coaches to fulfill the dietary needs of athletes. Connected them to SAAC.
     - Important correction from last week’s minutes: The sticker described in the minutes last week (white vegetarian circle with a blue loop) is not used for identifying dairy. While it is possible that it was not labeled vegan because it contained dairy it could also be so for egg or etc. If an item like breadcrumbs is used as an ingredient and we cannot confirm they are vegan than it can be labeled as vegetarian even though they may contain dairy or egg - but it does not mean that we know it does. Sorry!
     - Next semester's projects:
       - I want to make it very clear that everyone is welcome to join food committee, you don't have to be a part of Student Assembly.
         - If your club or or student org. would like to host an event with food committee please contact Aleta: anbrown@hamilton.edu
       - Social media presence for food committee (space for student reviews, comments, suggestions, overall awareness)
Clear allergen labeling campaign on table tents with food committee and Bon Appetit contact information

**Zach Oscar:** From our committee meetings with Bon Appetit, we’ve learned that this information is on the website, but the thing is that it is not readily accessible to students and many students won’t look for the information. If they go on the Bon Appetit website, they can see these things. However, what we need to do as SA members is to allow students to take the path of least resistance. We want to make sure this information is right in student’s face.

**Health and Safety:**
- Working on “Walk With Me” program, would be used for students who feel unsafe at nights. Talked about the type of system that would be most effective and constantly updated. Planning to send it out whenever Health and Safety all campus emails are sent out.
- Another health center meeting happening week. We will be bringing up medicines for students wishing to transition, more specifically its availability and costs
- We will be sending another email to Fran Manfredo regarding keycard access to academic buildings during certain hours.
  - **Annalie Garcia:** I had an issue where I had to get to the art building. It was 6 AM but I had to call Campus Safety to let me in. I know students in specific art classes get access but I think it important for students to access certain academic buildings without having to call Campus Safety.
  - **Ilana Schwartz:** Just to comment on that last point, I’m happy that you brought that up. One time I called, I thought they would let you in, and he did. A week later, another office told me they don’t let people in after a certain hour. There should be consistency within Campus Safety on what the policy is.

**LITS:**
- Wifi Survey:
  - 203 Responses about dorm wifi survey. If you haven’t filled it out, please do.
  - Mix of responses ranging from very bad to very good
  - Will be used to identify dorm rooms with poor wifi
- A couple weeks ago, Silvia brought up the idea of making an app landing page. Hopefully it will be done next semester:
  - Advertising Hamilton app and others to new students in email/ new students’ My Hamilton
  - For current students, it will be listed as a tool on My Hamilton
  - Web page will be created when other apps are made/ready

**Philanthropy:**
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

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■ Reading period dumpling sale Sunday, Dec 11 at 8pm. We will be in 2 locations for the first time--KJ atrium and library. Proceeds will go towards working against the brain drain Haiti.
■ We have started discussing our new e-board and plans for next semester
  ○ Publicity:
    ■ Stickers are here!
  ○ Social Traditions:
    ■ Finalizing Winter Classic (1/20 at 7 PM in Sage Rink), Date Auction (1/25 at 8PM in Events Barn), Citrus Bowl (1/27 at 7PM Sage Rink)
    ■ Starting to talk about FebFest through February 12-18th! If you want to work with us, please send us a description of the event. These can be anyone. Our committee is mostly outside members.
    ■ Has there been any thought about making the date option male and female
  ○ Student Affairs:
    ■ New email!
    ■ Holiday lights going up this week! Thank you, Class of 2020 delegation!

6. Funding
Rollbacks: $654.20
Amount Remaining: $3916.35

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Amount Requested: $5171.56
Amount Recommended: $3916.35 from Non-Strategic, $1255.21 from Discretionary
Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: $0 Non-Strategic, $940.16 from Discretionary

- Alex Hollister: Both are for conferences for next semester. We will deplete the nonstrategic fund and then take the remainder from discretionary. This leaves us with $0 in non-strategic and $940.16 in Discretionary which will roll over to next semester.

Nonstrategic passes as recommended
Funded passes as recommended.
The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

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**DECEMBER 5TH, 2016**

7. **Announcements**
   - All reimbursement envelopes due in Student Activities by Friday December 9 at 4:30.

8. **Farewell words from the outgoing executive board**
   - **Noelle Niznik**: Hi everyone, I want to thank you all for a great semester. I appreciate the time that folks take to be here out of your busy schedules to be here. I really want to take some time to thank Alex. I’ve worked with a few Treasurers before through my previous role in Student Activities. I really got to know Alex a lot and he’s done a lot in this position and was very reliable. I really appreciate that you have been here this semester. Thank you so much. I want to thank you so much.
     
     I also want to thank Kureem and Lizzi. Their positions require very long hours and they are not paid. They spend a lot of time in meetings with me, David Wippman, and Nancy Thompson and they have done an amazing job. I’m really hoping you get back in orgs when you come back from being abroad.
   - **Kaitlin Dunne**: Thanks for welcoming me!
   - **Jon Stanhope**: Thanks bearing with us for the constitution changes and for going line by line through the funding codes with us for hours and hours!
   - **Alex Hollister**: Thanks for not tackling me for not funding your clubs!
   - **Gillian Mak**: Thank you for letting me write down everything you say and send it to everyone on campus. Also, thank you for being so warm and welcoming when I joined last Spring.
   - **Lizzi Tran**: I want to give further recognition to the eboard.
     
     Kaitlin, our director of publicity, has an incredibly creative mind which has gone to help with our outreach goals.
     
     Jonathan, as Parliamentarian, worked so hard on the Constitution and revisions of the funding codes. He spent so much time spearheading that with Kaity and Noelle.
     
     Gillian, our SA Secretary, stays up to 2AM almost every week on top of her school work to edit and send out the minutes.
     
     Our Treasurer Alex’s tremendous work goes almost completely unnoticed. Sometimes he gets some backlash but still puts forth a positive and fair attitude toward carrying out funding.
     
     Lastly is Kureem, our amazing, charismatic president. He loves Student Assembly so much and he has put a lot of work into it.
     
     Thank you SO much for being a part of our administration and a part of this Central Council. You know how much individual effort you put into this. Thank you so much. I wanted to state two of my most memorable events of the semester. First the Retreat forged a stronger sense of community this semester. Second is the sexual assault conversation. It was was a heavy topic, but I’m proud of how we facilitated it. That is an instance of why I’m very proud of what we do. It leads to more sustainable solutions.
   - **Kureem Nugent**: I don’t really have a written speech, but I just want to start off saying that I’m extremely happy to serve as Student Assembly President. This has been a
wonderful experience that I will never forget. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. I know we have our flaws and it’s hard to see sometimes what progress we’ve made but I think we should continue to do what we’re already doing. Keep the conversations going. I’ll miss you all!