

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/5/2022

1. Call to Order

Present:

Christopher Akuleme
Corey Bravo Sloan
Bethany Fell
Max Ganem
Emily Jiang
Lena Klink
Alexandra Kropaneva
Marvin Lopez
Ryley McGovern

Kiara Nelson
Raymond Ni
Jacob Piazza
Mason Schroeder
Nicole Soret
Felix Tager
Katrinah Tejada
Prim Udomphan
Joshua Zeledon

Excused:

Alex Axton
Allison Sheehan

Unexcused:

Ailyn Burbano
Evelyn Molina

2. General Public Comment Period ([TIME: 03:47](#))

Obi Nnadika '23 wrote:

“I think it would be very helpful to bring the Jitney back to downtown.”

Emma Swan '23 (she/her) commented:

“The dining halls so far this semester are seriously lacking variety and options, especially in McEwen. Is there a reason that we've gotten rid of McEwen's global line/taqueria, Commons's pasta station & panini press, etc., and is there a timeline for those things coming back?”

Will Rice '24 (he/him) commented:

“Please Bring Back the Jitney to the Rok on weekends.”

John Jee '24 (he/him) wrote:

“Please bring back the weekend jitney (don's Rok to KJ)”

Kai Haesslein '24 (he/him) commented:

“Please bring back the late night jitney on friday nights and the weekends”

Dylan Fargis '24 (he/him) wrote:

“Bring the jitney back from town on the weekends”

Ethan '24 (he/him) wrote:

“Please bring the Jitney shuttle on the weekend back!”



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Aidan Regan '24 (he/him) commented:

“Bring back the jitney to downtown. I’ve seen too many students chose to drive back up or down the hill when they shouldn’t. Drunk driving should be taken seriously and the jitney is a perfect solution. This is a safety issue.”

Waleed Nisar '24 (he/him) wrote:

“Bring back Weekend jitney to the Rok”

Emily Jiang noted that everyone who is curious as to why the Jitney does not exist right now should look to last week's minutes.

3. Old Business (TIME: 06:41)

- **Minutes from 8/29**

The minutes from 8/29 pass as written by unanimous consent.

4. New Business

- **Confirmations:** '24 Representatives Jacob Piazza (he/him) and Bethany Fell (she/they), '25 Representative Kiara Nelson, Treasurer Prim (Sudchananya) Udomphan (she/her) (TIME: 07:05)

Jacob Piazza mentioned that he has always been interested in student government. He mentioned that in the past, he has enjoyed reading the minutes and is excited to now take part in Student Assembly. He stated wanting to improve the democratization of processes, specifically voting; he also noted that there tends to be a low voter turnout, which is something he wants to improve.

Bethany Fell spoke about her prior involvement in administration, and that, as a part of Student Assembly, she wants to continue work she has previously done with the Disabled Students Network. They mentioned that, considering their aforementioned experience, they know how hard this process can be. They put an emphasis on focusing on campus accessibility and inclusive, active experiences for all students, especially disabled students.

Prim Udomphan introduced herself and noted that she had experience as treasurer in high school. She emphasized wanting to work on helping to create and support the relationship between the students and their school. She plans to make everything more accessible and flexible for everyone on campus, and put an emphasis on specifically making Student Assembly funding processes as transparent as possible.

Kiara Nelson mentioned being excited about being involved in this aspect of campus, instead of just working with students. She mentioned that she is a LITS ambassador, and can act as a liaison



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in that regard. She further noted that she is excited to work with the Justice and Equity Committee, focusing on making campus a safer place for and uplifting HEOP students and students of color.

The motion to combine confirmations passes unanimously.

The motion to confirm Jacob Piazza, Bethany Fell, Kiara Nelson, and Prim (Sudchananya) Udomphan passes unanimously via voice vote.

○ **College Movie Channel Subscription Renewal ([TIME: 10:30](#))**

Marvin Lopez noted that usually the Assembly does not vote on this but that the College has brought the question of whether or not to renew the subscription to the movie channel to the Assembly this year. He showed a short presentation detailing the usage and cost of the movie channel. He noted that the College wants students to be involved in the decision which is why they approached SA.

Felix Tager mentioned that the movie channel gets renewed once in a while. He mentioned that while students use it, they do not use it a lot and the service is a big cost. He continued stating that the usage of the channel is also a matter of accessibility; if the channel is promoted well, more people would use it and it could be helpful for students who do not have a subscription to Netflix or the like. However, if continued, SA needs to ensure that the channel is promoted well and utilized by students. Statistically, people spend less time than a full movie on the service, which means that students only scroll around and not watch a movie, which is not the greatest track record. He noted that the cost is fairly high and there is the question of this money potentially being more effective if it were allocated somewhere else. As Student Activities has money allocated for the channel for the year, the only concern is whether or not to keep the channel.

Marvin Lopez stated that the service costs about 12,000 USD for the year, which comes out of the Student Activities parent budget. He mentioned that last year there were about 7500 sessions, which is about 2000 sessions compared to other schools the size of Hamilton College and people spent about one hour and ten minutes on the service. He noted that while technically the contract with the College is over, the contractor has allowed the College to continue to utilize it until a renewal decision is reached. If SA decides to renew, the contract will be extended by one year and would have to be voted on again next year. If renewed, the number of available movie titles would increase from 560 to 600 and the number of available TV channels would increase from 12 to 15. There would be no price increase associated with the renewal. If SA chooses to not renew the contract, the 12,000 USD would return to the parent budget and the movie channel would be terminated. He stated that this does not decide whether SA can allocate these 12,000 USD to something else; this decision would need to be made after the cancellation of the movie channel.



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Raymond Ni asked if Marvin could explain what the parent budget means and where the money would go.

Marvin Lopez responded that the parent budget is coming from the Student Activities fee and is then redistributed into several departments including Media Board, CAB, and Student Assembly, and also funds the Traditions Fund which allows for traditions like Declaration Day to occur. SA does not have control over every single budget under the parent budget, as the SA budget is only one of the five or six total budgets. The 12,000 USD would return to the parent budget and not the SA budget, which is why SA does not have full control over it.

Felix Tager replied that the money would go to the Student Assembly bracket, so it would go to SA.

Bethany Fell asked how much CAB usually spends on activities like Class and Charter Day.

Marvin Lopez replied that the money from the movie channel could not go towards CAB activities as the money would return to the Student Assembly budget.

Felix Tager explained to the Assembly the way in which money transfers. He mentioned that Marvin, Emily, and himself have worked to reform the budget system and to add transparency clauses to increase transparency and democratize the Student Activities Fee. The Student Activities Fee Committee (SAFC) takes the Student Activities Fee that students pay every year and decides how it is broken down between Student Activities, SA, CAB, Media Board. If SA were to want the money from the movie channel to go somewhere other than the SA budget, SAFC would need to convene and vote on whether or not to move it to another budget. He stated that 11,000 USD would not actually help much with the Class and Charter Day fund, which is hundreds of thousands of dollars. However, the money could be used in other places more effectively.

Raymond Ni asked when the deadline to vote on this is. He explained that the reason why he asked this is that the full assembly, including the freshmen should be able to work on this

Marvin Lopez responded that the contract is already done and that the College is waiting on SA to make a decision.

Emily Jiang replied that SA has until the end of the month to decide.

Marvin Lopez suggested that they could motion to postpone the vote until after the Sept 12 meeting.

Emily Jiang added that this date would be after the freshmen are added to SA and can also vote on it.



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Jacob Piazza asked how the movie channel works.

Katrinah Tejada added that the channel is hard to find.

Emily Jiang agreed that the channel is hard to find which is part of the problem of it not being used. They added that the only people who know how to use it tend to be upperclassmen. To combat this issue SA could put out tutorials to advertise the channel.

Chris Akuleme asked what the case behind the lower usage was. As Hamilton's usage was higher than average, what is the evidence behind low usage.

Marvin Lopez replied that one hour and ten minutes is not a whole movie length. Therefore, people are not spending a whole movie worth of time on the platform.

Chris Akuleme noted that not everyone finishes movies but that the overall usage is nonetheless significant.

Katrinah Tejada mentioned that there is not a lot of variety on the platform in terms of available movies and genres which might explain why not that many people use it. She further noted that she could not see 600 movies or a wide variety of channels.

Kiara Nelson noted that LITS works with the movie channel. LITS sends out monthly forms for students to voice their opinions on which movies they want to add. However, this is currently on hold as LITS is waiting for SA to decide whether or not to keep the channel. If SA decides to keep the movie channel, LITS would send out an email to students. Kiara also stated that there are usually a lot more movies on the channel than there are currently.

Jacob Piazza asked how the channel could be promoted besides sending an email. He mentioned that the existence of the movie channel should be ingrained in everyone's brain. He noted that there are some good movies on the channel.

Emily Jiang responded that there could be social media campaigns, someone could come in and present on the movie channel, and SA could have a movie night. They noted that there is a lot that can be done to ensure that people know the channel exists.

The motion to postpone the vote on the movie channel fails.

The motion to vote on the movie channel today passes unanimously.

The motion to keep the movie channel passes unanimously via placard vote.

Marvin Lopez noted that the next steps would be to get some graphics out and organize movie nights.



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- **'23 Class President Felix Tager: Bee/Yellow Jacket Traps Update** ([TIME: 22:40](#))

Felix Tager stated that he emailed Facilities and the issue has been taken care of. He also stated that he has been working on a vending machine project. The vending machines would sell grab and go meals that would be accessible via HillCard. Students would still have to pay for the meals, but there would be a variety of options like salads, wraps, quinoa bowls, power bowls, and the regular drinks. The vending machines would be located in the library and in KJ.

Katrinah Tejada asked if the service could be free.

Felix Tager replied that he is working making the meals free. Currently, American Food & Vending is the provider of the vending machines. Bon Appetit has a service that would need to be negotiated into the College's contract which could not be done in time for this academic year.

Ryley McGovern asked about allergies.

Felix Tager responded that it would be safe and accommodating. The plan is for there to be nut free options, gluten free options, vegan options, and more to ensure that it is accommodating especially since there aren't accommodating options on campus. The vending machines will also hopefully help fill some of those gaps of accommodation.

- **President Emily Jiang '25: Accessibility Preliminary Meeting** ([TIME: 24:12](#))

Emily Jiang mentioned that they, alongside Marvin, will be having biweekly meetings with administrators and the Dean of Accessibility, Allen Harrison. They wanted to let everyone know about these meetings and that if anyone has any concerns, complaints, or questions to please direct them to Emily at the SA email (sa@hamilton.edu). They further noted that they will be meeting with the Assistant VP of Facilities as they are doing an accessibility audit. They again encouraged everyone to send them their thoughts.

- **Vice President Marvin Lopez '23: First Year Elections Update, Resolution Follow-up Committee** ([TIME: 25:18](#))

Marvin Lopez gave an update on the first-year elections. There are eight students running for Class Representative and three students running for Class President. Elections will take place on September 8 to September 9 and the 2026 delegation will be present at the meeting next week. He encouraged first-year students to be on the lookout for ballots which will be coming in the next few days. He also gave an update on the resolution for reproductive freedom that was passed in the Spring of 2022. Some demands SA made to the college have been implemented, others have not. He noted that the last item is to establish a subcommittee of the Student Health Committee. The committee would not have a chair but Evelyn Molina and himself — two



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authors of the resolution — would be in it. He mentioned that an email will go out asking students to join but that anyone on SA is also welcome to join. He stated that anyone interested in joining the committee should let him or SA at sa@hamilton.edu know.

Emily Jiang asked if anyone would like to join another committee. They mentioned the Assembly will revisit committee assignments once first-year students join.

Max Ganem mentioned that he is still missing information from some people for the website. He stressed that the picture has to be vertical.

Marvin Lopez stated that he will make a form and send it out to fill out. He also encouraged everyone on the Assembly who has not yet done so to put their introductions in the Slack Introductions channel.

5. Announcements (TIME: 28:25)

- First Year Elections will take place Sept 8-9.
 - Open to first-year students - you 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
- Submit designs for the 2026 class banner! More information is available to 2026 students in a previous email.

6. Adjournment

