# STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 30TH 2018

#### 1. Call to Order

- Nadav Konforty
- Julian Perricone
- Gillian Mak
- Jake Engelman
- Jordan D'Addio
- Penelope Hoopes
- Lilly Pieper
- Jonathan Stanhope
- Marquis Palmer
- Zach Oscar
- Ysabel Coss
- Karthik Ravishankar
- Casey Codd
- Ben Rhind
- Sam Gordon
- Giacomo Cabrera
- Ian Chen
- Nani Suzuki
- Connie Lorente
- Keith Ruggles
- Gianni Hill
- Elizabeth Groubert
- Diana Perez
- Maria Valencia
- Amanda Kim
- Jiin Jeong
- Gavin Meade

#### Unexcused

- Noam Barnhard
- Alex Stetter
- Rachel Sutor

#### 2. Public Comment Period

• **Dean Jeff Landry** – **Norovirus statement:** Thanks for having me everybody. I am not sure what you want to know. You probably saw my latest update today, we had a few students over the weekend call the health center with symptoms. Last Wednesday was the



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first day that we took a count of students with norovirus, and that number was around 54. By the next day it was at 77. Then it tailed off. Facilities Management did their cleaning of the campus and by Friday we were at 5. It's tailing off. For faculty and staff, there have so far been only 3 confirmed cases. I think we are in good shape. It feels like the students who are sick are better now. That whole wave of students who were sick should be close to back on their feet if they are not already.

- Sam Gordon: What's the schedule for dining halls to return back to schedule?
  - **Jeff Landry:** Once we are confident that it is done and it's not spreading anymore. Probably once we have had a day or two with zero reported cases.
- **Jonathan Stanhope:** Are there are any precautions students should take for C&C?
  - O **Jeff Landry:** Wash your hands often. There are wipes all over campus, use those. I saw an email floating around earlier about what to do if you don't have wipes. Clorox bleach wipes work perfectly well if you don't have any. Those and the ones we provided are only the really kinds that will work. Keep washing your hands. It's not an airborne virus, it's transferred via touch. You have to come into contact with the virus yourself.
- Amanda Kim: Do we have any idea how it got to campus?
  - O Jeff Landry: Good question. We aren't sure. We know it is at a few other colleges. Last Sunday (a week ago) was when we first getting an inkling of what was going on. We had two cases of students who were sick that the EMTs saw over the weekend. On Monday, I was in contact with Barb Fluty and the Health Center--Well you know that the first rumors going around were E. coli. She called me Monday morning and said she was fearful it was norovirus. She said "It doesn't seem like it's Ecoli." I thought for sure that I had it figured out. A few days earlier Western Kentucky had it, so I figured one of our teams brought it back, but Dave Thompson let me know that none of the teams were at that school. I don't know where it started, I don't know where it came from. It's hard to tell.

We had the RAs poll their floors to see of we could find the epicenter. It didn't help a lot. Dunham had a higher percentage of any residence hall but it wasn't a lot. Other schools have it. Union has it now, Utica might have it, Conn College had it. I talked to a mom last Thursday whose daughter has it and her other daughter called her from Union to tell her that it was there.

I got about 300 emails from parents and students. About 90% were positive, which was good. There were some questions, though, which I was happy to answer

- **Marquis Palmer:** From an administrative perspective, how do you evaluate the effectiveness of the administration's response?
  - O Jeff Landry: How do we evaluate our response? I'd say it was great. On Monday, when we sent the samples our to the Oneida county health department, we started asking them. We were in contact with them multiple times a day. We did everything they said. It was on Tuesday that we found our it was actually norovirus. We gathered a group of people on campus to make a plan. First thing Wednesday morning, Facilities management was in your dorms cleaning



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bathrooms. Wednesday night they wiped down every surface in every public building. That was Thursday. Friday we started seeing a massive decrease in the amount of reported cases. I want to stress that Physical Plant was outstanding.

Bon Appetit was also outstanding, they immediately started changing everything. They close down their facilities to give them a good cleaning and changed the way that food is served. It seems like our response was quick and effective.

- **Keith Ruggles:** You can argue that the BA changes have been very wasteful with all the disposable silverware and plates. Was that out of necessity? Were there no other options?
- **Jeff Landry:** Yeah, that's absolutely the downside of this. We certainly didn't want the bins of silverware that people would be reaching into, so we made the decision to serve and make everything disposable for the time being. I also know there are some buffets coming up the President is having his events this week that will be served food for now.
- **Jeff Landry:** No questions on cancelling classes? I got a lot of emails about that.
  - Connie Lorente: I understood why the decision was made to not shut down the school because we all live here, but I was wondering about cancelling classes?
  - Jeff Landry: Yeah, that's where I got the most emails from parents: Why aren't you closing the college and cancelling classes?" Closing the college can't happen we can't have international students or students from out of state go somewhere else until we reopen. In my mind, I saw there were two reasons to cancel class: 1.) Knock out the classroom, 2). Relieve the pressure from students who are sick not to go to class. Both answers in my mind would result in a problem: If we closed on Wednesday, what happens on Thursday or Friday when students have to go back and infect everyone anyways? The biggest reason we decided not to close was that the Health Department advised not to. They said, "Don't. Resume business as you usually do."
  - O Jake Engelman: I was sick and I know when I was sick I was totally out of commission. I really appreciated President Wippman's email telling students not to worry about going to class and encouraging professors to be understanding. I'm wondering if anything else was told to professors about how to handle absences. I'm struggling to catch up with work and I know a lot of other students are as well.
  - O Jeff Landry: Dean Gentry had a meeting on Tuesday with all of the department chairs. Dean Gentry wrote another email emphasizing flexibility with work, assignments, encouraging professors to record it, put things online, provide notes to students, etc. That's what you read from Wippman. If this isn't happening, let us know.
- **Ian Chen?:** Will this event have any lasting effects on our health standards at Hamilton? Will we have differing
  - **Jeff Landry:** I am going to a HERT team (Hamilton Emergency Response Team) meeting Thursday morning. We will bring it up. The last time something like this



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happened was the swine flu and I don't think we had these numbers. Right now we are up to around 89 students. Swine flu wasn't that many but it was close to that. It is a great question to ask.

- Ysabel Coss: Was this different than the stomach bug than a normal one?
  - O Jeff Landry: This is a very specific virus. This is the cruise ship virus -- happens in very contained places. It is a very specific very nasty strain of a virus. Doesn't happen a lot but when it does it spreads quickly. Who had it in the room? Right? It was awful. The good thing is that you won't get it again any time soon. You build up some immunity. How many people in here had it?
  - Gavin Meade: I did and it was my birthday
  - Jake Engelman: Oh, dude same.
- **Jeff Landry:** Who saw me and Zach on TV?
  - **Zach Oscar:** They misquoted me! That doesn't even MAKE SENSE! It's not even logical!
- **Jeff Landry:** I really appreciate you guys being patient with us as we get this figured out.
- **Julian Perricone:** And we appreciate your time. As you could tell from the knocking, we are very happy with how you and the school has handled this. So thank you.
- **Jeff Landry:** As this wraps up, I'll keep you updated and I'll keep sending them to your parents. I'll keep doing that as long as there is stuff to report.

### Irina Rojas-- Community Mosaic:

• Irina Rojas: I wanted to come and thank you all for your support with the community mosaic. It's complete, it's done of you haven't got to pass by. Over 80 students signed in. Hopefully you get to enjoy it for years to come and feel proud of it as much as I do. Thank you to SA, to Noelle, Nadav, and Gillian, and Physical Plant for putting in the support to get it done. Lots of RAs, International students, and members of the staff worked on it. Thank you! We are doing a little unveiling thing on Thursday when it is fully finished with the tile around the sides. Please stop by!

#### 3. New Business

#### 4. Old Business

### Funding Code Reform — Jake Engelman '19

• Jake Engelman: Thank you to all of you who filled out the Google form that I sent out. I made a quick ppt to summarize what you said. Leave the formatting I'll fix it later. The vast majority was widely agreed upon. We won't talk about those. I have a basic agenda of what we will go over from least to most controversial. Very rough, this is the overview of the first chunk. Students were widely in agreement.

This is just to be completely transparent. I thought this was a great model for going through things in the future. These things were actually controversial: hotel costs, rollbacks and publicity (Section 11 under the consequences), and the food per diem that we talked about last time

#### **Hotel costs**

• **Jake Engelman:** Here is some feedback I got I got from you all and my responses:



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- 200 mile radius was arbitrary.
  - 200 mile radius was set because it is the furthest you can go unless you are going to a major city. It was meant as a way to section off serious travel from short trips, 1 or 2 nights not too far away.
- Organizations will request more money than they necessarily need
  - We anticipate this, but this is to overcome the hoops they have to jump through when hotels end up costing more than anticipated. The idea is that organizations will work with us on the back end to only spend what is necessary, and then promptly roll back the unused funds.
  - This is overly restrictive
    - Overly restrictive: We did more digging. This was not a change intended to put restrictions on the amount of money that organizations. We can raise the discrepancy to \$300 and \$200. Again, this is not to be restrictive. We just think this makes sense. In conjunction with the other change that we've made which is that as soon as you book a hotel which should be within two weeks of receiving funding you rollback leftover costs immediately. So we should expect rollbacks very promptly.
  - **Jake Engelman:** The next thing, under section 11 under consequences. People had some questions about parts A,B, C of the rollbacks. So I'll read them:
- A. If more than \$200 is rolled back after either midway through the semester or after the final non-strategic deadline, the club or organization will be ineligible to apply for Strategic funding in the following semester.
  - **Jake Engelman:** I know there was confusion on this it is just to say that if organizations fail to promptly roll back unused funds they will be penalized. If funds are rolled back responsibly, organizations won't have a problem.
  - **Jonathan Stanhope:** What of you submit a strategic budget for an event that takes place after the midway point of the semester, don't use the funds, and then roll back within the 2 week period?
    - O Jake Engelman: That's totally fine. We don't want to encourage orgs to spend more they need or follow through on an event that they won't try on. We are just trying to get funds rolled back properly. This was an issue we had last semester.
- B: If the event information is not sent to the Student Assembly Publicity Chair by the non-strategic deadline prior to the event, the club or organization will receive a warning. If it happens twice, approved funding for future events will be rescinded.
  - Jake Engelman: This ties into our new publicity clause, which basically requires organizations to report events to the publicity chair so we can batch publicize and consolidate emails. This will also demonstrate the number and type of events Student Assembly funds. This replaces an old rule which required all organizations to include our logo on promotions for their events.
- C: 1. If your event requires you to meet with either the Director of Student Activities or Assistant Director of Student Activities, you must meet with them in advance. i. If your event requires anything to be ordered and delivered, you must plan accordingly to ensure that the items arrive



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in time for the event. 2. If an organization does not plan far enough in advance for an event, the Student Activities office reserves the right to either postpone or cancel the event.

- Jake Engelman: So basically what this does is it grants Kaity and Noelle the right to cut funding for events that, in their discretion, were poorly put together or will not meet deadlines. We have spent money in the past on things that didn't make it back in time in the past. We got feedback that said to better define what "planning in advance" means. But it is a case-by-case basis. I think it's fair to give SA the discretion here
- Jake Engelman: Food Per Diem: This was great. It was literally 50/50 for and against. Isn't that cool? Obvious feedback we got was that it was too strict. A lot of people said no but seemed okay with offering less or additional restrictions. Much of the feedback was that it put undue burden on academic teams. I want to run through a few points the funding committee feels strongly about
  - 1. First, we don't think "per diem" itself makes sense. Not to say that funding meals off campus doesn't make sense. There should be 2 restrictions. (1) It should be meal-based, meaning organizations apply for individual meals required not just food for a day. If an organization is leaving at night they can eat dinner at the dining halls and we shouldn't have to fund it. (2) We should require receipts upon receival of the reimbursement to make sure they are spending money on food. Otherwise we are just giving our \$75 for a kid who's been off campus for 3 nights.

Finally, we want people to understand the connection between what we do here and how club sports are funded. Club sports are funded by the same fund we manage. Part of that is because it's an administrative headache. There are tons of kids and special needs and they're closely tied with the athletic department. For that reason, Dave and Pat have graciously taken responsibility...we think it is unfair that club sports are held to different standards than other organizations. We've been talking all year about how we have been in favor of representing club sports. We feel that if you all are okay with keeping the \$25 food per diem then you should do it with the understanding that this will have to apply to club sports that travel - we will have to start offering it to them. This could be an enormous economic burden on us budget-wise. You should keep in mind that any other decision that we should make should apply to them, whether it is a per diem or a hold for students with demonstrated need. Let's open it up for discussion.

- Elizabeth Groubert: If we get rid of the per diem for food, can we make a financial aid set up for students who can't afford to pay the \$25 will be given the money. My worry is that eliminating the per diem would exclude students who are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and I'm not okay with that.
  - O Jake Engelman: I'm not sure what this would look like in terms of funding. I don't think it can hold us back today. The way I envision this is looking at the one we allocated from food last year, then put it aside for students to come to the office to say "I am traveling in 3 weeks for 2 nights, I have this demonstrated need" That's what makes sense to me
- **Ysabel Coss:** As of right now, you are talking about the Club Sports budget. We aren't involved in that right?



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- Jake Engelman: We aren't. That's became we gave it up. This year we gave them \$71,000 for refs, supplies. They do a number of things differently from us. They are required to raise money as a team. Some teams make money and that's different, but they are required to raise 10% of the funds that they are granted from athletics.
- Ysabel Coss: Do they get per diems?
- Jake Engelman: They don't.
- Ysabel Coss: And they aren't eligible for per diems from us?
- Jake Engelman: They are not ineligible. All clubs are eligible—they can come to us. They haven't been doing that because no connection has been made, but we recognize that's a problem.
- **Gianni Hill:** Just to clarify what do you mean by we fund them? Do we set aside a hold?
- Jake Engelman: No, the student activities fee funds them, with a number of other holds (C&C, HAVOC, Senior Week) that doesn't make sense for us to vote on.
  C&C would be what Noelle decides that student activities needs.
- Jonathan Stanhope: Yeah, I don't know. This idea just seems to be coming from so far out of left field. I'm not sure where this idea originated or what the reasoning behind it is. I'm open to a discussion about using meal money responsibly or possibly restructuring the way we give per diems / per meal funding, but there's no reason for us to put a categorical ban on all off campus meals. The idea just seems so wild to me--especially considering the fact that, when MUN came to us last semester offering to cut meals to reduce costs, many people on this Assembly rejected the idea because it would make the event cost prohibitive for some students. Now we want to make all SA funded events equally cost prohibitive? This seems like such a blunt rule that's being proposed.
  - **Jake Engelman:** One thing about MUN cutting food-- that was because they had reached the cap on the 10%. We worked with them and said "look you have these options--"
- **Ben Rhind:** I just ask this because I have no knowledge of this. Do you know when the Student Activities fee changed? Have we considered raising the fee for each student?
  - Noelle Niznik: It goes up every year and will go up this year
- **Jiin Jeong:** Do club sports fall on the 10% limit? Also, 2nd, of we are making a financial aid system we need to make it in a way that people don't have to go through an unnecessarily hard system.
  - **Jake Engelman:** Again, I'm not sure what this would look like for the students themselves. In terms of 10%, club sports don't get anywhere near 10%
- Nani Suzuki: I know you are trying to create the funding solutions for students who couldn't afford this. If we can't get that secured, can we come back to this again?
  - Jake Engelman: I'm sure we would recommend something as a quick change before strategic
- Zach Oscar: I partially agree with Jon that I think this is an interesting thing to target rather quickly. It is a lot to suggest that they fund their own food. I do think \$25 is too high. I'm aware of people saying they are going to stay somewhere for 3 days and then



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treat themselves for a \$45 dinner one night, don't use money the other nights and then just come back to campus. I think that I would personally would want us to calculate what a meal sort of costs and then decide on a number from there. That being said, I don't know things about funding. If the funding committee thinks that we should really try this and see how it goes, based on what makes sense, then I support this attempt. It's easy for us to go back and change it alright.

- Jake Engelman: First, the blind per diem also scares me and we've also found out that organizations requested per diem and also gotten meals as part of registration fees. Certainly at the least, receipts would help that. It starts with the consistency of all the teams that we fund that take off campus. Lizzie and I met with Dave Thompson and Pat Giruzzi and learned a lot about how club sports are funded. We do believe that they are right along with everyone else. We also don't think that funding club sports per diem per athlete is realistic. That's number one. Number 2 is that we recognize that organizations that usually request these types of funding are relatively exclusive and private. While we see other organizations as needing economic responsibility for the things we get, but we don't think that they do that. And finally the equitibility thing. We got a lot of feedback from students that the majority of our funding goes to a small number of organizations and this is a way to smooth that a bit. Finally, one more thing that is a lot more backhand in terms of when we look at a budget. The problem with these types of events is that everything they are requesting is a dollar that will be spent. This leads us to be a lot more nitpicky and strict for a \$200 budget than a \$10,000
- Sam Gordon: I'm totally open to compromising. I think lowering it is very fair. While some organizations really do abuse this, a lot of organizations don't. My organization has sent very clear receipts and I worry that we are punishing all organizations for the misuse of it by some. That being said, I think the \$15 a day is very reasonable.
  - Jake Engelman: This isn't meant to be a punishment. I found out about the abuse of these funds today, so we made this decision well before that. The \$15 reduction is an idea that you guys had but the the things that we think are important are the receipts and the consistency with club sports
  - O Jordan D'Addio: I agree with Sam with what you just said. But just back to Nani's point, my concern is that we are going to say "okay, let's do this."
- Gillian Mak: I have a clarification question. I'm wondering what the relevance of club sports is here. Club sports are clubs, but it seems they follow different rules with funding that we may not even know about so I'm wondering why they were brought in to this conversation.
  - **Noelle Niznik:** Student Activities fee will be \$543 dollars next year that is up 3.5%. The money is split 3 different ways (CAB, SA, and Media Board). From there, the student assembly budget is where we start pulling things off the top. I don't like the term hold, but that's what people know it as. It's just money that we know that we will spend every year.



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- **Elizabeth Groubert:** I don't want any per diem, but I want a hold for students who can't afford paying out of pocket.
- **Gianni Hill:** Instead of a set per diem for the day, could we do a meal per diem instead? \$8 per meal makes more sense to me than \$15 a day.
- **Jake Engelman:** Just to clarify, no one is opposed to make it mandatory to submit receipts?
- Marquis Palmer: This conversation makes it seem like our primary concern was that people were jipping SA? Maybe I'm just reading it the wrong way.
- **Zach Oscar:** I kind of want Jake to clarify. Marquis makes a very good point. It seems like the point of this discussion is to talk about saving money. if we do \$8 a meal, we won't get them it in rollbacks. We are still giving them the same amount. Does it feel like you have accomplished your goal?

All funding codes except per diem passes.

Motion for a \$15 per diem passes with 2 opposed, everyone else in favor.

### **Org Recognition Update & Next Steps**

• Julian Perricone: We are nearing the end of the semester with that project and putting it on a hold until the fall. Just to give some expectations to the executive committee (presidents of each class and the eboard) we will focusing heavily on that in the fall. That will require some of your time as incoming presidents of your classes (this is assuming you win-- we are in the middle of an election.

### Elections — Julian Perricone '20

• Currently we are in the middle of elections. I wish you all good luck. Representative elections will happen in the coming week. If you do not win your election for President/Treasurer, you can always run as a representative. This one closes tomorrow at 11:59 PM

### First Year Projects — Class of 2021 Delegation

- Nadav Konforty: For first years, I just want an update on your projects. My goal with this was to give younger SA members to have a more active role with administrators and with the information deficit, the goal is to get for students. So students can be better informed as to what is going on in general.
  - Maria Valencia: Elizabeth and my project was to clarify the student of concern committee and what it is and how students get on that list. I talked to Jeff Landry today and he explained some information about the committee that we will send our with the minutes.
  - Gianni Hill: Amanda and I worked on voter participation. Amanda?
  - Amanda Kim: We met with Nicole Taylor. She's amazing, she worked in DC with an organization that helps promote civic engagement on college campuses. So she's trying to put together a committee or collective consisting of students and administrators that will help further that mission and Gianni and I are going to be the representatives for Student Assembly on that committee. We're going to work with Nicole over the summer to help her put together a budget for that committee. We're going to try to help make the process to register to vote simpler



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by getting TurboVote set up here. Nicole is also working on disseminating information and clearing up misconceptions through flyers, stickers, maybe handouts we could give on Move-In Day or a collaboration we could do with RAs and other organizations.

O Jiin Jeong: We were supposed to meet with Dean Martinez and President Wippman to put together a list of what the admin has been doing but they've been traveling.

#### 5. Acknowledgements

- Thank you to BLSU, LV, the Womxn's Center, Grilling Club, and our own Jake Engelman '19 for a wonderful Saturday Block Party and Bubble Soccer event!! A huge special shoutout to our fabulous Treasurer, Jake Engelman for all of his work in planning!
- Thank you, Kaity Werner, Jake Engelman, and all the Class Treasurers for the countless hours put into drafting the new funding codes!!
- Thank you to Irina Rojas '18 for all of her work on the Community Mosaic. A special thank you to the College Facilities for all of their work on this weekend's instillation of the Mosaic, as well. Without all of you, none of this would have happened.
- Thank you to Theresa in Student Activities for all her hard work during her time at Hamilton. We are wishing you a very happy retirement!
- Thank you to Noelle for all the work you do for SA and the student body every week!
- Thank you to Tatenda and Stefana for your work livestreaming our meetings!
- Thank you to the Seniors on Student Assembly (Lilly, Noam, Gillian, Zach, Jon, Ysabel, Marquis, and Sosa) and all of the other members of the Class of 2018 that have helped make this community a better place over the last several years. We love you all and will miss you and cannot wait to see what new heights you all will soar to!

#### 6. Committee Reports

• Full semester reports will be sent out later today.

### Meeting extended until 10:15.

#### 7. Funding

Amount Remaining: \$3,651.57

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Asian Student Association	Movie Tickets	\$118.16	\$118.16	\$118.16
Debate	Williams Tournament	\$1,056.60	\$756.60	\$756.60



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Coding Team	Hackathon	\$474.00	\$433.00	\$433.00
MUN	2 Tournaments	\$6,204.91	\$6,204.91	\$5,724.91
Health and Safety Committee*	C&C Posters	\$25	\$25	\$25

Advanced Funding Requests

Amount Requested: \$7,853.67 Amount Recommended: \$7,553.67

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: N/A

#### **Asian Student Association**

• ASA is requesting money to go see Crazy Rich Asians when it comes out. The money is for tickets and transportation for 10 people. We're recommending in full.

#### **Debate**

- Debate is requesting money for a tournament at Williams. They requested food which is \$25 per diem, jitney, and hotels.
  - Recommended jitney and hotels because we are figuring our something with them for food. For September 28.

### **Coding Team**

- Coding Team is hosting a Hackathon for late october, but they need funding now to get money in for a large event banner. This won't be dated or anything. Requesting money for mugs for hamilton students.
  - **Elizabeth Groubert:** Remember the banner was like \$200, were we able to find a cheaper option?
  - **Jake Engelman:** That's what we funded HAAND for. It's big. It's a cool event. They're putting a lot of work into this.

Asian Student Association, Debate, and Coding Team funding passes as recommended.

#### **Model United Nations**

- Jake Engelman: MUN wants to go to two tournaments. Requesting Jitney, registration fees, delegate fees, hotel, food reimbursement, gas, tolls, parking for two events. One at Boston (August 4) and one at Columbia (Sept 22). I am recommending fund in full. They will hit their 8% cap later when they request in the fall.
  - **Jon Stanhope:** Do we need to adjust for the food per diem now?
  - O Jake Engelman: We told organizations to submit as normal. I intended to be the last round of funding that we passed on our old codes. If you think it is fair to not do that and fund as we would any budget we would receive as of now.



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- o **Ben Rhind:** Jon had my question. If these are things for the next year and this is the funding codes we think are the best way to move forward, then they should be the standard we use.
- If we do decide to fund them how the codes are written right now. I think it would have to have their cap be 10%.
- Jake Engelman: We told them definitely 8% before they submitted.

With the change to the per diem codes, new recommendation comes out to \$5,724. *Model UN funding passes with new recommendation of \$5,724.* 

### **Health and Safety:**

• Requested \$25 for "Hydrate or diedrate posters for C&C."

Health and Safety Discretionary Funding Passes as Recommended.

