

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2020

1. Call to Order

Present:

Tatum Barclay
Emily Boviero
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
Mariam Saied
Caroline Ullem
Seámus Wiseman
Jessie Gross

Unexcused:

Jenny Tran

Tardy:

Christian Hanna
Jeffrey Bush

2. Public Comment Period

- **No Public Comments**

3. New Business

- **Confirmations (3:15)**



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2020

Tommy Keith corrected prior nominations from last week. It was stated that Emily Liles and Lucy would be appointed to the Judicial Board but will actually be appointed to the Appeals Board which oversees the Judicial Board, Honor Court, and the Sexual Misconduct Board.

■ **Executive Board**

- Christian Hernandez Barragan '24 - Secretary

Christian Hernandez explained that he initially ran for first year president because he enjoyed the idea of collaborating with other students to help create a better Hamilton community for everyone. He was enthusiastic about helping Tommy, Eric and the rest of the student assembly members.

Motion to Confirm Passes

■ **Honor Court**

- Jorge Perez-Vazquez '24 - First Year Representative

Jorge Perez Vazquez stated that he plans to bring a new perspective to the Honor Court and help enforce the sense of community of the college.

Motion to Confirm Passes

- **COVID-19 Taskforce Updates - Karen Leach and Terry Martinez (7:47)**

Karen Leach (Vice President for Administration of Finance and the Summer COVID -19 Task Force Chair) explained how the task force met three times a week preparing for the reopening of the school. She was thrilled that everything so far has been going well on campus and that the hard work has been paying off. She was very grateful for another week of no positive cases. She stated that the task force has discussed how they will end the semester but also began thinking about what's to come in the spring.

Terry Martinez (Vice President and Dean of Students) began by thanking Tommy and Eric for their involvement on the committee. She stated that the committees worked day and night to create a safe environment and she thanked the students who were involved in that process. Dean Martinez was very grateful for the students who have been keeping our campus safe and was incredibly proud of the student body for promoting safety on campus. She reminded students of the importance of washing hands and not congregating in large groups. She stated that the college is prepared if any cases are reported positive. If there was a minor outbreak, the school has its systems in place that include immediate



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2020

isolation and follow up with students. She recognizes that the school did not do an adequate job for the first round of students who quarantined on campus.

The college has about 35 contact tracers in place who will work with the county department should someone test positive. Throughout the semester, the task force is working remotely and are open to having conversations in person on any of the issues that may come up. For student life, they are offering a lot of virtual support. It was announced last summer that Lorna Chase would leave the college and Sarah Solomon, who was serving as a case manager, would be the Associate Dean for Student Care. The school is in the process of finding a replacement case manager. There is a lot of interest in the position in the two weeks that the listing has been up. From a counseling perspective, they are having teletherapy and group sessions. The school has contracted Better Minds, another teletherapy system that works with students on their own time. The college specifically paid a contract to seek Black and Latino therapists for students who might want a therapist that matches their interests. In addition, they are trying to find vacant rooms for students who have sessions and may want a space where they feel comfortable.

She stated that anyone who needs to talk with a health professional after hours on the weekends can call the health center line and speak with a nurse. Students can leave a message and nurses will call back within 30 minutes and then report whether the student can wait till the morning or needs to go directly to the hospital. In addition, many EMT's are working on campus this semester and will continue to monitor things and make adjustments as the college navigates the next several weeks. Dean Martinez stated that most students are following the rules that the school expects of them but informed that the college is having daily hearings for students who were found in violation or who have been reported to have violated the COVID-19 policies or any other policies.

- **Questions/Comments (16:25)**

- **Johanna Bowen** asked whether or not the administration has a planned timeline or goal for hiring a student caseworker and when that person would begin working at the college.
- **Dean Martinez** responded that the college is hoping to contact candidates as soon as possible. They plan to be in contact this week, attempt to interview them the following week, and then make offers.
- **Tatum Barclay** thanked the housing committee and proceeded to express her concern about what the college is doing about community members who visit from outside of campus and who clearly violate the COVID-19 protocols.
- **Dean Martinez** stated that the task force has been having this discussion during their meetings and have put signs going up the hill about how to keep the campus safe. She mentioned that a very effective way of resolving this issue is to simply



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2020

ask the visitor if they can put their mask on. If students feel uncomfortable doing so, they should call campus safety.

- **Gianni Hill** asked whether or not the college can have a central email or page where all the COVID-19 messages are updated instead of receiving various messages from Dean Martinez, Karen Leach, and President Wippman. Gianni has heard that many students are confused about what the current policies are.
- **Dean Martinez** recognized that at the beginning of the semester there was an abundance of emails and announcements sent out that made it difficult for students to keep up.
- **Karen Leach** said that the task force can look into this miscommunication moving forward and as there is new information released about the virus, the protocols and policies will adapt as well. She said that she hopes they can have somewhere that states these protocols consistently.
- **Maya Mathews** asked about the college's plan concerning the weather and how that will impact social and academic life.
- **Karen Leach** said that the tents will be brought down on **October 15th** because of the potential dangers with the snow. The task force is currently trying to find replacements for them. There will be a plan on that moving forward.
- **Dean Martinez** said they will be looking at the policies and making adjustments based on the number of positive cases.
- **Jeffrey Bush** asked about his concerns with the campus food and whether or not the food options will remain the same as some students are having difficulty with their dietary restrictions.
- **Dean Martinez** said that they sat down with Bon Appetit this past week and talked about the meal plans moving forward. She recognized that it's difficult to have a variety of options as it has been in the past. She is open to any recommendations that students might have and will take them to Bon Appetit.
- **Karen Leach** stated that Bon Appetit must abide by New York state laws for restaurants which is why their food options are very limited. She also pointed out that the company is short-staffed and is continuously trying to hire new employees. She also recognizes that the options are not what they were before but she is open to suggestions to help to make the dining halls better.
- **Lori Fejes** stated that students are allowed to work for Bon Appetit and that could potentially lead to having a more variety of meals.
- **Eric Kopp** expressed his concern about a campus safety officer who wore a gator face covering that said "Blue Lives Matter." He asked whether or not gator face coverings were allowed to be worn and how can students report campus safety officer misconduct.
- **Dean Martinez** stated that gaiters are not allowed to be worn as it has proven to not be as effective as regular masks. She said if students have an issue with campus safety they should contact Franc Coots (Director of Campus Safety). If there is a concern about Franc Coots, students should contact Dean Martinez or Jeffrey Landry.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2020

- **Maya Mathews** requested information on where students could report student misconduct.
 - **If students need to report student misconduct they should contact Catherine Berryman (cberryma@hamilton.edu). Students should send her an email or if it is an immediate concern, they should contact campus security.**
 - **Lori Fejes** asked whether or not students can work at the testing centers by helping check students in since some students may have lost their work study this semester.
 - **Karen Leach** said that she believes that the number of student job opportunities are very similar to what they have been before. She said that the college made the decision of not hiring students due to scheduling conflicts and that they need employees who can work full eight-hour shifts.
- **Values Statement - Tommy Keith (32:30)**

Tommy Keith went over the Guidelines and Values of the Hamilton Student Assembly for the assembly to vote on.

Eric Kopp thanked the Building an Inclusive College Culture (BICC) Committee and other students for working on the summer initiatives this summer.

Amanda Kim asked whether or not members who work on documents voted by the assembly have to abstain.

Séamus Wiseman clarified that those members do not have to abstain from voting.

Motion to Confirm Passes.

- **Elections Update - Eric Kopp (36:02)**

Eric Kopp gave a brief update about upcoming elections this semester. He talked about the constitutional amendment referendum and stated that 79 students voted. Each measure passed with about 70% margins. The Presidential and Vice Presidential Election will be held on **November 14th, 2020**. The debate for the elections will be held on the Monday before the election. He gave an update on the election rulings he made for the first year elections.

- **Amanda Kim** expressed her concern with the small number of students (79) who voted for the changes in the constitution. She explains that creating major changes to the constitution based on a small number of votes from the student body could be problematic and said that the assembly should try to find alternative ways to get the student body more engaged in voting.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2020

- **Eric Kopp** agreed and stated that normally the voting for changes to the constitution would have been held the same time as the Presidential elections. He said that this issue can be addressed to the Constitution Committee.
- **Jackson Harris** reiterated what Amanda Kim stated. He said that students should have more time to vote since it was held on a Saturday for only one day. He mentioned that the values and guidelines could be included in the Student Assembly handbook.
- **Gianni Hill** said that he wants the Student Assembly to be more legitimate within the student body. He mentioned his work with HamVotes and would be open to working with them to encourage more students to vote through various methods like tabling.

4. Old Business

- o **Update on Faculty Motion to Suspend Student Evaluations for Fall '20** ([41:46](#))

Tommy Keith announced that the motion was voted down and student evaluations will still operate this semester. He said that he will work with Eric to reduce and consider bias within the tenure considerations of the evaluations. They will work with Ann Owen (Chair of the Committee of Evaluation on Teaching) to find ways to reduce bias and ways to change the questions so female professors and professors of color won't be discriminated against.

- **Lori Fejes** expressed his concern with meeting with a tenure professor and someone who opposed student evaluations. They believe it could potentially be a conflict of interest.
- **Eric Kopp** said that it will be a preliminary discussion between Tommy, Eric and Ann Owens. In addition, there will be other groups and committees involved in the discussion moving forward.
- **Tommy Keith** said that it is important to have student input with committees who will be looking at how student evaluations will be presented.
- **Maya Mathews** asked whether this issue fits into any student assembly committees or if it is only an issue that Tommy and Eric will work with. She believes this can be a conversation with more voices from the assembly.
- **Eric Kopp** said that going forward, this work will mostly be worked with Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Development (AED).
- **Johanna Bowen** announced that Italian is now a minor despite it not being on the college website yet.

- o **Committee Meeting Times - Eric Kopp** ([47:22](#))

Eric Kopp requests that committees submit zoom links and times when they will be meeting.

5. Acknowledgments



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2020

N/A

6. Announcements (47:50)

- **Want to register an event or request SA funding? Check out the links below!**
 - [Event Registration Form](#)
 - [Budget Allocation Form](#)
- **Need to go to CVS or Hannaford? Use the links below to register for curbside pickup or free delivery.**
 - [CVS](#)
 - [Hannaford](#)
- **Did you know you can watch recent movies for free online? Check out the Hamilton movie channel!**
 - [Movie Channel](#)

