

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

AUGUST 31ST, 2020

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

- **Land Acknowledgement - Eric Kopp (2:57)**
- **HERT Update - Frank Coots (5:00)**

Frank Coots began by thanking the Student Assembly for the opportunity to speak and expressed his happiness that students are back on campus. He explained that he came to the SA meeting to explain two of the Hamilton Emergency Response Team (HERT) notices from last week. The first was the threat to campus by an anonymous caller. This happened to at least 20 other institutions. The investigation was conducted by the FBI and the NY State Police. They determined that the message originated from the state of Texas and have identified suspects. The second was an attempted abduction that took place at the “Halfway House.” The victim was a 70-year-old woman, the perpetrator was a male teenager. He told her not to scream and come with him. She screamed, alerting bystanders, and he fled toward the Village. State police identified the individual quickly. The woman elected not to press charges and the perpetrator will be referred to counseling for his mental health issues.

Frank emphasized that he feels it is important to inform the community and keep the community updated about these notices and wanted to address SA and answer questions. He also added that Campus Safety will begin enforcing parking regulations starting next Monday.

- **Questions/Comments (10:57)**
 - **Gianni Hill** asked about the feasibility of converting the Root Faculty Lot and KTSA lot into student parking, given that Glenview Residence Halls have reduced space in student parking lots.
 - Frank Coots responded that Campus Safety is proposing that students be allowed to park in the KTSA lot on weekends, but this proposal has not yet been approved. Root faculty lot is used by McEwen staff members and so he is more hesitant to open it to students. However, Frank Coots and his office are attempting to identify new spaces that could be used as student parking to address the issues Gianni raised.

- **Introductions - Tommy Keith and Eric Kopp (14:15)**

Tommy Keith began by acknowledging the ways that COVID-19 has affected us all and exposed inequities in society, emphasizing that we have the power to choose how we respond and adapt. He stated that he and Eric’s main goal in this semester will be equity and that racial equality will be at the forefront of initiatives. Cultural Affairs Committee is being changed to Equity & Inclusion, and the new #KnowThyInstitution campaign will also help bring light to these issues. Land acknowledgements will be made every meeting, and SA has an upcoming DEI training with Dean Maria Genao-Homs. We are working on requiring an equity statement for all student organizations to be in place next semester. He added that transparency and accessibility are other issues that will be a heavy focus this semester and encouraged representatives to attend



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his open office hours and come to meetings with student organizations. He also stated that the third main focus this semester is on Love, urging Assembly members to recognize the importance of love and acceptance in our community.

Eric Kopp reminded the Assembly that our roles are to amplify student voices and address inequity on campus, and that we have the capacity and infrastructure to respond to crises. He also emphasized the importance of attendance at meetings and reiterated the Student Assembly attendance policy.

- **Questions/Comments**
 - **Dylan Morse** asked about committees and when the survey that was previously announced to the Assembly will be distributed.
 - **Tommy Keith** distributed the survey later in the meeting.

- **Summer Initiative Updates - Mariam Saied, Séamus Wiseman, Eric Kopp, and Ashley Garcia (21:17)**

Tommy Keith introduced the updates by explaining that the Student Assembly was working on a wide range of issues over the summer.

Mariam Saied served as co-chair of Building an Inclusive Campus Culture (BICC) committee. She explained that the initiative began by dealing with Jodel problems and addressing discrimination on the app. Most of the summer was spent figuring out foundations for work this Fall semester. They met with many student organizations and different administrators. The current big project is the #KnowThyInstitution campaign. It is also a way for the committee to support student artists and Mariam encouraged students to submit artwork.

Séamus Wiseman chaired the Constitution committee, which prepared 21 pages of amendments and additional 21 in collaboration with funding initiatives over the summer. He thanked Tatum Barclay, Eric Kopp, Eric Stenzel, and Maya Mathews for work on the committee.

Eric Kopp led the Building SA's Relationships with Hamilton College Administration. There were workshops in the beginning with resolution writing. Middle to end of summer moved to administration outreach groups. They met with every senior staff department. The committee and resolution training guide is still being proofed and will be sent out to everyone on SA.

Ashley Garcia led the Publicity committee. Focused on transparency to address lack of knowledge about SA from students and improving the accessibility of SA. Work included Friday/Saturday takeovers on social media (check out saved highlights!). They focused on using Twitter and Facebook more and piloted the SA newsletter "SA On The Brain" (shoutout to Mil Fienco for the name!). Let Ashley know if you have ideas for the newsletter.

- **Confirmations (27:00)**
 - **Executive Board**



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- Maya Mathews '23 - Treasurer
Maya Mathews stated that she hopes to continue her focus on making positive change on the e-board now as Treasurer.
Motion to confirm passes.
- Savannah Kelly '21 - Org. Relations Chair
Savannah Kelly explained that her focus will be on equity and inclusion initiatives and making sure all organizations and students are included and have a voice.
Motion to confirm passes.
- **Central Council**
 - Jeffrey Bush '22 - Class Representative
Jeffrey expressed excitement about being back on SA and continuing work he had done over the summer with summer initiatives.
Motion to confirm passes.
- **Appeals Board**
 - Emma Liles '21
Emma Liles said she plans on listening and being thoughtful.
Motion to confirm passes.
 - Lucy Hamann '22
Lucy Hamann expressed excitement about this opportunity to support the student body.
Motion to confirm passes.
- **Liaisons**
 - Jesse Gross '22 - LITS
Jesse expressed excitement about joining SA as LITS Liaison and explained his responsibilities as liaison.
 - Lilia Harlan '22 - Sustainability
Lilia Harlan expressed excitement about the role and plans to continue building on work from previous semesters.
- **Committee Introductions - Eric Kopp and Committee Chairs (38:05)**
Eric Kopp listed the committees, emphasizing that Executive, Internal Affairs, and Funding are closed committees.

Seamus Wiseman introduced the Constitution Committee. The committee oversees the Constitution and Bylaws and is focused on upholding and changing the legislature.

Eric Kopp introduced the Secretary/Record-keeping committee, which is in charge of the minutes, attendance, and record-keeping. It is a small committee, consisting of about 2-3 people including the Secretary.



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Savannah Kelly introduced Org Relations. The committee recognizes/approves new organizations and will be focused on diversity and inclusion initiatives for student organizations.

Ashley Garcia introduced Public Relations. Her committee focuses on transparency and everything publicity-related.

Emma Liles introduced College Affairs. Anything that's not covered by other committees that deals with administration is covered by this committee. The emphasis is on ensuring all members of administration feel like they have a point of contact. Anyone who's interested in working with administration and is a good communicator is welcome.

Jiin Jeong introduced AED and will be working with vice chair Olivia Chandler to lead the committee on Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Development. This semester will be focused on getting committee rolling, doing research on other college governments, and supporting AED for students, especially for students whose schedules or plans were changed due to pandemic. Jiin would love to have a variety of class years with fresh ideas for the committee.

Dorothy Poucher introduced Community Affairs and will be working with vice chair Amanda Kim. The focus is on mental health, physical health, and community standards. A huge focus will be around mental health specifically. The committee will focus a lot on accessibility, resources, staffing, and other issues like destigmatizing and cultural change on our campus.

Lóri Fejes and Mariam Saied introduced Equity and Inclusion. **Mariam** said much of work will be piggy-backing off of work in BICC this summer and combating inequities on campus. It is open to anyone on campus so if you are passionate about this work please join! Shoutout to Fatima Oliva for her help with the summer initiatives. **Lóri** added that the committee is still doing cultural affairs events so they are excited about helping students showcase their cultures. He described Mariam as the E&I Queen and himself as the Court Jester.

Gianni Hill introduced LITS. They will be focused on updating the movie channel and other initiatives. The committee is very open and receptive to feedback about any issues that might arise, especially with remote learning. **Jesse Gross** added that feedback about new technologies students would like to see is welcome and encouraged.

Jackson introduced **ReS**, which is focused on Residential Life and Safety. They will be working closely with Frank Coats and Ashley Place, not just about new



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initiatives and projects, but also correcting issues that have already existed related to these departments.

Lilia Harlan introduced **Sustainability**. Last semester the committee started up composts in the suites and they have connections to HSC and Brian and Sarah, so the committee will be getting resources from them. If you have ideas or plans for sustainability, please join!

Omar Lopez introduced Traditions, which typically works with Student Activities to continue events that have been going on for years and starting new traditions. Events include FallFest and the Lighting of the Village. This semester things will need to change so ideas and new members are welcome.

○ **Statement on Proposed Change to Student Evaluations for Faculty** ([53:15](#))

Tommy Keith explained that some members of the COA wanted to extend suspension of student course evaluations into this fall semester. He explained that he and Eric strongly oppose this considering that students are being evaluated and it is important that professors are held to the same standard. He read the proposed statement to the faculty (see Minutes Email).

○ **Questions/Comments**

- **Lóri Fejes** asked a technical question. He stated that he agreed with the statement but was curious about how the Assembly learned of this motion by the COA, given that much of the summer initiatives' work was centered around administrative transparency.
 - **Eric Kopp** responded that this was brought to their attention by a professor.
- **Amanda Kim** agreed with the statement and acknowledged the importance of pointing out how the lack of accessibility for student feedback was problematic, but cautioned against using the phrase "quietly and hastily" to describe the motion because it implied bad intentions on the part of the COA, which she felt was a dangerous assumption.
 - **Tommy Keith** changed the phrasing to "without student feedback".
- **Caroline Ullem** asked what the implications of student feedback are.
 - **Eric Kopp** answered that it was used for tenure decisions but about 90% of faculty receive tenure.
- **Dylan Morse** asked about what the faculty's rationale was for this.
 - **Tommy Keith** answered that the rationale was that faculty are working under adverse circumstances and it is unfair to evaluate them. He added that his rationale to push back was that if students are subject to regular grades then the faculty should have to receive regular feedback.

Motion to submit the statement passes.

○ **Summer Constitution and Bylaw Amendments - Séamus Wiseman** ([1:04:58](#))



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Seamus Wiseman introduced new amendments. He explained that the rationale was to help shift SA's focus from funding to student affairs. See email for amendments and individual rationale.

○ **Questions/Comments:**

- **Mariam Saied** asked about cluster reps.
 - **Seamus Wiseman** explained that starting next semester, each organization will be placed into a cluster based on purpose and activities. Each cluster will put forth a document explaining how they chose their cluster representative to represent their organizational group.
 - **Maya Mathews** explained that one point of reasoning was to allocate funding to kind of activity as opposed to having merit arguments about each organization or individual activity.
 - **Tommy Keith** stated that it also allowed organizations an opportunity to collaborate more within their clusters.

- **Christian Hanna** asked about the document that organizations would be required to submit about choosing their cluster representatives and whether SA would need to verify that process.
 - **Seamus Wiseman** answered that the document would be verified by the Constitution Committee.

- **Mil Fienco** asked if cluster reps would have voting privileges for resolutions.
 - **Seamus Wiseman** stated that this was not included in the current amendment but there was room for it to be added in the future.
 - **Mariam Saied** asked if the change would still be possible even if we voted to approve this amendment in this meeting.
 - **Seamus Wiseman** clarified that future changes would still be possible.

Motion to approve changes (pending ratification by the student body) passes.

4. Old Business

5. Acknowledgments

6. Announcements

- **A recording of the Virtual Club Leader Training will be available soon. We highly encourage all leaders to watch this presentation!**
- **The Virtual Club Fair will be held this Friday 9/4 from 12-2pm. Sign up info will be forthcoming.**
- **Class of 2024 Banner Submissions due on 9/7! Email designs to SA@hamilton.edu**



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

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- Must be approximately 4' by 3' ratio
- Must include class year
- Must include the school colors as indicated on the [Hamilton website](#).

