

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present

- Nadav Konforty
- Julian Perricone
- Gillian Mak
- Jake Engelman
- Caitlin Purdy
- Penelope Hoopes
- Lilly Pieper
- Noam Barnhard
- Jonathan Stanhope
- Marquis Palmer
- Zach Oscar
- Ysabel Coss
- Karthik Ravishankar
- Casey Codd
- Ben Rhind
- Sam Gordon
- Giacomo Cabrera
- Ian Chen
- Rachel Sutor
- Jordan D'Addio
- Nani Suzuki
- Connie Lorente
- Keith Ruggles
- Gianni Hill
- Elizabeth Groubert
- Diana Perez
- Maria Valencia
- Amanda Kim
- Jiin Jeong
- Eseosa Asiruwa
- Gavin Meade

Unexcused

- Ben Katz



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2. Public Comment Period

- **Chidera Onyeoziri:** First of all, I want to say thank you for you guys being on SA. I've never been to a meeting so cool. I am coming because I want to make a pitch for an event that I think would be better for SA to oversee. I lead the Levitt Center Social Innovation Team and our work is developing solutions to social issues we see on campus, so this semester we've been talking about hosting a town hall. So, our objective is to create a space where students can talk about issues not discussed in classrooms and to cultivate a culture where campus-wide conversations or town halls are a norm. We see a need for spaces for larger conversations; and current campus conversation initiatives typically focus on smaller groups or on large group events, like common ground, where spectators do not participate and voice their own opinions about a given topic. We think that larger campus conversations are beneficial because they expose students to a variety of issues, like mental health or work life balance, or sexual assault. It engages students who might otherwise feel comfortable. If you're in a larger group you have the luxury of sitting down and talking to your peers. So, the Levitt team was going to try to plan this event on their own but the Innovation Team is a small group of people comprised mainly of underclassmen who don't have as much experience with campus issues. This is something that when schools have town halls, it's generally their student assembly that governs their town halls. It doesn't seem like a lot of people come during public comment period and it seems like SA is a very elite, you know, this is like the cream of the crop of our school. A town hall would give student the opportunity to meet members of SA and participate and feel like they would like have a voice. I don't know if we can create a committee around this initiative.
- **Nadav Konforty:** So, Chidera, thank you. Is there anyone here that wants to lead this? Traditionally this would go under student affairs, but is there another group that would like to take this on?
 - **Penelope Hoopes:** Could publicity take this on?
 - **Nadav Konforty:** Oh! Publicity could definitely help with that. I also want a few elected representatives to take this on. With that, we are going to connect the interested members of SA to you.
 - **Jiin Jeong:** Hi, I'm chairing the cultural affairs committee and we have actually held town hall meetings in the past and I'm hoping to start them back up this semester. I would love to work with you on this project.
 - **Jordan D'Addio:** Hi, I'm Jordan. I think this is an awesome idea. Thank you for coming in and presenting. So we've thrown out a couple committees already, but I'm sort of wondering, what are you looking for us to do to support you? What can we do to help this along?
- **Marquis:** Two comments. I think Chidera offers herself as a great example of what other students should do. Many people wish SA should be doing something particular and I really wish. I encourage underclassmen who have the



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underclassmen who have the time to do this. It reminds me me sort of Common ground. It seems less deodorized and less controlled (no offense, D'Wipps).

David Walden — Mental Health presentation (please see powerpoint attached to the email).

- Great, I've been told to keep it short, so I'm going to really try to do that. This is actually like really close to my bedtime, so if I fall asleep halfway through, that's what happening. I don't want you to be alarmed. So hi, this is my presentation.
- I'm going to talk to you a bit about counseling center utilization, give you some data and information from this last year, give you some historical information and some information about our services, and talk about the new building. And I'm going to do all of that in as quick a time as possible.
- So, first thing's first, I'm going to talk about utilization of the Center. About every year about a quarter of the student body comes into the Center. Last year it was 26%, so that means that 1 in 4 students in any given year are coming in to the counseling center for services. That compares to 10% nationally for college students. That goes up a bit for smaller schools and up a little bit more for schools like us, private liberal arts colleges. You can see we are kind of on the high end still of that. A good number of our students know about the service and use that service. Of course, every year these students change. At the end of a four year cycle, when you graduate and walk across the stage, about 50-55% of the graduating class will have been in the counseling center during their time. So it's a good amount. We have a good idea seeing what students are struggling with because we see over half of you by the time you graduate. That utilization picture has increased pretty dramatically over the past ten years.
- When I was here ten years ago, we saw 10 or 11% of the student body and that's changed. Here's what that looks like in a graph. The bars are the total number of sessions that we've provided over the years. Right about 2012-2013 is when things started to change. We started to experience a dramatic increase that is pretty normative in terms of what happened with counseling centers across the nation but this is how it impacted us. It's about a 152% increase over the last four or five years, so it's a lot. So we are struggling with that.
- Concomitant with that, though, we have increased our resources. Just 5 years ago this is what we had in the center. It was founded in the 70s when a lot of college counseling centers were founded. The first director was Don Meulenberg, it was just him sitting upstairs in Rudd with one of the nurses. Over time, my predecessor came in and they added some more staff members. It stayed even at about 3 therapists until 2013. So there were just 3 of us, I was one of them, up there on top of the Health Center in Rudd. We did individual therapy only. We had one hour a week of psychiatry-- and that was really only to do a quick meeting and say "I don't know, you might try this" and that was that, and we had 2 hours a week of a dietitian.



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- If we flash forward to now, now we have five therapists, two trainees, one contracted therapist. There are 8 choices of counselors you can see. We have group therapy, we have art therapy, biofeedback, we do lots of different things. I'll describe that to you in a second. We have one day a week of psychiatry and one day a week of a dietician. We have expanded those services quite dramatically over the last couple years. I say that to, in part, often times and I've felt this too, address the sentiment that "oh we aren't supported, oh we aren't getting enough resources." Actually the college has been quite supportive to our demands and our needs. You might know that the College has been under a FTE cap since the crash in 2008 and we have gotten additional positions during that time. It has a priority, not that we don't still need resources, but that's what it's looked like over the years.
- Something that relates to demand and resources is wait times. This is something I wanted to give you some information on. So, what we've done this last year is every Friday our office manager Mary takes a look at the schedule and she makes a giant spreadsheet. That spreadsheet says when is the next available appointment for each counselor, and she breaks it down by next available appointment for a new client who has never been into the center before, who is called an intake, and when is the next available appointment for an ongoing appointment. So if someone were to come in on Monday, when could they get in. This chart gives the numbers for intake and ongoing broken down by week. What I've done is given you the numbers for how long the wait was for just the next available appointment for a new client, for the next available appointment for an ongoing person, and then I've given you the maximum too. What that represents is we have 8 people that are seeing clients. a cluster of those folks are at 0, 1 or 2 days of wait time , a cluster of people in the middle cause they're a little busier that week, and a cluster of people on the far end. And they're a little more booked up that week. And that changes just based on somebody who went out for a conference or was sick or had more people that week.
- What I want you to note is the wait times to come in. The worst wait times we've ever gotten is in October (5 days). That makes sense, we tend to peak right around the end of fall break. You might imagine why, people come back and are like "oh, I didn't get it all done. Oh no" and then we actually coming towards our peak-- we tend to peak at the end of February, beginning of march. The longest wait we've got for intake was 5 days, which was unacceptable for me but we had that there, and then for ongoing we stayed under 3 days. The max pulled out for one or two of our therapists. But that's what it looks like I want to emphasize that the intakes are for normal folks that are coming in. They might have some level of distress, but there is not an emergency. If you come into the Counseling center and you've had a recent death, a sexual assault, or you are an imminent risk of a suicide or homicide, we will cancel somebody, see you during during lunch, or we



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will stay late to see you, okay? But this is more for just regular service, if you will.

- Okay, now who is coming into the counseling center? It's usually an even split by class year, last year we had a little bit more seniors, that tends to vary year to year. The only thing that holds constant is that there's just less juniors because you're abroad. It's a fairly even breakdown. In terms of demographics tend to overrepresent LGBTQ identified individuals if you accept population estimates-- we don't collect that data at Hamilton, it's impossible to know, but this is what our client base looks like. We tend to overrepresent students of color. We tend to stay about even on international students, a little over on first-gen and we tend to hover around 30% or so for students who identify as athletes. We do tend to overrepresent female identifying students compared. What's interesting to me is that the increase of usage has been made almost entirely of female identifying students. It's not that we lost ground around male identifying students, we've actually gained some. But the vast majority of that increase has been female identifying students. I wish I could explain why. There are probably a lot of reasons you could think of.
- I want to make one more point about our clients. Students coming to our counseling center really look like Hamilton. But, as I've told you, over 50% of a graduating class will have been through the center. Now you're probably thinking, "oh the people are coming to the center are struggling with something. They have difficulties." One of the things I'm really proud of is that our retention to graduation rate is a little higher than the college's. We have an amazing retention rate at Hamilton college, but if you come into the center you are a couple percentage points more likely to persist to graduation over a 4-6 year period. So those students may be taking leaves and coming back, but we are quite proud of that. There may be other factors there, I acknowledge that. That's a great number of students coming through the center, so there's a lot of other things going on with them, but the one thing the students have in common is that those students came into the counseling center.
- What are we doing when students come in? I'm going to tell you a little bit about our services. I'm also going to compare that to our peers, cause that's what we do at private liberal arts colleges. I'm going to show you a graph. In addition to individual psychotherapy, here is what we are offering and what our peers are offering. There are not many things that the peers are offering that I didn't put on the graph. These are the standard things you offer at a counseling center, so group therapy, the number of groups, the psychiatrist, the dietician, biofeedback, therapeutic spaces-- hardly anyone is doing that. We have a little art therapy space. You know, these are just places where students can come and hang out. Therapeutic alternatives, um, Williams has one but I forget what it is. We do Wilderness adventure quest, therapy on the rocks, we are starting a new Women's empowerment weekend retreat, and then peer counseling. And only a



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few institutions have that. So, we are doing a lot with the resources we have and we are proud of that.

- So let me tell you some of the things we are doing. Therapy and psychiatry, we offer individual therapy and group therapy. In terms of the groups, the bulk are general therapy groups: understanding self and others. We do offer a DBT based group that offers some anxiety reduction skills and emotional regulation skills, we offer a group on academic confidence if you are struggling in that area. Our peer counselors are offering three different groups right now: body image, family of origin, sexual assault survivors in connection with SMART. So we are offering a great number of groups in the counseling center in combination with individual therapy.
- I want to mention the peer counselors. The nice thing about the peer counselors as you know is that they are doing evening and weekend work. So we have peer counselors available on Sundays and then evenings this semester on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays either till 7 or 10 PM. There's a nice program that expands our service envelope in the counseling center and allows us to use the space after the staff has gone home. They are also doing support groups and they do a lot of outreach programming, so, you may know that they do some wellness outreach programming primarily with athletics teams. You can schedule online so it is pretty accessible and easy.
- In the office we are also offering biofeedback. Doctor Hama does individualized biofeedback which means he hooks you up with a lot of fancy sensors in his computer in his office. Then we also offer self service. We have a room you can go into and do some of these healing rhythms and things like that if you just want to learn to regulate your emotions on your own, you can do that.
- In addition to all of that, we also offer a dietician if you want any consultation about disordered eating, eating disorders, building or gaining muscle, you can go and see the dietitian. We have offered yoga workshops and sponsored them in the past. We have some apps on the website, so if you're interested you can download you can use it on your own. We also have a list of resources on the website as well. We have an art therapy space upstairs in our group room. We also have some unique stuff: I offer Wilderness Adventure Quest which is a two night stay in the Adirondacks in the fall and spring, sort of like a vision quest, as well as therapy on the rocks at the rock wall.
- Doctor Heather Cosgrove in our office is going to be piloting a Women's empowerment weekend will be piloted this semester.
- To wrap this up, we offer a 24/7 365 emergency line. You can call our office number and press two to get to it. I want to say a word about this line. If you use this line, it is fine to use it at 2pm or 2am, I would encourage you to be a good consumer of it. It's meant for when you are in distress and if you need something in the immediate moment. But, whatever you need--If you call this number, tell them what you need. You know, explain what you are looking for. Because their



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job, first and foremost is to assess risk. So they are going to ask a lot of questions about risk. But if you are just looking for someone to talk to or calm down with, or say “hey, I’m going to self injure or I did self injure-- but I’m okay. I’m not thinking about suicide”-- or if you are thinking about suicide. Whatever it is, just tell the person what you need. If you don’t like the person you’re talking to, you can call back, hang up, etc. So please try to be a good consumer--we don’t mind students using this service at all. So those are all of our services.

- What’s next? You know we are down at 100 College Hill Road. We are going to be moving to the big water pit-- I’m sorry, the new building. We are just pumping that spring water right out of there. It’s going to open up next year at some point. It will look something like this. We are sitting here: (across from Sadove). We are trying to make a green space that will mirror the space out front of sadove with an open seating space. Replacing the picnic tables that were over in the hickory grove right there. And by the way, the wood from the hickory grove is going to be used in the building so you’ll walk in the door and find it in various spaces. We are hoping to create a little space across from the pub and another space here that we might even do programming in.
- This is a view of the building from the Beinecke side. Upstairs in the building, this is the counseling center portion. Counseling center is upstairs, health center is downstairs. We are going to have group rooms, sunporch, and therapist spaces. So it is going to be lots of nice spaces. That’s going to be the new facility. My hope is that could be what you all have been talking about, what the whole campus has been talking about, which is mental health as a priority. It’s one of the top 3 priorities for the college. My hope this building will be one part of the whole college joining together and looking out for student and employee wellbeing. I want to move from the model of the counseling center being responsible for everything and having to be reactive to everything and really have student wellness be a larger priority that everyone’s looking out for. My pitch has kind of been, “Let’s try to plateau the demand for the counseling center” let’s try to join together so we don’t see these increases year after year after year.
- **Ysabel Coss:** Do you have the numbers of the people who use the different services?
 - **David Walden:** Yes. Not off the top of my head. I can actually break down the number of students who use each space, except for the art therapy space.
- **Caitlin Purdy:** Who is on call for the 24/7 line. Is that a rotation of you guys?
 - **David Walden:** It’s a rotation of outside therapists. And then we are backup.
 - **Gavin Meade:** Can you speak about the reporting process? So somebody calls into the on-call, they’re in distress, and the next day they usually receive a phone call, right?



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- **David Walden:** If they request that, yeah. We've worked very closely with the folks who answer the phone, so they know the way we would do it. They know everything about Hamilton College--they know the nicknames of residence halls. Actually when you call and they answer, a picture of the college comes up so they know what it looks like here. At the end of the calls, what we are hoping -- that students are asked of they'd like follow up. Sometimes what happens is that students say "that's what I needed" and sometimes they say "I'd like to make an appointment" and we'll do that.
- **Nani Suzuki:** Will the size of the current staff for the counseling center change?
 - **David Walden:** That is something we are exploring. We are going to need to see how things shake out. I would expect that in a new building you would see some staffing changes.
- **Penelope Hoopes:** If you are to guess, how many students are using the peer counselors?
 - **David Walden:** I should know that off the top of my head and I do not. It's a good number of students. In every given week, maybe 3-4 appointments which is a good number. Number of unique students, I think it's around 30-40-50 students. The students coming in to see peer counselors are pretty mutually exclusive from the students seeing staff counselors.
- **Elizabeth Groubert:** When is the building expected to be finished?
 - **David Walden:** That's a question for facilities. We've talked about it as hopefully opening in the fall, but there have been some setbacks, like the water. I think the hope is to open at some point in the fall. Gotta be honest, if it opens in the middle in the semester, we probably will wait until the next semester. I really don't want to move halfway through a semester. It just feels like too much, cause then you're going to see us sitting in our offices being like "and where was that?"
- **Noam Barnhard:** The first slide you showed was 26% and it's 10% average. Do you see that as a good thing such that as the counseling center is open and there's no stigma or as a bad thing because a lot of students feel they need this counseling?
 - **David Walden:** I see it as a good thing. We do satisfaction surveys of our clients and we also look at senior survey data to see how students perceive the counseling center. We look at that data to see how we compare. What we find is that every time the senior survey is done, it is compared to a peer group. We are usually 10-15% over our peer institutions in terms of students saying they are satisfying or very satisfied with our services. Our clients give us A-As. Did we understand you, did we meet your needs, etc. Two years ago there was a healthy Minds Survey which is nationally normed survey. I'd like to do it again. That survey tells us that like 88% of



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the student body knew how to access the mental resources here on campus. That compares very favorably to other campuses. That high number is reflective of the fact that we are a private liberal arts college. I don't think our data on presenting concerns is all that different from a national sample. As a group college students have definitely increased in anxiety and other behaviors over the last 10 years.

- **Jordan D'Addio:** I know that certain students have expressed difficulty with access to psychiatry. I was wondering if that was under review
 - **David Walden:** Yes. I meant to talk about it. Those wait times are for therapists. Psychiatry is a pinch point. We went from 2 days a week to 1 a week because we were having difficulty finding a provider. The scheduling out is like a month or a month or a half and it's just not okay. But it's the best we can do right now. We are trying to figure out solutions for that for next semester. I hope to have some good news for you for next semester if I come back in April or May.
 - **Caitlin Purdy:** I know there is transportation for students who are actually physically ill to urgent care. Is there transportation for students to find their own psychiatry off campus?
 - **David Walden:** We've done it. That's more of a dean of students office question because they fund and support that. I will say that Off campus providers are pretty limited. There is only one provider in Clinton and of you go further out than that, I'm not confident with the providers in New Hartford or Utica. So I think we've got a real issue there.
- **Samantha Gordon:** Sorry, back to the psychiatry issue, I understand that this is the situation you are in for this semester and it's going to be reevaluated next year, but I know you guys have certain regulations where either to get a prescription filled you have to have an appointment or thirty minute long meeting and that scheduling issue exists. Is there any discussion of changing the requirements for things like refills so it is more efficient and effective and students can continue to get the medicines they need.
 - **David Walden:** Are you talking about meetings with counselors?
 - **Samantha Gordon:** No, a psychiatrist
 - **David Walden:** Our rule about that is that we want you meeting with a therapist before you meet with a psychiatrist. Then, the vast majority of students we want to continue in therapy while you continue in psychiatry. There really isn't a rule around getting refills. Really, the limit is on the psychiatric ability, and not on the therapists. If you had a different situation is I'd love to talk to you about that.

3. Funding

Amount Remaining Non-Strategic: **\$46,813.07**



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Amount Remaining Non-Strategic: **\$4,039.21**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Approved
<i>SA Treasurers</i>	<i>Discretionary Kitchen Items</i>	\$27.49	\$27.49	\$27.49
The Buffers	Recording & Arrangements	\$1,099.60	\$1,099.60	\$1,099.60
Slow Food	Community Dinners, Farm Tour, Adirondack Food Justice Summit	\$1,530.79	\$740.61	\$740.61
<i>Social Traditions</i>	<i>FebFest Hold</i>	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000
Hogwarts at Hamilton	Movie Marathon Snacks, Club Supplies	\$383.84	\$318.84	\$318.84
People Who Like to do Fun Things	Cloak Making Party & Easter Egg Hunt	\$546.01	\$32.98	\$32.98
SAAC	Hats	\$4,036.00	\$2,247.50	\$3,596.00
Muslim Students Association	8 Discussion Dinners	\$1,800.00	\$1,408.00	\$1,584
International Students Association	Persian New Year, Movie Night, Flag Painting, ISA-SASA Formal	\$751.32	\$732.64	\$732.64
Feminists of Color Collective	Speakeasy, Film Screening, Art Workshop	\$4,978.48	\$4,603.48	\$4,603.48
Independent Music Fund	Off-campus concerts	\$375.00	\$0	\$0

Amount Requested: **\$15,528.53**



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Amount Recommended: **\$11,211.14**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: **\$35,629.42**

SA Treasurers Discretionary funding request passes as recommended.

Buffers, slow Food, and Hogwarts at Hamilton pass as recommended.

Social Traditions Funding Hold Passes as Recommended.

IMF:

- **Jake Engelman:** IMF asked for funding for six people to go to two off campus concerts. The funding committee didn't feel comfortable funding this, but would encourage their leadership to reach out and resubmit.

People who like to do Fun Things, ISA, FCC and IMF Funding Passes as recommended.

SAAC:

- **Jake Engelman:** You guys re-submitted a budget, thank you, for more hats and pizza. Part of the discrepancy is that you asked for pizza and we already approved it. They also requested 400 hats at \$8.99 a hat, and the treasurers are recommending \$2,247.57 for \$250 hats, which is what you originally requested at the price you found.
- **Darby Philbrick:** I'm sure you guys are tired of hearing of SAAC. We do have a document that we hope will clarify questions that have come up. We want to have this conversation so we don't have to have this conversation again. We are going to briefly run through what SAAC is as well as what we know about our funding and why we have to get our funding through Student Assembly. "SAAC's exist to provide student athletes a voice in the NCAA through advisory committees at the campus, conference, and national level. Each committee is made up of student athletes assembled to provide insight on the student-athlete experience and offer input on the rules, regulations, and policies that affect student athletes lives on campus." Members of a campus SAAC have the opportunity to address issues affecting student athletes at their institution, furthermore, members have the opportunity to offer input on issues which may be national in scope (such as voting on NCAA legislation).
- The campus committee also services as a conduit of communication among student athletes, coaches, and athletics administrators on issues to improve the student-athlete experience and promote growth and education through sports participation. Concerns can be voiced and solutions offered regarding any issue that may be relevant to NCAA student-athletes.
- So, as you can see on that front page, there is a major stress on NCAA student-athlete, therefore it's just been the longstanding tradition that SAAC really only represents varsity athletes. Obviously, that's something that we are willing to talk about and willing to change, but if that were to be the case we would expect Club Sports to uphold all of the duties that SAAC reps uphold, which is going to our community service organized events, coming to our meetings, fulfilling everything that we ask of SAAC reps. That includes sitting and voting on NCAA legislation which wouldn't even affect club sports. If that's something they're interested in, we are definitely open to having that



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conversation. Or, club sports could apply for funding just as SAAC does, as a separate entity that they want and feel the need to do.

- Moving on to the next page, some attendance statistics pulled from our website for our game of the week initiative and its outcomes. Not every single support keeps track of the numbers that came to their games. Women's Soccer has a regular attendance of 190-220. When they were Game of the week and offered these promotional items, they had 321 people. Field Hockey jumped from 150 to 377. football regular attendance is around 900 and at Game of the Week this year they had 2000 people. Women's basketball regular attendance is around 150 to 200 and game of the week this year they had 317. So as you can see, at least one hundred or more people are attending because of these items. So, Outcomes over the past year because of this and because of this initiative. We've had 4 calls from alumni asking where they can get one of the products, we've had 10 calls from the clinton community asking where they could get one of our products, we've had countless opinions from nonathletes about what SAAC should hand our next. And countless calls from other NESCAC institutions on how we have made our SAAC initiatives so successful.
- Who is benefitting from the free stuff? -- not the athletes. The promotional products handed out are for anyone in the Hamilton or Clinton community to enjoy. When our game of the week occurs, it is not the athletes participating in the game that get the gear. Rather, it is anyone who attends the game. Attending the game is a campus wide activity for anyone to enjoy-- the goal is not to celebrate athletes only. The Game of the Week Initiative also benefits the low income student. Noone wants to buy a \$70 sweatshirt from our bookstore. Thus, the gear we hand out allows everyone in our community to represent Hamilton and show Hamilton pride. By giving us 300 or 250 hats, it means we have the opportunity to impact 300 individuals. Every single hat we've handed our will affect an individual. We've heard of past stories where trips are funded for 6 people where they cost \$6,000. That's \$1,000 a person. I think our impact is pretty large and it's pretty cool to say you've affected 200 individuals.
- **Ian:** Also, I would say, since we only get 200-400 items per semester, per year. We see that way more than that show up to these games even though, take football, for example, over 2,000 people. We only have 50-60 items there at a time. So, it's affecting more than just one hat for one individual. Sports have a much better atmosphere and experience. It makes all their hard work worth it to have people who show up.
- **Darby Philbrick:** So moving on, to SAAC and what we know to be true about funding up until this point. Just to push this out there because we've heard qualms about this in the past. The idea that student athletes are handed everything for free or that we receive more benefits than the average Hamilton student is largely untrue. Spring break trips, special jerseys, additional gear, all of that is paid for or fundraised for by athletes. We sell raffle tickets, fundraiser for our programs, we put down deposits for additional gear as well as our spring break trips-- sometimes amounting up to \$900. This year I paid \$1,000 for my spring break trip. We do not get to keep any of our in season gear unless we want to pay for it. So, then backing up to the larger problem: as a student run organization on



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this campus, we've long since been expected to go through Student Assembly to receive our funding-- since I've been here, and my predecessors in SAAC have been here, that's how it has always been. Running initiatives like Game of the Week, SAAC Service Sundays, and spring fundraisers are all perimeter initiatives that we don't necessarily have to do. But we do them because we want to make a larger impact on our community. So the athletic department doesn't factor into their budget SAAC initiatives because we are student run, just like any other club on this campus, like the Powder Club or anything else it may be, but we've chosen to use our platform in this way. I also want to quickly touch on, Zach Oscar is coming with us to meet with John Hind who is the athletic director to discuss this more in detail and to get more knowledge to share with you guys.

- **Zach Oscar:** I just want to jump in for a moment. I met with the SAAC representatives and they were really accommodating and coming and providing this information and talking to me, right? Just because this document says that things are the way that they are, does not mean that we cannot get them to change, right? The point of me asking them to come here and of having these meetings, and of requesting funding still from Student Assembly is not to say "oh this is how it's always been, this is how it will continue to be." They are very open to talking with John Hind about the budget breakdown in athletics. "Why are we fundraising for ourselves and where is the money going otherwise." Please don't say things like "oh, they still shouldn't ask for SA funding." We get that. We are still going to examine other routes and have those conversations as I said we would last week. I think things being the way they are now and seeing the number of students that have been impacted by these initiatives and with this gear. I think that one of the most salient points for me is that Hamilton apparel from the bookstore is expensive. Being able to give out some cheap apparel that people wear with pride not just for games but for anything related to Hamilton and even off campus is worth it. I think when we have, as we have had lots of things that we fund for, in my opinion, exorbitant amounts of money, that affect a much smaller group of people regardless of the differences in merit, I think it is very hard to make a case against giving apparel to so many people, especially for people who aren't necessarily going to afford the stuff we have in the bookstore. So, you know, please keep that in mind. I know Noam was asking about club sports. One of the first things I said to them was that I think it is a good idea. I don't see anything wrong with SAAC supporting club sports. However, it's not the way it is right now, but they are very willing to begin having conversations about doing that. As Darby pointed out, of club sports representatives will do the same amount of work that SAAC representatives do for their sports, we can make it work. Keith even saw that Bates' SAAC does support club sports already, so we do the classic thing of studying peer institutions and blah blah blah, let's do it again! Please acknowledge that the work is being done. I just think we need to get them the apparel and funding they need right now and then, you know, I get things done, I will make sure all this gets done.
 - **Darby Philbrick:** I think it is important that we are having this conversation too because there's so much inconsistency over 4 semesters. 3 semesters ago, we got \$7,000. We were going to be given \$500 this semester if we didn't resubmit. I



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think it's important to have that settled so you don't have to listen to me and Ian every single time that we are submitting a budget because I know that it's really annoying.

- **Nadav Konforty:** I have the minutes from the last time we talked about this. I'm going to say, we are not going to talk in circles today, I know not everyone was here last time. Basically, some people said that the last time we talked about SAAC in the funding meeting, we talked a little bit in circles. I want to respect their time because they came out here and did so much work to present to us tonight. Also, Zach-- I was thinking about SACC potentially getting subsidized, in part, from athletics, as a potential solution to bring up. Also, when we are talking about this, please be respectful of one another. This is really one of those things that really divides SA.
- **Elizabeth Groubert:** I had a question about the cost per hat. I know Lilly looked up cheaper hats and found some for \$3 or 4. I'm not opposed about funding you for hats and, with the game of the week stats you provided, I'm more inclined to fund them. But I'm wondering there's a cheaper option rather than \$9.
 - **Ian:** The reason we picked the hats we did are because we did also want to get a quality that someone in the crowd would like to wear. A lot of the hats that are less money aren't good quality.
 - **Darby Philbrick:** From what we've learned in the past is that the quality and actual product does matter. For example, for field hockey we try to give exciting products because less people go to field hockey than football so other people are lured in.
 - **Zach Oscar:** Just a question for Lilly, when you found the hats, did it include embroidery costs and it being camo as well?
 - **Lilly Pieper:** yes.
- **Noam Barnhard:** Thanks again for coming in. This is incredibly helpful and completely changes what I was initially going to say. I like that you are making strides toward including club sports. It's a personal note of mine and I think that would be fantastic. I think there might need to be something a little more drastic, maybe even like a changing of the funding codes or how we approach funding SAAC in order to rightfully fund in full. Last week I reviewed all the budgets as one of the treasurers, like 70-80 budgets. Out of all of those, SAAC is very unique. Out of all the clubs I can join any of them on that list, even Kendo, even Super Smash Club, even Hunt and Dressage Club. I realize that I can probably join SAAC if I wanted to, but what SAAC represents and really is are varsity sports, and those I can't join. I could attempt and would likely get cut for most of them. In club sports, you actually can't get cut, so those kind of fit with the rest of the clubs. You won't get cut. You can join no matter what. It's open to everyone. I love having all these promotional items at these events. However, I think those events should be events sponsoring clubs that anyone can join. I think sponsoring exclusive clubs is a little weird. More specifically, as far as the funding codes go, we have it written in our codes that all funded organizations must be open to the entire student body. Again, that kind of goes with what I was saying. Varsity sports are not open to the student body. And



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I think we can think about this funding in two different ways, either as publicity for these varsity sports which we limit to \$25 or a raffle, which we don't fund. I don't know how to define the funding in any other way. I think these are our codes-- we'd either need to reformat or change the codes. As of right now, it just doesn't make sense to me that this club fits the rest of them.

- **Jake Engelman:** Just in terms of the exclusivity part-- obviously not everyone can be a varsity athlete. We've done things in the past, like funding a concert for DKE. A frat is arguably just as exclusive as a varsity sport, but this event was for the whole campus and they wanted money to bring a DJ in. I don't see that as entirely different than what they're asking for in that it's funding for an event for the entire student body. That is something we've done in the past and I see it reflected here.
- **Darby Philbrick:** I completely understand where you are coming from. I think the difference here is that the items we are giving our are not exclusive to the club. Anyone could come get the benefits of these items. Whereas the funding for other club, I'm not in powder club so I wouldn't reap the benefits.
- **Zach Oscar:** Going by that logic, you could also say that any acapella group, Mock Trial, any of those, that you have to audition to get into-- you know, I could love singing as much as I want, but if I am trash, then they won't let me in. I also think that, as Darby pointed out, SAAC is an official position that benefits the rest of the student body. It's not the same type of thing as joining a club for a hobby. They represent athletes and bring benefits back to the student body.
- **Ysabel Coss:** So my actual question is, have you talked to other SAAC groups about what they are doing? I am not aware of what other SAAC groups are doing across campuses.
 - **Darby Philbrick:** As you can read in the definition, SAAC's exist at three levels, so there's a NESCAC SAAC. I actually just attended that meeting and there were representatives from the other SAAC's that were sharing ideas and talking about getting involved. The reason why I say that other NESCAC institutions ask us for advice is that their SAAC's don't really do much on their campuses. Some schools, like Amherst, have implemented programs because they've heard about them from us.
 - **Ysabel Coss:** I was just wondering what the expectation is. Is it necessarily to give stuff out? But it doesn't seem like that's required.
- **Jonathan Stanhope:** Yeah, I wanted echo Zach's point that just because this packet, and thank you for pulling this together, by the way-- it's awesome-- just because it is the way it is now doesn't mean it needs to be that way. I know in the past I've suggested some rather draconian cuts to SAAC, such as defunding it from SA completely. I acknowledge that that may be a little bit extreme. I am interested in funding you guys. But, I'm interested in also expanding the funding for game of the week to club sports. Because, if Bates does it and Bates has a SAAC than it means it's not an NCAA regulation. It seems like it's just a choice of the people who run SAAC to not do it. I'm curious why, when



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you came in last week asking for 250 hats and we said “no, it’s not worth the money” you came back this week and asked for 400 hats. If you’re not going to include Club Sports, why would you ask for 150 more?

- **Ian:** Well, we want to start the conversation around club sports and we have to go through a lot of details to figure out of that’s gonna work. Like we said, we need to reach out to all the club sports. Their members will have to potentially get together and potentially agree that they would take part in all of our initiatives. We can’t really just right now say “yes, club sports are in 100%.” We are going to have to take the steps to see if it’s going to work out that way.
- **Darby:** I also just want to add that it’s not like a choice that we made at the beginning of the year, like “we don’t want club sports” -- it’s just how SAAC has always been so had we been approached and asked, the answer is yes and let’s work it our. Why we asked for more hats: we were trying to, by showing you those statistics. In the past we’ve been able to have a variety of products because we’ve had a lot more money and that’s kind of what excites people and what gets people to these games. We tried to limit that and only ask for 1 product this semester and we were advised to ask for more.
- **Zach Oscar:** --That was me.
- **Darby Philbrick:** after showing you these statistics and kind of proving that we do make an impact with every single individual item.
- **Zach Oscar:** I also advised them to do that because, and I think Keith agreed with me on this point, because I’d rather them come in asking for more being able to provide all these statistics and have you cut back to the original 250 than to start at 250 and see what could have happened from there. It’s just a general sort of power play. So I advised them to do that because I think what they show here and the conversations we’ve had here warrant the amount of funding given what has happened with other clubs that we fund exorbitant amounts of money. I have trouble seeing the continuation of logic.
- **Jonathan Stanhope:** I’m not interested in a “power play.” I’m interested in using our money as effectively as we can. I can tell you right now that I won’t vote for funding anything that doesn’t include extending Game of the Weeks to club sports.
- **Nadav Konforty:** What we are talking about tonight is only funding SAAC for what it is already set up to do, and that is to fund varsity games. Anyone is free to put in their opinion, however, it is not fair for Student Assembly to speak to these members of SAAC as if they can control if SAAC will partially fund for club sports at the drop of a hat, much less expect them to do so at all. Saying “I’m giving you an ultimatum” feels disingenuous for the people who came out here and are doing all this work. We can and will further discuss club sports, however, for now we cannot lose sight not only of the fact that we are proposing to fund them for handing out gear at varsity games as well as the fact that these students put a significant amount of work into this proposal to come speak today.



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- **Lilly Pieper:** I just have questions. I think they are more individually focused than just funding club sports, just because I don't even know of technically SAAC can accept non student-athlete varsity members. Of you could, I think that would be an easy way to incorporate club sports. If not, I really suggest forming another club for club sports. And maybe we can vote to suspend the funding rules as far as the 5 weeks for funding. Just because that's an easy way for clubs to create an initiative for their own sports. And for the hats, are you guys using Custom Ink?
- **Darby Philbrick:** We use Holy Shirt
- **Amanda Kim:** Based on these statistics, we can see SAAC is a really positive impact. I honestly don't think it's unreasonable to up the recommendation minus the pizza discrepancy.
- **Caitlin Purdy:** We are really talking about the actual value of hats. I think that what SAAC is able to bring to the community is invaluable. This campus is composed of a lot of athletes. It's nice to have things to go to and be excited about. We need to take that value into account, not just "oh we are giving people hats."
- **Marquis Palmer:** Just to respond to the whole ultimatum thing. Although I do disagree with the specific ultimatum, I don't think that's out of our forum to do. If he as a representative wants a need met and it isn't met, then he can choose not to vote for it. That's his choice, he doesn't stand for the whole body. But I did want to respond to it: I don't think it is reasonable because that is a decision that would need the whole committee to delegate these resources to club sports. I think that would necessitate more time on their behalf. My other point, and this is not to seem antagonistic, because I'm in support of the initiative and I stand with most people who want to fund you. But just a point of clarification, this is attendance statistics that just demonstrate the impressive amount of people who attend and does not necessarily demonstrate the impact the items have on said attendance. I'm sure there is some impact, but this does not speak to that necessarily. I'm sure you guys both have anecdotal evidence that probably speaks to that. Just for sake of clarification. And then the point on how these initiatives benefit low income students again, I'm just suspicious of this type of rhetoric. We see it all the time in the absence of using demonstrable evidence that suggests this is actually benefiting low income students, I'd refrain from making those types of statements just because it seems opportunistic. That's not to seem antagonistic, just two points of clarification.
- **Julian Perricone:** As SAAC wisely pointed out, we fund some clubs a lot more money than this for a lot less impact. I don't know of that's necessarily fuel for their argument because frankly I think those clubs, we've talked about how those clubs are going to have a restructuring of how we fund them. For example, we funded ACS contingent on them getting money other sources in the future, despite it being a big hit to our budget. As of right now, I think this is something we should definitely think about funding this year. I'd just like to remind everyone that that is what SAAC is willing to do and what SAAC is currently in the process of doing. So as we move on to take a straw poll, I urge you all to keep that in mind.

Straw poll: 13 for funding as requested minus pizza, 8 for recommended, 2 for other



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SAAC funding passes with a new recommendation of \$3,596.

Muslim Student Association:

- **Jake Engelman:** Requesting a total of 9 discussion events for 20-25 people. Yassine and I sat down last semester and I think it is really cool. It's on the line for a food centric, v non food centric event. You requested \$1,800. We are recommending \$1,408. It's 8 dinners for 22 people.
- **Yassine Dahlek:** We are primarily here to disseminate information about Islam, kind of get rid of the stigmas around it, and provide support for the Muslim students on our campus. These discussions were a series that we started last semester centered around different topics that get into the stigma about Muslims being Arab, performing religion, feminism and Islam. Being able to gather with the muslim students on campus as a whole and being open to anyone for a dialogue. Professors have come. Often times the food doesn't get there until halfway through when we were talking. I personally, when I saw the recommendations, I didn't understand why it wasn't funded for \$1600. Last semester \$200 an event was what was approved. I've already had so many students come up to me asking me when I am doing the next to the event. I went to an event and I talked into my group (where we broke into groups). I asked people about how extensive their experience of interacting with muslims before coming to Hamilton. Not a single person had any experience beyond just knowing somebody maybe who might have been muslim in their high school. In this environment and being the only organization on campus who represents this demographic, I don't see how we couldn't at least have a discussion every week for the rest of the semester.
- **Jake Engelman:** So you're asking for an increase of numbers per student per event?
 - **Yassine Dahlek:** I'm asking for at least the 1600 to at least get one more event. The original thing I submitted was \$2000 for the 10 events but this one only included 9.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Increasing to one more event would raise the total to \$1584. As I understand it if we increased every event to 25 people, which is the total you requested, it would raise it to \$1600. How many people came to your events?
 - **Yassine Dahlek:** It varied week to week and picked up as the semester went on. Finals week was our biggest event. We had an overarching discussion. We started with 15 and ended with 20-25.
- **Gianni Hill:** I'm just wondering. I work for the Levitt Center and I host a lot of dinner discussions. Is this sustainable for every week for the next ten weeks of the semester?
 - **Yassine Dahlek:** A version of this was started by Areej last year before she left. It was more at that point due to the political environment for comfort. When I took over as President I made it my mission to use MSA as an educational force. It's difficult to do. I find myself stressign to do it wednesday, thursday, friday. I'd rather have the difficulty than not be able to educate. There's only so many environments where I can talk about Islam and not have everyone shut their ears.



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It creates an environment where people could ask something they might think could be offensive.

- **Gianni Hill:** Will all those dinners happen and at their full capacity?
- **Yassine Dahlek:** Yes.
- **Caitlin Purdy:** Given our political climate and given what is going on, we have a responsibility as a community to support these type of groups.
- **Marquis Palmer:** It's more intimate when you talk in a group setting. That being said, I think the information that we want to hash out is really important
- **Jake Engelman:** I think people are on board with this. That would be a total of 9 dinners at 22 people per dinner.

Funding Passes with a new recommendation of \$1,584.

4. New Business

- **Penelope Hoopes '20 — Publicity updates and announcements**
 - The digital media team reached out to me because they want us to use the Hamilton snapchat more. I think it could be cool for us to use it. I also want us to do Instagram takeovers, like the athletes do for the SAAC instagram. Also, SA should have a slogan. I don't think people know how much work goes into this.
 - **Julian Perricone:** New members need to reach out to Gillian this week to set up a time to have their headshot taken for our website.

5. Acknowledgements

- A big thank you to the Posse Scholars Program and Hamilton's Posse Scholars for a wonderful Posse Plus Retreat this weekend!

6. Committee Reports

- **Meeting times:**
 - **Constitution:** Fridays at 12:00 pm in McEwen
 - **Cultural Affairs:** Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:00 pm in Sadove
 - **Facilities:** Wednesdays at 4:00 pm and Sundays at 3:00 pm in Sadove
 - **Food:** Fridays at 3:00 pm in Sadove/KJ and McEwen
 - **Funding:** Tuesdays at 4:00 pm in Student Activities Office
 - **Health and Safety:** Mondays at 8:00 pm in Sadove
 - **LITS:** Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Burke Library
 - **Philanthropy:** Tuesdays at 7:00 pm 3rd Floor Sadove
 - **Publicity:** Thursdays at 1:00 pm in Sadove
 - **Social Traditions:** Mondays at 7:30 pm in Sadove
 - **Student Affairs:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 12:00 pm in Commons

7. Announcements



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

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- A reminder to everyone that the third floor of Sadove is home to the **Community Mosaic** spearheaded by Irina Rojas '18. Feel free to come by during the day to put a few tiles on and contribute to this wonderful project for the college.
- The **2018 Olympic Games** officially open this Friday! Student Assembly wants to wish the best of luck to athletes all around the world and from the dozens of countries that make up the Hamilton student body!

SA's next meeting will be Sunday February 11th at 8:00pm in the Sadove Conference Room to accommodate the Feb Fest Comedy Show

