

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

10/24/2022

1. Call to Order

Corey Bravo Sloan
Adan Corea
Bethany Fell
Max Ganem
Ailis Hayden
Emily Jiang
Lena Klink
Ryley McGovern
Quentin Messer

Raymond Ni
Jacob Piazza
Mason Schroeder
Nicole Soret
Felix Tager
Katrinah Tejada
Prim Udomphan

Excused:
Muhammad Ahmad Rao
Gael Javier
Ting Mei
Kiara Nelson

Unexcused:
Alexandra Kropaneva

2. General Public Comment Period ([TIME: 00:00:47](#))

Nicholas Ng '23 (he/him) commented:

“Printers in KJ are frequently empty or broken. I’ve had to pull a few MacGyvers this year already.”

Chiara Morley-McLaughlin '24 (she/her) wrote:

“Please fix the printer situation on darkside. Leave paper stacks next to printers. The inconsistent access to paper and printing is affecting my academic performance. This is small request that could fix a large problem.”

Helen Ziobrowski '24 (she/her) commented:

“Please fix the giant potholes on the Martin's Way bridge!”

Anna Grace '24 (she/they) wrote:

“Please fix the printers!!!”

Alexander Axton '24 (he/him) commented:

“Please please please fix the printers across campus.”

Emily Jiang noted that SA does have printer updates, which will be addressed later.

3. Old Business ([TIME: 00:02:26](#))

- **Minutes from 10/17**

The minutes from 10/17 pass as written by unanimous consent.



4. New Business

- **Parliamentarian Nomination: Adan Corea '26** ([TIME: 00:02:36](#))

Adan Corea resigned from his position as class representative of the Class of 2026.

Emily Jiang stated that they will now be nominating Adan as Parliamentarian.

Adan Corea stated that he is here on his own will and promised to work with the Assembly to uphold and revise the Constitution.

Felix Tager asked how Adan plans to uphold the constitution of Student Assembly as Parliamentarian, specifically when the text clashes with precedent.

Adan Corea replied that he will go over the constitution and revise anything that needs to be changed as seen fit by the Assembly.

The motion to confirm Adan Corea as the new parliamentarian passes unanimously via voice vote.

Emily Jiang noted that there is an open spot in the Class of 2025 delegation.

- **Bylaws Amendments: Funding Codes** *President Emily Jiang '25 and Treasurer Prim Udomphan '26* ([TIME: 00:05:20](#))

Prim Udomphan and Emily Jiang went over the significant changes to the funding codes, which are highlighted in the Funding Code Bylaws. The document has been emailed out to everyone in the first agenda email on Sunday, October 23rd. The changes are highlighted in the document.

Felix Tager asked what the reason behind doing this is. He wondered what would happen if there were no rollovers.

Emily Jiang answered that there is \$70,000 in the traditions fund and that they don't think there is any way that such a large amount will just disappear.

Felix Tager stated that such a large amount is a rare instance and as a result of the new funding system in place. However, he expects most of the money to be exhausted. Planning based on this year alone, after a new funding system had just been introduced, is not the wisest move.

Emily Jiang noted that SA could look at how much is used from all the funds this year based on the increase in money that SA received and then work from there. Apart from this year's data, there is no past data to work with; however, the language in the funding code amendment allows for more flexibility.



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Jacob Piazza asked what would happen if the traditions fund starts with \$10,000 and uses \$5,000 which leaves \$5,000 in the traditions fund. He wondered if that would mean that there is now only \$5,000 available for the next year.

Felix Tager answered the rollover is in this case a rollback. The SAF Committee — which is composed of a member of the DMC, the President and Treasurer of Student Assembly, and the Chairs of CAB and Media Board — would convene to vote on this. They could decide that the tradition fund should only get \$5,000 this year because they only used \$5,000 in the previous year. However, hypothetically, if there are new traditions established, that becomes an issue, as they are not accounted for. He noted pushing really hard for a high starting amount for the traditions fund because it is a starting amount for a set in stone fund. The fund will be added to when necessary to keep it at a certain amount. However, there should always be plans for the future in case there are no rollovers one year.

Emily Jiang pointed out that there is SA discretionary budget available should the traditions fund be exhausted.

Felix Tager asked if SA would lose the funding for general SA programming to fund traditions.

Emily Jiang noted that there is a lot of money in the traditions fund. They do not see SA losing \$70,000. However, as of now, there are a lot of things that cannot be predicted. For example, if the president and treasurer next year see that SA has used all of our traditions fund or SA does not have as much money as this year, then changes would need to be made.

Felix Tager suggested striking the part where money rolls back. Technically the SAF committee could decide to do that as a vote, so it doesn't need to be a separate rule. The issue could be assessed on a case-by-case basis rather than having the potential of losing \$70,000. For example, if \$35,000 are used this year, \$35,000 will be allocated for next year. If next year, a lot of traditions get established and the discretionary budget has already been used for other things like care packages, there would be no money left for traditions. He does not want to end up in a situation where there is no funding left for traditions after SA worked so hard on establishing a fund for them. SA is extremely lucky with the amount of money there is this year, but it should not be seen as a precedent, especially with inflation rising.

Emily Jiang noted that another thing to consider is that there has to be a three year warning before a new tradition is officially established. As such, SA will know which traditions will be using the fund, since any new traditions need to exist for three years before they can pull from this fund. As such, there will be time to revise and plan the budget and there will be no unexpected expense.

Felix Tager clarified that this change is the only thing he has a slight qualm with, and suggested to strike this part of the amendment before voting on this bylaw amendment. He noted that in



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general the amendment is well presented. He motioned to amend the amendment to strike the part that states that money would roll back.

Jacob Piazza asked if the amount of money that is allocated will stay the same every year.

Felix Tager stated that it would stay unless there is something added to it. If it rolls back, a new amount for the traditions fund would need to be established every year. For example, if money rolls but there is a decision that CAB needs to be supported with more money, SA could end up with not enough money to support traditions. With the rollback system, a committee will be in charge of voting on money for traditions or something else. Keeping money separate would be important for the sake of traditions. Felix suggested using the 10% rule: 10% stays, while 90% gets rolled back. However, this was designed with the idea for the budget to stay in the fund. He acknowledged that this may sound confusing and nitpicky, but it is important to focus on. He suggested amending the amendment to say that at the end of the fiscal year, all funding that was in the traditions fund remains in the traditions fund and will not roll back. This might be confusing and seem nitpicky for people who have not dealt with funding but that this is important.

Raymond Ni noted that he does not feel comfortable with voting on this as there are a lot of new people on the Assembly including all the freshmen, who do not know how the funding process works, especially considering that it was changed last semester.

Emily Jiang noted that the document was sent out earlier, and everyone got a chance to look at it, as well as the funding codes always being available to review. This is an opportunity for everyone to ask questions if anything needs clarifying.

Bethany Fell added that they also do not know how any of the funding works. It is one thing to send out the document but there is more to it than just that.

Emily Jiang restated that there is an opportunity to ask questions now. It is the representatives' responsibility to read through the Funding Codes and come prepared with questions since funding is an important part of what Student Assembly does. They are happy to host an information session for the Assembly and go through funding step by step if necessary.

The motion to amend the amendment passes unanimously via voice vote.

Felix Tager noted the change to percentages from \$5,000 to 5% and asked about the significance of it.

Prim Udomphan responded that around \$34,000 is left in the contingency budget right now which is a lot compared to the \$5,000 that are currently allocated in the funding codes. The change is to increase the discretionary budget allocated for clubs and organizations. According to some cases this year, two clubs have already reached out to apply for more contingency budget,



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because they did not have enough annual budget. This is a reason why she wanted to increase the cap on the contingency budget.

Felix Tager asked if it would make sense to use 5% of the total SA budget and a minimum amount, in case the 5% is lower than that minimum number. For example, in case the budget is very low one year, a minimum number would always be there in case the 5% is too low. If the 5% is lower than this number, then the number provided would be the contingency budget.

Mason Schroeder reiterated that the contingency budget would be 5% or \$5,000 or whatever number that is decided on, whichever is higher.

Felix Tager explained that in case there is a bad budget year and the contingency budget comes out to be only \$2000. However, SA knows that on average \$5,000 is needed as contingency budget. Therefore, he questioned whether it would not be better to set the contingency budget at \$5,000 just in case.

Prim Udomphan asked if it could be stated in the funding codes as two choices.

Felix replied that it is possible. The wording could be something like the contingency budget shall be set at least 5% of the total SA annual budget, or if that's below X number, X number would be contingency budget.

Prim Udomphan asked what the exact wording Felix is suggesting.

Mason Schroeder clarified Felix's language stating that the contingency budget shall be set at least as 5% of the total Student Assembly annual budget or at least \$5,000, whichever is greater.

The motion to amend the amendment passes unanimously via voice vote.

Emily Jiang offered having more funding clarification sessions, though those sessions already happened earlier in the year for org leaders.

The Funding Code Bylaw Amendment passes unanimously via placard vote.

Emily Jiang noted that the changes will be reflected in the constitution this week and thanked Prim for her work. As SA continues to work with the new funding system, additional changes will need to be made especially after seeing how it works in practice.

- **Bylaws Amendments: Obligations of Membership** Class President Felix Tager '23 and Class Representative Mason Schroeder '23 ([TIME: 00:27:55](#))

Mason Schroeder shared the changes to the bylaw amendment on Obligations of Membership made after a meeting with CAB. The amendment specifies the position SA members can hold in



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other governing bodies. The reason for this specification is that only certain members of CAB vote on funding. For example, members of the general E-Board cannot influence funding so there is no reason for them to be barred from holding a position on Student Assembly unless they are the President or the Treasurer, who are in SAF meetings. The same goes for the chair of CAB so they also cannot be on Student Assembly.

The Bylaw Amendment to the Obligations of Membership passes unanimously via voice vote.

Emily Jiang noted that this change will be reflected in the Constitution uploaded to the SA website.

- **Motion to Divide Student Voted Programming Budget Line into Four Sections** *Class President Felix Tager '23* ([TIME: 00:30:16](#))

Felix Tager shared that the reason for this motion is that he had previously suggested that this budget line could be used for general projects like the printers or the Jitney. However, both projects seem very unlikely to be fundable now. He has gotten word that the printers are guaranteed to not be fundable, and funding the Jitney also looks unlikely. If SA cannot get those general projects done, he suggested that the budget should be split between each class year, so the individual class years can decide what the funding is for. He referenced Raymond's thoughts on new traditions, and noted that traditions take time to establish. These traditions need funding that does not come from the traditions fund. With the budget line divided, each class year could vote on the traditions they want to establish and what they want the money used for. He added that, if this motion passes, he would go to the senior class to establish new and reinvigorate old traditions and to make all senior class events financially accessible to students.

Emily Jiang asked if this made sense to everyone and noted that this would impact the other class years.

Felix Tager clarified that each class year would get one-fourth of the funding.

Ryley McGovern asked how much money each class would get.

Emily Jiang responded that there is around \$60,000 in the budget which would be divided by four. As such, there would be just over \$15,000 allotted for each class year.

Raymond Ni noted that there are currently no traditions for the Junior class, and asked whether this would mean that the Junior class could not use the traditions fund and instead this money.

Felix Tager affirmed that there are no Junior year traditions, and added that the Student Voted Programming budget line is a way to establish traditions with funding in a way that does not impact the discretionary fund.



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Emily Jiang noted that this funding is separate from the traditions fund.

Motion to Divide Student Voted Programming Budget Line into Four Sections passes unanimously via voice vote.

Emily Jiang clarified that any events that use funding from this budget line will have to be voted on by the class year that it is allocated to.

- **Automatic Doors QR Code Stickers Update** *President Emily Jiang '25* ([TIME: 00:34:22](#))

Emily Jiang showed the stickers they want to put on doors and noted that the stickers would go on all the automatic doors on campus. They shared that they have already received feedback, and that the picture shown is a draft. They further added that they are continuing to flesh it out, and are working on getting explicit permission to put the stickers on doors. They will request funding for printing the stickers next week. Some people have noted that they wanted the stickers to be brighter. The link on the stickers goes to a work order form; normally, only specific people have access to the form, but they are working on a way to have universal access to this form for specifically the automatic doors.

Corey Bravo Sloan noted that while he is a big fan of fonts like the one used, they are hard to read. For accessibility reasons, it might be better to find a font that is explicitly accessible.

Felix Tager advocated for the sticker staying in black and white or using highly contrasting colors to accommodate for colorblindness. He noted that there is a guide online on how to accommodate for colorblindness with color contrasts.

Emily Jiang noted that they have now changed the font to an accessible font. They reiterated that the QR code goes to a work order form and that they will double check with Facilities about the form and placement this week and then will get started with printing. They mentioned that they will send the final version to the Slack and also project it at the next meeting when requesting funds for the stickers.

- **Campus Printers Update** *Class President Felix Tager '23* ([TIME: 00:38:28](#))

Felix Tager shared that he and Mason met with LITS last Tuesday. He wanted to be candid in that they do not have a solution right now, but they are working on things to make it better. The issue is not funding new printers, but rather about the labor involved with printer upkeep. LITS has lost a lot of employees recently, and they cannot add new printers to the mix as they do not have the staff for it and adding new printers would only add to the already existing chaos. He noted that, if a student has an accessibility need and cannot go to another printer, the student should contact the Dean of Accessibility, Dean Harrison, because this need has to be accommodated. They are working on solutions for this, and he suggested reaching out to both



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Dean Harrison and LITS for support. He also shared that LITS is working to make sure that people who restock paper are doing it more often and in later hours. Most printing is happening in the evening, so refilling at lunch is a waste of time. The reason why paper is not put in stacks on the sides of the printer is because students could easily break the printer trays when they do not know how to reload paper correctly. If the printer tray breaks, the printer will be out of commission entirely. He also mentioned that the whole school will be getting an email from the ResLife and Safety Committee and from LITS which outlines every printer location on Dark Side, as some printers are underutilized. For example, there are printers in the computer labs in KJ that are rarely used. There will also be a guide on how to use the printers and an FAQ on what to do when printers are not working. In general, people should contact LITS when printers are not working, as the more data they have, the more likely they are going to address those things. Public comments are useful but sending tickets to LITS as they need them. There will also be the Help Desk number and a number that deals specifically with printer issues posted on every printer. There will additionally be a QR code for when the printers are broken. The best solution remains to call the Help Desk as they can address the issue. SA is trying to fix the situation but the issue is not money but rather labor. Felix added that he has invited David from LITS to come speak to the Assembly and the ResLife and Safety Committee in hopes of involving the Assembly more and get some questions answered.

Felix Tager continued by giving an update on the potholes on campus. Associate Vice President of Facilities Klappmeyer is working on addressing the potholes on campus. In the coming days, the ResLife and Safety committee will be going on a walking tour with him and then create a priority plan for which potholes need to be addressed in the near future. All of them will be addressed eventually, but winter is coming and it is important to move quickly as when snow hits, there is not much that can be done. The first thing would be to figure out which potholes need to be fixed the most immediately such as those on Martin's Way and those on the brick pathway from Dark Side to Light Side. He hoped to get things done as soon as humanly possible. He noted that anyone who is interested in attending the walking tour should please email him or anyone on the ResLife and Safety committee, which is also open to everyone to join. There will also be a tour of the facilities in the future to better understand accessibility needs.

- **AED Committee Update** *Class Representative Mason Schroeder '23* ([TIME: 00:44:15](#))

Mason Schroeder noted that the Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, & Development (AED) Committee will send out a form to the entire school to ask people if they want to join the committee. He noted that the committee is primarily dealing with Financial Aid and other academic concerns. The committee is partnering with ResLife on printers as the issue also concerns academic spaces like Kirner-Johnson (KJ) and not just residence halls. If anyone would like to have a voice in that, they are encouraged to join. The form will be sent out in the coming days. He noted that financial aid is not as good this year, and AED will be sending out a short survey in the next day or two to get an understanding of how people who receive financial aid



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feel about their aid. The survey will ask questions like whether your financial aid meets your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and how the appeal process went if someone appealed their aid.

This is to allow the AED committee and SA at large to see if the problems of financial aid are a general issue or if just a small subset is experiencing them. He encouraged everyone to fill out the surveys that will be coming out in the following days.

- **President/Vice President Elections Timeline** *President Emily Jiang '25* ([TIME: 00:46:18](#))

Emily Jiang presented the President/Vice President Elections Timeline and apologized for the rush due to the resignations of the last two weeks. The timeline is below and will also be sent out to the entire school.

- ❖ **October 26-November 1:** Election Rules Meetings. Petition links will be sent out to all attendees. Additional meetings will be added as needed.
 - *NOTE: Those who wish to run but do not attend one of these meetings will not receive a petition link. In this case, one may still run unofficially as a write-in candidate, but will not be eligible to be put on the ballot.
- ❖ **October 31:** Reminder email sent to candidates (those who fill out the interest form/attendees of Elections Rules Meetings) who have either:
 - a) not met the meeting requirement or
 - b) not received the minimum number of petition signatures (75).
- ❖ **November 2 @ 11:59 PM:** Petitions, platforms, and pictures due via Google Forms that can be found throughout and at the end of this document. *Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the Elections Chair.*
- ❖ **November 3:** Platforms released to the student body.
- ❖ **November 5 @ 11:59 PM:** Optional campaign posters/videos due to Publicity Director Max Ganem (mganem@hamilton.edu).
- ❖ **November 16:** Election Day (12:01 AM-11:59 PM)
- ❖ **November 17:** Constitutionally required 24-hour waiting period before results
- ❖ **November 18:** Results Released (@ 12:01 AM)
- ❖ **January 16:** First SA meeting w/ new President and Vice President

Emily Jiang explained that the election date was pushed up so that it would not be during finals but also so that the new President and Vice President would have more time to prepare before entering office and attend Central Council Meetings and potentially meetings with the SA advisor, President, and the administration. Emily gave a little briefing on the position which is below.

Notes on Candidacy (*Constitution Article VI, Bylaws Article V*):



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- A presidential candidate is permitted to run with two vice-presidential candidates, each of whom would, in the event of the ticket's election, serve for one semester of the President's tenure.
- Anyone elected would hold office until the first day of the Spring '24 semester.
- Candidates running for President have to have attended at least 5 full meetings of the Central Council. Vice President candidates do not have this requirement.
- All presidential candidates must be on campus for the full term of the office. Vice presidential candidates must be on-campus during any semesters in which they intend to serve.

Emily Jiang stated that more specific rules will be presented in the election rules meetings. They proposed to suspend the five meeting rule and change it to require presidential candidates to attend five meetings prior to entering office. The election process has been condensed and they wanted to make sure that people had the opportunity to attend five full meetings.

Jacob Piazza asked how many meetings were left in the semester.

Emily Jiang replied that there are six meetings left.

Felix Tager suggested changing the requirement to be two meetings before submitting the petition and three after so that there is some sort of requirement. That requirement would prevent people from running as a joke which has happened in the past.

Emily Jiang noted that they are on board with that. They clarified that in the constitution it is five meetings prior to sending in their petition. Petitions are due on November 2nd. There will be time to attend the next meeting on October 31st. There is one meeting left before petitions are due and six meetings before the next president takes office. If SA required two meetings prior to submitting a ballot, anyone who runs has to be present for at least one meeting before the current one.

Felix Tager suggested that, given that SA has lost so many members, it might be better to require one meeting before elections and two after.

Emily Jiang noted that this rule was made with the expectation that people have been a part of SA for a long time before running for president, and therefore have attended meetings. However, because of the recent high turnover in SA membership, that rule should not necessarily apply in this situation.

Felix Tager suggested revising the rules in the constitution in the coming months, noting this as something that should be flagged.

Emily Jiang agreed that amendments to the constitution will be coming.



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Ryley McGovern asked about restarting constitutional committee meetings, now that there is a new parliamentarian. He noted that that would be a great way to start this process.

Adan Corea agreed, and noted that he would start the committee up again.

Emily Jiang seconded having constitutional committee meetings. They encouraged people, especially class presidents, to join.

Motion to amend the election rules to require presidential candidates to attend one meeting prior to petitioning and three meetings total prior to taking office passes unanimously via voice vote.

■ **Elections Chair Appointment for Class Representative Special Elections: Class President Felix Tager '23 ([TIME: 00:53:10](#))**

Emily Jiang announced that Felix Tager will be chairing the special elections for class representative. There is one seat open in the Class of 2026, one in the Class of 2025, two in the Class of 2024, and three in the Class of 2023.

Felix Tager mentioned that the elections will follow the same schedule as presidential elections but elected representatives will join the Assembly immediately after results are announced.

Ryley McGovern noted that this might not work for the 2025 class year, as they have someone to nominate who asked to put off their confirmation until next week. Therefore, there would no longer be an open position for 2025.

Felix Tager replied that it can just be acknowledged that there has been a nomination and therefore the position is no longer open. Felix reiterated that there are no representative spots open for the Class of 2025, two for the class of Class of 2024, three for the Class of 2023, and one for the Class of 2026.

Emily Jiang mentioned that Class Presidents can still make appointments by next week, but any open spots will be put up for election. They encouraged Class Presidents to finalize any appointments by next week. Election rules meeting will happen in the next few days, and people who are interested in running but cannot make it to any should email Felix or Emily about setting one up because they are required to be on the ballot.

○ **Guest: Dean of Students Chris Card ([TIME: 00:55:04](#))**

Emily Jiang noted that the session is still open.

Dean Chris Card thanked the Assembly for allowing him to spend time with the Assembly. He thanked members for stepping into this position and serving the student body and the institution.



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He acknowledged that there was a bump in the last few weeks but that he is happy that Assembly members are still here and continue to work for themselves and their peers. He introduced himself as the Dean of Students and the Vice President for Student Affairs and noted that he has been at Hamilton for about two months. He is still learning and figuring things out. He noted that he thinks that it is important for him to talk to the Assembly. He leverages his position on campus and leadership in the students affairs division in support of a vibrant and exciting student experience. He noted that when he asks seniors on commencement day they always note how quickly their four years went by. As such, in the work that he and the people in his division, like Travis Hill and Tessa Chefalo, do, SA is a critical space. He wants to pay deliberate and careful attention to the Assembly and is happy to be here and support.

Dean Chris Card explained that part of what he is interested in figuring out through a conversation with SA is the priorities of the student body and hopes to establish a partnership with the Assembly. He mentioned that he has come across colleagues across the country who would love to have a weak student government structure that does not challenge what happens on campus. This is the opposite of his goals and he hopes to have a strong student government structure and work in real and transparent direct collaboration. This is why he wanted to introduce himself. He noted that he walks around on campus to get to know the campus and student life and encouraged everyone to stop him if they see him. He looked forward to having a continued conversation with the Assembly but he also noted that there should be a deep sense of partnership between the Assembly and his office. The partnership should be based on transparency, conversation, direct engagement. He mentioned wanting to be present on campus and stated that he lives on campus which gives him leverage on seeing what is happening with the student body. He stated that he has heard several complaints and questions that keep coming up, for example the late night Jitney, and other issues that have been mentioned during SA meetings. He explained that his job is to help find solutions to those issues that are sustainable long term. He mentioned that he and SA will not agree on everything, and that is fine. He asked everyone to engage respectfully and focus on what is best for the institution and for the students.

The motion to move into closed session passes unanimously via voice vote.

5. Motion for Closed Session with the Dean of Students

6. Announcements (TIME: 01:02:02)

- Special elections will be held in the next few weeks to fill open spots: 3 Class Reps for 2023, 2 Class Reps for Class of 2024, and 1 Class Rep for Class of 2026.
- President and VP Elections (joint ticket) for the 2023-2024 calendar year will happen on November 16th. An email will go out tomorrow with all the information!



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- SA Movie Nights are happening every Saturday at 3pm in the KJ Bradford Auditorium (KJ 125). Send movie and snack suggestions to @hcstudentassembly on Instagram!

7. Adjournment

