The Audit and Action Council, Hamilton College

Audit and Action Council Meeting
March 16th, 2021

1. Introductions and in Attendance

Saphire Ruiz (they/them) - Student Assembly President
Sacharja Cunningham (he/him) - Class of 2019, LITS Instructional Designer
Felix Tager (he/him)
Raymond Ni (he/him) - Secretary for Student Assembly
Khulsen Tulga (she/her)
Julio Demb (he/him) - Black and Latinx Student Union Social Activist Chair

2. Updates

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that SA is going through a rough transition due to recent rulings putting projects on pause and is trying to get things back and going.

3. Regrounding

Saphire Ruiz reiterated and started discussion on the group’s collective reasoning for being on the council and what they want to come out of the process.

Khulsen Tulga mentioned that with the goals of ICA and the challenges faced by ICA, she wants to create a structure to create a conversation for international students. For her, it is about making people feel like they have the capacity to make a change. She then mentioned the council should keep people updated on what is done.

Saphire Ruiz stated that for them the motivation is reminding themselves that everything done is for the communities. They then mentioned wanting to reconnect with the community after weeks of disconnect.

Sacharja Cunningham mentioned that he has been struggling with his faith with the administration. He is reminded of many efforts done by the administration that are not reflected in the work of the administration. He has been struggling with the feeling of the administration having conflicting beliefs of how the school should be run.

4. Survey
Sacharja Cunningham mentioned that when going through the questions on the survey, he felt that some of the required questions could be applied to people who did and did not take part in the sessions. As a result, he felt that there should be separate sections for those who took and did not take part.

Saphire Ruiz replied saying that the questions are based on whether the students answered saying they attended the council or not.

Felix Tager asked how long it would take to fill out the form as the survey is long and he is worried about skewed results if there are too few results.

Saphire Ruiz replied saying that only the open ended questions are optional and that most questions use a scale which takes a shorter time to answer.

Felix Tager replied suggesting that clubs send out the survey using their listservs to increase engagement.

Julio Demb stated that there is an argument to make all questions optional because people may stop when they reach a required question in which they do not know the answer to.

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that they can go back and look at the longer questions that are multiple choice and see if they can make it optional.

Julio Demb mentioned that a cop out answer can be included for people who are unsure of an answer so one question does not disqualify someone who answers the survey.

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that the race and ethnicity question is going to be optional because some people may be discomforted with that information being collected.

Julio Demb mentioned that he agrees although he believes it is important data to collect.
5. Update and Finalize Statement

*Saphire Ruiz* mentioned that there was no announcement made that the advisory council was going to be a short term with many people thinking it was going to be a longer term project. In regards to the letter, they then mentioned that having the Chief Diversity Officer be a two year job is too long. Along with that, they mentioned that there is not student involvement in choosing the Chief Diversity officer.

*Julio Demb* mentioned that most of the proposals are good but it is important to hold them accountable with a dashboard. He then mentioned that the response failed to collaborate with the student assembly and just sees it as just another club with no real commitment to that relationship.

*Saphire Ruiz* mentioned that the statement will be sent out and sent out to all members for any updates and edits.