

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

OCTOBER 1ST, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present

- Nadav Konforty
- Julian Perricone
- Amanda Kim
- Jake Engelman
- Samantha Gordon
- Penelope Hoopes
- Karthik Ravishankar
- Casey Codd
- Jack Fischman
- Harry Dubke
- Richard Court (late)
- Ben Rhind
- Robert Hallock
- Connie Lorente
- Nani Suzuki
- Luis Morales
- Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke
- Gianni Hill
- Savannah Kelly
- Diana Perez
- Morgan Perry
- Huzefah Umer
- Bryce Febres
- Lóri Fejes
- Finlay Adamson
- Keir Adamson
- Nasheley Boursiquot
- Eric Kopp

Excused

- Robert Hallock
- Jiin Jeong

Absent

- César Guerrero

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

Working Group with Ashley Place



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- **Nadav Konforty:** Ashley Place has the intention of starting a new working group, working specifically with her and Res Life. The commitment would be maybe an hour a week or an hour every two weeks. She wants one representative from Student Assembly to be working with her as she works with Dean Martinez on trying to do programming more on the Residential Life and not only with RAs but also between dorms. There's a lot of good ideas and I want to do justice to them so we can send someone from SA there they can probably report back better than I can at the moment. But if anyone's interested in that please reach out to me. It's honestly a really cool way to get your feet in the water with admins and Ashley Place is wonderful.

4. Old Business

Welcome Packets & Manuals pt. 1 – group sessions

- **Julian Perricone:** I figured today we could do some work around committees with not only committee reports but also that welcome packet idea that I proposed a few weeks ago. So the idea there is to kind of put together a manual or some guidelines for your position or your delegation, like with what you do on a daily basis, what you do on a weekly basis, who do you meet with, what are the expectations for your position? Basically anything that you think people should know if they're coming into your position. So we're going to break into groups and talk with each other and then we'll move on to committee reports and funding.

5. Acknowledgements

- **Thank you to Maggie Horne '19 and Liz Sherrill '19 and the rest of Social Traditions for putting together an amazing Fall Fest!!**

6. Committee Reports

Executive Committees:

- **Publicity - Penelope Hoopes:** I have access to the website finally, I'm updating photos and info. Something the publicity committee is working on is a bi-weekly publication around the big five things SA is doing that we can put on tables in McEwen and Commons. We know a lot of people do read the minutes but we want this to be a way for everyone to understand what SA is doing and to better connect with the community. So our goal is to list the top five things that have happened in the past two weeks, things that we're working on, people who have come in to SA. It's basically a reminder that we are doing things on campus and also we'll put at the bottom that this is an open forum so anyone is welcome to come to SA. We also have the bulletin board outside the Diner for Student Assembly so we're figuring out what we want to put up there whether it's a "get to know SA" or new initiatives. Committee, am I missing anything?
 - **Harry Dubke:** We're definitely trying to make Publicity turned toward public outreach. So we want to do the bi-weekly publication and post stuff on walls just to make sure people know they can come in for Public Comment Period. Some people might also not be able to make the meetings or might be intimidated so we



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talked about making an online suggestion box that people could send stuff to. So someone can submit something that we'll discuss in the committee and if it seems like something we want to work on we can bring it to a larger conversation in SA.

- **Ben Rhind:** I have a question. I know that Penelope, you kind of spearheaded the town hall last semester, are there talks of another one this semester? Since I know that went pretty well last year.
- **Penelope Hoopes:** We're figuring out how to continue that sort of open forum discussion. I don't think we're going to be able to do another full town hall in the same way that we did last semester. So we're looking at other ways to help people have their voices heard, like having smaller discussions. I'm not totally sure and I'm super open if anyone has ideas about that. But I don't think we're going to be able to do a full town hall again.
- **Nadav Konforty:** I think the idea moving forward with that is that it would be structured a little more like Posse Plus retreat. Not sure if all of you have been to that but it would be structured more like that, where they do have open forum sessions but they also have parts where you break out into groups and talk about issues and also talk about solutions. There were so many aspects of the last town hall that were also really valuable that we want to hold on to but we also want to modify it.
- **Constitution - Sam Gordon:** We met and discussed general goals for the semester and we're talking about moving forward with changes that we never actually implemented last semester.
- **Funding - Jake Engelman:** We're still funding.

Student Life Committees:

- **Cultural Affairs - Luis Morales:** We have an email now (saculture@hamilton.edu). We had our first meeting with Ms. Breland this past Friday. She's very excited to be working with us and we talked about creating events that attract all people and what kind of events we should be doing.
- **FSH Affairs (Facilities, Safety & Health) - Connie Lorente & Gianni Hill:** We are trying to schedule a meeting with Roger Wakeman so we're just trying to find a time to meet. For Safety, Frank Coots sent out an all-campus email on Sept. 27 clarifying the student parking situation in faculty lots on the weekends. In terms of Health, we plan on reaching out to Barb Fluty this week to see if there's anything they need from Student Assembly with the transition to the new health center and how we can support them.
- **Community Affairs (Student Affairs & Food) - Karthik Ravishankar:** We have big developments that occurred in the last hour or so. We have established means of communications within our group. We also have written confirmation from Derek Roy from Bon Appétit for bi-weekly meetings. So that will happen on Thursdays at 3:30pm in the little room by the Pub.

Associative Committees:

- **LITS - Minh To:** Noelle, Casey, me, and Maureen met about mass emails. So the idea is that we're going to have a few focus groups to talk to freshmen and upperclassmen and



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club and organization leaders to talk about how they would like communication to happen and how we can make that more meaningful. But everything's still in discussion and we'd love to hear more from the student body.

- **Julian Perricone:** We can definitely have a conversation about that in one of our upcoming meetings because I know a lot of people have opinions on mass email changes.
- **Mental Health & Wellness Collective:** N/A
- **Philanthropy - Richard Court:** I'm checking to see when the ribbons will be in. It should be soon hopefully. And that's about it. I'm also meeting next week to talk about future developments.
- **Traditions:** N/A

7. Funding

Amount Remaining: **\$16,345.87**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Approved
Anime	Weekly Snacks / Ramen Night	\$102.00	\$81.00	\$81.00
French Club	Movie Rights	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
HC Winds	Synthesizers	\$139.98	\$139.98	\$139.98
Slow Food	Jitney to North Star	\$5.34	\$5.34	\$5.34
Debate	Hotel & Rental Car for 3 Tournaments	\$2,604.00	\$2,525.88	\$2,329.94
<i>Philanthropy Committee</i>	<i>Purple Ribbon Campaign</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>

Amount Requested: \$4,001.32

Amount Recommended: \$3,063.20

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$13,282.67

Anime, French Club, HC Winds, and Slow Food

- **Jake Engelman:** First budget is from the Anime Club. They're requesting a streaming service for a manga online. They requested six months but since it's October we're giving them three. They're also requesting instant ramen for ramen nights, which we're recommending funding in full. Next is French Club, which is just requesting movie rights for an event they submitted for strategic. We're recommending funding in full.



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- **Huzefah Umer:** How do we decide how much we're going to fund for movie rights?
 - **Jake Engelman:** There's no restriction in the codes about movie rights funding that I know of. We typically fund whatever the movie costs. I've never seen movie rights that were like \$600 or \$700.
- **Jake Engelman:** Next is HC Wind Ensemble, they're requesting money for two piano synthesizers for their weekly rehearsal. Each are \$70. We think it's a great idea and we totally want to fund it. I do want to ask them if they have access to other synthesizers they could use, but I think in the interim this is totally reasonable to fund. Then we have Slow Food, which is just requesting gas mileage for a second jitney for their North Star orchard trip. It's five bucks.
- **Gianni Hill:** I just want to make a comment really quickly. For HC Winds, I know we've asked groups to look for outside funding before we've decided to fund them. We've set that precedent before so that just popped into my head. I personally don't think we should fund them until we make sure that they've explored other options first. I know what you mean by funding them right now so that they have something to fall back on but based on what we've done in the past I just wanted to bring that up.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Do you have a specific example of a time that's happened in the past? Because I think it varies. The only time I can remember us saying "look for other sources of funding" were for exorbitant trips. So when we funded the chemical thing we asked for other sources of funding. Student Assembly funding definitely isn't supposed to be like a second option for organizations, it's supposed to be where you come. So for very basic, reasonable club expenses like this I don't want to tell them to look elsewhere and then come back to us.
- **Eric Kopp:** I think we should fund them but can we table it until like next week to see if they can find access to other synthesizers? Because I feel like the music department would have access to at least one or two that they would let the wind ensemble use.
 - **Connie Lorente:** I think that \$140 is not going to hurt our budget.

Funding for Anime, French Club, HC Winds, and Slow Food passes as recommended.

Debate

- **Jake Engelman:** Debate is requesting hotel funding and rental cars for a number of trips that they're taking. The rental cars are because jitneys weren't available for the dates they wanted because there have been a lot of impromptu jitney reservations that have made long trips impossible. We're recommending funding rental cars and we're also recommending funding the hotel rooms for their American tournament. They maxed out on their \$300 but we are expecting rollbacks on that. The discrepancy is that this is something that really should have been part of strategic given the amount, so again we're holding them to that and as if it were a part of strategic we're slashing 3 percent off of this. The treasurers agree, we think it makes sense, and hopefully this will continue to emphasize the importance of submitting the whole budget as a strategic budget. And we



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don't want them to obviously be able to skirt the restriction we made last time with their whole budget.

- **Richard Court:** With the hotels and all that, was the registration open for all that? It could've possibly been avoided if they were more prepared.
- **Jake Engelman:** Not with the jitneys, to my knowledge they were responsible with that. A lot of other organizations are running into the same problem. So I don't want to penalize them for that because I don't know think that was a responsibility thing. With the hotels, it's not an excess of costs, it's just a cost and I think they were unsure whether or not they were taking a trip but I can get back to you on that.
- **Morgan Perry:** Debate had a tournament this past weekend and they were all able to carpool with their members sharing their own cars. So that could be something we talk about with them, it might reduce the cost.
 - **Jake Engelman:** It's kind of complicated to determine which is cheaper with transportation. If you do a personal vehicle then you get reimbursement for just the car. Just for the mileage. If you do the jitney then you have to pay the mileage because that's what the jitney costs and then you often also have gas, tolls, etc. You have to do this balancing act with how many people you can fit in the car versus how many cars you're taking. I'm sure the carpooling would be likely more expensive in this case with traveling in two cars versus traveling in one jitney for such a long journey. So in that regard that would be my hunch, but I didn't run the numbers on that.
 - We can't recommend funding the Harvard tournament because they submitted 9 days before which is within the 10 days rule.
- **Julian Perricone:** When's the soonest tournament that's in this budget?
 - **Jake Engelman:** The soonest tournament of the three is the Harvard tournament, which is on the 6th. It's this weekend. So actually I'm really sorry, I should've had this prepared better, but we can't recommend funding for the Harvard tournament because they submitted 9 days before, which is within the 10 day rule. So we are going to change our now recommended down to \$2,329.94.
- **Connie Lorente:** Can you explain? I literally don't know what just happened.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Yeah, totally fair. So Julian asked a great question, which was what is the earliest event that we're funding? I just noted that it's on October 6 to October 7. I originally had seen October 7, which would have put them at exactly 10 days. It's actually October 6 that we're funding and they submitted this budget on September 27, which is 9 days before the event. So they're not eligible to get this funding.
 - **Connie Lorente:** So they're not going to Harvard?
 - **Jake Engelman:** Everything else is funding for Harvard. They're not going to have the additional \$202 to get there.
 - **Connie Lorente:** Okay. If we're done, we're done.
- **Sam Gordon:** Have they hit their 8 percent max yet?



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- **Jake Engelman:** I checked and this pushes them close to the 8 percent, but they're not at 8 percent.
- **Lóri Fejes:** Are we still going to apply the 3 percent cut after?
 - **Jake Engelman:** Yes, the 3 percent cut remains. So that brings the new total recommended down to \$2,329.94.
- **Richard Court:** Talking about strategic vs non-strategic, is there no limit to non-strategic budgets?
 - **Jake Engelman:** There used to be. It used to be some kind of odd calculation of you being eligible in non-strategic for a percentage of your strategic. But that doesn't really make sense for a lot of organizations so that was nixed before I came in. As of now there's no limit. The 8 percent remains. So if you get to 8 percent in your strategic round you can't get non-strategic funding. But an organization could theoretically get 8 grand of non-strategic funding and not have submitted strategic funding.
 - **Richard Court:** The only reason I bring it up is that I feel like if the conferences are relatively soon I feel like the hotel prices probably could be pretty substantially reduced if they're proactive on that. It would open up more money for other clubs. The other clubs who only have like \$50 or \$200 total budgets. That could fund an entire club. So I don't know how we'd incorporate that within the funding codes exactly but I think we should hold people accountable for that. I'm not against this being funded but I'm just wondering.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Our new sort of solution for that is that you have to book the hotel room within a week or two of being approved for the funding. But that doesn't work on the front-end of that with people needing to apply sooner. So I definitely see what you're talking about.
 - **Richard Court:** Academic teams can run into a lot of problems with planning for events so I understand the process of submitting for strategic but we can even do strategic budgets semesters ahead and stuff like that. So I feel there should be something in the codes where it should always be a prerequisite to plan things as soon as possible so we can save more money for other clubs. It just takes a little bit more coordinating. And I'm not beating on Debate or anything but I think we should hold them accountable and ourselves accountable for that.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Yes. The only thing I'd say to that is that Kaity and I have the discretion of being able to say "you're doing this way too late, no." And that can happen after funding is approved. But there's still definitely the grey area of "it costs more, but it still works."
- **Gianni Hill:** This might be a nit-picky comment but I was under the impression that we didn't fund rental cars. Just looking at the funding codes now it says we will not fund taxis, Uber, Lyft, or ZipCar rentals. So I don't know exactly where rental cars fall in there but I thought we didn't fund them.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Rental cars do not fall under ZipCar, Uber, or Lyft. It's not strictly breaking the codes. This is also an extenuating circumstance. They



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worked with Kaity and they were very responsible here and this is the best option that Kaity worked out. So if you want to have a discussion about whether or not rental cars should be allowed full-stop, I'm totally open to having that conversation, but in this case this is their option.

- **Harry Dubke:** I think this is a great discussion to continue later in terms of altering funding codes, but with this in particular, can we take a straw poll on cutting the 3 percent? Because right now I think that seems like a pretty rational penalty to put on them for waiting so long.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Yes, I just want to fill in with some more information really quickly. So the hotels are because they need two more rooms. They needed three hotel rooms for this tournament and they only asked for one in strategic. So again this is another irresponsibility issue here where they didn't ask for the right amount and now they're coming back to us.

Debate funding passes as recommended.

Philanthropy Committee (discretionary funding)

- **Jake Engelman:** They're putting together a Purple Ribbon Campaign and we're recommending funding in full. Nadav's going to talk about it.
- **Nadav Konforty:** We talked about it a little bit before, where we're working with MOHASA, Mohawk Valley YWCA, SA, SMART, SAVES, a couple different orgs. We thought this was a thing SA would want to get behind so SA would foot the bill for this one. I'm not sure what the amount remaining in discretionary would be but I think it's around \$4,000?
- **Jake Engelman:** Yes, but just to clarify, we're funding this because it's a raising money. It's a fundraiser, so we're funding from discretionary.
- **Richard Court:** We're going to buy ribbons and then sell them. People will write their names on them and then post them up so it's a nice visual display of who supports sexual assault awareness and intervention.

Philanthropy Committee funding passes as recommended.

8. Announcements

- **MEETING CHANGE:** We will not be having a meeting on Monday, October 15th due to the Great Names event. The new meeting time will be Tuesday, October 16th, at 8:30 in the Sadove Conference Room.
- **The Cultural Affairs Committee now has an email address:**
saculture@hamilton.edu. If you have any questions or inquiries, please send us an email!

