

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

8/29/2022

1. Call to Order

Present

Christopher Akuleme

Alex Axton

Max Ganem

Emily Jiang

Lena Klink

Alexandra Kropaneva

Marvin Lopez

Ryley McGovern

Raymond Ni

Mason Schroeder

Allison Sheehan

Nicole Soret

Felix Tager

Katrinah Tejada

Joshua Zeledon

Unexcused:

Ailyn Burbano

Evelyn Molina

Emily Jiang explained general procedures of the Assembly meeting and the absence and tardy policies and procedures for public comment.

2. General Public Comment Period ([TIME: 06:07](#))

Mike Altman' 23 (he/him) commented:

“I've worked in the Little Pub and have been a student here for three years, entering my fourth. The number of glass bottles and aluminum cans that is mistakenly thrown away daily is silly. With such an expensive bottle and can deposit in New York, we could make an enormous impact on the issue and save us students so much money if we put some bottle and can deposit sites on campus- like the one at Hannaford. Simply drop your cans in and get a voucher for cash back without needing to haul them all over the place and face embarrassment for trying to do the right thing. There will be an increased incentive to recycle and collect your waste for cash.”

Andres Matos' 23 (he/him) wrote:

“The bees outside of the outdoor commons tables are making it pretty uncomfortable to eat outside. I was wondering if we could put a few sugar water bee traps out in that area”

Felix Tager responded that sugar traps are possible and that he will talk to Facilities regarding the issue. However, he mentioned that it will be a Yellow Jacket trap as those, rather than bees, are causing the issue.



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Emily Jiang explained in response to Mike's comment that SA specifically cannot do anything about the bottle deposit but that the Assembly can work with Facilities and Administration to figure out a solution.

Jack Jee '24 (he/him) wrote:

"Bring back the weekend Jitney- from don's rok to campus. This was a thing before covid-19 and I believe that we should bring it back."

Peter d'Albert '24 (he/him) wrote:

"Please bring back the weekend jitney to town. The amount of drunk driving on this campus is scary."

Zak Ruso '24 (he/him) commented:

"bring back the jitney to downtown on weekend nights (Friday and Saturday)"

Scout Winer '24 (she/her) wrote:

"Bring back the jitney to downtown on weekend nights!!!!!"

Ethan del Rosario '24 (he/him) wrote:

"Bring back the jitney! As we return to normal in a post-COVID world, more and more students are going downtown to bars like Don's Rok. To prevent drunk driving, the school should IMMEDIATELY bring back the shuttle Jitney. You can't stop students from consuming alcohol, you can only minimize the risk of bodily harm to themselves and others."

Aidan Regan' 24 (he/him) commented:

"I, as well as many other members of the Hamilton student body would like to see the jitney line to downtown return this semester, and in semesters to come. Having never been at Hamilton when the line was running, I don't know how realistic this is to bring back, but I see no reason why it shouldn't. Tons of students want to get downtown, or back on the hill from downtown on the weekends and don't have any way of doing it. Bringing back this line would allow students to not have to make that walk, which is both tiresome and dangerous late at night."

Rorie Newman' 24 (she/her) wrote:

"I believe there were musings of it last year, but I would like to request that we continue to look into putting printers in dorm buildings. It's super inconvenient when I need to print and have to walk across campus to an academic building (where the printer is probably not working anyways). Particularly for Students in Wertimer and Wally J, where the nearest printer is Bundy Cafe, this is a huge issue."

Emily Jiang acknowledged that there are a lot of comments regarding the Jitney, and they and Felix advocated for it over the summer during budget deliberations, but they were ultimately unable to get it back.



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Felix Tager added that it would cost the parties involved about 60,000 dollars. Additionally, he mentioned the school has been trying to stop people from utilizing the late-night Jitney for years, since the last dean believed it would incentivize people to live off campus which would create a toxic student environment.

Emily Jiang mentioned that SA will continue to try to bring the late-night Jitney back and emphasized the need to submit public comments to prove student need to the administrative parties in question.

Corey Bravo Sloan' 25 (he/him) commented:

“The dorms are just too hot. I get that it’s going to cool down and soon it’ll be cold out, but it’s not sustainable to live in such hot temperatures, even if it’s only going to be for a month or so. I haven’t had a good night’s sleep since arriving because I keep waking up overheated — and I have three large fans in my room. I don’t like sitting in my room to work or relax because it’s too hot to comfortably exist. I can’t imagine how unbearable it was during the hottest days during the summer because it’s still unbearable now. It’s often cooler outside than inside. That’s not okay!! It’s not healthy!!”

Isa Cardoso'25 (she/her) commented:

“I’m writing to emphasize the important article published by the Monitor regarding the heat on this campus. It is inescapable. I fully understand the safety and sustainability concerns regarding personal air conditioners, but I am deeply concerned for the wellbeing of students. Constant heat at the start of the semester is exhausting, let alone all summer long, and it interferes with students' ability to study, sleep, and live well. I'd also like to note that many students on this campus can't afford the kind of fan that can actually cool down a dorm room, and low-income students have just as much of a right to healthy living conditions. I, and many others, would greatly appreciate Assembly conversations with Facilities Management on possible solutions, the greatest of which would be installing air conditioners in residential halls.”

Emily Jiang acknowledged that the heat is a big issue and that they have been talking to administrators about it. The general response has been that installing air conditioners would require a lot of work, money, and energy that they are not willing to put in at the time.

3. Old Business ([TIME: 14:00](#))

- **Minutes from 5/9**

The motion to pass the minutes from 5/9 as written passes unanimously.

4. New Business ([TIME: 14:41](#))

- **Confirmations:** ‘23 Representative Mason Schroeder, ‘25 Representative Nicole Soret, Secretary Lena Klink



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Mason Schroeder introduced himself as a neuroscience major on the pre-med track and medieval studies minor. He mentioned that he has sat in on SA meetings before for funding purposes. As part of SA he is looking forward to helping plan senior week in his last year and first real non-Covid year. He also mentioned wanting to help address issues around campus like cooling off dorms and yellowjackets. He ended on being here to have a good time.

Marvin Lopez asked if anyone had any comments or questions.

Raymond Ni asked if it is possible to vote on all confirmations together.

Emily Jiang responded that it is possible as long as someone seconds the motion.

The motion to vote on all confirmations together passes unanimously.

Nicole Soret introduced herself as an undecided major from NYC. She is looking forward to working with the Justice and Equity Committee especially in regards to HEOP and opportunity programs, and improving life for students and staff.

Lena Klink introduced herself as a government major. She noted that she worked as Raymond's deputy secretary so has experience with the job. She was excited to be back.

The motion to confirm Mason Schroeder, Nicole Soret, and Lena Klink passes.

Emily Jiang welcomed the new members to the Assembly.

- **Intro to SA, Spring 2022 Recap** ([TIME: 19:25](#))

Emily Jiang introduced SA and the work it does. They explained that SA is here to advocate for students and works on various issues around campus such as facilities issues like bees and mold, and generally towards improving student life. In the past, SA has worked on improving food in Bundy which continues to be in the works, and has lowered the penalty for marijuana usage on campus. SA also brought in therapy dogs and speakers, hosted workshops, and brought in administrative members and faculty members into meetings to talk about, for example, Covid protocols for last semester. They mentioned hoping to bring someone in to discuss the topic of accessibility in the next few weeks. Furthermore, they introduced standing committees which work on more specific issues throughout the semester.

Standing committees are the following:

AED (Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Development) Committee which works with faculty and administrators to improve academic processes. In the past, they have brought in speakers, hosted workshops, and organized events.



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Student Health Committee which works with the Wellness Center and Office of Community Standards to manage student health on campus.

Justice and Equity (J&E) Committee works with the VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as well as the DMC to work on DEI on campus and make spaces and processes welcoming to all students.

Residential Life & Safety (Reslife) Committee works with Residential Life and Campus Safety to address student life issues.

Sustainability and Facilities (Sustainability) Committee works with Facilities, Sustainability Working Group, and Environmental Protection to work on sustainability and maintenance issues on campus.

Emily Jiang further mentioned ad hoc committees which may come into being at any time for topics that come up. Currently there are plans for the establishment of a reproductive justice committee in response to the reproductive justice resolution that was passed last year. They also noted that all SA members are required to be on at least one committee and that committee assignments will take place later during this meeting. They further emphasized the advocacy role of SA and encouraged students to give feedback and representatives to make themselves available and approachable to their constituencies so that SA has the necessary support for what the Assembly wants to push.

Emily Jiang continued with a recap of the Spring 2022 semester. One of the biggest accomplishments in the last semester was the changes to the funding system which eliminates the need for weekly funding votes. SA members also worked on the new rollover system for the Student Activities Fee, the creation of the Student Activities Funding Committee, with students, org leaders, Media Board reps, DMC reps, and CAB reps, and SA reps. The budget is publicly available and was sent via email over the summer. The Assembly passed Resolution R22-1 which concerns reproductive freedom for Hamilton students, funded all clubs in full again, hosted several class bonding events, and distributed care packages to the student body at the end of the semester. They ended their recap announcing an email which details what the Assembly did last year, goals for this year, and information on committees.

- **Fall 2022 Prospects and Goals** ([TIME: 23:50](#))

Marvin Lopez talked through the Assembly's goals for the upcoming semester. Firstly, the constitutional review committee planned changes in the past semester that will now be put into action. Furthermore, campus beautification projects are in planning to make the campus more inviting and welcoming to students. As mentioned by Emily, SA passed a new funding system in the past semester, which will be tried out this semester for the first time. He noted that there may be changes to that system based on comments on and suggestions for the new system. The



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Assembly will continue to host events and Marvin noted that Felix has already put together a very comprehensive plan for senior week. Furthermore, SA will continue traditions like Declaration Day and the Freshman formal. He added that recent articles have addressed the issues of accessibility on campus and SA will be working on those especially through comparing how other institutions handle accessibility. Marvin further noted that SA will continue to work on the land acknowledgements with the, now operating again, the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative and the Oneida Nation. Lastly, Marvin mentioned looking forward to collaborating with campus partners to host more events. He encouraged Assembly members to put any ideas into the Slack and students not on the Assembly can always submit public comments or email anyone on the Assembly.

Emily Jiang asked if anyone had any specific goals for the semester.

Felix Tager responded that one of the goals he ran on was the idea of getting grab-and-go meals on campus. He noted that there are meetings between Hamilton and vending machine facilitators this week and that there should be a full proposal with American Vending. There is the potential for having vending machines with grab-and-go meals in 24/7 study areas. The vending machines would not be on the meal plan as of now but it would be something that students could pay for and grab something to eat when all dining services are closed.

Marvin Lopez added that he has heard some interest in the idea of vending machines with grab-and-go meals.

- **President Emily Jiang '25:** Dark Side beautification, accessibility on campus, WiFi issues ([TIME: 27:04](#))

Emily Jiang noted that over the summer they have thought about the idea of campus beautification. While not wanting to make any promises, they mentioned thinking of having more plants and flowers that naturally occur in the area. They also mentioned the potential of painting the Darkside buildings although also noted that they are not sure if it will happen as the new VP of Facilities stated that there might be a need for Trustee approval. They asked if anyone had any ideas as the brutalist architecture of Darkside has fallen out of favor.

Emily Jiang continued with addressing the issue of accessibility on campus. They noted that there has been controversy about the campus being ADA compliant or not. The VP for Facilities and Planning has stated the following:

“Regarding accessibility on campus, I acknowledge we have much room for improvement, but we are actively partnering with an architectural firm to conduct a feasibility study for the majority of campus buildings. The purpose is to gather data and develop a comprehensive report for inadequacies as they relate to general accessibility on campus. The primary findings of this study will be used as a critical tool



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in evaluating, prioritizing, and executing future upgrades as part of our long-term, sustained investment strategy to make Hamilton College universally accessible.”

Emily ended by noting that they will be meeting with administration and the Disabled Student Network over the next few weeks regarding the issue of campus accessibility.

Emily Jiang also gave an update about the WiFi issues on campus. They shared the contents of an email from Jesse Thomas, a Network System Administrator at LITS:

“We have been monitoring calls coming into the Help Desk regarding Wi-Fi since early last week and have been aware of about 20 support incidents to date that we’ve been assisting with.

Also, we have been seeing an abnormally high device count on our Wi-Fi network since last Friday and just this morning have proactively added capacity for another 500 devices, bringing the total (for students) up to 4500. Some of these capacity constraints might have caused some inconsistent connections over the weekend.

Beyond these two items, we are not aware of any issues causing disruption to student Wi-Fi connections (we have a few thousand connections currently), but we will do some additional analysis and review of all our backend systems to ensure this is the case.

Please encourage anyone with individual issues to reach out to our Help Desk as Maureen suggested. They are well-equipped to deal with triaging any issues with connectivity related to device configuration. We are also reviewing all of these support calls and reaching to students directly where further troubleshooting is required in order to resolve issues.”

Emily also noted that they have seen improvements to the WiFi since this morning and reiterated that if you have individual issues with WiFi you should file a complaint with HelpDesk. Even if the Help Desk is unable to find a solution, it is useful for LITS to have a count of how many students are having connection issues.

- **Vice President Marvin Lopez ‘23:** Constitutional Updates, College Committees, First Year and End of Semester Elections ([TIME: 30:46](#))

Marvin Lopez gave an update on the constitutional review. The committee will be looking at the goals of Student Assembly and how they are detailed in the constitution, and consolidating those goals into one section rather than having them scattered through the constitution and the by-laws. He also noted that there are college committees that focus on specific issues and encouraged students who are interested in participating in SA but do not want as big of a commitment as being on the Assembly to engage with committees. He further noted that First-Year Elections will take place September 8 - September 9 and on September 12 the new delegation will be welcomed into SA meetings. There are about 25 students participating in the election process which is a lot better than last semester. Marvin noted looking forward to welcoming the 2026 delegation to the Assembly. Finally, at the end of the semester, the student body will elect the



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Assembly President and Vice President for the next year. Elections for President and Vice President are offset by one semester from the elections of the general assembly. He encouraged students to be on the lookout for more information on those elections. President and VP elections will take place during the last week of the fall semester. In moving on to committee assignments, he also mentioned that there will be an email from SA going out detailing committee responsibilities after this meeting. He reiterated that every member is required to sit on a committee but that students who are not on the Assembly would like to sit on a committee are able to do so.

Felix Tager asked about the movie channel vote.

Emily Jiang responded that the vote is postponed to next week.

Committee Assignments ([TIME: 33:30](#))

Emily Jiang reiterated that all SA members are required to be on at least one committee but that if students not on SA can also sit on them. Students interested in a committee should email either Emily, Marvin, or the Chair of the committee.

Ryley McGovern mentioned that there are a number of students on the Justice and Equity committee that are not on the Assembly. This semester he mentioned planning to listen to advice on what to work on. He encouraged everyone to let him know if they have any suggestions.

Felix Tager asked if being on the Senior Planning Committee counts towards the committee requirement.

Emily Jiang responded that all seniors are automatically on the Senior Planning Committee.

Allison Sheehan added that there is nothing that distinguishes the committees from each other, so if there is nothing else Felix would want to take on this would fulfill the requirement.

Felix Tager explained the responsibilities of the Res Life and Safety committee. He mentioned that Res Life and Safety deals with campus safety issues and general safety issues on campus. For example, if students get parking tickets or a campus safety concern, the committee advocates for them. He noted that it is one of the most important committees as it helps protect student rights.

Ryley McGovern explained the responsibilities of the Justice and Equity committee. He noted that it is a very broad committee so the areas the committee can take on are unlimited. He mentioned wanting to hear advice on what the committee should be working on so that it is easier to pinpoint what work needs to be done. The committee generally works with the VP of DEI and the DMC.



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Marvin Lopez commented on the work of the Student Health Committee. The committee deals with students' physical and mental health. For example, in the past semester the committee brought in therapy dogs during finals week and suggested to professors to ease workload during certain periods. He also noted that the issue of drunk driving and the Jitney might fall under the Student Health Committee's responsibilities.

Marvin Lopez commented on the responsibilities of the AED committee. He mentioned that last semester the committee worked on collaborating with administrators that chair different academic departments. It is a committee that has been led very well and has projects that can be continued.

Marvin Lopez also explained the responsibilities of the Sustainability and Facilities committee. He noted that he chaired the committee last semester and, for example, helped with the Senior Week Tree Planting with Brian Hansen.

Announcements ([TIME: 41:35](#))

- First Year Elections will take place Sept 8-9
 - All students must vote using their Hamilton email account
 - Polls open/close at 11:59PM
 - Electing one (1) Class President
 - Electing four (4) Class Representatives
 - Results will be announced Sept 10th
- We are seeking applications for a Treasurer and Deputy Secretaries! An email will go out tonight with more information.
- Submit designs for the 2026 class banner! More information is available to 2026 students in a previous email.

Jason Porter '26 asked if it were possible to run for a representative position and deputy secretary.

Emily Jiang responded that it is possible to apply for a position and run.

Jason Porter '26 asked when signatures are due.

Marvin Lopez replied that it's Friday and that they can talk more after the meeting.



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Max Ganem asked for name pronouns, hometown, fun fact, and picture from new Assembly members for the SA website.

Felix Tager asked for people who are interested in joining the newly-expanded senior planning committee.

5. Adjournment

