Student Assembly Meeting
April 7, 2014

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Old Business

- Wertimer Teaching Award
  - Collecting nominations from all students
- Health & Safety Committee: Class & Charter Day Suggestions
  - How to make C&C day safe; fewer EMT calls and transportations
- Elizabeth Aries discussion on race was earlier today
  - Very successful discussion
  - Students spoke up about personal issues they have faced and general race issues on campus
  - A mix of faculty and students in attendance

3. Funding
Amount remaining prior to Student Assembly meeting 4/7: $805.28

Rollbacks:
$115.80 from NY Times
$163.69 from SLU
$15 from Finance Club

*See funding attachment

Total requested from Spring 2014 budget (excluding holds): $996.32
Total recommended from Spring 2014 budget (excluding holds): $792.32
Amount remaining if recommended funding passes 4/7: $12.96

Funding for IMF passes.
Funding for LiNK passes.

Please email satreas@hamilton.edu if your organization has any money it can roll back!

4. Committee Reports

- Constitution
  - See below
- Cultural Affairs
  - Elizabeth Aries spoke earlier today
  - Last week’s Cultural Food Truck event hosted by Hillel had a big turnout
  - French Club will be hosting this week’s Cultural Food Truck event in Sadove at 6:00pm; there will be crepes
- Facilities
  - Staff Appreciation Day is next Wednesday (April 16th); thank you cards from the print shop if future funding passes; breakfast will be provided for staff
- Food
  - Survey being sent on allergies and diet restrictions this week
- Health and Safety
  - Reviewing survey results regarding reviews of the Health Center and Campus Safety
o Working on ideas of how to make C&C day more safe
  o Meeting Wednesday at 7:00pm in KJ 250
• LITS
  o Still considering new furniture for the 1st floor
  o Poetry event in the library on Wednesday from 7:00-8:30pm
• Philanthropy
  o Raised $250 from Super Smash Bros. Melee Tournament, benefitting the ABC House.
  o Meetings Thursdays at 7:00 pm on the 3rd floor of Sadove
  o Co-sponsoring the HAVOC dodgeball event April 19th
• Social Traditions
  o Waiting to hear back from Bon Appetit about costs for tailgate
• Student Interests
  o Next meeting Monday at 4:00pm on the 1st floor of Sadove
  o Student Interests Coffee Hour this Sunday 1:00-2:00pm outside Euphoria
  o Progress on having chargers made available to borrow in the library; will likely apply for funding next week
  o Meeting with Lisa this week to discuss Slip-’n’-Slide and TED talk ideas
  o Brainstorming ideas for promoting the Little Pub

5. New Business

• Discussion on Current Government Structure
  o 61% of elections have been uncontested in the last 3 years
  o Proposal of having 3 representatives per class delegation instead of 5; reduction of 8 SA positions
  o Goal of improving efficiency
  o Each member would only need to serve on one committee; goal of increasing commitment to committees; presidents would have to serve on Executive Committee as well; secretary/treasurers would have to serve on Funding Committee as well
  o The Elections Committee would be dissolved and elections duties would be given to VP
  o Senior Week Committee and Student Interests Committees would become project groups
  o Health and Safety, LITS, and Facilities would merge to become a Student Resources Committee
  o More competition for available positions will attract people who really want to put in a lot of effort when they run competitive campaigns
  o Comments:
    ▪ Other NESCAC schools have smaller governments than what we currently do
    ▪ E-board would be proportionally large compared to elected members
    ▪ Currently a wide diversity of opinions
    ▪ Senior Week Committee is a lot of work, and possibly the most productive committee; should remain a committee rather than a project group; good to phase seniors out of committees
    ▪ Fewer members means less democratic assembly
    ▪ Consider a reduction of 5 representatives to 4
    ▪ Health and Safety should remain an independent committee so that students have a way to review on-campus services
    ▪ The Student Resources Committee would still have a point-person for each of the 3 categories that fall under its umbrella
    ▪ Worse to be understaffed than overstaffed
    ▪ People could run for committee chairs rather than class representatives
    ▪ SA members could vote for representatives who wish to return
    ▪ Opportunity to change Hamilton College culture far into the future when they see 3 representatives as the norm; create a culture of competitiveness and student engagement
    ▪ Fewer positions means that positions are more prestigious and coveted
Student Interests Committee has worked hard this semester to improve the committee so that it remains viable; consider making it a Student Affairs Committee

- Eliminating positions means that each person has more accountability and responsibility
- Many members don’t attend their committees
- Fewer representatives does not mean less diversity; it means that they will represent more people and more diverse opinions
- If SA increased efforts to reach out, there would still be a diversity of opinions and students will still be represented

6. Announcements

- NY6 Conference this Saturday
- Class President and Secretary/Treasurer elections coming up