# STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING 10/3/2022

#### 1. Call to Order

Muhammad Ahmad Rao Ryley McGovern Felix Tager Christopher Akuleme Ting Mei Katrinah Tejeda Adan Corea Quentin Messer Prim Udomphan

Bethany Fell Evelyn Molina Max Ganem Kiara Nelson

Ailis Hayden Raymond Ni Excused:

Gael Javier Jacob Piazza Corey Bravo Sloan

Emily Jiang Mason Schroeder
Lena Klink Allison Sheehan Unexcused:
Joshua Zeledon

Alexandra Kropaneva Nicole Soret Marvin Lopez

## 2. General Public Comment Period (TIME: 00:00:40)

#### Raf Osella '23 wrote:

"There seemed to be some confusion about the public comment I made last week. The intention was NOT for students to get food off campus; that would be deflecting the food waste issue elsewhere. I mean, that would be like asking for an institution to divest from fossil fuel companies just so another institution can buy those shares...wait I've said too mu—"

**Emily Jiang** noted that SA will take that into account when pursuing the divestment resolution.

### Sophia Bernstein '23 (she/her) commented:

"Please bring back the late night jitney!"

### Natalie Harrity '23 (she/her) wrote:

"Bring back the late night jitney!!!!!!"

### Merrill Storch '23 (she/her) commented:

"Bring back the late night jitney"

### Stella O'Brien '24 (she/her) commented:

"bring back late night jitney."

### Jack Jee '24 (he/him) wrote:

"Bring back the late night jitney"

#### Ashby Howard '25 commented:

"Please bring back the weekend night jitney from Clinton"



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### Frank Kinlin '25 (he/him) wrote:

"Please bring back late night jitney from the rok."

#### Nicolas Gritz '25 (he/him) commented:

"Bring back late night jitney from rok"

### Matt Lilley '25 (he/him) wrote:

"Bring back late night jitney from the rok"

### Spencer Goldberg '25 (he/him) commented:

"Bring back late night jitney from the rok"

## Ryley McGovern read the following anonymous comment.

"I am writing this angry, sad, and frustrated. I hope the Assembly can take a moment of silence for Varun Manish Chedha, a student who was murdered by his roomate in his dorm room at Purdue University.

I note this tragedy because I am reminded of the ways I feel unsafe as a student of color on campus. Residential Life enforces a policy where unless there is physical harm inflicted on you, you may not switch your roommate, and instead should "communicate" to our roommates our struggles and worries. This is harmful in a variety of ways, especially since it implies that students need to risk their lives before being able to switch out of their housing. In many ways, students of color are forced to teach their white roommates how to navigate a "diverse" space. How blatantly does Hamilton have to reveal itself as an institution that still centers and values whiteness? How do we navigate an institution that does not value its students of color who, may I note, quite literally hold the institution together through our labor, struggles, and marginalized bodies? How can we ensure that we'll be safe on our college campus with reactive policies, such as Res Life's?"

**Emily Jiang** noted that they will send a link to an article if anyone wants to read more about the situation as they think it brings up a lot of important issues and are relevant to Hamilton. They left space for a moment of silence.

- 3. Old Business (<u>TIME: 00:04:33</u>)
  - O Minutes from 10/3

The minutes from 10/3 pass via unanimous consent.

- 4. New Business (<u>TIME: 00:04:50</u>)
  - o Discretionary Budget Requests: Treasurer Prim Udomphan '26



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		Amount	
Organization	Amount Requested	Recommended	Amount Approved
J&E Committee	\$1,500	\$1,050	\$1,500

**Prim Udomphan** read out the request. The committee is requesting \$1,500 for 150 Fojo gift cards each valued at \$10 dollars. She explained that her recommended amount is \$1050 because the precedent is \$630.00 which were allocated last semester. It is a huge leap to go from that to \$1,500. Therefore, she suggested \$1,050, and recommended other alternatives as incentives such the Cremeria tokens that SA has left over from the care packages. She also recommended a gift card balance of \$10 dollars and 105 gift cards total.

Ryley McGovern clarified that, originally, the committee wanted everyone who filled out the survey to get an incentive. They realized, however, that this would cost too much considering how many people there are on campus, therefore they decided to cap the gift cards at 150. Asof now, about 60 students have filled out the survey. He explained that he wanted \$10 gift cards because a coffee at Fojo is about \$6-7 and the \$10 would cover a coffee and something to eat. He added that it is not a huge ask for \$10 gift cards, even if last year the committee only requested \$630, because this is a much bigger project than the projects from last year considering this is campus wide. He also asked how much would be left of the budget if J&E got the total amount of money requested.

**Prim Udomphan** answered that there is \$30,000 to be allocated and if J&E were recommended in full, there would be \$28,500 left.

Emily Jiang noted that members can motion to vote to fund in full or as recommended.

**Ailis Hayden** asked if members of the committee are allowed to motion to vote due to conflict of interest.

**Emily Jiang** responded that it is allowed, and it is up to the individual whether to abstain.

The motion to fund J&E in full passes via placard vote.

Traditions Budget Requests: Treasurer Prim Udomphan '26

Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Approved
Class of 2023	\$1,800	TBD	\$1,800

**Prim Udomphan** noted that the budget request was pushed from last week. She expanded that pub nights are now considered a tradition for senior class, and the objective of using the money is to fund their alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks. She posed the question whether or not the student body would agree to fund the alcoholic beverages. If SA does not think the student body



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would agree to fund alcoholic beverages, the money would still be allocated but could only be used on non-alcoholic drinks.

Felic Tager expanded on two reasons why they are asking for money. The first is that the pub night is tradition. Alumni still remember their pub nights. However, one thing that has changed since their pub nights is tuition. Tuition has increased and people do not have the same means to buy alcohol. As such, senior pub nights free first drink nights allow students to have a drink without having to spend money. He also stated that pub nights support the pub. Senior pub nights facilitate an environment that is different from regular pub nights which often include athletics and some people do not feel comfortable in that environment. He stated that pub nights would create an inclusive environment and safe space for everyone to be involved. This includes people not having to worry about whether or not they have the means to buy a drink. SA talks a lot about accessibility and financial accessibility should be included with that.

**Emily Jiang** restated that the main concern from the Treasurer, and why there is no recommended funding, is whether SA can and should be funding alcoholic drinks.

**Katrinah Tejeda** asked if funding in full would make SA look a certain way and if students would question why SA is funding alcoholic beverages.

**Prim Udomphan** responded that funding comes from Student Activities Fee which every student pays. SA is here to represent other students and she wanted to make sure that the majority of the Assembly is comfortable with funding alcoholic drinks.

The informal vote polling if Student Assembly is willing to fund alcoholic beverages passes via voice vote.

**Prim Udomphan** changed the recommended amount to \$1,800, and recommended to fund in full.

Ailis Hayden asked if the event would require an ID.

**Felix Tager** answered yes, and mentioned that there are also non alcoholic drinks like nitro cold brew and Saranac root beer available on tap out of consideration for athletes and other people who don't want to/can't drink alcohol.

**Bethany Fell** added that Pub IDs have a star on them, and cannot be forged. They highlighted the precautions Hamilton takes towards the Pub serving alcoholic drinks to students.

The motion to fund as recommended passes via voice vote.

• Guest: Frank Coots - See Something, Say Something Program (<u>TIME:</u> 00:15:05)



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**Frank Coots** introduced himself as the director of Campus Safety. In his five years of being director of Campus Safety, he has tried to address SA at least once a year. He apologized for not meeting with SA last year and noted that these meetings are a good way to answer any questions that students might have. He noted that he is here to speak about the *See Something, Say Something* Program but emphasized that he is open to any questions including those that do not address the presentation. He warned that he might not be able to answer some questions due to issues of confidentiality or because he does now know. He emphasized that he will try to answer any questions SA might have.

Frank Coots shared a presentation on the *See Something, Say Something* Program. The program has been going on since 9/11 and was directed at international terroism. However, there is a true domestic terrorism problem in our country and thus there has been a shift in how the program is viewed. The presentation regarding the specifics about the program is attached to the minutes. Frank Coots explained that he is bringing this forward because we have an open campus and because he takes things like this seriously. He noted that he thinks the campus is very safe but that he brings things like this forward to increase safety even more and so ensure that students feel safe as being safe and feeling safe can be two different things. This is one initiative to show students that Campus Safety is taking safety seriously. *See Something Say Something* is a poster program with window clings and bumper stickers. They have not come up with the final product but he is working on discussing this with students, staff, and faculty. However, he wanted to talk to students now before they see the stickers and posters around campus and start to worry or question if they should be worried.

**Frank Coots** continued that because Hamilton has an open campus, he thinks about what outsiders of the community could do to interrupt and make campus feel unsafe. For example, recently there have been two suspicious bags on campus. Campus Safety was called and found out that they were harmless but this illustrates that it is better to call and have it be nothing than to not call and have it be something more nefarious.

**Frank Coots** added that Hamilton will be working with Oneida County and take some of the leadership from them and potentially implement some programs they have to have a successful outreach program. He also noted that the first number on the posters and that students should call is the Campus Safety number and Campus Safety would be making a judgment of what outside resources to involve. He closed noting that this program is about students feeling safe.

**Emily Jiang** mentioned that as Student Assembly, it is important to look at and make suggestions, especially in light of the public comment read by Ryley where a student was murdered by their roommate.

**Frank Coots** stated that Student Assembly could use the Res Life committee as a conduit between Campus Safety and the Central Council. He reiterated that he will answer any questions including those that are not related to the program.



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**Bethany Fell** asked about what is being done about the parking situation on campus. She noted that a lot of students are getting tickets and students have to walk for twenty minutes to their car because there is no parking available. This is particularly unsafe at night.

**Frank Coots** responded that Campus Safety offers safety escorts that are available at any time of the day, anywhere and that anyone can utilize. He noted, however, that there might be some time element to the safety escort and that students might have to wait because some other issue needs Campus Safety's attention. He explained that Campus Safety has limited resources and that they are not waiting on the singular phone call from a student. He also noted that there is the Safety Toolbox in the Hamilton app. Using the app, a student could ask a friend to watch them walk from point A to point B on their phone if the student did not want to wait for Campus Safety.

**Ting Mei** noted that some students got tickets and were fined, she said that \$50 dollars is a large fine, and wondered where this money was allocated.

**Frank Coots** responded that Campus Safety gets none of the money collected from permit fees or through fines. The money goes into the College's general fund.

**Felix Tager** asked what the protocol for safety escorts is in case of bad weather like a snow storm.

**Frank Coots** answered that students should wait in their vehicle or stay in a building. However, if students see Campus Safety, they should make themselves visible to ensure that the officer notices them.

**Emily Jiang** asked about how *See Something Say Something* may be unfairly leveraged against students of color, given the increased scrutiny students of color already face on campus.

Frank Coots responded that the biggest challenge he has had with selling this program was that when he first started after 9/11, the entire country was suspecting radical Islam to be all around them. However, data suggests that the biggest problem in the US, according to law enforcement, is domestic terrorism coming from white nationalism and white supremecy. People living in this country see this already, and it is unacceptable that it is happening everywhere around us. He agreed that the program can be unfairly leveraged against students of color and that for that reason the Campus Safety number is first so that the office can vet information and ensure that the program is not abused to harass people of color or to discriminate against someone based on gender and race. Law enforcement has been struggling with this problem.

**Jacob Piazza** asked if there would be information about what someone should say if you see something.



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**Frank Coots** responded that the Campus Safety website specifically talks about that when the program goes out. It is difficult to point out specific situations in which someone should call Campus Safety and common sense plays a significant role. However, the website will give people an idea of what to expect. In general, if someone is uncomfortable, they should call. However, he also noted that Campus Safety should not be used as a vehicle to get back to someone.

**Quentin Messer** asked if there was a metric or any way to collect the data to ensure the effectiveness of the program and if there would be a student feedback system.

**Frank Coots** responded that he had not thought about feedback but agreed that this might be beneficial to think about and that he will take it into consideration.

**Emily Jiang** also asked about the recent party raids, and why parties that are largely attended by or hosted by people of color, such as HEOP and Questbridge parties, are always raided by Campus Safety. They wondered if there is a reason why particular parties are raided even when there are no noise complaints.

Frank Coots responded that Campus Safety does not raid any parties and does not proactively stop parties. They will respond to complaints and respond to whatever it is going on wherever it is going on. Campus Safety does not patrol residence halls but are required by law to check fire panels in buildings, which is why Campus Safety might be in residence halls. If Campus Safety enters a residence hall and they notice a smell or see alcohol, they will not ignore it. He restated that they do not go to dorms looking for incidents, issues, or parties. He added that he would need to know more specifics as Campus Safety keeps track of gender and race of everyone involved in an incident and he offered to run an analysis on that. He noted that he reviews every single report and that he can collect data on race and gender. He emphasized that there is no specific group of people that is being singled out. In the seven weeks students have been on campus this semester, Frank noted that he has seen no pattern of parties being raided specifically because a protected party was hosting them.

**Emily Jiang** noted that that is something to keep in mind when installing *See Something Say Something* as people of color already feel like they are more likely to be targeted by Campus Safety or reported on.

**Felix Tager** brought up that in accordance with national trends, students of color have a fear associated with officers, even if offices are not necessarily raiding a party. Campus Safety officers driving up and getting out of their cars is intimidating and threatening and leads to many students running. Res life and safety is continuing to explore this issue alongside issues of parking and will bring forward proposals regarding both. He noted that if anyone had any comments or suggestions they should say so.



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**Jacob Piazza** asked if Frank Coots could go through the procedure of what happens when there is a noise complaint. He noted that students are afraid because they do not know what is going to happen when Campus Safety shows up.

Frank Coots replied with an example of going into Ferguson. He stated that Campus Safety would record the student's name on a report, which goes to him. When it comes to other places such as Babbit Pavillion where people can run away, Campus Safety will try to have discussion with the people involved despite it being difficult as people are able to run away. He finalized it by stating that when it comes to noise complaints, Campus Safety has to inspect them as noise disturbs someone's sleep or studying. During civilian interactions, officers also wear body cameras. There are a lot of different things that could happen and a party might not be as bad as people smoking weed.

**Bethany Fell** noted that Campus Safety might not intentionally break up parties but that students who are at the party and drinking will run away as Campus Safety has to further investigate the alcohol consumption.

**Frank Coots** responded that Hamilton does not condone underage drinking, therefore, they will ask for Hillcards from students to verify their age.

**Bethany Fell** clarified that if there is a situation where people present were drinking alcohol or smoking weed, then they will be more likely to run. They wondered if there would be any situation where that would not happen.

**Frank Coots** stated that there is no situation in which this would not happen.

**Tay Meshkinyar (she/her)** asked if Campus Safety had looked into how cases were handled. She specified wondering if there is data on whether a party with more students of color leads to higher reports of underaged drinking or smoking and if those would lead to higher charges.

Frank Coots responded that he has never received a direct complain that Campus Safety officers were discimination against anyone at a party. He noted that during the pandemic, someone in a residence hall had an issue with people of color. The caller would notify Campus Safety of a party going on in a residence hall with people of color in attendance. Frank Coots noted that he was able to take data from those calls and verify that the caller specifically complained about a person of color. Altering Campus Safety is anonymous but in this situation, when Campus Safety responded to the alert and found nothing to be happening in the residence hall except a person of color hanging out in a public area. Therefore, Frank Coots deemed there to be something nefarious on the caller's part. Therefore, Campus Safety stopped responding to those and asked the Area Director to check on the residence hall first and only alert Campus Safety if there was actually a party going on. The system was being used against specific people and he noted that Campus Safety takes calls seriously but does not proactively police parties.



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**Katrinah Tejeda** said that she heard last year Campus Safety wanted a dog on campus and was now wondering where the dog is.

**Frank Coots** responded that a supervisor has a service animal and the dog always accompanies him. The supervisor works Tuesday through Saturday nights, so students can go see the dog anytime after 7pm.

**Katrinah Tejeda** asked if students would be able to interact with the dog, since it's a service animal.

Frank Coots responded that the supervisor welcomed pets for the dog.

**Emily Jiang** summarized that there is general interest in an analysis of data and that the Res Life committee will pursue that further. They emphasized that if anyone had any comments, they can forward them to Felix who chairs the res life and safety committee or themself.

**Frank Coots** added that it was on a past recommendation of Res Life and Safety that Campus Safety started recording data on race and gender, and emphasized Student Assembly's agency.

Movie Nights: President Emily Jiang '25 (<u>TIME: 00:47:10</u>)

**Emily Jiang** stated that they will be working with Kiara Nelson, who is SA's liaison to LITS, and any classes who want to co host to work on a movie night. SA is looking into getting a space for the next few weeks leading up to Halloween to show movies. They asked if anyone would be interested in that and proposed doing a movie night every Friday.

**Felix Tager** responded that it would be fun.

Emily Jiang asked what days would be good.

**Bethany Fell** responded that Sunday would be best, since people would not pick a movie over parties which tend to happen on Fridays.

**Emily Jiang** noted that they can also host them multiple times a week, if there is a general interest.

**Felix Tager** suggested Saturday afternoons as Friday and Saturday evenings are often used for parties and students do homework on Sundays. He also mentioned that SA should not promote the name of the movie unless SA wants to pay a movie licensing fee.

**Emily Jiang** suggested that people should submit public comments if they have any input and that they will be reaching out to class presidents in case they want to host a movie night for their class.



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**Ting Mei** asked if there is funding available for the movie nights.

**Emily Jiang** responded that they could apply to the discretionary fund to obtain snacks such as popcorn.

**Felix Tager** commented that they could also add it under the traditions fund in three years once eligible.

### Accessibility Update: President Emily Jiang '25 (TIME: 00:49:24)

Emily Jiang gave an update on accessibility. They stated that they have been meeting with the Dean of Students and the AVP of Facilities, Michael Klapmeyer, who will be coming to speak to the Assembly next week and also speak at the preceding Res Life meeting. Emily noted that they specifically talked to them about the accessibility audit that has happened in the last few years that looked at buildings on campus to see what changes need to be made. Hamilton is slowly working on implementing the changes. Michael Klapmeyer shared with them that accessibility is integrated into new projects like the Root Hall renovation. Part of the renovation is making it accessible. In addition to those integrated accessibility renovations, Hamilton has committed \$500,000 every fiscal year to make changes to campus starting with the parts of campus that have the most traffic. This year, the \$500,000 are going towards the two dining halls, Burke Library, and automatic door openers in the Wellin. There will be an elevator in McEwen, the entrance of Commons will be made accessible, and Burke library is due to start with accessibility renovations on specific floors. They stated that they will continue to work on creating a way to report automatic door openers and other accessibility features when they aren't functioning. Dean Card wanted Emily to pass on to the Assembly that conversations continue to happen with Senior Administration and Facilities, and that Senior Administration shares the same priorities about accessibility on this campus. There will be follow ups to facilitate meetings and there are plans underway for a multi-year plan. Importantly, there will still be visible changes this year.

### • Election Announcements: Vice President Marvin Lopez '23

**Marvin Lopez** presented the timeline for elections, and that the new date for elections would be November 16. The exact timeline is as follows:

October 16th - Notices Commence November 2nd - Platforms and Signatures Due November 16th - Election Day November 17th - Results Announced

**Marvin Lopez**, reading aloud the following statement, resigned from his position as Assembly Vice President effective at the conclusion of the statement.



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"When the President notified me a few weeks ago that they were making the "executive decision" to remove one of our eboard members, I was very confused. I know that there is a specific process for removing someone from the Assembly which is outlined in the Bylaws, Article 12, Section 1.

I've read our constitution several times, and I've become very familiar with not just my own responsibilities but also those of others. At times I've earned the reputation of being the one who constantly pushes for "parliamentary procedure" or for a more specific way to carry out our business as outlined in our constitution and precedent in our procedures.

I know, many can attest to, and our records show {both in written and in video form} that I have in fact at many times assisted in setting {or set} the agenda, especially last semester. I assist in following our rules of parliamentary procedure at each meeting, {especially last semester,} have confirmed several guests and speakers, represented the Assembly in dealings with the Administration, faculty, and Trustees, and have overseen the dealings of 3 committees and sat on 2 others {and participated in other two that were ad hoc}. This is in line with my {actual} duties outlined in the Bylaws Article 9, Section 3.

In my time here I have been consistently blamed for incomplete agendas and for inefficacies in the chairing of meetings. I've been asked to vote with the President in order to show "unity" and {have been} shown disapproval for holding differing stances on several matters. For most of our Central Council Meetings last semester and many this semester, the records show {whether you read the minutes or watch the recordings} that I would see to the presence of a quorum (alongside the Parliamentarian), recognition of members to speak, calling for the motions, announcing the results, enforcing decorum, and informing about point of order. All of these are duties delegated to the President (Bylaws, Article 2, Section 4).

After devoting so many hours a week to a group that requires so much preparation each week. {I, myself show up anytime between 10, 30 minutes, sometimes an hour early last semester. I would be in this room pacing back and forth. I have to settle in a long time before I enter this space. The president is late, almost every single meeting.} {The last thing that you need is for your work to not just go unrecognized, but for the slow progress of an assembly to be blamed on you.}

For these reasons and many more, I am resigning from my position as Vice President effective at the end of this statement. Several members of the senior class are, for the same, similar, or other reasons related to the efficacy of the leadership, also resigning from their positions. This includes Joshua Zeledon, Evelyn Molina, Christopher Akuleme, and Allison Sheehan.

My last item of action will be to officially inform the President of the vacancies and the relevant election procedures as delegated to me in Article 6, Section 4. An election for Vice President must occur within 3 weeks from today, which at the interpretation of the Parliamentarian, will not include Fall Break. This means that the position must be filled by Saturday, November 5th. A

As per previous eboard appointments, a new Parliamentarian must be appointed 10 days after today, which again, will not include Fall Break at the ruling of the Parliamentarian (Wednesday, October 26th).

pro-tempore Vice President shall be elected from within the Central Council until one is elected.



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I have truly enjoyed my time working with members of the Assembly {perhaps not the leadership itself}. There is lots that we have accomplished and lots of potential for a truly productive space. At this time, for the long term success of the Assembly, {and for the fact that it has come to the point where my personal information has been shared with members of the Assembly} it makes the most sense for me to step away and allow others to take the helm.

Thank you, Marvin Lopez"

Clarification from Secretary Lena Klink '25: Marvin handed me a printed copy of the statement which is transcribed above. Italicized parts of the transcript are comments verbally added by Marvin during his speech.

Clarification from President Emily Jiang '25: Many statements made by Marvin in his speech are unconfirmed. Members mentioned were not given the opportunity to respond to allegations during the meeting.

Emily Jiang stated that the rest of the agenda is clearly no longer happening. This was a lot to process and it came as a result of an impeachment process that was begun and has now ended, given that there is no one to impeach anymore. There is a full document of complaints corroborated by almost ten members of the Assembly and people outside of the Assembly. Some of the things Marvin said towards Emily and others were defamatory and untrue. This can be checked with many people on the Assembly as well as Senior Administration. Emily noted that they were not the first one to initiate an impeachment and noted wanting to investigate with their co writers in what capacity the impeachment document should be and would be constitutionally allowed to be made public. In the absence of a parliamentarian, Emily will consult the constitution themself to see if the impeachment document can be made public. They noted that the Assembly has done great work so far and if the impeachment had failed they would have continued to work with Marvin. They noted being sad to see so many members of the Assembly go.

- Parliamentary Procedure Presentation: Parliamentarian Allison Sheehan '23
- Motion: Closed Session, Marvin Lopez '23

### **5.** Announcements (TIME: 01:00:00)

 Student org leaders, please check your email in the next few days for clarification on contingency funding and reapplications for more funds.



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- The new Club/Org Recognition application is officially live for submission! Use this <u>Google Form</u> to apply by Friday October 21 (hard deadline). If you missed the new club interest meeting, the slides will be sent out soon. For more information about starting a new club/org and the process of review, visit the Student Activities <u>website</u>.
- An ad hoc committee will be formed at the president's request to pursue the late nite jitney initiative jointly with Student Transportation and the Dean of Students. Please reach out to ejiang@hamilton.edu or rni@hamilton.edu to join.
- Special elections will be held in the next few weeks to fill open spots: 3 Class
   Reps for 2023, 1 Class Rep for Class of 2025, and 2 Class Reps for Class of 2024
- There is also an open spot for Parliamentarian, who is essentially the sitting Constitutional reference - please reach out to <a href="mailto:ejiang@hamilton.edu">ejiang@hamilton.edu</a> if you're interested.
- President and VP Elections (joint ticket) for the 2023-2024 calendar year will happen on November 16th. The official process will begin soon, so start prepping if you want to run!

## 6. Adjournment

