

# Student Assembly Minutes

## December 2, 2013

1. Call to Order—9:00
2. Old Business
3. New Business
  - Dave Smallen, Vice President for Libraries and Information Technology, Beth Bohstedt, Director of Library Access Services, and Lisa Forrest, Director of Research and Instruction Services, on potential changes to the Burke Library
    - In September, President Stewart announced that we are combining the Library and ITS into one organization. Merging our information services is to better prepare us for life after Hamilton.
    - Beth has been looking at the space and furniture in the library and how it meets students' needs
      - Hoping there are some students willing to work with her to look at catalogs and talk to salespeople
    - The library really values student input
    - Suggestions:
      - Macs in the all night reading room, more giant white boards, more chargers, coffee vending machines, emails to seniors to clarify ordering books\inter-library loans policies
    - Snacktime starts in the library on Sunday, and some healthy snack (in addition to, NOT instead of, the cookies) may be there
    - Lisa is considering having Hamilton subscribe to an online resource chat service called Ask Us 24/7, where you can log on at any time and ask a librarian (who could be from anywhere in the U.S.)
      - We currently have a chat service open until 10 p.m., which is not used that frequently
      - This service would be a little different—librarians would receive formal training about how to use the Ask US 24/7 system if adopted
      - It is not that expensive, we could use it on a trial basis for a year
      - Students do a lot of work after 10 p.m.
      - We could try to extend our chat service later, but that would be harder
      - The national service would turn on after our internal chat ends at 10pm.
    - There are library employees and a book cart in KJ on Wednesdays from 3-5 and the Days-Massolo Center on Tuesdays from 3-5, which nobody seems to realize
      - Telling professors about this might help spread awareness
    - With questions or comments,  
email [bbohsted@hamilton.edu](mailto:bbohsted@hamilton.edu), [lforrest@hamilton.edu](mailto:lforrest@hamilton.edu) or [ordsmallen@hamilton.edu](mailto:ordsmallen@hamilton.edu).
  - Mercy Corredor, Chair of the Honor Court, and Steve Orvis, Associate Dean of Students for Academics, to discuss the survey Student Assembly will distribute on its behalf
    - Decided not to ask how many times people have cheated
      - Gordon Hewitt, Assistant Dean of Faculty for Institutional Research and Assessment, didn't think it would generate good response

- Research suggests that what is more important is people's perceptions of whether others are cheating, and this influences whether they cheat.
  - It might be helpful to ask students their class year on their survey
  - The options for changing the culture are choose one, not multiple choice
    - That was intentional, to try to figure out which people think is most important and evaluate how they see the problem
    - Could consider doing a ranking system instead
  - Struggled with how to address the issue that there's always a little bit of leeway in how people see cheating, how to emphasize "against the instructions of the instructor"
  - Including in the instructions that the Honor Court and Student Assembly are concerned may bias people against saying that there is a problem for fear of changes
  - Hopefully the survey can be sent out in the beginning of this week
- Proposed Divestment Resolution
  - Resolved: Global climate change is real and Hamilton College shares in the responsibility to support efforts to slow the changing of the world's climate. While fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities to the College, the Board of Trustees should do their best to meet that responsibility by judiciously divesting from fossil fuels.

We propose that Hamilton College gradually divest from fossil fuel holdings within the College's endowment. We support divestment in intervals, either by type of fossil fuel, percentage of holdings or specific companies, in order to protect the integrity of the endowment while fulfilling the College's responsibility.

- There are arguments that divestment does not work because other investors just pick up the stocks at the same price, and that investors can do more by retaining their stock and trying to change the policies of the company
- Fossil fuels is a very wide ranging industry, but dirty coal is a narrower and more detrimental field
- Working with David Blood, who runs Generation Investment Management, to talk about an alternative portfolio, but students haven't received all the information from the College or tools needed to generate a full alternative plan
- The trustees might ignore our resolution, and also will not make irresponsible moves because we ask them to divest
- Divestment is something that colleges use extensively as positive PR
- We don't actually know where Hamilton's money is, just that 8% of our investment is in energy
  - Most colleges have a smaller percent in energy
- In general, Student Assembly avoids taking a stance on political issues. Members disagree about the appropriate political nature of SA.
- They are not asking for immediate, complete divestment, but gives power to trustees to maintain a diverse portfolio while taking opportunities to move toward investing more in green energy than fossil fuels
  - 40 years might be a realistic timeframe
- Vote on resolution receives a plurality, but not a majority
  - Many people felt uncomfortable voting due to lack of information about the topic and/or the feelings of their constituents

#### 4. Funding

Amount remaining prior to Student Assembly meeting 12/2: \$104.36

Rollbacks:     \$65.00 Alpha Chi Lambda  
                  \$402.82 Micro-Finance Club  
                  \$400.00 Quiz Bowl  
                  \$750.00 Special K

NO FUNDING THIS WEEK

Amount remaining after Student Assembly meeting 12/2: \$1,722.18

Please notify [satreas@hamilton.edu](mailto:satreas@hamilton.edu) & [nniznik@hamilton.edu](mailto:nniznik@hamilton.edu) of any available rollbacks!

The Funding Committee is still accepting proposals for the final week of funding. Please keep in mind the two-week rule when submitting proposals. Proposals are addressed on a first-come first-served basis.

#### 5. Committee Reports

- Elections
  - Mandatory election meeting for students seeking the President and Vice-President position tomorrow at 4:15 in the Sadove living room.

#### 6. Announcements

- There is a feature in WebAdvisor that juniors and seniors can use to see which classes are available to them. It is called "Introductory Classes that allow Juniors and Seniors." The class of 2014 continues to look into scheduling options for senior spring.