

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**11/29/21**

**1. Call to Order**

**Present:**

Emily Boviero  
Gabriel Bit-Babik  
Isa Cardoso  
Nickie Conlogue  
Nevaeh Gutierrez  
Jackson Harris  
Abigail Hagan  
Christian Hernandez  
Emily Jiang  
Lena Klink  
Marvin Lopez

Dewayne Martin  
Ryley McGovern  
Subin Myong  
Raymond Ni  
Natalia Reboredo  
Eric Santomauro-  
Stenzel  
Felix Tager

**Excused:**

Cicille Dan-Morton  
Michelle Estrella  
Ashley García

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

**Eric Santomauro-Stenzel** read a [land acknowledgement](#) created by the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative (SKI).

**3. General Public Comment Period**

**4. New Business**

- **Approval of Minutes 11/15**

*The motion to approve the 11/15 minutes passes unanimously.*

- **Future of Student Assembly Funding - Treasurer Felix Tager '23**

**Felix Tager** gave an update on SAFC proceedings. While SAFC was supposed to be a temporary committee only for this semester, it will continue past this semester. He believes that it's important to be transparent to the student body. SAFC is working on a complete overhaul of the funding system; it is a possibility for clubs to have a declining budget system which is when clubs have a set amount of money to use for the semester in which they can use however they want as long as they are compliant with SA funding codes. SAFC is also revamping funding codes. One big topic SAFC is discussing is merchandise, and the idea of getting more things for clubs, as well as the food per person capita. For anyone listening, please reach out and tell SAFC



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with what you want funding codes to look like! The more public feedback, the better SAFC can do work. Additionally, he mentioned that he will be presenting to a group about what SA wants the Student Activities fee to look like going forward. Democratization of the SAFC (putting it in the power of the students to decide the fee, used across NESCAC) is still a goal, but we're starting with requesting for annual rollovers, for the whole SA departments and not just assembly. The money not used will stay instead of going into the general fund so SA will have more money. He has spoken to CAB and the media board, who are both in favor of this plan, as well as the office of Student Activities (working with Kaity and Noelle). The Treasurer Department has been used as a bureaucratic office historically when he believes that they have the potential to revamp funding for the entire college. He is curious as to what people want to see in regards to funding for the school since he will be sharing those concerns with the administration. The Treasury department has never had the opportunity to bring up these concerns before, so it's a good opportunity. It will benefit all programming, not just SA and clubs, such as late night shuttles. Clubs won't have to find a way to burn money and instead will be able to save it for something down the road.

**Questions:**

**Isa Cardoso** asked whether the democratization of the student activities fee was going to happen this year.

**Felix Tager** stated that he believes in taking things one step at a time to see what works and what does not. He credits Jackson Harris with telling SAFC that they were jumping into democratization too early; rollovers are needed as a first step. This agency fund will be separate from the general fund. He mentioned wanting to invite Karen Leach back to talk about it. He mentioned wanting to take it as a step in the right direction, and keep pushing. Because the motivations and progress have been made clear, there is more room for movement further. He also wanted to mention how fortunate and honored he feels to be able to make these changes.

**Emily Boviero** asked what the long term goals were for the SAFC committee.

**Felix Tager** mentioned that SAFC is working on rollover regulation, since a major concern is abuse of the rollover system, aka preventing intentional rollovers so not to disenfranchise one year. A long term goal is that students can decide the cost of the SAF. There will be safeguards, like having it be a certain percentage.



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**Emily Boviero** clarified that rollovers were not for the end of the school year

**Felix Tager** answered that we already have semesterly rollovers - this is a push for annual rollovers as well. This is so we don't have to scramble for ways to spend the money before it goes back to the general fund. Having more funding will be able to relax some guidelines and give clubs more independence.

**Discussion:**

**Felix Tager** mentioned he wanted discussion on democratization (students deciding the SAF cost), but understands its a heavy topic. He wondered if it's something SA wants to focus on next semester. Tonight is the end of the semester for funding requests, so Felix's work will be shifting entirely to SAFC for the next few weeks. What do people want to see with democratization? Under democratization, the SAF would be working with Noelle and Katie to decide how much goes to each department, as well as deciding the fee. Would we want to go down just one route or both?

**Jackson Harris** mentioned that before they decide what democratization means to the assembly, it is important to set a baseline for that type of work such as the agency fund. Another important mechanism to set into place is a rearrangement of the funding codes and making them more fair. The fact that the media board can get merch but clubs under SA can't us a huge discrepancy in his opinion. Big changes can be made when aspects such as this get fixed

**Eric Santomauro-Stenzel** asked for more background on CAB and Media Board spending in comparison to Student Assembly.

**Felix Tager** mentioned that both CAB and Media Board get more money than the Assembly despite managing way more organizations. The reason for CAB's high budget is the concert and class and charter day. Right now, Media Board and CAB are in the 190,000s while SA is in the 160,000s. Logistically, the Media Board needs much more money because of printing costs which the school can address. He believes that the school can look towards a long term solution instead of an immediate solution.

**Eric Santomauro-Stenzel** asks how people become members of Media Board and CAB and thus are able to control that money.



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**Felix Tager** replied that they are picked by the current board so it is not an election. There are interviews and people run but there is not a school wide vote.

**Felix Tager** wanted to ask the Assembly about what they want to see the Treasury department accomplish. The Treasury department doesn't traditionally do movements like this. He wanted to ask and see what people want to see the Treasury department do, so he can make plans for future treasurers. What does the department mean, in terms of policy and action?

**Eric Santomauro-Stenzel** elaborated that previously, the Treasury Department has normally functioned only through processing budget requests. Under the cluster model, the Treasury will become a different body, though that might not happen; each treasurer would see funding requests for each cluster and act as representatives for their clusters. This semester, treasurers were doing a combination of budget processing and policy movements. A lot of the Treasury work has occurred within SAFC this semester developing proposals.

**Isa Cardoso** mentioned she felt that funding is so much of what SA does; it's a huge chunk of the Constitution. She believes the focus on policy is important, and for how it's been going this year, it's an important and interesting direction to be going in.

**Emily Jiang** commended Felix for doing the work because they thought that one area that SA has control of is clarifying the processes so they will not just be going through the processes but also clarifying it. They can do what the students want.

**Jackson Harris** mentioned that based on the preliminary funding model, the role will shift towards data analysis looking at how clubs do spend money and how that impacts starting budgets.

**Felix Tager** elaborated that SA would no longer be approving budget requests - those would be processed through Student Activities. Instead, that time would be spent on data analytics.

○ **Funding (Final Non-Strategic Requests for the 2021 Fall Semester)**

Club Name	Requested Budget	Recommended Budget	Approved Budget
Poetry Slam	\$30	\$30	\$30



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<b>Class of 2025</b>	\$418	\$418	<b>\$418</b>
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**Felix Tager** mentioned that Poetry Slam requested money for posters while the Class of 2025 requested money for hot chocolate for their booth at the Lighting of the Village. If this passes, they will have passed all funding requests that are funding compliant this semester, which is the best track record so far he believes. (This would mean despite budget concerns, the assembly was able to successfully fund all compliant requests)

**5. Announcements**

- SA Elections for 2022 President/VP and vacant spots in Class of 2022 and Class of 2023 will be occurring virtually on December 15th. Interested in running? Contact Elections Chair Isa Cardoso '25 ([icardoso@hamilton.edu](mailto:icardoso@hamilton.edu)).

**Isa Cardoso** mentioned that so far, only two people are running for positions and those are both for class representative positions of the Class of 2023. There are no candidates for Class President for the Class of 2023, no candidates for the representative position for the Class of 2022, and no current candidates for President and Vice President of SA.

**Christian Hernandez** announced the official start of the clothing drive that will be happening through this week. He thanked everyone who has already donated. The boxes are in KJ outside the COOP office, FOJO, in front of the Library, and in front of the Science Center. There will also be a box at the Lighting of the Village.

**Jackson Harris** wanted to give an update about the Bundy forced doubles. There's nothing the school can really do this semester or this year - the priority of the Residential Life is that every student has a bed. The Residential Life committee will focus their efforts on trying to get compensation, not necessarily monetary (which is unlikely though ideal), since it's not fair that everyone pays the same amount but some are forced into tiny rooms. The committee will see if the school is willing to refund some of that to students in forced doubles, or to boost their housing lottery numbers at the end of this coming spring. These conversations with ResLife are ongoing.

**Abigail Hagan** commented that she finds it interesting that students housed in Glenview get a lottery boost but students in Bundy forced doubles don't. She thinks it will be feasible to get a lottery boost, at least over compensation.

**Jackson Harris** added that they will talk with Residential Life to see if there are more forced doubles next year, which is something students should know in advance, since it will affect if students want to come next semester.



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

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**Felix Tager** announced that the last chance to submit advanced funding for the beginning of next semester ahead of time is on Friday at NOON. Requests can be submitted via the non-strategic budget form.

