

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 5TH, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present

- Nadav Konforty
- Julian Perricone
- Amanda Kim
- Jake Engelman
- Penelope Hoopes
- Casey Codd
- Jack Fischman
- Harry Dubke
- Connie Lorente
- Nani Suzuki
- Luis Morales
- Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke
- César Guerrero
- Gianni Hill
- Diana Perez
- Jiin Jeong
- Morgan Perry
- Huzefah Umer
- Bryce Febres
- Lóri Fejes
- Finlay Adamson
- Keir Adamson
- Nasheley Boursiquot
- Eric Kopp

Excused

- Samantha Gordon
- Karthik Ravishankar
- Ben Rhind
- Richard Court
- Robert Hallock
- Savannah Kelly

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

Strategic Plan — President David Wippman

- **David Wippman:** Thanks for having me. I'm here to talk to you about the strategic plan and to answer questions you might have. I know it says new business on the agenda but



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it's starting to feel a little bit like old business as we've been working on this for the past two years. If you go on the website you'll find the plan and you'll see the process that was used to get the plan to where it is now. I'd encourage everybody to not view the plan as a static document. It will evolve as we go forward. So we're in the implementation process but we are always looking to get input. If you have ideas or suggestions, don't hesitate to give them to me or any of the people who are in leadership roles with the implementation of parts of the plan – I'll give you a sense of who they are in a minute. If you look at the plan, it describes the different committees that participated in producing it. There was representation in different constituencies of the Hamilton community, including trustees, faculty, students, staff, and others, so it was a pretty broad group of people who had input in terms of implementation and we had all kinds of polls and focus groups and town halls to get suggestions. Three areas emerged, which for shorthand we are referring to Digital Hamilton, Residential Hamilton, and Experiential Hamilton, and I'll say a little bit about each of those. And then there are three continuing initiatives around which we want to continue to make progress. That includes Diversity and Inclusion, there's a focus on teaching and faculty workload, and the last area has to do with advising.

- **David Wippman:** I'll talk about the three newer ones. On the Digital Hamilton side, Joe Shelley, who is the Vice President of LITS, and Suzanne Keen, who is our new Dean of Faculty, are taking the lead on overseeing implementation of that portion of the strategic plan. There are a lot of other people who are working on it as well. The goal really is to try and create a culture of digital education, learning, and innovation here at Hamilton. To a large extent it already exists but we'd like to accelerate and enhance it. You might have read recently that MIT is putting a billion dollars into a new college dedicated exclusively to artificial intelligence. They believe that that's where our world is going. Our initiative is a little broader than that and will not cost a billion dollars. If anyone has a billion dollars that they'd like to contribute, please see me after the meeting. But really with MIT, I think their idea is right. In this new information and technology age, every field of endeavors is being transformed by computing and the techniques computing allows us to apply go to different fields and different industries. I hear that all the time from alumni. And one thing MIT is doing is defining "the bilinguals of the future," who are students who understand what computing can do but can also apply expertise from a different field, whether it's art or history or physics or government, it doesn't matter. In virtually every field, having some knowledge of the ways how technology is changing how that field operates is kind of a new "bilingual." Our initiative starts from a similar place. You come to this campus as digital natives, though I know that term is overused. You're all accustomed to finding information online and navigating the online world, and we just want to make sure that everyone has some knowledge of what makes that online world tick and some exposure into how different techniques can be used. So for example, machine learning, big data, data analytics, etc. We want to infuse this content into the curriculum and also teach some skills around things like coding, design, and the like. So how do you go about doing that while keeping in mind that we are a liberal arts college



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and will remain a liberal arts college? Well, we want to infuse it into the curriculum, in some cases on a course-by-course basis. It's already happening. I'm sure many of you are taking courses that are incorporating these things into the curriculum and they're doing it in everything from art to physics to psychology. We want to celebrate and support that effort. One example is that one class is doing 3D printing of flexible DNA strands – don't ask me how. 3D set design. A history class that is doing data analysis and mapping to show how a city changed over time. So it's happening in all different disciplines. LITS staff are working now with about 50 faculty a year to help those faculty incorporate those things into their courses and their teaching. It's driven by faculty. They're the ones who know best what should be covered in their courses. But the faculty who are interested in incorporating these aspects need support, and LITS is doing that. Another example is that the Physics department is working with LITS to develop a module that will teach students to do programming in Python, which is basic coding. And then they're going to create a module which will be used in any subject area but it will have examples specific to the Physics department curriculum. We're going to launch that in the Spring and if it's successful, it could be a prototype for what we're calling a "Digital Skills Academy." It can be used in other departments; for example, in Economics we would use part of the coding instruction but swap out the Physics examples for Economics examples. If that method or that model works we'll expand it and create this Digital Skills Academy so that you can get that instruction through a wide variety of areas – some of it through LITS, some of it through classes, and some of it in other fashions. We've authorized four new faculty positions in the digital skills and digital teaching area. We have 17 proposals from different departments who would like to hire those faculty. We're going to be getting recommendations on the allocation of those positions probably around the Thanksgiving break and faculty and I will work with CAP. There's some groups being started by Suzanne Keen, our Dean of Faculty, who is starting a monthly discussion series on digital pedagogy. Hewlett-Packard funded a study on digital campus of the future. There were 11 other colleges and universities who were a part of that study, including Harvard, MIT, Dartmouth, and Case Western. We were the only liberal arts college to participate. We're working on how to use extended reality and augmented reality versus reality to enhance learning. So that's something we can help participate in in working on how to make the college more effective at using data. And on the enterprise side we'd like to know how to do that to better inform decision making. We're going to make an analytical data warehouse. Those who are taking Computer Science know what it is, maybe better than me. But I have an idea of what it's going to enable us to do with data. So we're going to start with dashboards, we're starting with advancement on the fundraising side of the house. Then we're going to expand it to student services and other areas of the college. So that's actually gone further than I thought we would be at this point.

- **David Wippman:** On the residential life side, Terry Martinez, the Dean of Students, is taking the lead on that. The goal there is to help us rethink and plan programming that is appropriately tailored to the students. There are three working groups: one on residential



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life, one on wellness, and one on leadership development. The residential life group has been doing exciting work and having conversations with campuses around the country to see what we might want to adapt from Hamilton. We're working on an initial residential curriculum that will focus on the first year experience. We're also looking at the possible creation of special interest communities. So for example, sustainable development would be an example of a special interest community. There's also the wellness committee that is really trying to take advantage of the new Health and Wellness Center we have. It's a terrific facility. It won't be fully open until next semester but I encourage you to go take a look. We want to take advantage of what that new building would look like and all the programs we have here and communicating effectively with students. And then there's a leadership development aspect, which focuses on creating opportunities for students. In general, some of you know that we've been thinking of making some changes to Bundy Dining Hall. We've been thinking about campus as a set of neighborhoods; people talk about Light Side, Dark Side, and I know that some refer to the east side of campus – down the Hill – as the Gray Side. If you think about that, there are places for students to congregate on the Light Side and Dark Side, but there doesn't exist anything comparable on the east side of campus. So we're looking to create a multipurpose space in the Bundy Dining Hall. We hope to have that open next year, so that's going forward and it's to create a little bit of a neighborhood and an academic support to that area of campus that will make it feel similar to the rest of campus. We're working on creating a roadmap for each of these areas of residential life. We also have an alcohol strategy working group that's trying to review best practices in that area. I want you all to know that we're not trying to turn this campus into the place where fun goes to die. We're not trying to do that. We started this committee because we want to eliminate the dangers of drinking. So stay tuned for that.

- **David Wippman:** With regard to Experiential Hamilton, we have at least 60 experiential learning programs already. At this point, it becomes difficult to figure out what is and what isn't experiential learning. We're creating criteria on how we assess experiential learning, and we're starting with discussions and thinking about if we could designate different programs the way we do writing intensive courses. We think there will be a proposal going through to CAP, the Committee on Academic Policy, this year. We're also trying to figure out logistics. If anyone is trying to organize a van to go somewhere, you know how complicated that can be. We have enough vans but not enough drivers during the week and then enough drivers but not enough vans on the weekend. So it's just a really complicated conflict between how we balance logistics and programming and experiential learning. We're trying to create a more effective organization of structures. So recognizing that lots of groups on campus do experiential learning in different ways. They would like to be co-located, so all located in a single space, like the COOP, Levitt Center, off-campus study, and the like.
- **David Wippman:** I'll say one more thing. Karen Leach is the Vice President for Finance and Budgeting, and she's taking responsibility for tracking where we are. We're putting our progress onto what is essentially a spreadsheet on steroids. They're smartsheets that



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allow us to track progress. They're color-coded and organized by who has the responsibility. We note if there are fundraising opportunities and a lot of information that allows us to track where we are with implementation.

- **Harry Dubke:** I addressed this with Terry Martinez when she came in and talked about the strategic plan going forward. And I talked to members of the administration two years ago when I was on the Health and Safety committee – which used to be a committee that was part of Student Assembly – about extending the hours for the Health Center. I know a lot of time and money was put into expanding the current Health Center into the Johnson Center, which looks beautiful and will undoubtedly be more equipped to deal with student needs. But something I've heard time and time again – from the students I represent and a lot of different students on campus – is that a lot of these terrible outbreaks we've had, like hand, foot, and mouth disease and norovirus, as well as a lot of smaller issues, including everything from day-to-day sickness to actual injuries, are not treated or are treated too late and are spread further because the Health Center is only open during a very set period of time and it's when most students aren't free. When students are free during the early mornings and during lunch and on the weekends, it's closed. When I addressed this with the member of the administration that was in charge of this, he told me that we simply did not have the funds to hire another full-time staff. I completely understand that, but seeing that we have this strategic plan going forward and that the College put a lot of time and money into expanding the Health Center itself, it seems appropriate to me that with the expanding student population or at the size it is, it would make a lot of sense to expand the capabilities of the Health Center along with the actual building that it's housed in.
 - **David Wippman:** That's a great question. We have added staff to the Health and Counseling Center, that's another reason we actually expanded the building when we were building it. So we did add additional staff. It's not a 24/7 operation. We don't have the staff for that and it would be incredibly expensive. On the counseling side of that, there is now a 24/7 crisis hotline and we're experimenting with online access to therapists at all hours. On the health side I'm not sure how we might do that or if we have people who might work extended hours. There is a wellness committee that is part of the residential life aspect of the strategic plan and they're looking at hours, but there are budget constraints around how many staff we can afford.
 - **Harry Dubke:** Of course. But I think it would save the school a lot of time and money if we were able to provide more staff, especially during lunchtime and over the weekends, because it ends up with students and professors – who are potentially paid sick time or are missing classes and missing part of the investment they put into the school – by catching these noroviruses and hand, foot, and mouth early. I know sometimes people get sick on a Friday and have to go an entire weekend without treatment if they can't make it to the Health Center by then or during lunch, which spreads the illness even further. So I do think there



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would be immediate payoffs from expanding some of these health hours and I think you could see a huge positive effect on campus.

- **Jake Engelman:** You mentioned something about the faculty workload. Can you talk a little bit more about that?
 - **David Wippman:** So right now faculty teach five courses a year. Some faculty get course releases for various things, like chairing a major committee, so they might teach less than five a year. A few of our peers have moved to a four or four course plus model. We're looking at a four plus model, in which the fifth course might be redefined. So for some faculty that plus one might still be a course, while for other faculty it might be supervising a student's senior project or taking on a more extensive advising load. There are a lot of things to work out with that. In order to do it, we would have to reduce the number of course releases and we would have to hire additional faculty over and above the four that we're already planning to hire. We've authorized another hire in Economics. So there's a lot of things we have to consider. There's a faculty committee that's studying how we might make such a course load work. For smaller departments, it's hard because if you gave up that fifth course then it's hard to have another course and offer a major. So it's a topic that's on the table.
- **Morgan Perry:** You mentioned the leadership division of the Residential Hamilton? I was wondering if you could you elaborate on that.
 - **David Wippman:** Definitely. There are a lot of opportunities for students to play leadership roles and get involved in leadership positions in various organizations on campus, and the idea is to address where we might currently have gaps and where we have overlaps in current programming so students are in better position with those opportunities.
- **Jake Engelman:** There's been a lot of talk and misinformation spreading about contracts for employees earlier this semester. Could you talk about that a little bit?
 - **David Wippman:** Sure. I'm assuming you're talking about the negotiations with the union. We have about 700 employees at Hamilton, and many are part of a bargaining unit where they're represented by a union, and that's the employees of facilities management. They're on a three year contract and we're setting up a new three-year contract. The most recent contract expired in July and there have been sporadic negotiations since then. October 30th was most recent negotiation we had. October 19th was the one before that. The College didn't think we were making progress and so we used federal mediator, which we've done in the past and has gotten us to an agreement fairly quickly. So they did have a mediator present at the most recent meeting. That unfortunately didn't produce a result. There's been some economic and non-economic proposals have been put on the table, some by the College and some by the union. At the most recent sessions, the College have said we should take the non-economic proposals off the table. In trying to work out a salary increase, the College offered a 2.5% salary increase – which is the same as with the rest of the staff here – a 2% increase for the next



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two years if staff got a larger increase, so in terms of facilities they'd get the same larger increase. So it was very much made in respect to the rest of staff at the College. That didn't produce any movement, so even though the session went pretty long, we didn't reach an agreement. They decided they'd meet again late November.

- **Finlay Adamson:** You mentioned there were four new positions around digital technology, and there were 17 proposals from different departments.
 - **David Wippman:** I think there were around 17 proposals. There were a significant number, so what we did was we said to the faculty was that we were going to bring these four positions to the faculty and we will allocate them, meaning we will give them to a department or departments who put forward the best proposal for how they would be used. So there were a bunch of proposals that were put forward, and we have academic policies on reviewing those. That goes to the CAP who allocates that to the faculty.

4. Old Business

- **Updates on Election Day Jitney**
 - **Nadav Konforty:** It's going from 7am to 9pm. Go out and vote!

5. Acknowledgements

- **Thank you to Noelle Niznik and the Jitney Staff for all of their work in preparing tomorrow's Jitneys!**
- **Thank you to Jiin Jeong '21 and the rest of the Cultural Affairs Committee for their amazing work setting up Hamilton's first International *Week*! Also thank you to all organizations that helped spearhead this week's events: ISA, Trivia, and All Beliefs Union!**

6. Committee Reports

Executive Committees

Constitution – Sam Gordon

- **Julian Perricone:** Sam's not here but we will be voting on the legislature we talked about last week. Definitely read over the language because we will be voting on it next week. It shouldn't be controversial but if you have any questions, please reach out to Sam.

Publicity – Penelope Hoopes

- **Penelope Hoopes:** No one added a bio. So, yeah. That's right. I'm going to personally come up to everyone who hasn't done it in the next few days and tell you to do it again. That's great if you want to see me. It's not great because you haven't done it.
 - **Luis Morales:** When's the latest you can submit it?
 - **Penelope Hoopes:** Last week.



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Funding – Jake Engelman

- **Jake Engelman:** We're continuing to ask organizations for rollbacks, so if you have unused funds please send me an email. We're also hosting an additional training for organizations that missed it the first round. So we do a couple of trainings, including Finance training, 25Live training, and Title IX training. My bit of it is Finance training, and we're having two sessions. One is on Tuesday the 6th at 4:30 in Sadove 112, which is the Conference Room. The next one is Wednesday the 14th at 4:30 in Sadove Sun Porch. So the 6th in this room at 4:30 or next Wednesday at 4:30 in the Sun Porch.

Student Life Committees

Cultural Affairs – Jiin Jeong

- **Jiin Jeong:** The flags are currently missing in action. They were supposed to be up tonight but they're not so I'm going to email Dean Martinez about them. I don't know what happened so we need to see where the flags are and what they're doing with them. Other than that, we're going to have international music throughout different radio stations and Sadove and playing in the Jitneys and so on. Also please come to Multilingual Day, it's from 3:30-4:30 pm on Friday in the Red Pit!

FRSH Affairs (Facilities, Res Life, Safety & Health) – Connie Lorente & Gianni Hill

- **Connie Lorente:** We have nothing to update you on. Our meeting with facilities is next week.
- **Julian Perricone:** In the parking lots by KTSA, the one right by Babbitt circle, there are kind of like multiple levels. I think half of it can actually be used by students for parking.
 - **Everyone:** No, that's not true.
 - **Jake Engelman:** That's fake news.
 - **Connie Lorente:** Don't park there, you'll get a ticket.

Community Affairs (Student Affairs & Food) – Karthik Ravishankar

- **Karthik Ravishankar:** N/A

Associative Committees

LITS – Minh To

- **Minh To:** If you haven't filled out the Wifi survey, do it now!
 - **Julian Perricone:** Also, great movies on the movie channel.

Mental Health & Wellness Collective – Diana Perez

- **Diana Perez:** So there's a lot of exciting things with the Mental Health & Wellness Collective. Next week they're probably going to release their first newsletter which is going to be really awesome, it'll contain a lot of really important information about mental health and a lot of the recent developments. David Thompson is planning to host a sleep program on January 30th to really inform students on healthy sleeping habits. Please email him with any concerns you might have regarding things you're struggling



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with so those issues can be properly addressed by professionals next semester. Another thing is that most Greek life organizations on campus have already had Bystander Training, but there are some that haven't yet. So if you're involved in Greek life organizations, please reach out because they're happy to provide more trainings for you. There's also going to be an open house counseling center that's probably going to happen soon.

Philanthropy – Richard Court

- **Richard Court:** N/A

Traditions – Casey Codd

- **Casey Codd:** We're going to have a lighting of the Village on December 4th, so they're basically going to light up Beinecke Village with festive lights. If you don't know what the Village is, it's basically all the yellow buildings.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** It's like what Dean Martinez calls Sadove and Beinecke and that area.
 - **Connie Lorente:** I thought you meant Clinton. Like, the village.
 - **Julian Perricone:** We're kind of trying to get people to call it "The Village." Please help us.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Dean Martinez is trying to make it happen. It's like "fetch."
 - **Connie Lorente:** I don't want to call it "The Village."
 - **Julian Perricone:** It's like Pepsi calling itself "The Cola."
- **Casey Codd:** ANYWAY, that's December 4th. If anyone else has any traditions they'd like to start, let me know.

7. Funding

Amount Remaining: **\$15,015.53**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
The Buffers	Arranging, Recording, Production	\$4,147.50	\$0	N
Film Club	Glimmerglass Film Festival	\$254.15	\$254.15	N
HAAND	Meal Cards	\$147.75	\$0	N
Spanish Club	Argentinian Cookies	\$94.95	\$94.95	N



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Amount Requested: \$4,644.35

Amount Recommended: \$349.10

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$14,666.43

The Buffers, Film Club, HAAND, and Spanish Club

- **Jake Engelman:** The Buffers requested for arranging, recording, and production. This is a budget that really should have been submitted for strategic, and we have to recommend \$0 because they also didn't attend the club training.
 - **Eric Kopp:** Does that training happen at the beginning of the year?
 - **Jake Engelman:** There are two dates at the beginning of the year, but if organizations really can't send anybody then they can send us an email and we can work something out.
 - **Keir Adamson:** Did any other organizations just not do it?
 - **Jake Engelman:** Yes. I can't remember which but I promise there were a couple others.
- **Jake Engelman:** Film Club submitted a budget to go to the Glimmerglass Film Festival on the 10th. They requested gas and ticket prices for 12 people to go at \$254.15. We are recommending funding that in full.
 - **Connie Lorente:** What's the festival about?
 - **Jane Nealey '21:** Glimmerglass is a film festival and I believe it has a theme of telling stories. All films are about telling stories, but the films the festival picked are about the pure diversity of how it's possible to tell a story in the film medium and it's something we thought we could gain a lot from. There are going to be a lot of films that our members can choose to see that they wouldn't get to see in theaters, and we thought it'd be a cool experience. A festival is also an interesting environment that you can't get in a theater setting and we have a lot of interest in our club so we wanted to give people that experience.
- **Jake Engelman:** Next is HAAND, who submitted for meal cards, which I assume is something that gets you admission into Commons. It's for a teen night out. It sounds like a fantastic event for teens in the community to spend time with students, but we can't recommend funding for things that aren't for Hamilton students. Finally, Spanish Club is requesting some Argentinian cookies for an Argentinian singer who is coming to perform Argentinian music.
 - **Connie Lorente:** It's me. I'm the Argentinian singer.

Buffers, Film Club, HAAND, and Spanish Club funding passes as recommended.

Mosaic plaque (discretionary funding)

- **Nadav Konforty:** We're proposing to fund a plaque for the mosaic we made last year. The plaque will have the names of every person who worked on the mosaic. That's why it sounds a little expensive but there's a lot of staff, faculty, students on there. It's a little more expensive because it has to be weatherproof. It's \$1,453, which sounds like a lot but



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it's for forever and ever. It's comparable to the other plaques you'd see around campus on trees and stones.

Mosaic plaque discretionary funding passes as recommended.

8. Announcements

○ ***Election Day is on TUESDAY!***

- The Election Day Jitneys will be running from 7am-9pm (as well as the separate regular Jitney running on its regular schedule). The two Jitneys will be running continuous loops from Sadove to the polling location with a break from 10:30 am-11:00 am.
- The polling location is the **Town Of Kirkland Municipal Building** located at **3699 State Route 12B, Clinton NY 13323.**
- If you run into any issues while at the polls, **be sure to request an affidavit** (this is a **provisional ballot** that allows you to still vote even if the poll workers say there is an issue with your ID, registration status, etc.)
- With any problems or questions about voting call **866-OUR-VOTE** for help or **text OUR VOTE to 97779**
- **For org leaders who missed Finance Training at the beginning of the semester, there will be two more on: Tuesday the 6th at 4:30 in Sadove 112 (the Conference Room) and Wednesday the 14th at 4:30 in Sadove Sun Porch.**
- **The first official Senior Pub is starting this Thursday! Pub ID is required; you will not be allowed in if you are under 21. It starts at 8pm!**

