



9/1/2021

Dear Hamilton Community Members,

I hope everyone has been having as easy a transition to campus as possible, and that you've all found ways to cool down in this heat. I am writing with some good news.

As announced on Monday, I will be sitting on the search committee for the Chief Diversity Officer in my official capacity as President of Student Assembly. I am beyond honored, grateful, and excited to be given this opportunity to serve as a democratically-elected representative for students on this body.

Due to the invaluable hard work of countless students, we have seen a great increase in student involvement in Hamilton decision-making over the last few months, my appointment to this search committee being one of those. **This is just the beginning.**

Hamilton is our campus, our community, and students deserve and have a right to be in the room and having our voices heard and power respected when decisions are made that have a direct impact on us. The hiring of a dedicated Chief Diversity Officer came as a recommendation from the advisory council, a body that was created a year ago and only had one student on it by its conclusion. Organizers, advocates, and community members from across campus and the country have since been pushing for democratic representation on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Today, we can celebrate that a Hamilton College DEI committee shall have democratic student representation at last.

It is because of the democratic nature of my role that I know when I speak in this committee I must ensure that those words are not just my own, but yours. That is why over the course of this semester, the Assembly's work on issues of justice will continue to involve a broad cross section of the student body. More on this another time.

I am beyond excited for this year and to be on this search committee, and I'm looking forward to working with Dean Martinez, Prof. Wu, and the other members of the committee to find a Chief Diversity Officer who will prioritize and fight for justice and equity at Hamilton.

In solidarity,
President Sapphire Ruiz '22 (they/them)