

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

**Present**

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



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**2. Public Comment Period**

**Juasline “Juju” Plasenica ’23** - expressed her concern for Hamilton’s environmental practices. She stated that not all the dining halls have the necessary compost bins and that there is a lack of clarity on how to properly dispose of waste. Juju proposed an idea that Hamilton should have a module that teaches students how to recycle properly. She petitioned for the installation of more water fountains in all dorms because the faucet water might contain chemicals. She said that she would appreciate it if the college or Student Assembly could distribute reusable utensils and perhaps make it mandatory.

**Lilia Harlan** stated that they have purchased five hundred reusable utensil kits for students. She said that they did not want to purchase one for every student as not everyone would use them. She recognized that because of the pandemic, it is very difficult to participate in sustainable practices at the moment. She explained that the water in the faucet and water fountains is the same and is clean to drink. In regards to the waste signs, Lilia believes that the signs are in most locations. She explained that although students have access to these signs, some still don’t dispose of their waste properly.

**Jeffrey Bush** thanked Juju for expressing her comments. He mentioned that he has been personally trying to get Bon Appetit to start using single dispensing utensils instead of the packets.

**Gianni Hill** said that renovated buildings will be getting water fountains and that the plan is to put those fountains in all dorms over time. He also stated that suites can sign up to receive composting bins in order to reduce waste.

**Tatum Barclay** said her, Emma Liles, and the College Affairs Committee are continuing to meet with Roger Wakeman and will address the water fountain situation.

**Jesse Gross** suggested that there could be more bins outside of commons since he’s seen some of them full after late night. He also suggested that the Sustainability Club could do recycling tutorials outside of Commons and McEwen.

**Dewayne Martin** said that many people might not feel comfortable drinking from the water in faucets and it would be best to have water filters in water fountains. He also stated that the signs are inaccessible and suggested they could be put up for people to view them easier.

**3. New Business**

- **Presentation on the Evaluation of Teaching - Professor Anne Owen**



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**Professor Anne Owen** explained how teaching is evaluated at Hamilton and the work that the Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching has done. She stated that there are two committees who work with the evaluation of teaching. One committee is the Committee of Appointments referred to as COA. COA is responsible for reviewing faculty who are up for reappointment, tenure, or promotion. The committee has between six to eight faculty members on it and is a permanent committee of the faculty. The second group is the Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching which focuses on the system for evaluating teaching. She stated that the confusion on suspending student surveys last semester because of COVID -19 is a separate issue. She said that the committee thinks more about longer-term changes to the whole system of evaluating teaching. She said that one aspect of evaluating teaching comes from student surveys. She said that some students will be requested to send in a letter for a professor who is in line for promotion or tenure. In addition, there is pure observation where faculty members observe professors. They also review teaching materials, assignments, exams, and make determinations based on them. Faculty also have to write a statement that pertains to their goals for teaching, strategies, successions, and failures and how they addressed them. She further explained that the Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching looks at their system and thinks about biases and any recommendation to the faculty. She said that moving forward they will be looking for student opinions on how to better solicit feedback. She stated that the committee is hoping to report to the faculty by next semester.

### Questions/Comments:

**Olivia Chandler** stated that from prior experience, it would be helpful to send out reminders to students who need to write a letter for professors so more students can complete them.

**Professor Owen** said that the committee is looking at how to get good responses from students and give them more time to do so.

**Eric Kopp** asked whether the school can provide a guide for what the students should evaluate in their letters.

**Professor Owen** recognized that students need guidance to write a good letter and need more time to draft a response.

**Cole Kuczek** asked whether or not students could give evaluations on the virtual aspect of courses this semester.

**Professor Owen** said that the faculty voted to keep the same form for students to give feedback. She said that the school might not have the ability to change the form but emphasizes giving as much feedback as possible on any subject. She stated that the spring semester is looking to be similar to this semester so faculty will need feedback on the virtual aspect.



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**Jackson Harris** asked what the policy is in choosing students to write letters for professors.

**Professor Owen** said that students are requested to write a letter when a professor is standing for tenure, reappointment or promotion. The faculty is allowed to give fifteen names of students to write letters. In addition to those names, the registrar's office randomly selects the students to write the letters.

**Jackson Harris** felt that there was more of a hesitation to write a letter if a student was selected rather than randomly selected.

**Professor Owen** said that student letters that are randomly selected have the potential to be valued more.

- **Liaison Confirmation**
  - Drew Anderson '21- Director of External Affairs

**Tommy Keith** explained that Drew will be in charge of broadening student government impacts to other students and finding ways to interact with other schools.

**Eric Kopp** said this position came out of one of the summer initiatives. Drew's position will be focused on where student voices can be amplified. In addition, Drew will reach out to other NESCAC schools and meet with student leaders.

**Drew Anderson '21** said that he was excited to strengthen relationships with other NESCAC schools and apply lessons learned from reviewing Title IX policies at Hamilton.

**Noelle Niznik** said that she was involved with a student activities network with other colleges and could potentially provide help.

**Maya Matthews** emphasized that it's important for Andrew to stay informed with Student Assembly's decisions and opinions on certain issues and represent the student voices accurately.

*The motion to confirm passes*

- **SA October 12th Meeting**

**Tommy Keith** announced that the Assembly will vote on cancelling the October 12th meeting next week to focus on midterms. He thanked the Assembly for their work throughout the last few weeks.

**4. Old Business**

- **Update on Resolution 20-1**



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**Tommy Keith** said the resolution was passed onto the Board of Trustees by Gill King and President Wippman and will be referred to the governance committee on the Board of Trustees in their October 2nd meeting. Tatum Barclay and Cole Kuczek Will be on the board and advocating for the resolution.

**5. Acknowledgments**

**Tommy Keith** congratulated Noelle Niznik on her engagement.

**Noelle Niznik** thanked the Assembly and to all the students who reached out.

**6. Committee Reports**

○ **Executive Committees:**

■ **Executive - Tommy Keith**

**Tommy Keith** reported that the executive committee have discussed off campus travel policies, residence hall policies, cohort policies and Tommy then reported these opinions to Dean Martinez. He stated that the Executive Committee dealt with COVID issues regarding students.

■ **Internal Affairs - Eric Kopp**

**Eric Kopp** explained that the Internal Affairs committee is a collaboration between the committee chairs and vice chairs. He mentioned that they had a meeting that dealt with many issues. The committee will be meeting regularly.

■ **Constitution - Séamus Wiseman**

**Seamus Wiseman** said everything on the Constitution Committee has been going well.

■ **Funding - Maya Mathews**

**Maya Mathews** reported that the Funding Committee has been doing well and they are working on the cluster model ready for the spring semester.

■ **Recordkeeping - Christian Hernandez Barragan**

**Christian Hernandez Barragan** thanked Tommy, Eric, and Maya for their help with his transition into the secretary position. He reported that he created a resolution tracker which already includes resolution 20-1. That tracker will be released soon.

■ **Org. Relations - Savannah Kelly**

**Savannah Kelly** reported that the committee met with the Dean of Students office to conceptualize a new diversity and inclusion initiative to release next semester. The committee's goal is for every student to be represented in all programs. She said that as the semester progresses, there will be more town hall meetings for organization leaders. The next meeting will be on October 11th from 3-5PM.

■ **Public Relations - Ashley Garcia**



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**Ashley Garcia** reported the news letter has been released. The committee is in contact with the communication's office. She said that if any student has anything to be announced on the Hamilton page or Student Assembly page to reach out to her.

**Tatum Barclay** asked whether class presidents can send posters to Ashley to post regarding class meetings.

○ **Standing Committees**

■ **College Affairs - Emma Liles and Tatum Barclay**

**Emma Liles** reported that the committee has been meeting with the administration in many departments. They talked about issues concerning facilities management, the library and other issues. The committee has been talking with Bon Appetit as well. They are trying to listen to the concerns of students to report back.

**Tatum Barclay** said that the administration appreciates any feedback from all students.

■ **Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Development (AED)  
- Jiin Jeong and Olivia Chandler**

**Jiin Jeong** said that the committee met with Dean Keen and talked about remote students, canopy allowance, and transparency. The committee is hoping to host an open hour with the Dean. They also talked about the room for student involvement in faculty committees. They will be holding a committee open hour next week October 2nd for first year students.

● **Community Affairs - Dorothy Poucher and Amanda Kim**

**Dorothy Poucher** reported that they've met with Dean Landry and Sam from Minds for Change on a campaign that focuses on mental health during the pandemic. They also hope to have a meeting with the administration to discuss how to better include and support remote students and resources for BIPOC students.

■ **Equity & Inclusion - Mariam Saied & Lóri Fejes**

**Mariam Saied** said that they will be working with BLSU and La Vanguardia for Latinx Heritage Month. They will be presenting to the advisory council and are working with the Org. Relations Committee on the equity action plan. They will be meeting with more cultural and identity based organizations on what to work on moving forward.

**Lóri Fejes** reported that they will be creating a calendar of events where students can participate in identity based activities.

■ **LITS - Gianni Hill**

**Gianni Hill** reported that everything released in the minutes last week is what the committee has been working on.

**Eric Kopp** said that the basement of Root Hall has not had adequate WiFi.



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**Jesse Gross** said that when students have issues similar to that, they should report to the help desk.

● **Residential Life and Safety (ReS) - Jackson Harris and Dylan Morse**

**Jackson Harris** said that they've been working with Ashley Place of Residence Life and Frank Coots of Campus Safety. He reported that every officer has a body cam and it should be on with any encounter with students. In regards to the vans, they are old ones from before. He said that the committee is working to formalize policies in the campus safety office. The committee is also working to create a procedure for students to report incidents regarding campus safety officers.

**Eric Kopp** mentioned that all new committees will be getting a school email.

■ **Sustainability - Lilia Harlan**

**Lilia Harlan** reported that an email will be sent about the free reusable utensils and a form will be sent out for students who are interested. She said that everyone living in a suite should have received an email from Ashley Place about obtaining a compost bin in their suite. She said to double check that the link in the email goes to the correct page. She reported that the committee will be meeting with the environmental groups and addressing their concerns.

**7. Funding**

- No funding requests this week.

**8. Announcements**

- **Have to make banners for your club or speak to an SA representative? The Sadove Basement Multipurpose will be opening on Friday!**
  - You can find more information on hours and appointments [here](#).
  - Check your inbox for more information over the weekend!
- **Have a question/concern about campus life? SA President Tommy Keith has office hours from 7pm-9pm every Wednesday. Schedule an appointment [here](#).**

