

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

DECEMBER 3RD, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present

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

Excused

- Huzefah Umer

Absent

- Karthik Ravishankar
- Robert Hallock
- Luis Morales

2. Public Comment Period

Hamilton Sustainability Committee – Hannah Katz ‘21, Asha Grossberndt ‘21, Hayley Berliner ‘19

- **Hannah Katz ‘21:** We’re from HSC, which is the Hamilton Sustainability Committee. We wanted to talk to you guys about introducing sustainability on campus and gauging



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the student need and want for it. We think right now would be a really good time to have momentum with hiring Erin as our first ES tenure track professor and they got approval for another one next year, so obviously faculty and staff are having some sort of push towards that. As our lives are changing because of climate change, I don't know if anyone saw Morgan's campus climate thing today, I think awareness is going to be increasing a lot. We were potentially thinking that we'd want to collaborate with you guys to do a Student Assembly sustainability committee or working with your a food group or facilities group. We also just wanted to run some of our other things by you. We're trying to meet with David Wippman, Karen Leach, Terry Martinez, and Reuben Haag, who is in charge of the food here, to gather input from the larger campus community before we do this. We were thinking that you guys would be a great way to start. So we were wondering if you would want to potentially start a committee within Student Assembly or there's also a proposed student organization staff-faculty committee that's happening but I don't know if that's going to be rolled out for the next couple months. We're also here to just gather from you guys what you think the most pressing sustainability issues are on campus so we can better focus our efforts and figure out if there is a push from people other than just our group.

- **Julian Perricone:** I can quickly speak to this. I used to be in the Facilities committee, and I met with some members of different organizations that were interested in sustainability. We actually talked about if not a committee, making at least some sort of member that would be a liaison to organizations that have those conversations. I think it's a super positive idea and I think there's a lot of room for improving that on campus.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** As far as making a new committee, we're currently on the way out. This is our last meeting.
 - **Hannah Katz '21:** We were thinking we'd mostly be collaborating with you guys in the Spring. We just wanted to plant the seed of "hey, if you get bored over the break, here's a thing to think about."
 - **Nadav Konforty:** I can't speak for who comes after us but I can definitely say that I personally support that partnership. I think there's a lot to come from that.
- **Connie Lorente:** I like the idea of collaborating. We recently had a meeting with Facilities leadership and we met with this person whose name I forgot that works with sustainability on campus. I think it's a really important thing to talk about and push for on campus.
- **Richard Court:** Speaking on behalf of the Food Committee, we have a relationship with Reuben and we'd love to collaborate with you guys.
 - **Hannah Katz '21:** We've talked to Reuben quite frequently as well. We've heard from him a couple times and he hears from a lot of different places so we thought we'd reach out to you guys.
- **Gianni Hill:** Anyone in the student body is welcome to join any of our committees, so you guys are welcome to join anyways, even if you don't have a specific formal liaison role with the Assembly.



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- **Harry Dubke:** We would all love come up with some ideas of our own to help you guys out with generating interest around sustainability and how we can enact that at Hamilton, but do you guys have any kind of initial starting points with Student Assembly and how we might be able to improve sustainability at Hamilton or bring attention to it?
 - **Haley Berliner '19:** We have a couple of surveys we're trying to get people to fill out to see if people are interested in getting clamshells, which are these reusable plastic containers you can take food out of Commons in. Bon Appétit doesn't want to do it unless there's significant student interest. We're also trying to work on divesting from fossil fuels and we have another survey about that, which is basically taking money from our endowment and not investing in fossil fuels but investing in other more socially responsible things. We're going to work on another survey about general sustainability issues and see if people are interested in hiring a full time sustainability coordinator because most other schools in the country have someone and we don't. So if we can get those surveys out to everyone and we can get everyone to fill them out, that'd be great.
 - **Harry Dubke:** Gotcha. One really quick point on it, whenever I've tried to enact any change with the administration, it really helps to look at other NESCAC schools because the administration likes to weigh the College against other NESCAC schools. So we can help you with gathering data on that as well. Any time you can say something like "Middlebury is doing it better than us," that's always a good starting point.
- **Hannah Katz '21:** If any specific committees are interested in working with us, Food maybe or also Facilities, I don't really know what else you guys have but you can email hsc@hamilton.edu and we can set up something.
- **Nadav Konforty:** Thank you. I think the ball will be rolling a lot more next semester and I'm sorry that that's the answer I have just because it's the end of the semester. But thank y'all so much.

3. New Business

Travis Hill and Ashley Place — Special Interest Housing

- **Ashley Place:** Hi guys, thank you very much for taking some time for us. I know you're super busy so I'm going to keep it really brief. I just wanted to come and check in with all of you and let you know about something that we've been working on in Res Life. So we have piloted a program. It's a special interest program for first years called WOLF, you may have heard Gianni talk about it. It seems to be going really, really well, props to Gianni for so much hard work. I really give most of the credit to Gianni and Jae and Andrew and Sarah Jillings for all their hard work with that. Because it's going so well, we are looking ahead at next year. We're going to add a couple programs for first-years and start expanding those special interest communities for incoming first-years, but we also are thinking about upperclassmen. So right now we have the Co-Op, which kind of functions as a special interest community but it's a little bit different. Then we also have the wellness program at Rogers, which is also going really, really well, and it's a pilot



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program we also started this semester. So we want to create a special interest community where students get to propose the topics. And so what we've been doing is we've been talking to other institutions that do this and it seems to be wildly successful. It seems to be something students really love at other places and we think some of you would be really interested in doing it here as well. So we wanted to come here to kind of give you an idea of what we're looking at so you can start thinking about some of the topics you want to propose. When you get back in January, we're going to be rolling out this process. We're going to be working on building the process while you're away on break. And then you're going to get to get together with your friends, write up proposals, submit those, and then a committee of staff and students are going to pick a few of those topics to pilot for the Fall.

- **Ashley Place:** We're looking at sizes for communities between maybe eight and twelve. That's what we're finding from other institutions seems to be really successful. I think we're looking at probably using Wallace Johnson and Saunders. So each of those buildings would hold probably two special interest communities. If we had one special interest community that seemed really popular or that could be a bigger program, we would consider putting one program in one house and having it be full. So that's pretty much it. We just wanted to give you a chance to think about that over break and then be able to ask us questions, and then when we get back in January we can jump into it. We're very excited about it. Any questions?
- **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** I don't think a lot of upperclassmen really know what the WOLF program is, could you just talk a little bit more about that?
 - **Gianni Hill:** Sure. WOLF is the Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Floor. So it's for 22 first-years in Dunham Basement. We piloted this program where we built in outdoor leadership experiences. So first semester we really focus on providing different outdoor activities. We've gone on a couple hikes, we've gone kayaking, we just had a whole retreat this weekend at Glen House where we did some conflict styles training, which was pretty cool. Next semester we're going to be thinking about how we can continue to roll out these outdoor programs and we're trying to give students more leniency in kind of developing these programs. So transitioning to providing these programs for the students to second semester where they'll be providing a lot more input on those programs and what we're doing and how we're spending our time. So really building on that leadership component.
 - **Ashley Place:** First-year special interest communities will differ from upperclassmen communities. A special interest community for upperclassmen would be a group of students coming together who have a common interest and they would program around that interest. We would provide some funding and some guidance but the students would really take the lead in building their community. They would do programming for themselves and they could invite other communities as well or other students who might be interested in that topic. And so upperclassmen will really have all of the control. We'll provide guidance,



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we'll provide funding and some rules, but we won't actually be putting on programming for upperclassmen like we are for first-year students.

- **Gianni Hill:** I should also mention that for first-years this option showed up on the housing questionnaire they got in July. It was just an option given and we decided to go with Wilderness Outdoor Leadership because we had so much in place already with the outdoor leadership center, the Glen House. So we had a lot of those resources and decided that'd be a good place to start. So basically all first year students this summer could opt into it and write a short summary piece about why they were interested in it.
- **Ashley Place:** So part of this application process for upperclassmen will be the proposal of a topic. But then we'll have to figure out how students will choose housing there, like whether we'll have individual students apply for that topic, or if we'll do it differently. We're not entirely sure yet but students will be part of that conversation too. We're going to try to build the framework and then fill in the details.
- **Ben Rhind:** When you're planning on reviewing the applications, what are you looking for in terms of which programs you will accept, especially if it's high demand?
 - **Ashley Place:** We don't know exactly yet. I think it's going to depend on what's proposed. I'll tell you that it's going to be a decision that a committee of people makes. So we're going to have students and then some staff members on the committee to review applications. We have no idea what the interest is going to look like. We could get a couple or we could get a lot. I think we'll wait and have a conversation as we're developing the process really to figure out what are students looking for and what are we looking for and what are the rules and that kind of thing. So it's kind of up in the air at the moment. We'll work on ironing that out and continue to keep you all updated as we make all those decisions.
- **Morgan Perry:** Would this be different than a campus group or a team or something come in and apply under the pretext of their organization being granted housing or would you rather it be guided by a common theme or interest that many students could apply for?
 - **Ashley Place:** I think it should be around a theme and it should be around some common interest. We've been talking a lot about building community on campus and this would be another way for us to bring people together who maybe have different backgrounds who are part of different groups who can come together around a topic that they're interested in.
- **Savannah Kelly:** I'm just thinking more about the lottery process and how this would look for upperclassmen. Would they apply to a program prior to the lottery or after the lottery?
 - **Ashley Place:** We're going to roll this out in January in an effort to get this done before the lotteries so that we have this all settled and then we do the lotteries. We're working on a schedule with what that'll look like so I don't want to be too



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specific but we're hoping we can get started right in January when you get back for that reason.

Breakfast at Burke — Monday, December 10th 9:00pm-10:30pm

- **Nadav Konforty:** On Monday night, December 10th, from 9:00pm to 10:30pm, there will be breakfast food served in the Burke Library. It will be served by admins. They're giving us food while we're studying for finals.
- **Noelle Niznik:** Please spread the word, definitely everybody should come out. Dean Martinez will be there and so will President Wippman, serving breakfast.

NYT Delivery

- **Nadav Konforty:** This is a quick plug. We need someone for next semester that will go around and deliver the New York Times to the whole campus. They get paid.
- **Julian Perricone:** It sounds like a pretty fun job. I think Jon Stanhope did it. It seems fun.
 - **Jake Engelman:** If anyone's fun, it's Jon.

Mental Wellness Update – Gavin Meade

- **Gavin Meade:** First and foremost, thank you to the wonderful Diana for covering for me while I had a concussion. That was not fun but here we are. I have a number of things to talk about, there's been really good work done by a lot of students on this campus regarding mental health so I just want to briefly go over those as well as talk about my plans and issues for next semester. If anyone has questions, please feel free to jump in. For updates in general, Dave Thompson has done amazing job this semester. If you've seen the emails, he's been doing everything from yoga to mindfulness to all of that. We're encouraging more students to take part in those programs. It's a really great opportunity for improving wellness so please be sure to encourage your peers to take advantage. Peer counselors are doing some very exciting things with the groups they're growing. With BetterMynds, I'm trying to get some more information on them to start using the service and how that can actually be disseminated to the student body. That will be useful for us to have. I'm still working on being the Healthy Minds driver, but I'm working with the Counseling Center to do that. Organizations like HAAND, SAVES, SMART, and MOHASA have been doing great work and we really appreciate it. In general it seems like there's been a shift at the College. People working together a lot more rather than it being as divisive as earlier and I appreciate that. Minds for Change had their annual speak-out event which went exceedingly well. They also did a collaboration with the Culinary Society, so shout-out to them, that was great work and I hope that continues next semester. The Mental Wellness Collective started a bi-weekly publication. We'll be publishing our first edition this week, and that aims to increase awareness of any issues that the College has, upcoming events, literature, keeping wellness in mind, and that kind of thing. The Dean of Students office has been hosting Alcoholics Anonymous on campus which is great. These things can increase the amount



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of opportunities on campus that students have to improve their own wellness. I'm hoping to work more with the ISC. Greek Life and mental health is a conversation we've had a lot on campus but there's not really a definitive movement out there. So I'm hoping to work with the ISC. In line with that, both Chi Psi and ATX have had their workshops on Bystander Intervention Training. So a reminder to any student group on campus, you can request this training. It's free and it's very important that your group or club members are educated.

- **Connie Lorente:** Are there any other fraternities or sororities you know of that have completed that Bystander Intervention training?
 - **Gavin Meade:** Those are the only ones I know for sure have done it. It can be complicated to find a date that works for everybody.
 - **Harry Dubke:** AD also had their Bystander Intervention training.
 - **Casey Codd:** So did Gamma.
 - **Gavin Meade:** Awesome.

Question and Answer Period with Candidates for 2019 Student Assembly President and Vice Presidents

- **Julian Perricone:** We're going to have our Q&A session with the candidates right now. I just want to say that this is an opportunity to ask really important questions that are especially relevant because it is an uncontested election. When we were in the process of our campaign and we had to go through this process, I think both of us felt like we learned a lot in that session and even answered some of our own questions that we had. So please ask any sorts of questions you might have for our candidates. Unless someone's phoning in I do think it's just Amanda, Jiin, and Gianni. So we'll let you guys introduce yourselves.
- **Amanda Kim:** Hey, I'm Amanda and I'm currently Secretary. I'm running for President with Gianni and Jiin as my Vice Presidents. They are splitting the ticket and they'll introduce themselves.
- **Gianni Hill:** Hi, I'm Gianni. I've been class president for two years now and am involved with a lot of things on campus like the WOLF program. I am running for Spring 2019 because I will be abroad all of next year, and Jiin will be in the Fall because she'll be abroad in the Spring.
- **Jiin Jeong:** Hi, I'm Jiin. I've been class rep for one and a half years. I've also been the chair of the Cultural Affairs committee so I've really been working a lot with Diversity and Inclusion on campus. I'm running for Fall Vice President because I'll be going to Lóri's country in the Spring.
- **Nadav Konforty:** I want to ask the first question, which was the same first question asked to me. I'm going to ask it to Amanda. What would you do differently than me?
 - **Amanda Kim:** I think we can all agree first off that Nadav and Julian have done an amazing job and they've gotten an incredible amount done. I think that you guys –through no fault of your own – had to deal with a lot of external issues throughout your tenure, and because of that you didn't really have time to tackle



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internal issues in Student Assembly. So one of the main parts of our platform is addressing internal issues within SA and re-evaluating how SA runs, the structure of SA, and whether we're being as efficient and as representative as we can be. That's something you guys didn't get a chance to work on and that's something we would really like to make sure that we're being the best resource and best representatives for the student body that we can be. On top of that, we would like to pass more resolutions and issue more statements, which I don't believe we did any of this past year. So that's what we would do differently.

- **Jiin Jeong:** Adding onto that, I think that transparency and promotion of Student Assembly is an ongoing issue that we have. The fact that we are running uncontested is a testament to that. When we're talking to different people and campaigning, we get questions like "what is Student Assembly?" So there's really a lack of interest in Student Assembly on campus and that's something we really want to work on. Penelope has done a wonderful job and we really want to work on finishing this SA bulletin board, seeing if we can have office hours, and just being more accessible to students
- **Gianni Hill:** One bigger picture idea we have is to make the Student Assembly website more dynamic and make it more of a hub for students to go to for different resources. Some of the things we took away from past NESGov conferences is that at some similar institutions, their student government websites have resources such as office hours posted for all of their professors, and just having one place they can go to for all of that information. So really just trying to keep an updated website all the time and making it a place where students are forced to go to check on all the happenings is definitely one of our big things we want to work on this semester.
- **Ben Rhind:** I think Jiin has mostly answered my question but I was just going to say while I'm sure you guys are going to do a great job, I think it's kind of concerning that it is now two years in a row that it has been an uncontested election. So I was wondering if you guys can say what you'll sort of do to incentivize more competitive elections in the future.
 - **Amanda Kim:** Definitely. So that internal improvements aspect of our platform encompasses all the issues we see in SA, and that entails what Jiin was talking about with making sure that people know what SA is and are interested in it. I think there's so many qualified students on this campus that would be interested in SA if they knew what we did and actually knew what was happening. We've talked about how we've been campaigning and people are asking us what SA even does, which is really disappointing. So making sure that people know what SA is, know when elections are, know that they can run, just making ourselves a lot more accessible and inviting people and different leaders to come and speak so they get a feel for what we are, would be a step in the right direction. I think Penelope has also done a really great job with the Pizza with SA event that made us a lot more friendly.



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- **Gianni Hill:** We think we've made some great strides so far, especially this past semester with publicity, but we definitely want to ramp up publicity. It's one of our main components of having a legitimate Student Assembly that students feel will represent them, so publicity definitely is one of our main focuses.
- **Sam Gordon:** While publicity is great and really important to share the need that we have for more people to run, currently for president you have to meet a very high number of meetings and none of the things you just described would change that. Would you be open to making the requirement to run for president more accessible? This is actually something that is in my suggestions to change because two years in a row uncontested is really a hard thing to sit with from a constitution standpoint. So is that something you're open to considering or have even thought about at all?
 - **Amanda Kim:** We're definitely open to considering it. I also do think that what we talked about with inviting people to meetings would make a dent in that.
 - **Sam Gordon:** That wouldn't actually changing the requirement though, and that's my question. To run for president you need eight full meetings and people aren't coming to the meetings.
 - **Amanda Kim:** I understand what you're saying and you're right in that it's a high barrier to entry and it kind of excludes people who aren't on SA. That's a good point and it is something we're open to considering.
 - **Gianni Hill:** The three of us have talked a lot about apathy on this campus in general and trying to get people to participate more, especially in Student Assembly. Even with other positions on the Assembly, like Secretary, it's very hard to find someone who will be dedicated enough to take the minutes every week for us. So looking for ways to incentivize some of these students and setting the bar higher and trying to show the student body why these jobs are so important and figuring out ways to make them more accessible. So we would definitely be open to reviewing the requirements for entry to run.
- **Eric Kopp:** I know you all mentioned diversity is a big concern. What specifically are you going to do to address it in SA and on campus?
 - **Amanda Kim:** I honestly think we're a really good team to deal with that. We've got Jiin, who's just been amazing on Cultural Affairs and the Student Diversity Council and working with international students, I'm the leader of a cultural organization, and I know diversity is something that we're all passionate about. Definitely working really closely with the DMC with the relevant leaders, like how we were talking about inviting different leaders of different cultural organizations to speak at SA. That also goes with the "supporting student voices" part of our platform. Jiin might want to talk more about that.
 - **Jiin Jeong:** We really want to explore the broader definition of diversity. In the Cultural Affairs committee description, we are supposed to represent all different kinds of diversity, like religious, racial, ethnic, spiritual, accessibility, and so much more, but we tend to think of diversity just as ethnic. So that's definitely something I want to broaden my definition of diversity on. I know people have



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talked to me about academic issues and stuff and how we can address diversity in that situation. Also I think that a lot of my work with diversity comes with collaboration with a bunch of different organizations. In Cultural Affairs we talked about creating the Student Diversity Council in order to providing the space for organizations and individuals on this campus to come together and collaborate on these issues.

- **Gianni Hill:** I think just talking about these issues, like Jiin said, it's not just about race and how we define diversity. I've had a lot of exposure as a Posse Scholar, just constantly thinking about socioeconomic background for a lot of students and making sure we can keep our programming accessible to all students. I think that's big too, especially at a school like Hamilton where I believe now half of students are receiving some form of aid. So that's always going to be on the backburner with making sure we're providing equitable opportunities for everyone.
- **Julian Perricone:** I'd like to quickly ask a question. This is probably the question I hated the most but was probably the most important one. Individually, in your opinions of yourselves, what do you think the biggest weakness that you personally think might bear some relevance to your position?
 - **Amanda Kim:** I can start. We've actually had an in-depth discussion of this. I'd like to preface this by saying that one of the major strengths of our trio is that any weaknesses we have individually we make up for in each other. With that being said, I can speak for myself. Especially as Secretary when you're just listening and only able to type and not even think about formulating responses, I think I've been relatively quiet so far in Student Assembly. And so I think having to adapt to being a lot more vocal will be a transition I have to make.
 - **Gianni Hill:** I think for me I'm definitely like a yes man and when someone asks me if I need something I'm always on it to kind of help out. So knowing when I need to say no and not take on too much on my plate will be important moving forward.
 - **Jiin Jeong:** One thing I think is that I'm less outspoken than the other members. I think that might be because I'm kind of trying to think more and I have a bit of a hard time voicing harsh opinions or hard stances on topics and matters because I'm trying to think from both sides, which can be both a strength and a weakness. But I think those are things that Gianni and Amanda have shown they can really help me with.
- **Nadav Konforty:** The three of you are all very involved throughout the campus. You all have many leadership positions. This job takes more time than anyone else can really understand besides me, Julian, and Noelle. I'm wondering, how are the three of you are preparing or would prepare in theory if you were elected to take on something that really is like having another class and a half? I'm wondering how you're getting prepared for the time commitment it's going to be.



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- **Amanda Kim:** That's a really great question. It's something we've also talked about because, like you said, we're all pretty involved. I can say that Student Assembly is our number one priority. It has been and it will continue to be. And as you know we've have been shadowing you guys and talking to you guys a lot to get a feel for what the time commitment looks like and what kind of things we'll have to be doing on a weekly or even daily basis. So we've been getting as much exposure to that as we can and then planning around that and seeing what we'll have to give up and what we can keep on. But definitely I can say that Student Assembly is our number one priority.
- **Gianni Hill:** We also have a really solid group chat. If someone isn't around, we've been really quick to say, "hey, can you do this for me?" and then responding to that and helping each other out. We're really good at delegating tasks between the three of us and we're off to a great start with keeping the lines of communication open amongst ourselves.
- **Lóri Fejes:** You have been talking a lot about how the three of you work together so well, but it really will be the two of you between two semesters. Having to change that will be a burden so how will that work?
 - **Amanda Kim:** That's a good question and I'd first say that we'll still be working together as a trio to a large degree. For example, in the Spring, Jiin will be off-campus but she's not going to be entirely out of the picture. So we're going to still be having weekly meetings with Jiin where we're calling in and updating her on everything that's going on and getting her input. She's still definitely going to have a voice in this Assembly and Gianni will in the Fall, too. That is definitely a valid concern to have with that transition. Obviously as with any transition there's going to be a new dynamic but I think we all complement each other really well and it's something we're planning ahead for. We have also had a lot of experience working not just in a group but also one-on-one so it's something we're comfortable with and we're very confident we can do.
 - **Gianni Hill:** It is something we're definitely aware of is the transition from Spring to Fall between me leaving and Jiin coming in. So we want to make that as seamless as possible. So having detailed notes in the Google Drive and just having everything in place for me to step out and Jiin to come in would be really important. So keeping the lines of communication open again will be really important.
 - **Jiin Jeong:** I think that also having two Vice Presidents also means that you have different approaches and different strengths in response to certain problems so I think that in a way would complement for the gap we have. Also just to add on to that, by keeping our change sustainable and making sure that others are aware of it, I think this will be a great precedent for future Presidents and Vice Presidents to learn from and take away from our administration.
- **Keir Adamson:** I feel that NESGov couldn't really work this year because there was a lack of interest throughout the schools, so I was wondering if you have a plan to address



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the communication with other schools and how you guys would connect with other schools.

- **Amanda Kim:** Gianni and I actually talked about this over the weekend.
- **Gianni Hill:** Yeah, I also just talked with Noelle before this meeting and she went to this conference with the NY6. We're thinking about starting up something between the NY6 and looking into that. If we do get invited to two conferences we're happy to send two groups of students next semester. The more we can reach out to other schools the better off we'll be. But yeah, there is a plan for another NESGov to happen next semester and talking about internal improvements to make, we're thinking about one NESGov per year to make sure it's better attended and more efficient. But we definitely are thinking and discussing our communication with other schools.
- **Ben Rhind:** So you guys have talked a lot about how you'll work together with the Assembly, but obviously a big part of this job as well involves a lot of communication with the administration and advocating for students. I was curious where you think the administration is falling short and how you would push them to be better.
 - **Jiin Jeong:** I feel like our administration is very new in a way. We recently filled and also created some positions so they're still trying to figure things out in a way. So some of the changes haven't come as immediately as we wanted. It is part of our duty to also inform them about the campus and it's not easy but it's kind of up to us to make those changes happen when we want to see them. We need to make it known when there is a change that is needed rather than waiting around for something to happen. We can't be waiting two years for something to happen. Our main role with the administration will be keeping them up-to-date and making sure that even if they're new that they know we want to work with them and that things happen in a timely manner.
 - **Gianni Hill:** Like Jiin said, there's a lot of big changes happening in the school over the past year and in the future. Basically, continuing to communicate with a lot of the new positions is really important. We also talked before this meeting about our stance with Res Life and how they're doing and we really talked about how they've taken a lot of initiative this year with making a lot of those changes to housing at Hamilton. But we are I guess in a time of transition so there isn't a ton that we can do right now to make sure that things happen but the fact that there is a lot is in the books for the long term definitely makes us feel better, but then also thinking about the short term as well.
- **Amanda Kim:** In terms of changes that we think the administration could make and places they can improve upon, I think there's a lot of really great changes that the administration does make and the students don't know about it, or there's a big issue that people have with the administration and it's not properly communicated what's actually going on. We've seen that in the past semester for example with the Facilities contract controversy, there hasn't been really clear transparency with that. So I think that goes into our role of being the bridge



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between the administration and the students. I think helping them out more with being able to be more transparent by keeping the students up-to-date on what they're doing and what they've accomplished will definitely make a difference. It will be mutually beneficial for both the students to know what the administration is doing and then for the administration to know that the students know what the administration is doing, if that makes sense.

- **Bryce Febres:** Something that really resonated with me after I won the position was that Nadav met with all the new members and Nadav gave insight into something that was very personal to him and it went beyond a platform and spoke to me about why he was so passionate about mental health and why it was a big driver and something he was pushing for on campus. So aside from a platform perspective, what is a very personal issue that resonates with you that's driving you to take the position and makes you think that you're the one to make that change?
 - **Amanda Kim:** I would say that one of the great things about our platform is that you can see all of us in it. Mental wellness is something that I am personally really, really passionate about for a number of reasons, which is why that is in there. On top of that the internal improvements aspect is something I really want to push for because I know we've talked about how frustrating it is that there's a lot of talk happening but often not a lot of doing. And I don't want us to have that conversation again or have to walk out of a meeting thinking, "wow, that was really unproductive," or "wow, that was a waste of my time." That's something that is frustrating and I know that it does happen. I really strongly believe that we can't properly represent the student body until we are functioning cohesively.
 - **Gianni Hill:** For me, being involved in starting up with HamVotes along with Amanda has been crucial in discovering my passion for civic engagement and that goes along with the apathy on campus and how we can get students to want to contribute to a lot of these conversations and provide them the opportunity to do that. Like I said before, being a Posse Scholar I'm constantly thinking about a lot of my peers and kind of some of the socio-economic disparities that face this campus and how we can provide equitable opportunities and how we can make sure that everyone is at the table to contribute to these conversations, because it can't be one-sided.
 - **Jiin Jeong:** I still have a hard time with English and one concern we've talked about together is that even with the Counseling Center or the Health Center, most of the time we have to make calls to make appointments. For a second language speaker that can be really stressful because I have to think on the fly and think about the questions they're asking. Even little things like that I definitely feel like I noticed and have a hard time with. I also got really sick last year and one of the things I want to focus more on is not just mental health but also just physical health. I think that the hard times I had I want to help others with and make sure they have a better experience.



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- **Amanda Kim:** I'd also like to add on to what I said about internal improvements. When I first came into SA, I was completely lost and had no idea what was happening. I didn't know any of the terminology and felt like a fish out of water and was very uncomfortable saying anything. So another thing with internal improvements I really want to push for will be finishing up the welcome packets that Nadav and Julian started and making sure that people don't feel unwelcome or uncomfortable at Student Assembly.
- **Natalie Rodriguez '22:** You guys have talked a lot about a lot of issues and situations to cover but as a trio what improvements do you want to focus on as a priority at the moment?
 - **Amanda Kim:** We can kind of just read our platform, I guess. Like we've been saying, internal improvements in SA is a big thing. On top of that, like with what Jiin was saying, not just continuing work on mental wellness and sexual misconduct prevention and awareness but also the great point that Harry has been bringing up with accessibility to the Health Center and making sure students have all the resources for physical wellness as well, because that's just as important and oftentimes it ties in to mental wellness too. And also with supporting student voices, it's not just making sure students are able to be heard in SA and on-campus but also off-campus as well, and making sure that they have the resources to become civically engaged and become active members of society. I think that's a really important thing as well.
 - **Gianni Hill:** Adding on to that in terms of wellness, this is a prime opportunity with the new Health Center opening for us to get involved with the directors of the Counseling Center and the Health Center, to really work with them and roll out the new concept of what it means to be well on this campus.
 - **Amanda Kim:** Something we've talked about really diving into as soon as we get back from the break is making sure that students are satisfied with the new Health Center and making sure that they're providing all the resources and services that they can be.
- **Natalie Rodriguez '22:** What's going to happen to the old Health Center?
 - **Julian Perricone:** It's going to be bulldozed.
 - **Nasheley Boursiquot:** Did you say old news?
 - **Julian Perricone:** No, bulldozed. But it's also going to be old news.

4. Old Business

Lighting of Our Village

- **Nadav Konforty:** Tomorrow night at 7:30 is the Lighting of Our Village.
 - **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** It's "Our Village" now?
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Yes, we're rebranding.
- **Nadav Konforty:** Anyway, even though it's taking place tomorrow night, which is after this meeting, please do this one last thing for me. Let's go and show up, get your friends,



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and go to the Lighting of Our Village. We're going to have food. There will be s'mores, we have sparklers that are exceedingly massive. They're mini fireworks.

- **Julian Perricone:** I know this all sounds like a beg and plea, but the truth of it is that this sounds like a really fun event. You should probably just want to go anyway. There will be s'mores and warm chocolate.
- **Richard Court:** Where specifically is Sadove Terrace?
 - **Nadav Konforty:** It's right outside Sadove, where that big tree is.

Elections Update — Julian Perricone '20

- 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 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.

5. Acknowledgements

- **Thank you to everyone on the Assembly for all your hard work and for an amazing semester!!**
- **Thank you to AV for working so hard every week to make sure our livestreams are up and running!**

6. Committee Reports

Executive Committees

Executive – Julian Perricone

- **Julian Perricone:** N/A

Org Recognition – Julian Perricone

- **Julian Perricone:** Be it Amanda and company or the write-in candidate who is feverishly writing their campaign, we need an org rec chair. Anyone who knows someone who'd be a good org rec chair, please come and talk to me. We've gotten some good recommendations our way but I'd like that position to be somewhat contested because that way we can ensure we're getting the most qualified person.

Publicity – Penelope Hoopes

- **Penelope Hoopes:** Super exciting, we met with Spec editor tonight. And this Thursday we're going to have a spread on our accomplishments from the past semester. Starting next semester, there's going to be a biweekly publication of SA seconds, which is going to have a condensed version of our minutes into a few bullet points on what we're doing



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and projects that we're working on. Also, we decided that no one wants their face on a billboard in Diner. And also none of you filled out our thing so we're not doing that. But instead – this is cooler – in addition to bi-weekly SA seconds, we're going to have an SA Member of the Week who will be in the Spec with their photo. So people who did fill it out would be okay with that. Obviously we won't force anyone but you could be in the Spec. It should be fun and cool.

- **Julian Perricone:** Just adding on to that, if there's anything that you think went kind of under the radar like with what you've accomplished in a committee or you personally working under SA, please let us know because we'll be compiling accomplishments but we're going to be going through minutes and committee reports and stuff like that.

Constitution – Sam Gordon

- **Sam Gordon:** Two little things: please vote on Constitution amendment so it doesn't just go under the radar. Also with that being said, I have, through conversations with the other members more informally, come up with a few other things that may be looked at for changes with the next President so we will be compiling that document so it can be sent to her.
- **Nasheley Boursiquot:** When does the Constitution amendment come out?
 - **Sam Gordon:** It will be sent in the survey when we vote on the president. So Wednesday at noon. Please encourage people to vote. This is why I'm making such a big deal out of this. We only have one ticket running for president so what that means is some people might not actually vote because it doesn't change the likely outcome, but that also means that they're not voting for this amendment and this amendment will ideally stay past this president and far into the future. That's how it should be, so we really would like to have as much student voice as possible because it actually is a big change about how student government is run here at Hamilton.
- **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** I was just wondering, out of curiosity, is there a specific number of votes you need to pass it or is it just two-thirds of the students who do vote?
 - **Sam Gordon:** It's two-thirds of the Assembly to get it to the students and then the majority of the students who vote. But please vote, it's good democracy.

Funding – Jake Engelman

- **Jake Engelman:** I actually do have something for funding. All organizations should review their budget. If they have more than \$200 outstanding, they need to roll it back by the end of the semester. If they don't, then they are theoretically frozen for strategic funding next semester, which is a huge bummer so stay on top of your budget and don't do that. Also the deadline for bringing in receipts for reimbursement is this coming Friday at 4:30. So if you are owed money by Student Activities for an expense for your club and you don't bring your receipt in, by this Friday at 4:30, it's on you.
- **Jiin Jeong:** To check your budget, do you email Kaity?



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- **Jake Engelman:** You can email me. It should've been sent to you at some point but if you can't find it then shoot me an email, I'd be happy to send it you again.

Student Life Committees

Cultural Affairs – Jiin Jeong

- **Jiin Jeong:** We had our final meeting with Ms. Breland this semester and we made some goals for next semester.

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

- **Connie Lorente:** Not really anything for Facilities and Safety, and Res Life just came. But Eric and I met with Barb Fluty in the Health Center. She and everyone else is very excited to move into the new Health Center. We talked about how we've heard a lot of student concerns about staffing and how we want more people and we want more hours. And she told us that they are trying to get more staff but they are not receiving the funding for it. It's not on their end, basically. We talked about STD testing. Harry brought it up to talk to the Health Center, and they are willing to work with FRSH affairs to make posters and put those around the bathrooms. She also told us that there are still flu shots at the Health Center so you should go get one.
- **Eric Kopp:** She also said that through the Health Center, they help students get PrEP. It's not for free but they will help you set up a meeting with Planned Parenthood in either Utica or Rome and they'll transport you there, but you still have to pay for it. But there are a lot of grants through New York state that will help pay for it. She also said that students shouldn't be concerned about costs when coming in to see them. To come in is free, so there's no point not to.

Community Affairs (Student Affairs & Food) – Richard Court

- **Richard Court:** We're just working on rice availability in Commons. The rice is often not there. There also is a late night salad, it's not advertised on menu which we're trying to change, but if you go to where the salad bar usually is you can order salads. They also do now have made-to-order beyond beef burgers at the grill where they have the veggie burgers and chicken and stuff like that. So it's there.

Associative Committees

LITS – Minh To

- **Nadav Konforty:** The new movies on the movie channel I am so excited about.

Mental Health & Wellness Collective – Diana Perez

- **Diana Perez:** The Mental Health & Wellness Collective is going to have study breaks happening Wednesday through Saturday from 10-11 in the Sadove basement. We're going to have build your own trail mix bowls, tea, chocolate, yoga, little sessions with therapy, and a lot of other cool stuff. The Positive Thinking Club is working with the



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Mental Health & Wellness Collective on positive affirmations for students during finals week.

Philanthropy – Richard Court

- **Richard Court:** For the update on the semester, they had two bake sales that raised money to donate to Hurricane Florence, which was a couple hundred dollars. They also had a couple hundred dollars through the candy gram sale for Professor Balkan’s computers for refugees program. They’re also on track with their plan to donate to ABC House next semester.

Traditions – Casey Codd

- **Casey Codd:** The Lighting of Our Village is tomorrow. Please come out and celebrate with us!

7. Funding

Amount Remaining: **\$5,932.97**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Approved
Social Traditions	Citrus Bowl	\$3,444.75	\$3,444.75	\$3,444.75
VCLS	Tarana Burke	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00

Amount Requested: \$7,194.75

Amount Recommended: TBD

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$5,932.97 (*Funding will come from next semester’s budget*)

Social Traditions

- **Jake Engelman:** This budget is from Social Traditions for the Citrus Bowl. This is a pretty classic Citrus Bowl budget. They’re requesting shirts, stickers, catering from Bon Appétit for stuff like OJ, hot chocolate, cookies, etc. and \$20 for publicity. It comes out to total of \$3,444.75, which we are recommending funding in full. Unfortunate little caveat is that we need a two-thirds vote because they submitted the budget late. This is the first time I’ve ever recommended funding a budget that was submitted late. It should never, ever, ever be done, but they need the advanced funding.
 - **Amanda Kim:** So this is coming out of next semester’s budget?
 - **Jake Engelman:** Yes, all of this is advanced funding.
- **Harry Dubke:** How many shirts?
 - **Jake Engelman:** 300.
 - **Harry Dubke:** Awesome.

Social Traditions funding passes as recommended.



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VCLS

- **Jake Engelman:** I'll let Dani talk about the whole thing, but basically they're requesting \$3,750 to complete speaker fees for a lecturing dinner.
- **Dani Moni Zo'obo '19:** Hi, I'm the chair of the Voices of Colore Lecture Series. We're an organization on campus dedicated to bringing prominent speakers of color to campus to discuss relevant topics that can unite the whole Hamilton community but also neighboring schools. So this Spring, we want to bring Tarana Burke, the founder of the #MeToo movement. We think that given the reach and relevance of her movement, she'll be a really great speaker to campus. Her speaking fee, which includes her flights to and from Hamilton and also just her being here for the speech and dinner, is \$26,000. As an endowed organization we have \$16,000 specifically reserved for that, and we've had to raise an additional \$10,000. So we've reached out to a number of organizations to help with this additional funding. Womxn's Center has given us funding, Kirkland Endowment has given us funding, the Women's and Gender Studies department has given us some funding, and also the DMC has offered funding to help pay for lodging and the dinner. And organizations such as SMART and MOHASA have offered to collaborate even though they wouldn't necessarily provide funding. So I'm here tonight to ask Student Assembly for the remaining \$3,750 to help bring Tarana Burke to campus next spring.
- **Jake Engelman:** Just one thing to note is that we're doing organization collaborations very differently now. So I'll list the organizations that are collaborating: in addition to MOHASA, SMART, the DMC, Kirkland Endowment, Women's and Gender Studies, and the Womxn's Center, I guess you listed them all already but the point is that they're all in this together. So we have supporting organizations just submit on one budget. In the past we might have had MOHASA submit a budget for a grand and VCLS submit for a grand and the Womxn's Center submit for a grand, but in this case this is a very wide-reaching collaboration and that's why we're seeing it in one budget. And this is for advanced funding, so this is to come out of the budget this semester. We're recommending funding this in full.

VCLS funding passes as recommended.

8. Announcements

- ***The first annual Lighting of our Village took place on Tuesday, December 4 from 7:30pm to 8:30om in the Sadove Terrace!! Thank you to everyone who participated!!!!***
- **Elections:** Elections will begin this **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. You can still campaign, and if you receive more write-in votes than the other candidates, you will win



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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.
- **Finals “Breakfast at Burke” on Monday, December 10th from 9:00pm – 10:30pm**

