

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2020

1. Call to Order

Present

Tatum Barclay
Emily Boviero
Johanna Bowen
Jeffrey Bush
Olivia Chandler
Lóri Fejes
Emily Fienco
Ashley Garcia
Christian Hanna
Jackson Harris
Christian Hernandez
Gianni Hill
Jiin Jeong
Tommy Keith
Stephen Kelly
Amanda Kim
Eric Kopp
Cole Kuczek
Emma Liles
Omar Lopez
Dewayne Martin
Maya Mathews
Dylan Morse

Excused

Savannah Kelly

Adina Mujica
Jessica Parsons
Dorothy Poucher
Mariam Saied
Caroline Ullem
Seámus Wiseman
Jessie Gross
Lilia Harlan

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

- **Discussion Regarding First COVID-19 Case (3:09)**



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Dean Martinez began by condemning the messages on Jodel that had been spreading false information about the positive case. She said that students should refrain from contributing to those comments and to imagine themselves in the same situation as the student in quarantine. She mentioned that students should focus more on how to stop the spread on campus which includes testing twice a week either on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday, washing hands frequently, screening yourself on the EMOCHA app, and refraining from traveling off campus.

From this positive case, Dean Martinez shared new information that would help make the contact tracing easier and safer. She mentioned that it was important to set up voicemail boxes on phones and to clear them empty in case contact tracers need to reach students. She also mentioned that students should answer phone calls even if it's a number not recognizable because it might be a contact tracer. She said if a student does not have a mobile phone or have an international number, they should contact her.

She said that they contacted the resident at Milbank as quickly as possible. She said she got multiple emails asking why residents of Milbank weren't notified as well and it was due to no access to testing for students on the weekend. She said that the college has implemented the best protocols and practices to keep students safe and that students must do their part to keep campus safe.

Questions/Comments

Olivia Chandler asked whether the employee case was related to the student one.

Dean Martinez said it was not related.

Lóri Fejes asked if there could be more of a descriptive timeline of when the case was discovered.

Dean Martinez said that they found out at 4AM and began calling right away. They contacted the individual and began the contact tracing. Oneida County has contact tracers as well but the college did not know the wait time. She explained by the end of the morning everyone was contacted and they were put in quarantine at the off-campus location.

Tatum Barclay asked what can be done about the number of spam calls students have been receiving and how they can identify whether it is a contact tracer.

Terry Martinez said that students should pick up the phone and if it is spam, they should block the number or let it go to voicemail and listen to it immediately.



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Jackson Harris emphasized that students must follow the community guidelines in order to keep the campus safe. He asked why the college supported food trucks to come on campus last week considering students were not allowed to go to restaurants off campus.

Dean Martinez said that each food truck received certificates from the health department in order to operate and that she was not there to see how the event was handled in terms of sticking to social distancing. She also mentioned that she had been receiving comments from students and parents for the college to conduct more social activities so they had been trying to come up with activities that are good for students but also safe.

Jackson Harris mentioned that there were about fifty people at the crepe line and spread across Martin's way which created jams for people walking by. He expressed his confusion with the college's decision to allow that event but recognized that it was different because of the new case.

Dean Martinez mentioned that she meets with the other NESAC schools and shares ideas and thoughts about how the semester is going in each college. She said they also share what type of activities they are doing on campus and each one said they brought food trucks for its students and that they make them sign up for a time slot to pick up food. She said the crepes might have run better if students signed up for time slots. She said that she did not want to abandon the idea of food trucks but will continue to brainstorm more ideas for social activities especially as it gets colder outside.

Cole Kuczek asked whether the college is looking into having weekend testing considering the COVID case was discovered late Friday/early Saturday.

Dean Martinez said that the testing program the college works with does not offer services on the weekends and the health center doesn't operate during those times as well. She mentioned the college has thought about rapid testing but it does not have the same level of accuracy.

Jiin Jeong asked whether the college plans on releasing an update on the contact tracing because many students were concerned whether they should have attended class. She asked whether students should rely on the online dashboard or wait for an email update.

Dean Martinez said that Karen Leech had to send out the Saturday email quickly which is why they did not mention that the contact tracing had finished. As the contact tracing concludes, they will release an email update. She also mentioned a new app by the New York state that will allow for people to be notified if they had been in contact with someone who tested positive. Jerry Tylutki explained the app later in the meeting.

Dean Martinez said that if a student forgot to sign up for a testing appointment, they should go to the center as it is more important that students get tested twice a week than not show up



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because they didn't make an appointment. She also mentioned that if students or faculty see someone from off campus without a mask to politely ask them to put one on. If students are uncomfortable with that, they should contact campus safety. She also said that no one has had permission from the college to come on campus and take pictures.

- **Addressing Jodel Concerns - Jerry Tylutki (25:00)**

Jerry Tylutki is the Information Security Officer and is responsible for controlling and protecting all of the data and services from vendors that the college interacts with. He explained that there have been many anonymous geofencing apps before Jodel like Yik Yak that students have used. Geofencing refers to a system that virtually brings together anonymous users within the same physical area. The company is based in Berlin, Germany which prevents the college's network from blocking it. Jodel allows for anyone to post anonymous comments. He suggested that students report or flag comments that are xenophobic, homophobic, racist, or anything of that nature.

Eric Kopp asked if a person is blocked from Jodel, whether they can still access the app.

Jerry Tylutki said that the person would not be able to use that account anymore.

Jerry Tylutki said that if anyone sees anything that is threatening they should contact campus safety for an immediate concern or report the post.

Lóri Fejes asked to clarify whether the college can get rid of Jodel.

Jerry Tylutki said that the college can not get rid of it.

Jeffrey Bush asked Jerry to explain the New York State app mentioned by Dean Martinez.

Jerry Tylutki explained that the app functions with bluetooth technology. He explained that the phone can log when it connects to another phone with bluetooth. If someone tests positive, the bluetooth data of that positive case will be sent to the cloud and anyone who was close to that individual would receive a message.

- **Dining Hall Discussion and Feedback - Lucy Burke and Reuben Haag (34:20)**

Lucy Burke and Reuben Haag thanked the community for their patience while Bon Appetit continues to adjust to the new circumstances. Lucy mentioned she had been working with Tatum Barclay and Emma Liles on the College Affairs Committee and they would continue to take any feedback. Lucy talked about what they would be changing moving forward. She mentioned that they had to adjust to New York State laws this semester and designed everything for safety



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measures. They reduced the dining space by fifty percent. Moving forward with the cold, she mentioned that they would be moving the blue adirondack chairs inside which allows for more seating. They are currently trying to find more spaces to eat and more information will be sent soon.

She then addressed the issues of sustainability. She mentioned that because of the New York State laws, they switched from using reusable silverware to single use. She said that they have continued to use take out boxes because if they were to use regular plates and the cases were high, they would have to switch immediately back to take out. She said that students can sign up through HSC to receive reusable utensils. She suggested that students use reusable water bottles instead of plastic ones. She mentioned that they have been working with the Sustainability Committee on food waste. She said that moving inside will help reduce waste because HSC will be there to help students dispose of waste properly. She said that they would implement reusable take out bags for students to take food back to their dorms. She recognized that there were not a variety of choices but with the guidelines, it was very difficult to have more options. She expressed her appreciation for the feedback they've been receiving and would like to listen to anyone who has concerns.

Reuben Haag explained that the menu options were designed to help the lines move quicker in the dining halls. He recognized that students were eager to have the dining options from last year, but that would take time. He said that they've been observing what type of food items students like or dislike and adjusting the menu accordingly. He mentioned that if students want a certain food item, they should tell Bon Appetit, because they want to serve items that students will eat.

Questions/Comments

Eric Kopp asked a question that was sent in by Kai Scarangella:

In general, can there be a greater variety of healthy and/or vegetarian options? There are always so many starches, like rice, potatoes, pasta, etc., to choose from, and typically only one or two vegetable options.

Reuben Haag said that he would work on that issue.

Olivia Chandler suggested that the vegetables be cooked better since they are typically undercooked.

Stephen Kelly asked what could be done so the chicken is not undercooked or raw. He mentioned it was at McEwen and Commons.

Reuben Haag said he would notify the staff.



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Eric Kopp asked questions sent in by Kai Scarangella:

Can they serve vegan burgers and/or black bean burgers upon request at the grill station daily? I don't see why this isn't possible, but if it's not, why not?

Commons consistently runs out of pizza and/or nachos by 11:00pm or so. However, there are almost always chicken wings and/or subs available past 11. What can be done about this?

Can peanut butter and jelly sandwiches be a daily sandwich option? These are super easy to make and are well liked by omnivores, vegetarians, and vegans.

Reuben Haag said that they are still trying to learn how to make late night better and said they would be fixing that issue. He mentioned that there would be a vegan grill option served at McEwen starting Thursday. He said that they could definitely create peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for students.

Lóri Fejes mentioned that students can work for Bon Appetit.

Tatum Barclay said that students could email her or Emma if there are issues, questions, or comments about the dining halls since they meet with Lucy and Reuben periodically.

Stephen Kelly spoke to some issues students had regarding food upsetting their stomachs, lack of variety, hair in food, and mold in fruit. He asked if there can be something done about the fruit.

Reuben Haag said he would look into the concerns.

More Questions/ Comments about the first COVID student case ([56:30](#))

Amanda Kim asked whether the college could release locations where the student was at so students could come forward about being in that area. She also asked if the college could provide information on the residence hall so students wouldn't have to figure it out themselves.

Dean Martinez said that they immediately sanitized the surfaces where the student was present. She said that students should focus more about keeping distance and wearing masks.

Jeffrey Bush mentioned that the residence hall that the student was in was not mentioned in the first email and that instead students found out through Jodel. He said that students would be more cautious if they knew from the beginning which hall the student was from.

Dean Martinez disagreed, saying that students knowing about the residence hall would not make them do anything more other than keep their mask on and social distance.



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Jeffrey Bush emphasized that it's important that all students always follow the COVID protocols and that it would be appreciated if information was sent out sooner.

Dean Martinez said that what concerns her is what students do in their residence halls and they should continue to follow the guidelines at all times.

Eric Kopp mentioned that a couple of weeks ago, a man was selling popcorn outside of commons and asked what the college could do to prevent people like that from coming on campus.

Dean Martinez said that if students see unusual behavior to call campus security.

Lóri Fejes clarified it was someone working with Bon Apettiti's late night.

Emma Liles said that as a resident of Milbank, she would've appreciated a notice earlier because it would've allowed her to be more cautious about where she had gone throughout the weekend.

Dean Martinez said she would bring the comment up to the task force.

Eric Kopp and Tommy Keith both said goodnight to Dean Martinez at the same time.

Eric Kopp said jinx but Tommy did not hear what he said.

Amanda Kim demanded that the exchange be put in the minutes.

4. Old Business

- **Update on Resolution 20-1 - Eric Kopp (1:05:30)**

Eric Kopp mentioned that he and Cole Kuczek presented to the Board of Trustees about Resolution 20-1. They received the following email about the Trustee's decision.

Dear Student Assembly Members,

At its regular meeting on Friday, the Board of Trustees met with two representatives from Student Assembly, who discussed the assembly's recent resolution pertaining to increased student representation on the board.

The trustees acknowledged the importance of hearing more regularly from Student Assembly and talked about finding mechanisms for student representatives to report about issues or concerns. Ideas included having the board chair meet annually with one or more officers of Student Assembly, asking the assembly president and vice president to participate in the orientation for new board members so that they have a better understanding of what the board does and how it operates, and periodically inviting the assembly president or vice president to make remarks at board meetings.



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Last year, trustees affirmed an earlier resolution that invited designated students to attend a majority of the standing committees of the board and to solicit their input about the issues under consideration. This was an important step toward ensuring that student voices are heard and considered on matters that come before the board, but Friday's meeting included discussion about finding ways to maximize the benefit of student representation on trustee committees. The board also acknowledged that trustees have other occasions for informal interaction with students and that the board should look for opportunities to expand those interactions.

Although some colleges and universities do have students serving as voting trustees, most of our peer institutions do not. At Hamilton, board members are appointed to terms of either four or six years to provide continuity and deepen trustees' ability to contribute to the work of the board. Board members assume significant legal and financial obligations as part of their commitment to board service.

Taking everything into account, trustees decided not to add students as members, but the board will seek ways to enhance student input and board-student communication. Among other things, President Wipman will provide more details in his community updates following future meetings.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I express my appreciation to the members of Student Assembly for their interest in the governance of the College, and I look forward to increased future interaction.

Sincerely,

*Stephen I. Sadove '73, P '07, '10, '13
Chair, Hamilton Board of Trustees*

Eric Kopp mentioned the Assembly would send a formal response in the coming weeks.

Questions/Comments

Noelle Niznik thanked everyone who was a part of creating the resolution and mentioned that though it was not the response the assembly wanted, they have created a dialogue with the board that will hopefully allow for more transparency.

Lóri Fejes asked how many students were invited to the Trustee meeting.

Eric Kopp said he believed that him and Cole Kuczek were the only ones in attendance.

Cole Kuczek thanked Noelle and Mariam and mentioned that although he was disappointed he was hopeful for progress and better interaction with the Board of Trustees.

Jackson Harris mentioned that it would be important for the Board to release public minutes or a modified version of it.



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Eric Kopp emphasized that the resolution had started a conversation going and is a major step forward. He also thanked Cole, Mariam, and anyone who supported the resolution.

5. Acknowledgements (1:16:30)

Tommy Keith acknowledged Eric and Cole for presenting to the Board of Trustees, the Equity and Inclusion Committee for meeting with the Advisory Council, and Ashley and the Publicity Committee for organizing spirit day.

6. Funding (1:18:00)

Amount Remaining: \$58,744.67

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Spanish Club	Event food request	\$98.20	\$98.20	no
Tumbling After	Electronic music sheets and Spotify licensing fees	\$148.99	\$148.99	no

Amount Requested: \$247.19

Amount Recommended: \$247.19

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$58,497.48

The motion to fund in full passes

7. Announcements (1:20:00)

- **The Sadove Basement Multipurpose Room is open! Come make posters and talk to SA representatives.**
 - Hours - Monday & Friday: 1-5 PM, and Wednesday 1-5 PM & 7-9 PM
 - You can find more information [here](#).
- **HSC, SA, and the Dean of Students Office have teamed up to buy 500 reusable utensil sets. To get one, [fill out this form](#).**
- **Class of 2022 representatives will be holding office hours 1-3 on Saturday! Come join them and voice your comments, questions, or concerns.**
- **FAFSA and the Diversity Visa Lottery applications opened up last week!**
- **Want to host an in person event and need approval? Contact Noelle Niznik or Kaity Stewart.**



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

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- **Student Activities has teamed up with the Counseling Center to create quarantine kits for students currently in quarantine. Please contact Noelle Niznik for more information.**

