

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/27/21

1. Call to Order

Emily Boviero
Isa Cardoso
Nickie Conlogue
Cicille Dan-Morton
Ashley Garcia
Melanie Geller
Nevaeh Gutierrez
Michelle Estrella
Joseph Han
Jackson Harris

Abigail Hagan
Christian Hernandez
Jungwon Kim
Lena Klink
Cole Kuczek
Maxwell Lee
Dewayne Martin
Ryley McGovern
Maya Mathews
Wriley Nelson

Raymond Ni
Subin Myong
Fatima Oliva
Natalia Reboredo
Saphire Ruiz
Ele Sorensen
Eric Santomauro-Stenzel

2. Land Acknowledgement

Saphire Ruiz read a [land acknowledgement](#) created by the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative (SKI).

3. General Public Comment Period

Abigail Moone '23 (she/they) wrote:

“I am concerned and frustrated with the continued use of disposable utensils, plates, and cups in the dining halls. As a community we have generated an incredible amount of waste during the pandemic, and while that was necessary and a safety measure last year, the continued use of paper plates and plastic cups/silverware seems nothing but wasteful. The ceramic mugs have not been put back out, and there is only metal silverware at Commons sometimes. Perhaps this is related to staffing shortages, but regardless of the situation reducing our waste and making as many sustainable/reusable decisions as possible is incredibly important.”

Maya Figliuolo '22 (she/her) wrote:

“I am submitting a public comment to express both my confusion and frustration in regards to the fire alarm system in Babbitt residence hall. Ever since I arrived on campus and moved into Babbitt for my summer internship, the fire alarm has gone off a total of 5 times. Only one time out of these 5, I believe, there was an actual fire. Every other time, the fire alarm continued to ring for hours for reasons not confirmed. Residents are left in the dark every single time on why the fire alarms go off. My suitemates and I believe residents should receive an email addressing the cause of these random fire alarms going off when there is neither an actual fire nor a fire drill. In the case of a fire drill, we should also be informed, whether ahead of time or following



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the drill. The fire alarm is also going off at late hours of the night or morning, and proper rest is the least students should be getting when facing such significant academic and social pressures when we are still in the middle of a pandemic, recovering from global trauma and grief. Additionally, many residents, myself included, have or are in the process of being approved to have service animals/emotional support animals and it is incredibly terrifying to not know whether one is in actual danger, and having to think about the logistics of evacuating with one's pet, when usually, animals will hide and avoid being carried during such stressful situations due to the volume and pitch of the fire alarm. Having to do this because the alarm system randomly goes off without an actual fire actually taking place (which allegedly happened at least once) and then having to keep one's pet in a carrier for hours as campus safety struggles to figure out how to turn it off is inadmissible. I, and I can confirm I am not the only one amongst my friends in Babbitt, struggle to shower or even fall asleep comfortably due to worrying about being interrupted by a fire alarm unnecessarily going off now that it has happened so many times. Please offer us some transparency on this issue and communicate to residents regarding which steps are actually being taken so that the fire alarm doesn't go off again unless there is an actual fire safety threat taking place. If there is no way to prevent this from happening again, then it would be ideal for campus safety or whoever else is also in charge to finally learn how to disable the system in at least less than an hour."

4. New Business

- **Motion to start with a closed session tonight with Dean Martinez - Submitted by Rep. Ele Sorensen '23 (requires 2/3rds majority vote)**

The motion to start the meeting with a closed session tonight with Dean Martinez is rescinded due to Dean Martinez being unable to attend.

- **Approval of Minutes 9/20**

The motion to approve the 9/20 minutes passes.

- **Committee Updates**

Christian Hernandez-Barragan gave an update for the Justice & Equity committee, indicating that they have been addressing J-Board nominations last week and now have been working with the HEOP programs and having discussions with them about the summer programs. He mentioned that the committee is in the process of drafting questions for the director of HEOP.

Emily Boviero gave an update on the Academic and Development committee, she noted that the committee does not currently have a chair and she is looking for a volunteer within the assembly.



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Jackson Harris mentioned that his committee (Res. Life & Safety) has been working with Frank Coots on parking and how to move together on that. He noted that other potential solutions are being considered that administration is less into. In addition, the committee is working on a resolution to work with the recent state law change regarding marijuana legalization, but it's not so simple because of federal law and federal funding.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel clarified that the resolution 21-4 is sponsored by Jackson Harris and himself.

Maya Matthews mentioned that the Health committee meets at Fojo South on Fridays at 2:30 PM and that she welcomes anyone from the public who wants to join. She noted that some things the committee has worked on involve Bon Appetit services, mental and physical health services, Judicial Board nominations, and establishing a three week rotation with administrators on a timely basis which include David Walden, Lucy Burke, and Barbara Fluty which cover mental health, Bon Appetit, and physical health. She noted that the first meeting is this Friday with Lucy Burke regarding Bon Appetit so she would like any recommendations for Bon Appetit including what people want to and don't want to see in the dining halls. She mentioned that there was a swift response to the rats and worms in McEwens and Commons respectively. She mentioned that the committee is proud of the swift response and welcomed any feedback from the assembly members. She further mentioned that the committee has been working on COVID socialization measures to make campus more fun asking organizations what they want to see on campus and what regulations they would like to see go away.

Melanie Geller read out loud a letter by Bon Appetit in response to the mice and worms that were found at McEwen and Commons respectively:

“Supporting local farmers is an important focus for the Bon Appétit Management Company team at Hamilton College. Amongst many local purchased products last week was 250 lbs. of organic potatoes. The potatoes were closely inspected as always but, unfortunately, something was missed. Organic farming practices limit use of pesticides which is a boon for environmental and personal health but can lead to a higher chance of unwanted pests.

Once the issue was brought to Bon Appétit's attention, the potatoes in question were immediately removed from the serving line and thrown out. In addition, any potatoes from that same batch were also disposed of.

It's very important for students to immediately report any food quality issues in real time so



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immediate action can be taken by the staff. Food quality, safety and serving standards are a critical component of our operations. Just a few of the quality assurance measures taken by Bon Appétit include:

1). All chefs and managers are required to be Servsafe (www.servsafe.com) certified every 3 years, which is a very rigorous independently certified training program. In-house training on food safety also goes on all throughout the year in many forms for all employees.

2) Bon Appétit adheres to the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) approach of managing product risk and has also implemented a comprehensive Quality Assurance/Food Safety training program. As noted above, inspections all along the processing of food items are required, so problems can be found at multiple points. Bon Appetit also employs independent 3rd party unscheduled inspections of food operations throughout the year.

3). Food recalls are monitored all the time, some days there are multiple emails from food suppliers and every recall is reviewed and reacted to quickly if they apply to any of our Inventory.

4) The purchasing standards employed by Bon Appétit are very high, we purchase highly graded items from well-known suppliers of quality food.

As diligent as we are, food preparation is a complex process and needs to be constantly monitored. I encourage students to act as our partners and immediately notify us if anything concerns you so we can investigate and rectify it right away.

Reuben Haag

General Manager, Bon Appétit Management Company”

5. Funding

Total Starting General Fund: \$ 151,423

Amount Remaining: \$ 74,914.50 for Fall semester

Amount Remaining Strategic: \$ 59,922.20

Amount Remaining Non-Strategic: \$ 14,992.30

Amount Remaining Discretionary (with Rollbacks): \$ 3,785.58

Starting Strategic Budget: \$ 60,569.20

Strategic Budget (including advanced funding): \$ ----

Please note that all budgets this semester must be approved by the full Assembly, after being submitted by the Funding Committee. The budgets below will be voted on during this meeting,



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and representatives from organizations are allowed to come to answer questions about their budgets.

Strategic Budgets

Club Name	Requested Budget	Recommended Budget	Approved Budget
Duelly Noted	\$2,370	\$2,370	\$2,370
People Who Like To Do Fun Things	\$217	\$217	\$217
RPG Club	\$161	\$161	\$161
Dance Team	\$70	\$0	\$0
HC Winds	\$210	\$210	\$210
Feminists of Color Collective	\$2,680	\$2,680	\$2,680
Aquaponics	\$1,464	\$1,464	\$1,464
Tumbling after	\$3,618	\$3,618	\$3,618
Mock Trial	\$4,709	\$4,709	\$4,709
Tropical Sol	\$207	\$207	\$207
Women in STEM	\$383.8	\$383.8	\$383.8
Student Dance Alliance	\$200	\$200	\$200
Questbridge	\$4,598	\$4,598	\$4,598
Debate Society	\$353	\$353	\$353
Band Club	\$1,270	\$1,070	\$1,070
Coding Team	\$1,057	\$897	\$897
Financial Literacy Club	\$50	\$50	\$50
Yodapez	\$232	\$232	\$232
The Geological Society	\$1,422	\$1,422	\$1,422
Pottery Club	\$2,415	\$2,415	\$2,415



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Hamilton Society of Physics Students	\$935	\$535	Postponed to next week
Minds For Change	\$287	\$287	\$287
Spanish Club	\$719	\$719	\$719
The Buffers	\$800	\$800	\$800
French Club	\$1,210	\$	Must resubmit
Powder Club	\$6,000	\$6,000	Postponed to next week
Juggling Club	\$404	\$404	\$404
On the move	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Classics Club	\$979	\$979	\$979
Boffers	\$161	\$161	\$161
Film Club	\$930	\$930	\$930
Special K	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700
American Chemical Society	\$182	\$182	\$182
SAAC	\$900	\$900	\$900
ROOTS	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
ASU	\$807	\$807	\$807
Pre-Health Careers Club	\$566	\$306	\$306
Humans of Hamilton	\$1,024	\$423	\$423
ICA	\$1,622	\$1,622	\$1,622
Bowling Club	\$4,927	\$4,927	\$4,927
Hamiltones	\$405	\$405	\$405



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Non-strategic

Club Name	Requested Budget	Recommended Budget	Approved Budget
Tap That	\$43.20	\$43.20	\$43.20
Pre Health Careers	\$38.33	\$38.33	\$38.33

Amount Requested: **\$58,043 (strategic) | \$81.53 (non-strategic)**

Amount Recommended (Strategic): **\$56,353**

Amount Recommended (non-strategic): **\$81.53**

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (Non-Strategic): **\$14,910.77**

Amount Remaining Strategic if Funding passes: **\$3,569.20**

Jackson Harris asked why the Hamiltones are requesting a smaller fraction of money than Duelly Noted.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel replied that the Hamiltones are requesting money for rehearsals, concerts for Parent's weekend, Fall concert, Winter concert, Health and Wellness day whereas Duelly Noted are requesting money for arrangements for the song, recording money.

Abigail Hagan asked what the Hamiltones were doing differently compared to Duelly Noted.

Carina Krusell '22 from Special K answered that acapella group presidents met up earlier this semester to discuss how in acapella they spend a lot of money on the semester when they are recording, by semester. They mentioned that may explain some of the discrepancies. Usually when a group is recording, they have to spend a lot of money that semester. The groups are trying to implement a system where certain groups record one semester while others sit out to not spend too much of the SA finances. Many clubs are trying to record because of COVID-19 because many opportunities to do so have no longer been available.

Abigail Hagan asked what made recording so expensive for acapella groups.

Carina Krusell '22 noted that recording involves a lot of experience dealing with the technology, dealing with editing, refining, dealing with pitch. She mentioned that SA brought up an idea to work with the AV systems, but Hamilton said that was not able to be accommodated without taking 15 extra hours from the workers per law. Overall, it is a lot of work and is a very specialized skill set. The acapella groups have been currently



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trying to reduce costs and buying artists with good value, but it is a very specialized skill set.

Isa Cardoso mentioned that the Hamiltones were a lot smaller than Duelly Noted which could explain the budget differences.

Joseph Han asked if funding this request would violate the constitution because one of the bylaws state that Student Assembly cannot fund recordings.

Maya Mathews replied that the reason why SA funds recordings is because Hamilton doesn't have the bandwidth to fund these recordings themselves, and until that funding responsibility can be transferred, Student Assembly has to fund them because nobody else can.

The motion to pass the funding request for Duelly Noted passes via voice vote.

The motion to pass the funding request for People Who Like to Do Fun Things passes via voice vote.

The motion to pass the funding request for RPG Club passes via voice vote.

Kathy Guerra mentioned that the Dance Team is requesting merch which was not allowed via the funding codes, therefore the recommended budget is \$0.

Maya Mathews asked if the merchandise was necessary for the Dance Team's function of the club or if it was just extra.

Kathy Guerra replied that the merch requested from the Dance Team was just for spirit purposes.

Nat Reboredo mentioned that orgs cannot have merch specifically for their members and that merch requested has to be available for the entire student body and the merch in question was for spirit purposes only.

The motion to pass the funding request for Dance Team fails via voice vote.

Jackson Harris mentioned that in the future the council should just vote to fund as recommended by the Treasury.

Maya Mathews asked whether they were only voting for the ones where the recommended budget differs from the requested budget.



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Wriley Nelson replied that the assembly was changing the voting format to change from whether the assembly should fund something to whether they should fund something as recommended.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel mentioned that members need to recuse themselves from votes that pertain to clubs they are a part of which is relevant if they were to vote for so many clubs at once.

Jackson Harris asked if the assembly could just decide the question for those specific clubs.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel mentioned that he was going to read through the funding requests and vote on them all at once unless there is an objection to that. If there is a question on the recommended amount, the assembly will address them. He then read out loud the funding requests.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel asked why the recommended amount was not filled out for the French Club and whether there is currently a recommendation to fund the club in full.

Kathy Guerra replied that it was because the club submitted the wrong form when requesting funds. They are still waiting for them to submit one more form from the treasurer.

Emily Boviero asked why the Powder Club is requesting so much money.

Saphire Ruiz replied that Powder Club is a ski-based club that usually gets about \$8,000, but Felix brought it down to \$6,000 using a bylaw that a single organization can not take up that much of the budget.

Maya Mathews asked Noelle Niznik whether she was in the room when Powder Club was being discussed.

Noelle Juliano replied that she was around during that time Powder Club went on a trip last year. They usually request a large amount of money for trips but are allowed the amount because they always allow everyone in the student body to participate who wants to go. She mentioned that in the past, there has been much debate regarding the Powder club but in this case the treasurers are requesting the full amount.



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Eric Santomauro-Stenzel noted the trips scheduled start 1/14/22 which is after the completion of this current semester, and there are no trips this semester. 1/14/22 is during break.

Noelle Niznik mentioned that it would most likely have to be from next semester's budget due to precedent.

Abigail Hagan asked if the assembly could postpone this funding request and separate it into what is needed for this semester and what is for next semester.

Ashley Garcia replied that the club would not have submitted the request early on if they did not need the money so early on. If anything, the Powder club is saving money by booking accommodations and trip logistics ahead of time.

Joseph Han mentioned that the Powder Club funding request was put on the agenda with the intention that the assembly would approve it. He believes that if the assembly votes for it now, there is nobody from the Powder Club to come to defend the budget so it is better to delay or approve it. It would not make sense to outright deny the funding request because they were under the impression that they would get the funds.

The motion to divide and postpone the discussion of the Powder Club funding request to next week passes by voice vote.

Subin Myong mentioned that Bowling Club and Mock Trial are requesting large amounts of money, and asked what the money for those clubs was for.

Cole Kuczek explained that as a prior Mock Trial member, Mock Trial is using the money for hotel rooms and trips which they are planning ahead of the semester. He also mentioned that Powder Club funds everything early on so they can plan for trips and possibly save money by booking ahead of time.

Michelle Dominguez-Estrella clarified that the Mock Trial has a larger team this year and needs to fund expenditures early on.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel listed out the list of items that Mock Trial would use its money on which included tournaments (in-person and virtual) and general supplies.



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Natalia Reboredo noted that the Bowling club was not active last year because COVID-19 restrictions did not allow in-person gatherings, and the Bowling Club may be trying to resume and make up for the lack of activity last year.

Kathy Guerra mentioned that she could not find the items for which Bowling Club is requesting funding for.

Jackson Harris mentioned that an option the assembly had was to ask the clubs to resubmit after voting no to the funding request. He also noted that postponing the vote was also an option.

Wiley Nelson mentioned that if any funding request extended 5% of the SA funds, the organization needs to present why their organization needs this amount of funding to SA either in person or in a written statement.

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that voting on any organization that requested over about \$3700 (which is over 5% of the budget) needs to be postponed to next week as the leaders of these organizations are not present or have not submitted reasons for requesting this amount of funding.

Cole Kuczek asked if the funding request is automatically postponed if it is over 5%.

Wiley Nelson replied that organization leaders have to present their request to SA either in person or in a written statement if the funding request is over 5%.

Cole Kuczek asked whether the assembly told the organizations that [resenting why they needed the funds was necessary.

Wiley Nelson replied that he did not know.

Cole Kuczek mentioned that it was bad optics to postpone the funding requests as many organizations need to use the money early on for the functions of their organizations. If SA did not let them know about the requirement to present, that is on the assembly, not the clubs themselves. Additionally, because all the treasurers were present when deciding the recommended budget, the assembly should trust their recommendations.

The motion to pass the funding requests for Feminist of Color Collective, HC Winds, Aquaponics, Tropical Sol, Tumbling After, Women in STEM, Student Dance alliance, Debate



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Society, Coding Team, Financial Literacy Club, Yodapez, The Geological Society, Pottery Club, Minds For Change, Spanish Club, The Buffers, Juggling Club, On the move, Classics Club, Boffers, Film Club, Special K, American Chemical Society, SAAC, ROOTS, ASU, ICA, Hamiltones passes by voice vote.

Joseph Han asked for clarification about the goodie bag request from Questbridge as the goodie bags are entirely food.

Kathy Guerra replied that these goodie bags were essential to the functioning of QuestBridge because they are used as morale boosters for QuestBridge students.

Fatima Olivia mentioned that QuestBridge used to be funded by the opportunity program and was not sure why they are not funded by them now.

Mason Shroeder '23 as previous QuestBridge President mentioned that the goodie bags are something done every year. Because the Questbridge students are low income students, most families do not have the financial means to support their students or send items to them regularly so it is nice to have snacks and items to use.

Joseph Han replied that he has received one of those goodie bags every year and just wanted to know about the note that said they contained food.

Jackson Harris asked why the QuestBridge funding has shifted from the opportunity program to SA.

Mason Shroeder replied that QuestBridge falls into a grey area for organizations. They have always been SA funded; however, the funding necessary last year was substantially lower due to COVID-19 and the lack of in person events. QuestBridge is attempting to increase their in-person events this year which accounts for the increase in requested funding.

Christian Hernandez-Barragan asked whether the money requested is for the goodie bags alone or if they were for other things along with the goodie bags.

Eric Santomauro Stenzel replied that the requests from QuestBridge included the mid semester get together, Clinton cider mill trip, trip to Syracuse, finals goodie bags delivered to students, and the Utica trip mid-November.



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The motion to approve the QuestBridge funding request passes via voice vote.

Jungwon Kim asked what was going to happen to budget requests that exceed 5% since they are not present to present their case to why their request should be approved.

Wriley Nelson replied that the assembly would need a 2/3rds vote to suspend the bylaws.

Dewayne Martin addressed the reasoning for the mock trial funding request.

Wriley Nelson said he can do a temporary rule of order to temporarily block clarifying questions and only allow objections, i.e. if someone is planning to vote no.

The motion to temporarily block clarifying questions passes.

The motion to approve the Mock Trial funding request passes via voice vote.

Emily Boviero asked why the Bowling Club is requesting so much funding.

Kathy Guerra mentioned she could not find the budget request for the Bowling Club.

Noelle Juliano mentioned that the reason why the Bowling Club costs are high historically is because of the buses required to send students to the bowling alleys. The cost comes from the transportation, bowling fees, and rental fees. She further mentioned that they need to reserve the buses beforehand.

Emily Boviero asked whether taking the Jitney was an option for the Bowling Club members. She mentioned that she did not see the necessity of having such high funding.

Jungwon Kim mentioned that the way it worked is that a bus is rented which holds around 30 people who have to sign up beforehand with priority given to the students who sign up first. The bus would then drive to a bowling alley which is rented out for 30 people. He mentioned that the Jitney is not an option because the Jitney is used by the entire campus and cannot accommodate 30 people. Utilizing it is therefore not realistic.

Abigail Hagan further mentioned that bowling shoe rentals are a very expensive thing.



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Jackson Harris explained that the Jitney cannot hold as much as the school buses. In regard to the buses, the buses are more expensive in a post-COVID society so most organizations are also struggling with this. This is a necessary evil. The Jitneys would have to be organized by SA if they were to go that route.

Isa Cardoso mentioned that SA is nitpicking where the funds were going when Felix Tager has likely already asked these questions and thus came up with a recommended budget.

The motion to approve the Bowling Club funding request passes via voice vote.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel mentioned that the Band Club is requesting funds for band rehearsals in the barn/Bristol basement and music, as well as food and drinks for shows.

Dewayne Martin asked if the assembly would have access to the document which lists the expenditures for the funding requests.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel replied yes, but he would have to type them all out from the emails so logistically it would be difficult.

Isa Cardoso asked why Band Club was recommended less than they requested.

Kathy Guerra replied that it was because they were requesting food and drinks for shows.

The motion to approve the Band Club funding request as recommended passes via voice vote.

Matthew Jenkasky mentioned that the cost for buying two Go Pros is different from the cost for buying one, since the GoPro website gives them a discount if they sign up for a membership. The two cameras are going to be used for two weather balloon launchers, which are landmark events for the club and are well advertised and live streamed. Having two cameras would serve as a fail safe in the case of the failure of one Go Pro which is likely due to exposure to harsh weather, as well as having two perspectives of the payload.

Subin Myong asked what the difference would be if they were to buy one.

Matthew Jenkasky replied that it would be another \$100 if they were to buy one Go Pro instead of two.



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The motion to postpone the vote on the approval of Hamilton Society of Physics Students passes via voice vote.

Ele Sorensen motioned to pass the remaining funding requests as recommended.

The motion to approve the remaining clubs with the recommended funding passes via voice vote.

6. Announcements

- Lucy Hamann '22 and Emilio Vicioso '23 have been nominated for confirmation by the Assembly to the Appeals Board. Students may submit comments on these nominees to sa@hamilton.edu. Comments will *only* be distributed to members of the Assembly.
- The COVID-19 Task Force has two vacant spots for appointments from the SA President (Saphire Ruiz '22). Interested? Email sa@hamilton.edu expressing your interest and why you're a good fit! Meetings occur at 1pm on Tuesdays. *President Ruiz is specifically looking for students with interest or background in mental health, Greek Life, athletics, and/or DMC organizations (and beyond!).*
- Rep. Melanie Geller '22 (she/her), Rep. Joseph Han '22 (he/him), Rep. Maya Mathews '23 (she/her), and Rep. Ele Sorensen '23 have resigned effective Tuesday, Sept. 28. Rep. Fatima Oliva '23 (she/her) is resigning effective Sunday, Oct. 3.
- **The Assembly voted via e-vote for general meetings to return to the Sadove Conference Room due to continued technical difficulties that make recording difficult for those who are not at the meeting in-person.**

7. Closed Session

