

# Student Assembly Meeting

## April 14, 2014

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

### 2. Old Business

- NY6 Conference

### 3. New Business

- Ruben on Voices of Color Collective
  - look out for emails about an upcoming event this week!
- Nicole Tocco (Fellow for the Bon Appétit Management Company Foundation): Bon Appétit
  - Sustainability issues
  - Travel to different schools to discuss food with students and visiting different sources for Bon Appétit's food
  - Would like to work with Hamilton College to host food-related events
  - Next week on campus is the low-carbon diet; company-wide initiative to spread awareness about the food industry and climate change
- Discussion on Current Government Structure (continued)
  - Changes to proposed legislation from last time; reducing to 4 delegates per class year (instead of the 3 proposed last week); no legislation regarding committees
  - Comments:
    - Contested versus uncontested election does not change how seriously the position is taken
    - On the other hand, when you have to put a lot of effort into an election, you may feel a bigger responsibility to do a better job; forces candidates consider the real reason they want to be a part of SA; SA does not want to create the impression that people can just walk onto the Central Council
    - Good way to see if reducing the number of members will actually increase commitment and efficiency
    - Data does not include freshman fall elections
    - SA has legitimized itself as a prestigious activity; interest level may increase because of this
    - Bigger initiative is to increase awareness about what SA does
    - Other student governments pass many resolutions; this increases people's awareness
    - Reducing to 4 helps with accountability, efficiency, student knowledge of who their representatives are
    - More members means more representation; why decrease manpower?
    - A smaller, more committed group will work more efficiently
    - Having fewer people running may just mean that people are happy with the established members who are running for reelection
    - Colgate has reduced and it has increased the competitiveness of elections; people who ran had really good platforms and had to think about what they wanted to do as representatives; also made the students care about their student governments
    - Governments derive their power from the consent of the governed; not consent if there is only one person running for each position
    - Must keep evolving as the assembly moves forward; fewer representatives would achieve that
    - Many people has led to unproductive conversation and inefficiency

- Students do not go up to representatives and say what they want to see; direct representation does not occur
  - People don't just get legitimacy from elections, but rather from what they do when they hold office
  - How many people do you really need to get a job done?; fewer members means more opportunities for each member to get involved
  - Elections Committee will still be dissolved; the Constitution Committee will now oversee elections but the VP will run it
  - On the other hand, and Elections Committee is good in overseeing that people don't try to circumvent elections rules
  - This must be approved by the student body; let them decide
- New legislation is passes by SA; will go to the student body for a vote
- Discussion on The Movement
  - Publicity for BIRT; possibility of expansion; group to report hate crimes
  - Continued conversations between faculty and students
  - Work with stats department to try to answer what the problems on campus are and why these problems are occurring; evidence-based solutions
  - Other schools have continued discussion on these issues, resulting in a much more active student government on race, gender, sexuality, and class issues; we cannot let this issue do away
  - Administration will not be chasing students to get involved; students must take the initiative
  - Students should talk to faculty to keep the conversation going
  - Have a regular time and place to have this discussion so that it continues
  - Lack of clarity about what action to take; the goals expressed in the Movement's constitution are broad
  - SA could endorse a class on equality and diversity issues; however, requiring a class on these issues goes against the open curriculum
  - Having a class on these issues is not a new idea, however, enthusiasm from past years has died; Hamilton's mission is to "provide an educational experience that emphasizes academic excellence and the development of students as human beings, as we prepare them to make choices and accept the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic world of intellect and diversity"; a course would fulfill that goal
  - Minorities should not have to educate their students; faculty should be educating students on these issues
  - Education would prevent ignorant comments and allow people to have a deeper, more meaningful discussion on race
  - Students cannot allow other students to feel uncomfortable or unsafe on campus because of their race, gender, sexuality, or class; students have a responsibility toward each other
  - Day of orientation dedicated to these issues
  - This cannot be an "us versus them" issue; must bring people into the discussion rather than push them out
  - Must find things that unify the student body rather than divide us
  - Table this discussion for next week, it needs more time
  - To read more about the Movement, go to [hamiltonunscrolled.tumblr.com](http://hamiltonunscrolled.tumblr.com)

#### **4. Funding**

Amount remaining prior to Student Assembly meeting 4/14: \$12.96

\*see attachment for funding

\*Note: Discretionary fund for Facilities Committee passed earlier this week.

Total requested from Spring 2014 budget (excluding holds): \$98

Total recommended from Spring 2014 budget (excluding holds): \$0

Amount remaining if recommended funding passes 4/14: \$12.96

Amount remaining in discretionary fund if recommended funding passes: \$711.63

Funding for Senior Week passes. The senior representatives cheer and pour champagne and wine.

Funding for Discretionary Block passes.

Funding for the Hamilton Business Consulting Group does not pass.

## **5. Committee Reports**

- Constitution
  - See above
  - Putting out all-campus survey to have people vote on new legislation
- Elections
  - Class President & Secretary/Treasurer platforms/signature sheets due April 15 at 4:00pm; elections April 22-24; can email Ryan or leave in his mailbox
  - Class Representative platforms due April 22; elections April 29-May 1
  - If you run for President and don't win, you can run for a Class Representative position
  - Candidates who are abroad can get virtual signatures and need to send a proxy to the meeting
- Cultural Affairs
  - Another Cultural Food Truck series in Sadove at 6:00pm on Thursday; surprise host
  - Look out for another discussion on race possibly with a faculty and student panel
- Facilities
  - Staff Appreciation Day this Wednesday
  - Signing thank-you cards tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm
- Food
  - Discussed different dessert options and student employment opportunities with Bon Appétit at last week's meeting
  - No meeting this week
- Health and Safety
  - Evening hours at the Health Center
  - Vandalism Poster Campaign (with Student Interests)
  - C&C day alcohol transports (with CAB)
  - The Puppy Project (with Active Minds); competition of which student sends in the cutest picture; winners will be hung in study areas
- LITS
  - Nothing new; biweekly meeting this Sunday at 9:00 in Sadove
- Philanthropy
  - HAVOC dodgeball tournament this Saturday; good prizes for people who wear the best costumes!
- Social Traditions
  - Tailgate this Saturday from 12:00-3:00pm
  - Working on sign-ups for C&C day tee-shirts
- Student Interests
  - Next meeting Monday at 4:00pm in Sadove
  - The Little Pub promotion moving forward; Facebook and Instagram pages
  - Vandalism Poster Campaign (with Health and Safety)
  - Library Borrow-a-Charger Program
  - Slip-n-Slide; TED Talk; "Hamilton's Effect on the Community" Campaign