

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2018**

**1. Call to Order**

**Present**

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

**Excused**

- Ian Chen

**2. New Business**



**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2018**

- Presentation and update by Dean Terry Martinez on the State of the College with regard to Student Affairs
  - **Dean Martinez:** I'm going to move quickly and give you lots of information to make sure that we have time at the end of the session to answer questions. This is what I presented to the board of trustees, abbreviated because I had 50 minutes there. I certainly want to make sure I answer any questions that you have, so of we don't get to you, please send them to Nadav and Julian and I will get those answers to them for your next meeting. This is a 6 month review of what I've been seeing on campus and the issues that have been most important to me. These came from conversations at lunch, dinners, and meetings. I went back and collected some information to support or refute information I've been hearing.

Last semester, we talked a lot about counseling on campus and mental health. This is an update of where we were on March 2nd with the counseling center and their appointments. Certainly the work continues. I saw a shift, one of the things that was important is that as a community we must work on these issues. We saw initiatives come from students and faculty, such as Isabel O'Malley's gatekeeper training on suicide prevention for faculty, staff, and students. This kind of work will continue. We will continue to look at how we address mental health issues. One thing that has changed is students in moments of crisis to students taking responsibility for their own agency. We have taken a look at our students of concern. We used to just follow up in a non-systematic way.

Every Tuesday we have a student of concern meeting where we get information about students – students who have been missing classes, information from RA's, phone calls from parents. We are tracking these to make sure we are assessing where students are from a risk perspective. We think about how we follow up with those students. We think about who has a relationship with a student, want to make sure that they come in and meet with Lorna, our case manager. Lorna met with 100+ different students last semester and 69+ students before spring break. We have had an unprecedented number of students that have taken a leave of absences for wide ranged issues: for depression, stress, anxiety, illness, death in family, all kinds of things. I know there were conversations that students did not want to come to the dean of students office because they would be sent home. We have had a lot of conversations -- all but one of these were voluntary. One thing that these students were able to hear was that this was okay, it was alright to slow down, you are still going to graduate. We are going to work with you to transition out and back in. I've gotten emails from students, I want to make sure it is easy for students to transition in. This week, we will start to get initial emails from students regarding whether or not they will return.

We have a database that we are tracking to make sure we keep notes on students we've talked to. We have protocols for departure. I'm interested in working with the



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

## STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

MARCH 26, 2018

admission office so we can touch base with students that might need extra help before they get to campus and that we are helping them with the transition as they come in.

As you know one thing I was very concerned about was alcohol use. I see the alcohol transports after every weekend and started asking for more information. This is the information from the freshman intake survey and your first college year. 8% of students consumed beer frequently at the beginning of freshman year, and it's 35% at the end. You might say that this is not unusual, this might be expected for freshmen college students, but 27% is in relation to our peers, so that's a higher number. The same thing with frequently consumed wine or liquor. 6% at the beginning of freshman year, 43% at the end. Yes, students go off to college and start to test their own social ability, but it also shows me that we have a culture here where we are teaching students to drink. I've heard this from students as well.

From the academic years from 2014-2017 this is the number of transports broken down by class, first years, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, no surprise there. Alcohol transports for the fall, 21. Here is the breakdown, sophomores 14. That leads me to ask what is happening in sophomore fall semester? Pledging is happening during that time. I'm looking at those transports and then looking for which of those students were pledging at that time. I don't want analysis paralysis.

One of the things I heard in the dining halls when I was talking to a girl in the dining hall was the statement that "we party and we hang out, but not like *some* people here." When I asked her what she meant, she said "we drink wine and dance but we don't get 'white boy drunk.'" That surprised me, so I looked into the racial differences in alcohol consumption on campus.

For our white students as compared to our Hispanic, Asian, and international students, it is statistically significant in the higher consumption of alcohol, beer, and wine. And then I wanted to find out about students connections on campus and how they are feeling about their experience. The top left side felt homesick, lonely, etc. There was no significance there, it's pretty much on target. Our students are higher in a sense of belonging than our peers. On the bottom, much higher for Hamilton students satisfied with their overall college experience, their choice to enroll, and satisfied with their experience.

When I got this information, I had it broken down by race and ethnicity. For our underrepresented students of color, our students of color felt more isolated from campus life, there was that lower sense of belonging, again, which was statistically significantly different. The item "I feel as though I am a member of the college," the results were the same there. That really reinforced what I heard at the Posse + Retreat.

I want to look more at diversity and inclusion. Our admissions office is doing a good job of diversifying our student body. Our students of color are ready to be at Hamilton, but is Hamilton ready for them? We need to broaden the definition beyond race. When we talk about these issues, I hear it as a black and white issue. For example, I



**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2018**

don't hear about our Asian students or our international students in these conversations. It is polarizing how we are addressing diversity on campus. We need to broaden that to talk about the complexity of a student's identity. We need to learn where there are commonalities. I think this is a shared responsibility – I don't think the work around diversity and inclusion should be coming from one office or person. When I talked to David Wippman, we discussed how to make this more an issue that is worked on by more than one person. We talked to Phyllis Breland, who is serving as Interim Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Director of Opportunity Programs, as well as the Director of the Days Massolo Center. We are going to diffuse her roles. At the request of David Wippman, I am taking on the job of Chief Diversity Officer to work with HR and the Dean of Faculty to work on these issues with their offices. I am talking about a multiplicity of experiences that people can bring to campus.

I am also in the process of hiring an Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion who will coordinate efforts around the student experience. One of the things I'd like to do in the fall is to launch a campus climate survey so that we can have a better understanding and amplify some of the information that we see here. Phyllis and I will be hiring a director of the Days Massolo Center and, of course we will continue to make sure that we adequately support students in our opportunity programs.

In terms of the social life on campus, I've heard students talking about a lack thereof and challenges with that. I asked Noelle for some information and obviously Student Activities works with students to create events and programs. What is happening with respect to the kinds of programming, who is attending those kinds of programs and how do we work with students around that. One of the things that I find fascinating is that we have so many student organizations for a campus this size. We keep splitting ourselves up which means that we then have to split up resources, spaces, and money. We need to take a look at and have conversations about resources in order to help attendance and programming.

Social spaces, I know that continues to be a conversation of concern for students. We currently have 3 spaces and they have been declining in popularity over the past several years. Students don't want to host big parties on campus. I know especially for seniors they've been there, done that, don't want to have parties on campus. I've heard from seniors that now our first year students are going off campus to the bars downtown which should be "our" spaces. I need to explore that more.

How do we take a look at opportunities for upperclass students to have their events in smaller spaces and in different spaces that don't have to be the bigger cavernous spaces that feel empty because people are not attending. As a community we should have that conversation. I asked for numbers from Noelle, and you can see that the utilization of Sadove, Beinecke, and Bundy has continued to decline over the last several years. We need to figure out what is the social scene on campus for students, what do students want, how do we engage in a conversation around addressing the need for students.



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

## STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

MARCH 26, 2018

I had dinner with about 20 students a few weeks ago, mostly juniors and seniors, and we started talking about the difference of social activities on campus. That was the first time that I fully pointed out. Seniors were saying that 2 years ago students were asked to come back on campus and that there is really *no difference* between a first year experience and a senior living experience. It is the exact same thing. Then, I understood about the spaces that were taken away from students, like Anderson Road and the Farm House where seniors and upper class students would gather.. We need to have a conversation about distinguishing upperclassmen social spaces.

I have concerns about fraternities and sororities on campus, particularly regarding hazing. I met with the ISC today. I had heard rumors about hazing before, that it's not "capital H hazing, but lowercase h hazing." But then, I got phone calls from parents and started to have students come into me and have conversations about that. So, as an institution we have been put on notice. David Wippman and I went to the Inter-Society Council (ISC) to put them on notice tonight. And, most importantly for me was to enlist their support in addressing these matters. Caroline and Matt and other members of the ISC have been working over the last semester, took a look at best practices, did some benchmarking and have made recommendations. I took those and looked at how to move these forward. I suggested we bring in experts who do this work on a daily basis to come and take a look at the information you collected and other information we have. Noelle is putting together a large file of all things Greek life-related. Caroline and Matt will serve as hosts when we have an external review the week of April 16th.

Based on their recommendations, I've invited experts from Trinity, Duke University, and someone from a national organization, it's actually a black fraternity (Alpha Phi Alpha) and the person who is coming does leadership education across the country as part of this national organization. They will come on campus to meet with members of fraternities, separate from sororities, separate from students who are not involved in Greek life. I've asked Nadav to help me identify some of those students as well. They will also meet with advisors, alums, faculty, and staff so that they can make recommendations. Then I will commission a blue ribbon committee that will make recommendations for 1, 3, and 5 years out. This is all so we can have conversations about their place in our community because when they work well, they work really well. As part of my professional organization, which is the NASPA we have taken a look as professionals that if we are going to have Greek organizations on our campuses (which we are, here), how to do we make sure it is safe experience?

As you know, I am very concerned about our residential community. I've shared this with you in the past. We do not have a residential life model – we have a housing model that has disciplinary layered on top. There is nothing significantly different between the first year and senior year and I want to make sure that we have an experience that students can feel connected to. We have no articulated programs or outcomes. We need to work on that. We are looking at various programming models, I want to see how



## STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

MARCH 26, 2018

we can connect to faculty, advising community, take a look at spaces, address the accountability issues and make sure we have distinctions for offerings for class years. We will all be involved in that conversation. How can we do that?

These are the areas that I've spoken about that we are going to be addressing. One of the best parts of this is that students are engaged in the conversation. I want to work with students, I want to explore ideas. How do we think about that? How do we make sure you are having safe, fun, inclusive and meaningful opportunities to be engaged on campus? Students who are engaged on campus are having a wonderful experience on campus.

- **Jon Stanhope:** How do our alcohol transports compare to our peers?
  - **Terry Martinez:** We are significantly higher than our peers over the last four years. I don't have the numbers on the presentation, but we are significantly higher.
- **Alex Stetter:** Do you think the size of the social spaces can be related to the overexpression of alcohol use? I feel like smaller settings perpetuate more positive interactions, like wine nights.
  - **Dean Martinez:** I think so, we had a conversation last semester with the co-op and how we can work with them around those spaces. We see the numbers, larger spaces are not bringing students together in the ways they'd like to be brought together. What can we take from the co-op experience?
  - **Alex Stetter:** Do you see that perpetuating throughout housing and the residential experience here at Hamilton? Do you see that fitting into the housing situation on campus?
  - **Dean Martinez:** I know it will. I don't know what the answer is right now. I do think we can come up with a different model that looks at how upperclass students get together and socialize and how we provide programming for first year and sophomore students. Obviously bigger spaces are not where upperclass students socialize.
- **Rachel Sutor:** Going off Jon's question, I know a lot of my peers at other schools talk about a different culture when it comes to transporting where they feel they'll be punished. At GW, people try their hardest to not get EMTed because they're afraid of being disciplined and they have to take an alcohol education class. I wonder if there is a way to cross-compare our peers that have a different mentality with regard to these policies. Being open enough with our school seems like a safer alternative than not getting help. I was wondering if we can compare our numbers to schools that have similar disciplinary models to us?
  - **Dean Martinez:** Yeah, I want to look at amnesty policies across these institutions. In many instances if it is a first transport we don't use a disciplinary model. I think we need to amplify our amnesty policy. I want people to step in, bystanders should take care of each other. Again, I am interested in healthy



## STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

MARCH 26, 2018

behaviors for students, not in restrictive, but of course I'm not going to really open up and violate NYS law or put the institution in any kind of risk.

- **Penelope Hoopes:** You said that 35 students are currently on a leave of absence. What has this looked like in the past?
  - **Dean Martinez:** About 11-14
- **Elizabeth Groubert:** Why do you think the alcohol consumption of our students is higher than our peers? What about the Hamilton culture is the reason for this? Is it the lack of social opportunities?
  - **Dean Martinez:** I don't know. That's a very cultural thing on campus. One of the things I've started to do is go back and look at reports. This isn't a new issue for Hamilton. There has regularly been an ongoing committee that looks at alcohol abuse on campus. It's been an ongoing debate. I don't know what it is but it seems to be cultural. I had a conversation with the father of a student who was sexually assaulted and he said, "why are you surprised by any of this? You have an institutionalized culture here of dangerous drinking behavior. There are consequences to that." That really took me aback. It's something we need to look into and fix.
- **Giacomo Cabrera:** I wanted to let everyone know that the Res Life experience committee is looking at both finding new social space, which can be smaller, and modifying First Year Experience. If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know.
- **Jonathan Stanhope:** Do you know if our leaves of absences are growing in length or if they are staying stable?
  - **Dean Martinez:** Again, I don't know. I know there are significantly more. This is the first year I am looking at this number. I'll have a better idea in the next week when their intents to return are submitted.
- **Alex Stetter:** How do numbers of leaves of absences compare to transfers?
  - **Dean Martinez:** I can get those numbers for you.
- **Ben Katz:** Will Greek life be eliminated?
  - **Dean Martinez:** No. My goal is not to eliminate fraternity/sorority life. I have no interest in forcing students to change the gender of acceptance of students.
- **Keith Ruggles:** As for students taking a leave of absence, do you have a profile or numbers representing who these students are, what year, etc.?
  - **Dean Martinez:** There is no pattern that has surfaced for us. I've looked at geographically, majors, etc. There is no discernable pattern in that data.
  - **Keith Ruggles:** Are there standards for addressing for students of concern?
  - **Dean Martinez:** We put together our process this year. I've asked faculty to report it. This mainly comes from emails/phone calls of peers. Faculty or staff members that send an email to my office and in our weekly meeting we talk about those students. We try to make sure we know what is going on. Who on the team has the closest relationship with that student?



**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2018**

- **ISC/Greek Life--Noelle Niznik:** Quickly following up on Dean Martinez’s external review. We want to hear from both greek and non-greek students (roughly 10) about different perspectives on the fraternity/sorority lifestyle on campus. We plan to reconcile these varying views and compile a list and summary of recommendations for President Wippman and Dean Martinez. If you have strong opinions and are interested in being on this committee, please let me, Nadav, or Julian know and we will let you know when and where we will be meeting. Also, please let friends know about this opportunity if you think they would be a good fit as well.

**3. Old Business**

- **Mosaic update**
  - **Nadav Konforty:** We have about 4 weeks until the artist comes to mount the mosaic, and it’s not finished. We will be posting times during which people who know how to cut the tiles will be there so everyone should go and contribute.
- **NESGov:** Spring 2018 at Middlebury and Fall 2018 at Hamilton
  - **Jordan D’Addio:** NESGov will be April 13-15th at Middlebury College.
  - **Nadav Konforty:** We will be hosting it in the Fall!
  - **Jordan D’Addio:** Yes, as of right now, Gianni and I are planning the conference that we will host next semester. If you are interested in helping us, let me know.

**4. Acknowledgements**

- Congratulations to our own **Marquis Palmer ‘18** as well as **Kureem Nugent ‘18, Isabel O’Malley ‘18, and Paula Ortiz ‘18** on their selection for the Watson Fellowship!

**5. Funding**

Amount Remaining: \$8,710.96

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Items/Services Requested</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>	<b>Amount Approved</b>
Debate Society	End of season banquet	\$270.30	\$270.30	\$270.30
HEAG	Green Week Prizes & Thermoses	\$290.41	\$290.41	\$290.41

Amount Recommended: \$560.71

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$8,150.25

Amount Passed: \$560.71





**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2018**

- **Debate Society:** They want a banquet for their 34 members for the end of the year. They said they had a great season and it's under the cost per person. They're having it in Bristol this coming Friday.
- **HEAG:** They asked for prizes for their raffle.
  - **Elizabeth Groubert:** I'm concerned all these thermoses will go to the members of HEAG because HEAG has like 50 members.
  - **Jake Engelman:** If this was approved, none of the prizes can go to HEAG members. I'm not sure that that the thermoses will technically be approved for this.
  - **Keith Ruggles:** It didn't seem like thermoses were unfairly distributed last year, so I don't think that'll be a problem if they do it the same way they did it last year. But I thought that we didn't fund prizes.
  - **Jake Engelman:** We will do raffle prizes if you are not required to pay in to participate and if they are distributed randomly for a raffle and not to club members. You may be thinking of their original budget which we asked them to cut down. You may also be thinking of Ham Trek, which requested \$1000+ in prizes.

*Debate Society and HEAG Funding Passes as Recommended.*

**6. Announcements**

- **Class and Charter Day Awards:** An email will be sent out next week from Student Assembly for nominations for multiple Class and Charter Day awards. Be on the lookout for an email!
- Student Assembly elections for the 2018-2019 academic year.
  - Elections will be coming up for class President as well as the treasurer positions for each class. We encourage everyone to run for SA.
- The Town Hall is officially scheduled for next **Monday from 7-9 in the Chapel**. We've invited President Wippman, Dean Martinez, David Walden and Ashley Place. We have settled on four themes: free speech, sexual assault, mental health, and racism and intolerance. This Town Hall will give us the opportunity to hear from everyone impacted by these issues. Our goal is to create open communication and hear from students across all parts of campus. We will have an introduction speech from Dean Martinez, a moment for community acknowledgements, set the rules for discussion, and then open the floor for an hour and a half of dialogue. You'll be seeing posters around campus shortly and please tell everyone you know to attend! This is going to be an important and impactful event. And will be moderated by Professor Johnson and Professor Durani.
  - **Nadav Konforty:** All SA members should be there. Moreover, to Chidera and the Social Innovation Team, y'all have been putting in so much work and I want to make sure you get the recognition and more. Thank you so much for all your work with this Town Hall.
- **Travel to 15 countries in only 2 hours or less!**



The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2018**

- Student Assembly's Cultural Affairs Committee invites you to International Fair Day this **Saturday, March 31st** from **12-2PM** at the **Events Barn**.

