

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2020

1. Call to Order

Attendance:

| Present | Excused | Unexcused | Tardy |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Tatum Barclay | Dorothy Poucher | Jenny Tran | Savannah Kelly |
| Emily Boviero | | Lilia Harlan | |
| Johanna Bowen | | | |
| Olivia Chandler | | | |
| Lóri Fejes | | | |
| Emily Fienco | | | |
| Ashley Garcia | | | |
| Jackson Harris | | | |
| Gianni Hill | | | |
| Jiin Jeong | | | |
| Tommy Keith | | | |
| Savannah Kelly | | | |
| Stephen Kelly | | | |
| Amanda Kim | | | |
| Eric Kopp | | | |
| Cole Kuczek | | | |
| Emma Liles | | | |
| Omar Lopez | | | |
| Maya Mathews | | | |
| Dewayne Martin | | | |
| Dylan Morse | | | |
| Adina Mujica | | | |
| Jessica Parsons | | | |
| Dorothy Poucher | | | |



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| | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Mariam Saied | | | |
| Caroline Ullem | | | |
| Seamus Wiseman | | | |
| Jessie Gross | | | |
| Jeffrey Bush | | | |
| Christian Hanna | | | |

2. Public Comment Period

No Public Comment.

3. New Business

- **Academic Affairs Introduction and Updates - Dean Suzanne Keen (3:00)**

Suzanne Keen (Dean of Faculty and Professor of Literature and Creative Writing) spoke about her role at Hamilton and explained that she is like the counterpart and opposite of Dean Martinez's position as she oversees the faculty and their needs such as retirement options, tenure, and promotions, and hiring of new faculty. She explained that the Dean of Faculty Office includes Nicolas de la Riva (Assistant Dean for Academic Finance and Resources), Nathan Goodale (Associate Dean of Faculty), and Penny Yee (Associate Dean of Faculty).

In addition, Kathy Wolfe is the Dean of Engaged Education and is in charge of the new ALEX Initiative. ALEX stands for Advice, Learn, And Experience. This program comes from a strategic plan that Hamilton put together back in 2017. It's an initiative that improves advising for students and provides resources for supporting learning and encourages experiential learning. Starting next fall, all new Hamilton students will have an ALEX advisor in addition to their faculty advisor. Current students will not have an ALEX Advisor. These advisors will be a resource to help with questions or concerns that academic advisors might not be able to answer like questions about off-campus study, wellness, learning centers, internship opportunities, and anything that students can participate in to enrich their experiences. The college wants to make sure all students get attention and have full access to all resources.

Questions/Comments:

Jeffrey Bush asked about whether ALEX advisors will be faculty members or professional advisors from outside of campus.

Dean Keen explained that many advisors will be career center advisors and that the college will hire eight ALEX Advisors but that the first year will most likely have four or five advisors for all



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students. They will be professional advisors and not faculty members. Each advisor will have prior experience in subjects like studying abroad, wellness, careers, internships, and other necessary subjects. All eight will be working in cross-training and teaching each other in areas that each advisor is more knowledgeable in. Every new student will still have a faculty advisor and this new advisor will be an additive.

Gianni Hill expressed his concern of having multiple advisors listed on his web advisor and suggested that the issue be resolved for future students to prevent confusion.

Dean Keen said that the ALEX initiative will allow the college to pivot to a new advising software called Starfish which will allow all advisors of a student to collaborate together and help support the student together instead of on an individual basis. She recognized that having multiple advisors can cause miscommunication.

Johanna Bowen asked how the ALEX advisors will affect the study abroad advisors that students currently have.

Dean Keen explained that workers in the writing center, oral communication center, Levitt center, and other offices will not be replaced by the creation of ALEX. Normally, if a student needs specific help in any of those centers, the ALEX advisor will direct them towards the correct person.

Jiin Jeong asked what type of relationship students will have with ALEX advisors and whether meetings will be mandatory or if students can just reach out and schedule one. She also expressed her concern with the small number of advisors.

Dean Keen explained that the curriculum that's going to be used for first-year students is in the process of being created. Each advisor will have about 250 students which is a small number compared to other similar colleges and universities. ALEX advisors will have a curriculum that introduces students to resources that focus on self-discovery and subjects that are appropriate for first year students. Later on, older students will be able to make appointments with advisors but it will not be mandatory.

Amanda Kim asked to what extent student activities figure into experimental learning and whether advisors will be knowledgeable about the student organizations on campus.

Dean Keen said that student affairs was involved with the committees that constructed the first model of ALEX and were involved in the hiring of the new dean. Student affairs will serve on the advisory committee for ALEX moving forward. She mentioned that last year, under her guidance, the faculty slightly amplified the eight educational goals for Hamilton to emphasize student organizations. She emphasized that these connections will be facilitated under the ALEX structure.



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Jesse Gross asked when freshmen will get assigned an ALEX advisor and whether January admitted students get one as well.

Dean Keen said that all freshmen will receive an ALEX advisor and that those advisors could potentially change at the beginning of the semester as students try to figure out their schedules.

○ **Remarks on Utica Police Violence - Tommy Keith (28:20)**

“On Friday, September 4th, Officer Matt Felitto of the Utica Police Department physically assaulted Kerwin Taylor, a black male, while in custody. Taylor had been arrested for threatening a female with a firearm, fleeing the scene and resisting arrest. The Utica Police Department has suspended the officer without pay and the case has been directed to the Oneida County DA’s office for possible criminal charges. Though we commend the City of Utica for swift action in suspending the officer, we hope the DA’s office follows through with criminal charges.

We condemn the acts of Office Felitto and support the protests against this abhorrent act and the broader systems of police brutality and mass incarceration that plague our nation. Black Lives Matter, and for too long in this country they have not. This must change if we are to ever heal as a country and achieve equity.

Lasty, the Student Assembly will fully support those who are grieving from these human rights abuses in any way shape or form. The Days Massolo center has put together healing sessions for students to grieve, heal, and move forward together. We encourage all students to attend these sessions, as this semester has brought with it unprecedented challenges and instability. The links for those events are in the agenda and will be in the minutes. Furthermore, if students want to peacefully assemble to protest police brutality, Student Assembly can provide the necessary resources to do so, provided the protests adhere to the school’s COVID-19 guidelines and stay on campus”

○ **Student Org. Town Hall - Savannah Kelly and Séamus Wiseman (31:13)**

Seamus Wiseman talked about the Student Organization Town Hall, which was an event that was amended last semester, happening this Sunday, September 20th, 2020 at 3 PM via Zoom. This event allows five members from student organizations to speak with the Student Assembly Central Council and the Executive board about questions, concerns, and or comments they might have. There will be a meeting for student leaders every three weeks and organizations can only attend one.



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Savannah Kelly commented that all organizations are allowed to attend the meeting and she hopes most of the organizations will be present.

Questions/Comments

Olivia Chandler asked which members from the central council are required to attend.

Seamus Wiseman said that all members must attend.

- **Sadove Resource Room - Eric Kopp (33:41)**

Eric Kopp notified the assembly that they are planning to reopen the Sadov Resource Room. Materials will be moved to the Sadove basement and the college is trying to reopen as soon as next Monday. Eric asked members of the assembly to volunteer to help oversee that students are using the materials and the room properly.

Noelle Niznik explained that the Sadove Resource Room provides resources for clubs and organizations to create posters and use materials to further aid their clubs. There are lockers where student groups can store their belongings. She stated that they have not opened the space because many couches are being stored in the room. All materials will be brought to the basement. Depending on how the reopening goes, they will look at how to reopen more space in Sadove moving forward.

4. Old Business

- **Faculty Evaluation of Teaching - Eric Kopp (39:30)**

Eric Kopp mentioned that he and Tommy met with Professor Ann Owen (Chair of the Committee of Evaluation on Teaching). Moving forward, the committee will be looking for student input.

5. Funding (40:33)

Amount Remaining: **\$61,500.00**

| Organization | Items/Services Requested | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended | Resubmit |
|---------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Hamilton Aquaponics | Self-sustaining equipment diversification | \$1,503.40 | \$0.00 | Yes |

Amount Requested: **\$1,503.40**

Amount Recommended: **\$0.00**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: **\$61,500.00**



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Maya Mathews explained that a budget request is a new two week process this year and is processed through [Presence](#) which is due Friday, September 20th, 2020 at noon if organizations' proposals want to make it on Monday's meeting. If a proposal is passed, it moves on to the Student Activities COVID-19 taskforce to see if the activities are safe to conduct. If for some reason the group's proposal fails to pass the Student Activities COVID-19 taskforce, the process would restart until passed.

She explained that the treasurers review a proposal, discuss it, and then make a decision on whether to provide funding which they then send to the assembly to review. From there, the assembly votes on whether to go forward with the treasurers' decision.

Aquaponics is the first group to submit a funding request and they requested **\$1,503.40**. Maya stated that the treasurers agreed to make Aquaponics re submit their proposal as there was a discrepancy between what the assembly thought the budget was going to be versus what it has been historically.

Lori Flores explains that Aquaponics is a group that helps fish and plants coexist in a sustainable manner. They started the club about two years ago. He stated that the first time (Fall of 2018) the assembly funded their whole system which was about **\$6000**. Since then, they've allocated \$500 to the group to upkeep their system. He said that the treasurers are confused with how Aquaponics came to their requested amount. They believe that they need to understand more to provide a large budget and because they did not anticipate that requested amount, they must resubmit.

The motion to request resubmission passes

6. Acknowledgments ([49:50](#))

Tommy Keith acknowledged Maya Matthews, Christian Hernandez Barragan, and Savannah Kelly for stepping into their Executive board positions on such quick notice.

Eric Kopp acknowledged Class Presidents and Committee Chairs for their work throughout the weeks.

Tommy Keith acknowledged the Hamilton Sustainability Coordinators for their Food 2 Energy compost bins and providing signs to help students dispose of waste properly.

7. Announcements ([51:00](#))



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- **Class of 2024 Banner Submissions Deadline Extended Until September 30th.**
Email all submissions to sa@hamilton.edu.
 - Must be approximately 4' by 3' ratio
 - Must include class year
 - Must include the school colors as indicated on the [Hamilton website](#).
- **DMC Processing Circles**
 - [Registration link for September 15](#)
 - [Registration links for September 21, 29, and October 5](#)
- **Thanks to the Hamilton Sustainability Coordinators, you can now dispose of your food waste through their Food 2 Energy bins! Check out the photos below to know which food items go in which waste bins!**

