

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present

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

Absent

- Jack Fischman
- César Guerrero
- Bryce Febres

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

College Catalogue Changes — Associate Dean of Students for Academics Tara McKee

- **Julian Perricone:** As you know, Nadav and I go to faculty meetings on a monthly basis. At the last faculty meeting, there were some changes made to the college catalogue that



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

seemed to be pertinent to student life. So we invited Associate Dean of Students for Academics and Professor Tara McKee to shed light on some of those changes. Most of the changes concerned changing courses, repeating courses, dealing with incomplete courses, and Commencement.

- **Tara McKee:** Hi everyone, I'm Tara McKee and I teach in the Psychology department. This year I am the new Associate Dean of Students for Academics. I thought I would just start by talking about the various responsibilities I have in this position.
- Working closely with Chair of Honor Court, I oversee processes related to the Honor Code, such as education of students and faculty, selection of honor court representatives, and responding to alleged violations. I also oversee the advising system along with the Associate Dean of Faculty. I work with the Associate Dean of Students for Student Support Lorna Chase to monitor students facing academic difficulty. Finally, I administer the academic regulations of the College and serve as Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing. It is in this role that I've been reviewing the College Catalogue and bringing to the Committee on Academic Standing potential revisions to that language to improve clarity and procedures. I was asked to speak with you about a few of the recent revisions to the Catalogue that the faculty approved at their meeting on November 6.
- First, there was language in the Catalogue about being able to repeat a course if a student earned a failing grade, but there was a lack of clarity about whether or not students could repeat a course that they passed, just to get a better grade. In practice, retaking courses for a better grade has never been allowed. Now the Catalogue makes that clear by stating: *Students who earn a passing grade in a course may not repeat the course for credit except for those courses where the Catalogue description states, "May be retaken for credit." Students who fail a course may repeat that course; if the failed course is repeated, however, both grades will be included on the permanent transcript and in the cumulative average. A failed course may not be counted toward the course credits required for graduation.*
- Second, in consultation with Dean Chase and the Registrar's office, the Committee on Academic Standing proposed a change to the incomplete policy. The change is designed to prevent the situation whereby an instructor extends a deadline without a compelling reason from the student and without letting the Dean of Students Office know. Such a situation results in many incompletes extending on for months and the DOS/Registrar trying to track down the student and the instructor to get a grade on the transcript. ***So, the new language in the Catalogue states: Any grade of incomplete reported by an instructor must first be approved by the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing in consultation with the Associate Dean of Students for Student Support and the student. Such approval is given rarely and only in circumstances beyond a student's control, such as a medical or family emergency. Approval permits the student to complete the required work for the course no later than four weeks from the end of the semester for which the grade of incomplete was assigned, unless completing the work requires being on campus. If all remaining work is not submitted by the deadline, the grade will automatically be changed to F. Deadlines for incompletes will be extended only for compelling extenuating circumstances and only with approval from the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing in consultation with the Associate Dean of Students for Student Support and the instructor. Extensions, if granted, will normally be for another four weeks.***
- In practice, if, after 8 weeks, there are ongoing mental and/or physical health problems, then a student can petition the Committee on Academic Standing for a W in the course

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

instead of an F. In very few truly exceptional cases the student could petition for another extension.

- Lastly, there has been discussion for some time about the rule that only students who have completed all of the requirements for the degree may participate in the graduation ceremony. Working with the Registrar, the Committee on Academic Standing proposed a 5-year pilot policy that will allow what we have been calling “near-finishers” to walk at graduation. This policy was vetted by the senior staff, including the President, before being presented to the faculty. The faculty approved the pilot policy and it will now be presented to the Board of Trustees in March for their approval. If approved, this policy could be enacted as early as May of 2019.
 - The new Catalogue language states: *Any student who has completed the Writing-intensive, Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning, Physical Education, and concentration requirements (or the department/program agrees to a plan to complete concentration requirements), has completed at least 30, but less than the 32 credits required for graduation, and has a plan for completing the remaining credits can be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony upon approval of a petition submitted to the Committee on Academic Standing.*
- There are a variety of other logistics related to this policy:
 - Students who take advantage of this changed procedure would not be eligible to participate in Commencement more than once. If they successfully petitioned CAS to participate they would be in line alphabetically with the rest of the graduating class and would receive a blank scroll from the President.
 - In terms of the Commencement program, we would first remove the heading of “Rite” under the “Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Course” section. In the year in which these students are participating, their names would be listed in alphabetical order along with other students who did not earn Latin honors. A notation would be included in the program stating, “Degrees are awarded upon completion of all baccalaureate requirements.”
 - For students who petition to participate, their class year would correspond to the graduation year during which they completed all requirements (e.g., if students finished an incomplete in the summer following their “senior” year their class year would be that of the next graduating class) and they would be mailed their diploma after the Commencement that corresponds to that class year. In the Commencement program for their class year, these students would be listed in the appropriate section (depending on whether or not they received Latin honors), but their names would not be called during the ceremony.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

- This is something that a lot of our peer schools do and we were really glad that we were able to figure it out and hopefully get it in place for this year. I'm happy to answer any questions if you have any.
- **Jake Engelman:** So the cutoff for near graduation is 30 out of 32 and that would exclude students that have taken semesters off for whatever reason? Is that correct?
 - **Tara McKee:** Yes. We had to draw the line somewhere, and the Committee on Academic Standing was comfortable with saying at least 30 credits.
- **Sam Gordon:** So that would really only apply for students who take an incomplete senior year because they can't be enrolled in the college unless they're taking three classes.
 - **Tara McKee:** Not necessarily. So if a student maybe took a semester off and completed summer courses to get caught up on some of those, then they'd be within two credits. Or if you failed a course your senior spring and now you're short a credit, you find out on Wednesday that you can't graduate on Sunday, that's what we want to avoid.

4. Old Business

Election Information — Julian Perricone '20

- **Julian Perricone:** There's first going to be mandatory rules meeting this Wednesday in the Sadove Living Room. You must attend this meeting or have a proxy attend in your place. A 200 word platform must be submitted by Friday before 4. Typically platforms include goals and qualifications. For this election, you need 75 signatures from students as opposed to how it usually goes with class president, treasurer, and representative roles. I would encourage getting more than 75, it's a good way to spend word that you are running. The more the merrier on signatures. A hard copy and electronic copy of the signatures are also due by 4 on Friday, this Friday. The actual elections are December 5 and close at noon on December 7. Results won't be announced until 24 hours after polls close, which is how it usually happens.
- **Nadav Konforty:** You can also run a write-in campaign if you want. I might run again.
 - **Connie Lorente:** No.

Class Banners — Nadav Konforty '20, Karthik Ravishankar '19, Connie Lorente '20, Gianni Hill '21, Bryce Febres '22

- Class of 2019 banner designed by **Will Von Weise '19**
- Class of 2020 banner designed by **Mary Bei Prince '20**
- Class of 2021 banner designed by **Dan Heintz '21**
- Class of 2022 banner designed by **Kavoi Mutisya '22**

5. Acknowledgements

- **Big thank you to the amazing Jiin Jeong '21 for organizing amazing activities for students staying on campus during Thanksgiving Break!!!**



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

- **Thank you to our class banner designers (Will Von Wiese '19, Mary Bei Prince '20, Dan Heintz '21, and Kavoi Mutisya '22) for their amazing designs!**

6. Committee Reports

Executive Committees

Executive – Julian Perricone

Org Recognition – Julian Perricone

- **Julian Perricone: N/A**

Publicity – Penelope Hoopes

- **Penelope Hoopes: N/A**

Org Recognition – Julian Perricone

- **Julian Perricone: N/A**

Constitution – Sam Gordon

- **Sam Gordon:** After the discussion we had about this maybe three weeks ago I brought out feedback to the initial draft to the Dean of Students office and met with the people there to get their input. We kind of reworked the whole thing. I'll point out some of the things we changed.
- Basically my takeaway after talking to various people in the administration is that we as a body have kind of misunderstood the requirements that we have to do to begin with. So we're going to be sure to get on that for the next cycle of people coming through. Also we, as leaders on this campus, need to hold ourselves to higher standard than just the baseline training. That's what this amendment was always supposed to do but the way it was previously written didn't really set that up either.
- So what this is is essentially a combination of adding in the fact that we need to do the mandated college policies and state and federal law requirements –and I'll get into what those are – but also the fact that we need to keep this vague enough and broad enough that as curriculums change and as the goals of different presidents come through that this does not need to keep being amended, without it being so vague that it's unclear what it's referring to. So it's this kind of weird in-between balance that I'm trying to strike so please give feedback.
- The first sentence got changed to reflect the goals of this amendment. With the Dean of Students office, we settled on promoting respect and active citizenship as the baseline of what this is supposed to cover. The next sentence then refers to what we as a Student Assembly body are required to do. We haven't actually been doing this in the past. Basically, college policy and federal law mandates that we need to be trained the same way that e-board members are trained in terms of sexual assault policy and within the College's own policy. That means that we need to be going to the funding code meeting and to the general org meeting because we essentially are governing all those bodies. So to me it's kind of absurd that we can go through our entire time on Assembly without



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

having to go to that meeting. So this formally eludes that even though it should've already been happening for years. But that's okay, because now we're going to do it.

- The next part brings in Sexual Misconduct and the Diversity and Inclusion training that was mentioned in the first amendment but doesn't specify specific trainings because that seems dated and we really don't want to keep amending this. It reads that: "*the Student Assembly president shall have the discretion to determine which trainings meet these requirements.*" The reason these sentences are so vague is that it's my general understanding that Student Assembly is going to be moving toward retreat-style training process. So Student Assembly members – e-board and general council – will be doing a weekend-long intensive. So you're going to get higher levels of sexual misconduct training, whether that's Bystander Intervention or whatever the curriculum may be, you're going to get all of the Diversity and Inclusion training, you're going to get kind of a mini, condensed version of what RAs know, all these various components from various places on campus will be given to us so we can be the best Student Assembly members possible. And that's why this language is so big, because these trainings hopefully will be wrapped into this weekend-long intensive and aren't going to be individual things. So that's why it's very much up to the discretion of the President and the President is to tell the Secretary how to denote that and then record it which is in the other section of the amendment, which we already dealt with.
- The last thing to mention is the deadline. So for the members who join the Assembly after the deadline, I know there's going to be debate about this because some people want it stricter, but I actually think the best option is just to leave it up to the President's discretion. People come in at various times if they're appointed or come in when half the class goes abroad and it's just too hard to set specific standards. But I know that was a point of disagreement so I'll talk about that.
- And then another thing I want to discuss is when this requirement should be completed. Cori Smith and I had a really long conversation about when we should encourage this to be. So there are arguments for having it in the fall for Fall Break, which would be with the incoming general Assembly and they'd get to do this training right away. This would not count for Sexual Misconduct training that you have to do or the org leader training. All of that is already happening before this. So that's independent of this. This would be a retreat. So there are arguments for that. But there are also arguments that this retreat should be before spring break. So that would mean that this would be the first task that the incoming president and vice president would do. So they would then would work with the previous president to collaboratively make this training and then it'd be one of the first things they'd implement in their tenure, which I think is also a really impactful thing. But the detraction for that is that the general board doesn't get trained until second semester. So there are pluses and minuses. Are there any questions?
- **Ben Rhind:** I agree generally with the policy you've proposed and leaving it kind of to discretion of the president, because I understand that programming will change in the future and whatnot. I guess my concern with that though is that maybe future presidents are not as fantastic as Nadav and the standards that they would see fit are a little more



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

lackluster. So will the Dean of Students office be ensuring that this programming is high quality and actually educational? Is there any check on that?

- **Sam Gordon:** Yeah, so that phrase was actually taken out this afternoon. There's a whole sentence about the program that had to be put through the Dean of Students office and that was actually advocated to be taken out by the Dean of Students office. But I'd be totally fine with putting that back in. I actually think that's a really important thing to have that the Dean of Students would help facilitate this so that there is some administrative oversight.
- **Jake Engelman:** What was their rationale?
- **Sam Gordon:** Their rationale was that the programs in the retreat-style thing don't actually need to be Dean of Students organized and facilitated. They would feel comfortable that everyone in the body is trained with all the requirements in the Fall, like at the beginning of every semester, that their need to be involved is not as prevalent. So it's kind of up to us.
- **Nadav Konforty:** Just to Ben's point, we could potentially implement a measure that if the general Assembly can override discretion of the President in a two-thirds vote in that specific case as like a check.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Isn't that always true?
 - **Sam Gordon:** Yes, that's generally true.
- **Gianni Hill:** With regard to the sentence about the requirement needing to be completed "before Fall/Spring break," could you maybe clarify that to say Fall or Spring break of the semester in which they join? Just because how it is right now leaves it open-ended and makes it seem like if I start in the Fall I don't have to do the training until before Spring break.
 - **Sam Gordon:** I think you're actually misunderstanding what that sentence is referring to. This is going to be a retreat thing mainly in coming years and it's going to be the entire Assembly doing it at once with the incoming class. So this is going to happen once a year, not depending on who's coming in when, and it's just going to be the set date. So we either get to choose if it's the Fall or the Spring. It's either going to be with the incoming new Assembly or the incoming new President. And that's what we decide.
 - **Gianni Hill:** It's not actually clear what it's referring to, so could we just clarify that?
 - **Sam Gordon:** I can edit the language if you think that would make it better.
- **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** One question I have with that sentence is sort of different. My question is would it be excessive to run a small retreat each semester so that incoming e-board will quickly have that training they need to function and the incoming general council will also have that training relatively quickly? I sort of don't think it's worth it to let the groups wait.
 - **Sam Gordon:** So with the President, they have to have already have been a member of Assembly so they hypothetically don't have to be trained. VP doesn't have to, neither do other e-boards, but generally they are pulled. So hopefully



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

- their Spring training, if they facilitate one, wouldn't be the first time that they are trained. I don't think it would be excessive. I do think that does create added work and added logistics of finding a time that everyone can be in the same space for a whole weekend, but if that's what you guys are in favor of. A lot of this is coming from what other schools and our peer institutions do. But I'm open to changing it.
- **Lóri Fejes:** What if it's dependent on the number of new people coming in each semester? Because a lot of people are going to leave next semester and know that they are going to leave so we can count the new members coming in and if it's like 7 people are leaving, then that will be more than the incoming new class in the Fall.
 - **Amanda Kim:** Going off of that, why isn't a requirement where if you know you're going to be leaving halfway through your term, you have to split-ticket with someone? Why isn't that required?
 - **Connie Lorente:** It's difficult to find people that are willing to think for the future and know that they're going to take a position when the time comes.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Also with a lot of the study abroad stuff, the rationale is that a lot of it is not set in advance. So when it was drafted I think they didn't want a situation where you decide not to go abroad but then you're both stuck there.
 - **Amanda Kim:** Okay, gotcha.
 - **Julian Perricone:** Going back to Lóri's comment, I think typically there are more people who enter in the Fall. Obviously we're losing all of our juniors before the Spring semester this semester, so that's going to hurt, but I think it'll probably be a safer bet to do it for the Fall.
 - **Noelle Niznik:** I just would add that I also would be willing to work with the President to make sure that we're tracking and getting people trained. Also, there are a lot of trainings that go on in the Fall so I think we want to be really thoughtful about when it is. A lot of people will have conflicts and some people will already have had pieces of the training so we will have to find a way to centralize the training. We'll definitely need to account for how we want to manage that.
 - **Sam Gordon:** I think that's also an argument for the idea that the President and VP having to coordinate all of this.
 - **Ben Rhind:** What is there to accommodate people who have legitimate conflicts? If it's just one big retreat then what kind of makeup days would there be?
 - **Sam Gordon:** Again, that comes under the discretion of the President and that's in the later section. So this section keeps it open enough that if they can't make the retreat, there's other trainings and general Bystander Intervention trainings where, for example, sports teams could fulfill that requirement and the President gets to decide that. And down in the section about the Secretary recording it and the voting off, the e-board is ultimately the one who gets to decide whether you're removed from the Assembly or not if you don't meet the trainings. And that again is through the discretion of the President. So there's added layers of if you can't make the training and didn't make the makeup training and you're now up for this, and there's some weird circumstance, the President can inform the e-board.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

And they can vote to not kick you off with the expectation that you'll complete it later. And if you're just being irresponsible then you can be removed.

- **Huzefah Umer:** What's going to be the difference between doing this retreat and just doing the trainings offered at the start of Fall? There are more options for those and it seems like it would be more flexible for people. Why can't people just do that if that's easier for them?
 - **Sam Gordon:** So the point of this is not just to check all the boxes. The point of this is to actually educate the body so they can do their job as well as possible. So that means not just having Bystander Intervention training but Ideally having organized meetings with the DMC or the Levitt Center because we're constantly telling students, "we can't fund this, go to the Levitt Center!" And a lot of people here don't know exactly what the Levitt Center does. So these things would all be wrapped into that. So it's not just going to be the baseline but Sexual Misconduct and the added level of Bystander Intervention, which may probably be a part of this retreat, but ideally will encompass a whole view of the campus in a condensed version, especially for incoming freshmen. I know that isn't fully evident here but that's a discussion I'd have with Julian and the Dean of Students office. And ideally whoever the next president is, I would love to sit down and have a full meeting with them to talk about everything that has been done and has been reflected to me through the meetings. Because this is intentionally big.
- **Sam Gordon:** Before we vote, I also wanted to go back to the sentence about the requirement that the training is completed "*before Fall/Spring break.*" I personally don't think that sentence is unclear as to what it refers to because the entire paragraph refers to this training requirement, but we need to change the language now if we're going to vote on it.
 - **Julian Perricone:** I think just changing it from "Fall/Spring" to just "Fall" would fix that problem. It seemed almost like you could do it before Fall or Spring break regardless of when you came in.
- **Sam Gordon:** Let me just run through what else we're voting on because we reviewed that three weeks ago. So this new paragraph would replace what's currently there. We are adding in a more explicit requirement for the Secretary to update the recording and then present it to the President. And then this is the attendance thing that we clarified last time.

Motion to approve constitutional changes passes.

Funding – Jake Engelman

- **Jake Engelman:** There'll be an email about final rollbacks, the same rule applies for beginning of semester. If you roll back more than \$200 at the end of the year, you're frozen for strategic next semester, which is a bummer so please follow instructions.

Student Life Committees

Cultural Affairs – Jiin Jeong



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

- **Jiin Jeong:** N/A

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

- **Connie Lorente:** We met with the leadership team at Facilities Management. We went up there. Geoffrey didn't drive me up in the jitney, he just left me behind.
 - **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** You were late.
 - **Connie Lorente:** I was one minute late.
 - **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** Exactly.
- **Connie Lorente:** Anyway, it was great. I have a couple announcements. Please call Facilities Management when you see loose bricks on Martin's Way. Don't be a bystander. If you see that, call Facilities Management. You can also call Campus Safety and they'll call Facilities Management. Apparently only RAs can submit work orders right now but Facilities Management is going to give the FRSN Affairs committee access to work orders so you can come to us with concerns. Roger Wakeman is going to come next semester to talk about everything that has been going on with Facilities Management and the plans for next semester and the following years. There are also two new water bottle fillers in Bundy.
- **Gianni Hill:** They told us there are 18 water bottle refill things that have been set up around campus in non-residential spaces in the last year, and we mentioned that we'd really like to see them in residential spaces as well. So that's something that's on their radar.
- **Connie Lorente:** Lastly, we heard concerns about the vending machines in KTSA from our students and people that study in KTSA. That's not Facilities Management's jurisdiction, that's actually Auxiliary Services, but they will get in contact with Auxiliary Services and see if they can move them to a different place. We also got an awesome tour of the facilities of Facilities Management and I just want to thank everyone in Facilities Management for the information for the meeting and for the tour.
- **Gianni Hill:** We also talked a lot about work orders and how RAs have to submit work orders in the residence halls, and they're looking at making improvements to system. With that too, if there's a certain issue, you can tell your RA to also add your email in the little description box for the work orders. That way you'll get CC'd with updates on when it's getting fixed. We're trying to figure out a way that students can be notified and kept in the loop so they know if someone actually put in work order or not.
- **Connie Lorente:** We're also meeting with Barb Fluty this Wednesday.

Community Affairs (Student Affairs & Food) – Karthik Ravishankar

- **Karthik Ravishankar:** N/A

Associative Committees

LITS – Minh To

- **Minh To:** N/A



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

Mental Health & Wellness Collective – Diana Perez

- **Diana Perez:** N/A

Philanthropy – Richard Court

- **Richard Court:** N/A

Traditions – Casey Codd

- **Casey Codd:** We've submitted a budget for the Lighting of Our Village event that's happening on December 4.

7. Funding

Amount Remaining: **\$13,684.60**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Approved
Buffers	Arrangement and Post-Production	\$1,955	\$1,955	\$1,955
Boffer / LARP	New Equipment	\$60.53	\$60.53	\$60.53
Aquaponics	Aquaponics System	\$5,811.95	\$5,811.95	\$5,811.95
Traditions	Lighting of Our Village	\$150.30	\$150.30	\$150.30

Amount Requested: \$7,977.78

Amount Recommended: \$7,977.78

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$5,932.97 (includes \$226.15 of rollbacks)

Buffers

- **Jake Engelman:** This budget is easy, it's for the Buffers for post-production and arrangement. These are costs they pretty much expect every year.

Buffers funding passes as recommended.

Boffer/LARP

- **Jake Engelman:** The Boffer/LARP Club submitted a budget for \$60.53 for materials for new weapons and stuff they use. We have Fox here to represent the budget if there's any controversy. Does anyone have any questions about that? It's like foam and tape and PVC pipe, etc.

Boffer/LARP funding passes as recommended.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

Aquaponics

- **Jake Engelman:** Aquaponics is a newly approved organization which is super complicated and technical. I'm not even going to try to go into it and I'll let Stephen take it over, but they're requesting \$5,811.95 for full aquaponics system.
- **Stephen Wisser '20:** Hi everyone, thank you so much for having me here to present/defend our proposal. I'm Stephen Wisser, the president of the newly approved Hamilton Aquaponics club. Without this funding, we will unfortunately not be able to get fully off the ground.
- To those of you who are unfamiliar, aquaponics is a very interesting alternative agriculture system. It is the combination of aquaculture, which is the raising of fish, with hydroponics, which is essentially raising plants or crops in a water media without soil. If anyone's ever been to Epcot in Disney World, there's a ride that actually kind of explains it. Maybe you've seen it. It's a very interesting system and so it's the combination of these fish and plants and putting them in water. And without getting too technical, what happens is the water starts in a fish tank, and it is constantly recycling through the fish tank and two of what are known as media beds, which is where the plants float – it's a hydroponics component. So water is floating back and forth between these two units, the plants and the fish. The fish waste serves as nutrients for the plants and the plants, in turn, suck up the nutrients and purify the water for the fish. In my opinion, it's the ultimate definition of a symbiotic relationship where the plants are providing something for the fish and the fish are providing something for the plants.
- It's a very interesting system and I got the idea to start this when I'd seen a couple systems here. I'm a Neuroscience major and Environmental Studies minor. We're working with Jason Townsend. He's a part time professor who teaches some classes here and a lot of introductory biology courses, and when he's not doing work here he's an organic farmer. So he's been an excellent help to us.
- The advantages of these aquaponics systems over traditional farming are manyfold. I'll just briefly say that some of them are significantly less water and significantly less land used. I firmly believe that this is a technology that will allow us to solve our population crisis and some of the problems we're experiencing right now with industrial food systems. I think this is really going to rise to prominence, and as a result I think that Hamilton, as an educational institution wanting to take on important issues, should be investing in these technologies. So that is what we are attempting to do with this.
- The response so far has been shockingly positive. The Tuesday before break, we had a meeting and there were 20 members there. In addition to those people, we have people who came to an interest meeting or reached out to our e-board, so we have an active list of 38 members who are interested in getting us rolling, which is truly shocking. It's great to see that that many people are involved in interested in alternative sustainable agriculture systems. Just from having pretty strong student support, we have received approval from the Biology department to place this facility in one of the greenhouses in the Science Center that's not currently being used.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

- They're fully onboard with us and unfortunately they were not really able to provide any financial help. Neither have some of the other avenues we have applied to for funding. We realize we are asking for a lot so we tried to apply for some grants. One we applied for in particular was offered by the Dean of Faculty's office and they seemed to be very accepting of our idea, but unfortunately they were not able to fund us for the almost \$6,000 we were asking for in startup capital costs. They actually mentioned that it'd be a great idea to go to Student Assembly for the funding, so here we are today asking for your assistance in getting us up and running.
- We have secured a partnership with Bon Appétit. They're willing to take our lettuce from us, so I firmly believe that after this semester, maybe next semester if we get enough materials to get ourselves going, we could be a fully self-funded club. We're going to sell both lettuce and fish we grow. It's not just a "let's fund this and see what happens!" In addition to educating, which is our primary goal, we are hoping to provide fresh, nutritious food year-round to Hamilton. It'll mostly be in the form of lettuce, but we're trying to see if they'll take our fish, which will mostly be tilapia. I think the sales we get from this we will be able to fund ourselves after this semester, maybe next semester. So if you have any other questions, I'm happy to discuss nitrogen cycles in-depth, but otherwise I'd be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.
- **Julian Perricone:** What kind of lettuce?
 - **Stephen Wisser '20:** Romaine! Just kidding. But I was actually talking to the other e-board members about this, and we joked that this is another example why aquaponics would be great. Joking aside, it's true that these systems can be extremely controlled. We directly controlling and moderating the nutrients that go directly to them. It's very safe and we'll be working with the appropriate members to make sure all safety requirements are met. In terms of what kind of lettuce we'll grow, I think that'll be a question for Jason Townsend to advise upon.
- **Eric Kopp:** So next semester, if you still need funding, can you estimate how much you would request?
 - **Stephen Wisser '20:** Yes. I would say a maximum of maybe \$1,000. We are purchasing a kit from a very well-respected aquaponics company. They've been in the game so long, in fact, that they've actually purchased the domain name aquaponics.com. So they've been in business for 30 years, I'm told, and they're very respectable. The sales representative we've been talking with has been mentioning different things we think we may need because of our climate in upstate New York, where it's incredible cold. So I think after working out all the idiosyncrasies next semester we might ask for some more but nothing close to what we're asking for today. And I do truly believe that anything we ask for next semester could be it for the club.
- **Jiin Jeong:** I love the idea. I'm just wondering, are you planning on making it kind of public so people outside of your members could come and look at the aquaponics system?



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

- **Stephen Wisser '20:** Absolutely. Our primary objective is to have it be an educational endeavor. The system we're hoping to have is large, it's I think 16 feet by maybe 5 feet. But there are some huge aquaponics systems that would fill this entire building. It's almost like an industrial greenhouse kind of situation, so ours is small in comparison and there's not a whole lot we can do. We're not going to take over the Bon Appétit lettuce market. Our main goal is to educate people, and that goes for anybody. We're open to anyone joining at any time, and we also plan to have a couple open houses throughout the year, hopefully around high volume business times so that trustees and parents can come and see what we're doing. So we'll absolutely be open for anyone interested or not to come in and take a tour to see what we're doing.
- **Savannah Kelly:** This might be more of a question for Professor Townsend, but what else can you grow besides lettuce?
 - **Stephen Wisser '20:** That might be more of a question for him, but I've been researching this for quite a bit now. I'm not an expert, but from what I've learned lettuce is the most commonly grown thing because it's so easy to do, they're pretty low maintenance. Tomatoes and peppers absolutely could be done. We'd need perhaps even more fish in the system and more background knowledge for those because those plants require a lot more energy and nutrient inputs. That being said, I do think that we could transition into other produce. We're just to going to get our feet wet with lettuce first and we'll see what happens from there.

Aquaponics funding passes as recommended.

Traditions Committee

- **Casey Codd:** Student Assembly is going to be funding part of the food for the upcoming Lighting of Our Village event on December 4. There's going to be a ton of food. We're getting hot chocolate, chocolate chip cookies, gluten-free chocolate chip cookies – they didn't have a vegan option, I'm sorry, I checked the Bon Appétit list – and then I think the Student Activities office is going to fund a special fire pit potentially for s'mores. But that will also involve getting a fire marshal.
 - **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** We love a fully-staffed Lighting.
- **Casey Codd:** It's going to be a really amazing event, please bring yourself. Bring your friends. Bring people who aren't your friends. Invite your professors.
- **Julian Perricone:** This is going to be a really cool thing. It's the first annual Lighting of Our Village, so it will be really cool to be able to say you went. It'll be like saying you went to the first Citrus Bowl or first Feb Fest. It's a tradition that's going to continue on for hopefully the rest of the College's existence. It's also going to be a very beautiful event with a lot of light and music and food, and it'd be great to have a really big turnout.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Invite your friends! Otherwise I'm eating all the cookies.

Traditions Committee funding passes as recommended.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

8. Announcements

- ***The first annual Lighting of our Village is taking place on December 4 from 7:30 to 8:30 in the Sadove Terrace!! Please come and bring your friends!!!***
- **Elections for Student Assembly President and Vice President are Approaching!**
 - Are you interested in serving as the President or Vice President of Student Assembly? If so, please keep the following information in mind:
 - Students run in teams. A President and Vice President share a ticket.
 - The Presidential tenure begins in January 2019 and continues through the calendar year, until the end of the December 2019.
 - The President must be on campus for both semesters.
 - The Vice Presidency can be split between the spring and fall semesters. One person can serve as Vice President in the spring, and another in the Fall, all running on the same ticket.
 - To be constitutionally eligible to run for the Presidency position, students must have attended 8 Student Assembly meetings in their college career.
 - Once you have decided to run:
 - Attend a mandatory election rules meeting at 4pm on Wednesday, November 28th in the Sadove Living Room. *If you do not attend this meeting and do not send a proxy in your place, your name will not be included on the ballot. Campaigning may not formally begin until the completion of this meeting.*
 - Submit a 200-word platform explaining your ticket's interest in, and qualifications for, the position. Email your platform to jperrico@hamilton.edu and with the subject line "SA Platform" before 4 pm on November 30th.
 - Collect 75 student signatures on the sheet attached to the email sent Sunday 11/25.
 - Submit an electronic copy of your completed signature sheet to jperrico@hamilton.edu and the completed hard copy to: Julian Perricone, Campus Mailbox #1672 both before 4 pm on Friday November 30th.
 - NOTE: Elections will begin on Wednesday, December 5th at noon (12:00 PM) and close on Friday, December 7th at noon (12:00 PM) via online voting
 - Note : Anyone can run a "write-in" campaign. If you fail to comply with the above rules, your name will not be included on the ballot. You can still campaign, and if you receive more write-in votes than



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

the other candidates, you will win the election. Please make sure voters write the President and Vice President names in a standard way.

- Please email Julian Perricone (jperrico@hamilton.edu) with any questions or concerns.

○ Funding Updates

■ Non-Strategic Budgets:

- **The FINAL non-strategic budget deadline to request funding for events this semester is this Saturday, November 24th at 12PM sharp.** If you would like funding for any remaining events this semester (and apply for funding from Student Assembly), please submit your budget proposal by this deadline.

■ Advanced Funding for Spring Semester:

- Student Assembly will also accept proposals for advanced funding for spring semester events. **The Advanced Funding proposals for next semester are due next Saturday, December 1st, at 12PM sharp.**
- There are sometimes extenuating circumstances in which the success of an event is contingent upon meeting deadlines outside the group's control (e.g. registration deadlines, hotel availability, agent management, contract & concert planning, co-sponsorship restrictions, etc).
- In these situations, we are now allowing organizations to apply for "future funding". This means that your organization can apply for funding for events occurring NEXT semester, now.
- Please do not think that this means any club wanting to secure funds now can submit a future funding proposal. This is strictly for organizations that need to have funding confirmed to meet deadlines relevant for competition, travel, or inviting a performer to campus that needs to be booked this far in advance.
- To apply, please submit your Advanced Funding budget proposal using the Non-Strategic budget template and form.
- Budgets submitted for advanced funding must include all costs associated with the event, as additional budgets will not be considered. Please use the current non-strategic template and the form linked above.
- Please only submit requests for events which require early approval (i.e. to book hotels, register for a conference, etc.) We will not consider events which could be funded by the first non-strategic deadline of January 2019.

■ Rollbacks:



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

- As always, if your club has leftover funds from an SA-sponsored event, or has cancelled an event, please email the Student Assembly Treasurer, Jake Engelman, at satreas@hamilton.edu with the amount you are able to rollback and the reasoning for the rollback.
- **Reimbursements:**
 - This is also a reminder that any reimbursement requests for club purchases are due to be submitted **within 2 weeks of the purchase date, OR the last day of classes, whichever applies at the time.** To submit your reimbursement request, please bring your receipt(s) and/or your mileage map printout to Student Activities and fill out a reimbursement envelope.

