

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2020

1. Call to Order

Present		Tardy	Unexcused
Tatum Barclay	Eric Kopp	Savannah Kelly	Christian Hanna
Emily Boviero	Cole Kuczek		
Johanna Bowen	Emma Liles		
Jeffrey Bush	Omar Lopez		
Olivia Chandler	Dewayne Martin		
Emily Fienco	Maya Mathews		
Lóri Fejes	Dylan Morse		
Ashley Garcia	Adina Mujica		
Jackson Harris	Jessica Parsons		
Christian Hernandez	Dorothy Poucher		
Gianni Hill	Mariam Saied		
Jiin Jeong	Caroline Ullem		
Tommy Keith	Seámus Wiseman		
Stephen Kelly	Jessie Gross		
Amanda Kim	Lilia Harlan		
	Drew Anderson		

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

- **Conversation on the Long-Term Structure of Student Assembly - Eric Kopp (2:30)**

Eric Kopp presented a [powerpoint](#) explaining the structure of the current Student Assembly and the possible changes that could be made. Eric's main objective was to start a conversation on the balance of work within the Assembly and offer alternative structures. Eric first explained the concerns and critiques that students had about the Assembly. He then explained aspects that the Assembly must consider when thinking of a new structure. He explained the current structure of



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2020

the Assembly and emphasized that the central council is listed as an executive body. He explained more information about the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branch. He explained that the Executive branch has the power to put plans, actions, or laws into effect. Legislative then has the power to make the laws a reality. Eric then presented alternative structures.

Questions/Comments:

Tommy Keith thanked Eric Kopp for starting a conversation on how the Assembly could change aspects of the structure. Tommy emphasized that the presentation and structures are not meant to be implemented immediately and just serve as a way to think about the future of the Assembly.

Jiin Jeong commented that the new structures seemed complicated and insufficient. She emphasized that the Assembly needs to focus on efficiency. She said that currently, the Assembly struggles with gaining engagement with the student body. She mentioned if there were more positions, it would become too complicated.

Eric Kopp said that the current Assembly structure is insufficient. He emphasized that there is too much work for the central council and wanted the Assembly to look at how to disburse that work to other members.

Cole Kuczek was in favor of adding a Chief of Staff and Class Councils to help the President and Vice President. He mentioned that it would be difficult to have more members in the Assembly considering it is difficult to fulfill positions already.

Lóri Fejes said that the Assembly does not have the executive and legislative power that the college has. He said that at the end of the day, the college would continue to be run by the Board of Trustees. He mentioned that whatever structure the Assembly changes into, students would never be able to make real decisions that bring about change. He said that the Assembly needs opportunities to make decisions for the college.

Eric Kopp said that the Executive Branch would be in charge of meeting with members of Admin and trying to influence decisions that the college makes. He mentioned that by distributing work among members, the President and Vice President could focus more on handling decisions that relate to the Board of Trustees.

Amanda Kim suggested that the Assembly address the topic at a later time to allow members to process the information presented.

Jeffrey Bush said that by adding new positions, it would be difficult for the student body to understand what the Assembly actually accomplished and it would be harder to gain student involvement. He emphasized that the Assembly must strive for efficiency. He suggested that the Assembly look at removing committees to balance out work. He then questioned where the



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2020

remaining Student Assembly funding got distributed from last semester. He emphasized that in order for the Assembly to have real influence, there has to be transparency.

Noelle Niznik could not specifically say where those funds were distributed but mentioned that Student Activities' funding is spent in other areas as well. She mentioned that hopefully the money left over from this semester would roll over to the spring semester.

Jesse Gross spoke about the inefficiencies of the committees and about his involvement with the LITS committee.

Eric Kopp mentioned that all points said were valid and that part of the new additions to the Assembly would address the frequency of meetings.

Tommy Keith mentioned that the turnout for meetings hosted by the Assembly have been a recurring issue. He mentioned that it would be addressed in the constitutional amendments.

- **Election Update (49:05)**

Eric Kopp reported that in order to account for the anxiety and uncertainty that might occur in the preceding week, the SA Presidential and Vice Presidential Election has **been moved to Thursday, Nov. 19 through Friday, Nov 20.**

- **Org. Town Hall Bylaws - Séamus Wiseman (42:41)**

Séamus Wiseman presented provisions to cancel or move Student Assembly sponsored meetings where the Assembly expects low attendance. The provisions also include to push back the Student Assembly funding cluster model to Fall 2021 and continue with the old funding codes until the end of next semester. The second part of the provisions were made at the request of Student Activities.

Noelle Niznik mentioned that because of the circumstances of this semester concerning COVID-19, Student Activities did not feel prepared to implement the new cluster model next semester.

The motion to pass the bylaw amendments passes

4. Old Business

5. Acknowledgments (47:02)

Tommy Keith acknowledged Kaity Stewart, Tatum Barclay, and the rest of HamVotes committee for helping him with his voting situation while in quarantine.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2020

Tatum Barclay acknowledged Kaity Stewart, Paula Lopez, and all the Student Activities representatives for taking their personal time to make sure students' ballots got counted.

Eric Kopp acknowledged the Publicity Committee for a successful spirit day. He also acknowledged Ashley Garcia for taking a lead and going to and from various booths.

6. Committee Reports (50:09)

○ **Executive Committees:**

■ **Executive - Tommy Keith**

Tommy Keith reported that the Executive Committee have discussed COVID-19 policies and have given recommendations to the task force.

■ **Internal Affairs - Eric Kopp**

Eric Kopp reported that the Internal Affairs Committee met two weeks ago and have been working on the status of projects that would not be completed this semester. He also reported that they are planning to release a document that would track the status of projects to help future members of the committee.

■ **Constitution - Séamus Wiseman**

Séamus Wiseman reported that there would be amendments surrounding the elections to be voted on soon.

■ **Funding - Maya Mathews**

Maya Mathews encouraged organizations and clubs to request funding for their upcoming projects. She also reported that the Executive Board had a meeting on how they plan to implement the cluster model and there would be more discussions on that soon.

■ **Recordkeeping - Christian Hernandez Barragan**

Christian Hernandez Barragan suggested that members of the Assembly send him a shortened blurb of their announcements to put in the minutes to make communication clearer and easier.

■ **Org. Relations - Savannah Kelly**

Savannah Kelly reported that the Org. Relations Committee have been able to outline the Diversity and Equity Inclusion workshop for organizations. She thanked Jess, Dewayne, Mariam, Lóri, and Tommy for their help. She reported that the committee had their third Org. Town Hall meeting where Special K expressed their concerns for the funding codes. She then announced that they will be hosting an Ice Cream for Ice Skates night. They will have free skate rentals and ice cream in locations across campus. This event will happen on **Saturday November 7th**. She thanked Reuben Haag, Terry Martinez, Ashley Place, Lucy Burke, Noelle Niznik, Kaity Stewart, and Ashley Garcia for their help.

■ **Public Relations - Ashley Garcia**

Ashley Garcia thanked Adina, Emily and Noelle for their work on spirit day. She also thanked everyone who volunteered at the spirit day booths. She reported that the Class of 2024 and the Class of 2021 will be having their town halls on Sunday, November 8th.

7. Funding (55:49)

Amount Remaining: **\$47,289.49**



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2020

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Aquaponics	Tilapia and Supplies	\$214.05	\$214.05	no
ICA Trivia Night	Gift card prize money	\$95.00	\$40.00	no
Lawn Game Society	Board games and more!	\$718.91	\$718.91	no
Society for Physics Students	Computer program	\$123.98	\$123.98	no
Student Dance Alliance	Hip Hop instruction	\$50.00	\$50.00	no

Amount Requested: \$1201.94

Amount Recommended: \$1146.94

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: **\$46,142.55**

Maya Matthews reported:

Aquaponics requested funding for Tilapia and Supplies. The treasurers recommended to fund in full.

The International Cultural Association requested funding for gift card prize money for their Trivia Night. According to the funding codes, they can only fund up to \$40 per event and that would be \$20 per prize. For that reason, the treasurers recommended \$40.

Lawn Game Society requested funding for turf, heaters, and more board games. The treasurers recommended to fund in full only if the turf and the heaters were allowed to be communal.

Society for Physics Students requested funding for a computer program. The treasurers recommended to fund in full.

Student Dance Alliance requested funding for a hip hop instruction. The treasurers recommended to fund in full.

Questions/Comments:

Jackson Harris asked how students would know that they could use the turf lawn in the future.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2020

Noelle Niznik said that the college keeps tabs of what materials they have and would recommend other clubs to use it when it is not being used.

Maya Mathews mentioned that the assembly still has \$46,142.55 left in the budget and that it would roll into next semester. She suggested students get creative with events to utilize the funding next semester.

The motion to fund the organizations passes.

8. Announcements (1:00:50)

- **SA President and Vice President Election will be held electronically Thursday, Nov. 12th to the end of day on Friday, Nov. 13th.**
To appear on the ballot, candidates must then:
 - **Attend one (1) election rules meeting the week of Nov.2 (time can in the hyperlinked document below)**
 - **Submit 200-word ticket platform, photographs, and signature sheets by Nov. 7th at noon.**
 - **To find more in depth information about running for the positions, please refer to the [election information sheet](#).**
- **Remember to fill out the Campus Safety Community Relationship [Survey](#) conducted by ResLife and the Safety Committee of Student Assembly!**
- **We encourage students to share feedback on how to bring about student support and success with the new Hamilton Starfish program. Please join the student focus group meeting ([Zoom Link](#), Meeting ID: 735 058 2913) with Ejob O'Brien, Starfish strategic consultant, on Monday, November 9th at 4:15 PM. Participants do not need to prepare anything in advance.**
- **The Peer Counselors will be hosting a series called “ Managing Stress During COVID-19 at Hamilton College” on Wednesday/Thursday/Friday for the next three weeks from 7-8pm EST. [Here is the Zoom Link!](#)**

