

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

OCTOBER 16TH, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present

- Nadav Konforty
- Julian Perricone
- Amanda Kim
- Jake Engelman
- Penelope Hoopes
- Casey Codd
- Jack Fischman
- Harry Dubke
- Richard Court (late)
- Connie Lorente
- Robert Hallock
- Nani Suzuki
- Luis Morales
- Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke
- César Guerrero
- Gianni Hill
- Morgan Perry
- Huzefah Umer
- Lóri Fejes
- Finlay Adamson
- Keir Adamson
- Nasheley Boursiquot
- Eric Kopp

Excused

- Karthik Ravishankar
- Samantha Gordon
- Savannah Kelly
- Jiin Jeong
- Bryce Febres

Absent

- Ben Rhind
- Diana Perez

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

Break out working groups for Mass Email



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- **Maureen Scoones:** Hi, I'm Maureen Scoones from the Library and Information Technology Services. I have almost all of our committee here – Physics Professor Viva Horowitz, Mike DiBraggio from the Communications Office, Claire McKenney from Campus Events and Scheduling, LITS ambassador Brandon Pettee '22, LITS ambassador Sarah Gyurina '22, and Noelle Niznik from Student Activities. It's Sarah and Brandon's first day of work and they have a role in this. I wanted to start by saying that I don't know how many people read the Spectator article – hopefully all of you – but we were charged by my boss, the VP for Libraries and IT, and he brought it to senior staff because he'd been getting complaints that email had gotten out of hand. So to reduce the email overload resulting from mass email lists, better target mass email to interested audience, define campus-wide roles and responsibilities for managing mass email, and then work on what's behind the scenes. Tonight we're hoping to talk to you in smaller groups. We have a series of questions to ask you about mass email. If you think email is fine then we'll say thank you very much and we'll leave. If you don't then we'll stay and ask the questions. So we'll have a questioner and a note-taker for each group.

4. Old Business

Attendance policies for Student Assembly members — Nadav Konforty '20

- **Nadav Konforty:** Just so everyone is clear, we're going to have a new attendance policy as far as letting people know that you can't come to a meeting. Email Amanda (ackim@hamilton.edu). Because when you email us we just tell Amanda and if there's anything that gets lost it's usually between Julian and myself in communicating with Amanda. So from now on, members who aren't here, hopefully read the minutes so that's how they'll figure it out. Other than that it's in the constitution you have to let us know within 24 hours of the meeting. Even with this meeting we advertised it for three weeks that we're going to have it at this time. Obviously the people that aren't here aren't here to hear this, but it's your job. Come to the meetings. It's a set time except for this specific week. It makes me feel like a bad person when I have to track people down. I don't like feeling like the cop. Really, just come to the meetings. It's not a thing we should even be questioning.
- **Julian Perricone:** Real quick, we are having a little bit of issue with the constitution discerning whether or not it's 3 or 4 absences. It's 4 for the entire term you hold but the question is whether it's 3 per semester then you'd be off but if you accumulate 4 over your entire position then you'd be off as well. We're going to look into that but bank on it being 3.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Is anyone close?
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Yes.
 - **Amanda Kim:** They've been emailed.

Club Recognition Appeals

Positive Thinking Club Appeal



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- **Julian Perricone:** For their mission statement, they said: *“The mission of this organization is to influence our members to think and spread positivity throughout their daily lives. We want students to have a safe-space of recharging their energy, feel motivated and supported, and simply have fun while spreading a good message.”* For how their club will benefit the community, they said: *“This new club will benefit the Hamilton College community as we will facilitate activities to spread positive messages by doing random acts of kindness. Such as writing appreciation letters to professors and staff members, leaving complimentary post-it notes on student's doors, and having space to relax and paint with Bob Ross. This campus needs positive warmth, especially during the cold, winter months that affect most of the campus community.”* And for “what this organization plans to accomplish,” they said: *“We are planning to host events to create a relaxing space for students that involves creativity: like painting, writing, drawing, and coloring. Meet every week to talk about positive outlooks on life. Maybe in the future, we will host a fundraiser to donate to a charity involving mental illness.”* We read over all of this and voted in that meeting to not approve. We really liked the attitude and goals you guys had. Our concerns were that there are already some organizations on campus that do most of what you were hoping to do, specifically the Mental Wellness Collective and Minds for Change. Our primary concern is that we detract membership from these existing clubs. We were hoping you could gather your people to maybe try and join those clubs. That was the basis of our rationale overall.
- **Jake Engelman:** We also wanted more clarity on what your meetings would look like and what kind of events you would hold and certainly what kinds of funding you would ask for. I’ll read the appeal by Kelly, which reads: *“The Positive Thinking Club is different from the Mental Wellness Collective and the Minds for Change because Minds for Change is a club that focuses on the advocacy of mental health awareness and education, and Mental Wellness Collective focuses on mental health issues. We believe that both of these clubs sought to bring institutional change at Hamilton College. They aim to take away the stigma of mental illnesses and provide resources. The Positive Thinking Club will focus on providing a space of positivity and fun. We believe the campus needs more warmth and joy especially when school becomes rigorous and the day becomes shorter. We believe the college community will greatly benefit from our club’s bright ideas. For example, our club will encourage students to write thank you notes to professors. In addition, we will host sessions on how to look on the ‘bright side of things.’”*
- **Kelly Elugardo:** I got this idea based off of other happiness or positivity clubs from other colleges, especially from Northwestern which kind of made this a thing in 2007 where it was just called Happiness Club. It proved to be very beneficial. 27% happiness increased in the campus community. I know Hamilton College had Random Acts of Kindness as a club but it died out because the people



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who ran it graduated. I wanted to bring that back because the college deserves more of that.

- **Julian Perricone:** Could you speak a little bit more on what Jake was getting at with weekly events or meetings?
- **Kelly Elugardo:** We don't have a concrete idea. It's probably going to be 30 minutes to an hour of "oh, how was your week this week?" And then the members can say what's up. And then as a community we can be there to say "no, it's okay" and to go over how everyone's feelings. It's more to have that community. I understand what you guys said but I just don't see the other two mental health clubs doing that same community-style thing that I was talking about. Growing out of the awkward phase of complimenting someone and little things like that, I think Hamilton College should have that.
- **Connie Lorente:** I was wondering if you know who did the little compliments that are everywhere that you can take. I think that's a really cool thing and I was wondering if that was someone from your club.
 - **Kelly Elugardo:** I don't know who did that. I saw that and was like, "yes!" but I don't know who did it.
 - **Connie Lorente:** I'm asking because that brings happiness. That's positive thinking. It's little things like that and I would appreciate a club that did that to be honest.
- **Natalie Rodriguez:** Could you be more specifically on how your club would be different from the other mental health clubs?
 - **Kelly Elugardo:** I know both of them mostly focus on taking away the stigma of having mental illness and bringing awareness to these issues. My club isn't really going to focus on that because I don't want to take away from their spotlight and their message. It's more going to be focused on spreading that positivity within you and outside.
- **Richard Court:** I want to preface this by saying that I love this idea and it's great. An organized effort to do this is wonderful. My only area of concern is something I sort of share potentially with the committee who initially didn't approve this idea. While the other two existing organizations may not currently be doing this, because they are addressing a similar issue of mental health, that's a commonality. So I would have a hard time believing that those organizations wouldn't appreciate a branch within their organization. Because there's only so many resources in terms of human capital and money that we have in Student Assembly on campus, it might be a good idea. Since those people are concerned with working on improving mental health, I think that you could really effectively work with them. I don't know that you've made that effort. I don't know that that's happened. So I guess I'm asking if you've reached out to them or explored that idea.



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- **Kelly Elugardo:** I have. I wasn't too sure what you guys meant in the email. One of my e-board members is friends with e-board from their groups. But unfortunately because it was fall break no one checks their emails, so I didn't have much time to sit down with them.
- **Richard Court:** Is it possible to give her time to do that? Would we be willing to do that? Because I like your idea and I want it to happen. I think that'd be a good thing to give her a chance to do.
- **Julian Perricone:** Yes, we can definitely do that.
- **Harry Dubke:** Going off of that, I think a great step would be to come up with a list of things you're planning on doing or events you want to run. Some people are doing some stuff around campus recreationally so you can say, "let's work out all the events we want to do, when we want to do them, how we're going to organize them, and how we're going to do them," because if you show this committee and the people in here and on campus that you're really dedicated to this and you have an actual plan, that's when people are going to be like, "oh this is something new that I want to participate in." And then you can go and talk to other mental health groups, figure out what they're already doing, and say "that's awesome and we're going to take this new approach and hit this new angle."
- **Julian Perricone:** I'll just add quickly – I don't know if you saw the rubber duckies in KJ but they have really awesome mental wellness messages in them. That was organized I think by the Dean of Students office. Seeing you guys doing something like that I think would be really cool. So I think everyone's kind of like the same page to some extent except for maybe Connie.
 - **Connie Lorente:** No, I'll definitely vote yes to funding a club if it spreads rubber duckies. If it spreads rubber duckies I'm in.
 - **Richard Court:** The thing is that HAVOC does that kind of stuff, so just kind of looking at what's out there that you can utilize already.
- **Natalie Rodriguez:** To add onto what Harry was saying, I think if you showed your club has more structure that will definitely garner more members and interest. Do you have anything specific to your agenda on how you're going to follow through with the club? That'll definitely strengthen your club and support it.
- **Nadav Konforty:** I think the general vibe of the room is wanting to give the group some more time. So can we do a strawpoll on who's in favor and who's not?
 - **Jake Engelman:** I think we should just do a vote.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Actually yeah, let's do a vote. Jake is the real president. I'm just a puppet.

Motion to grant Positive Thinking Club more time passes.

5. Acknowledgements



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- **Happy Birthday to Class of 2021 President Gianni Hill!**
- **Thank you to the Mass Email Panel for all their hard work: Maureen Scoones (Committee Chair, LITS), Viva Horowitz (Physics Professor), Mike DiBraggio (Communications Office), Claire McKenney (Campus Events and Scheduling), Brandon Pettee '22 (LITS ambassador), Sarah Gyurina '22 (LITS ambassador), Lea Barros '22 (LITS ambassador), and Noelle Niznik (Student Activities)!**

6. Funding

Amount Remaining: **\$11,034.20**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Approved
On The Move	Movie Rights	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Cultural Affairs	Thanksgiving Events	\$405.13	\$405.13	\$405.13

Amount Requested: \$480.13

Amount Recommended: \$480.13

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$10,554.07

On the Move & Cultural Affairs

- **Jake Engelman:** We have two easy budgets. First is On The Move who wants movie rights. On the Move aims to build and maintain a strong relationship between Hamilton College and the refugee community in Utica through volunteer trips and cultural events on campus. They're requesting the rights to screen a movie on Burmese genocide and we're recommending funding in full. Cultural Affairs submitted a budget for a few things. First is for a meeting of the Student Diversity Council, which they just wanted snacks for. They're under \$5 a head so we're recommending funding that in full. They also want to do a multilingual day in which 9 students with different native languages will compare and introduce each language, which is pretty cool. They requested some writing and coloring utensils, stickers, publicity, and snacks, which we're recommending funding in full. Finally, they're going to do some additional Thanksgiving programming. This is just a Cultural Affairs thing for people stuck on campus, it's different from ISA. They're asking for funding hand warmers, facial cleansers, and face masks. They're also asking for cars, jitneys, and movie tickets for students to go see movies over the week of Thanksgiving, but that's being funded by Dean Harrison. So naturally Jiin did a great job with this budget. We're recommending funding in full. Any questions?
- **Natalie Rodriguez:** Is there a schedule for the Thanksgiving events?
 - **Jake Engelman:** Yes, there is. So they'll obviously send emails about this but they're getting hand warmers for the ice hockey games – both the men's and



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women's games – they're going to have a couple movies, and on Wednesday they're doing a self-care night.

- **Amanda Kim:** Just for clarification, is Cultural Affairs the only committee that doesn't go through discretionary?
 - **Jake Engelman:** We don't necessarily across-the-board do committee funding from discretionary. It's mainly everything we do for Philanthropy is to raise money, so for them everything we do is from discretionary. But we can totally have committee organizations that do things from non-strategic. Especially since the 5 grand that's in the discretionary budget is a lot but it's not a ton. It's a lot, but that's for publicity and things that we do. This is for all-campus so it's totally legitimate to fund from non-discretionary.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Classes can also submit budgets in non-discretionary if it's class-related. So presidents I will be emailing you because you'll all be submitting budgets for your class banners.

On the Move and Cultural Affairs funding passes as recommended.

7. Announcements

- Please stop taking the bricks out of Martin's Way.
- **In regards to SAAC's Super Fan app:** SuperFan rewards you for going and supporting your friends and peers. Check into events, get points, and redeem your points for FREE apparel and experiences at the end-of-semester pop up shop! Some examples include a discount on apparel at the bookstore, phone wallets, and more! SuperFan is compatible on iPhone and Android. **How to download:** Go to the App Store Search "SuperFan-Loyalty Rewards", and download! Search for Hamilton, create your account and you will be on your way!
- **The Theatre Department is seeking the help of our student body. We are producing West Side Story in the spring and would like to invite all students who sing, dance or act to audition for this multicultural production. Auditions are January 22-23 and all are welcome.**

