

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

APRIL 22, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present

- Nadav Konforty
- Julian Perricone
- Jake Engelman
- Jordan D'Addio
- Lilly Pieper
- Noam Barnhard
- Marquis Palmer
- Zach Oscar (late)
- Casey Codd
- Ben Rhind
- Sam Gordon
- Ian Chen
- Rachel Sutor
- Alex Stetter
- Keith Ruggles
- Nani Suzuki
- Connie Lorente
- Gianni Hill
- Elizabeth Groubert
- Diana Perez
- Maria Valencia
- Amanda Kim
- Jiin Jeong

Excused

- Penelope Hoopes
- Ysabel Coss
- Karthik Ravishankar
- Giacomo Cabrera
- Eseosa Asiruwa
- Gavin Meade

Unexcused

- Gillian Mak
- Jonathan Stanhope
- Ben Katz

2. Public Comment Period

Beth Bohstedt — LITS Library Announcement

- I'm Beth Bohstedt, I'm a director in LITS and I oversee circulation in our library, loans, collection, and space, so quite a few things. Thank you for having me, I appreciate your



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time here. My purpose is threefold: first, I want to tell you about some plans we have for the first floor of the library, get your input on some general big questions, and then let you know how students can give more specific feedback in the next couple of weeks.

- So, I don't know if any of you are aware that there was an email as part of the facilities update and there's a few other things that have been talked about, but we are doing a project over the next few months. We hope to get a good start this summer on the first floor of the library. The reason we're doing that is because over the last several years we've added a lot of programmatic elements and technology to the first floor. A lot more events are happening, like Apple and Quill, library sponsored events, workshops, lots of other things. We also have a lot of printers, VR, etc. It's a great thing for the campus. Faculty members are using this in their curriculum as well as for individual projects.
- So we have this programming and technology in place and it's sort of here and there and tucked away in corners and the space doesn't reflect the programs. And I think did it in the right direction starting with the programs and moving to the space, but that's where we are now. We started a project a few months ago. We met with Lisa Forrest, who's the Head of Research and Instructional Design in LITS. She and I are sort of co-heading this with guidance from Roger Wakeman, who is the Head of Physical Plant, he's absolutely fantastic. We got together a stakeholders group of LITS staff, students, and faculty to look at big picture things. Lisa, Roger, and I have been working with library architects over the last few months trying to narrow down specific design schemes. We had another meeting of the large group just this past week. So we're at the point now where we're ready to talk about it. It's hard to talk about vague ideas and now we're more specific.
- There are three things we're trying to accomplish: first of all, the Couper Classroom that's on the first floor of the library. It's great, it's served its purpose very well, but there's a few drawbacks to it. It kind of blocks the view to the back of the library with all those wonderful windows. Also, because it has partitions not actual walls, with HVAC it doesn't go all the way to the ceiling, so there's a noise factor. Also for some of the classes there's a size issue too. So one of the things we'd like to do is kind of move that to the side, make it bigger, and then make it a real room. That's one element.
- We of course also want to make room for this technology I was just talking about to make it kind of its own space. And the third thing we're really thinking about is right now we have four service points and they're semi-co-located but they're not all in the same place. We're trying to put them together so when someone wants help they don't have to play service desk ping pong and go from place to place. Those are some of the overreaching ideas. What we really want to accomplish is, when someone comes into the library, what is it that they're looking for and what is the best way for us to deliver that? We know that the library in large part belongs to the students so I'm here. I guess my first question is what I ended with right there. What do you think of when you come to the library? What does it mean to you? What do you think should be on the first floor? How would it all work together? If you have quick ideas, I'd love to hear them.
- **Alex Stetter:** I'd love to see bigger tables and desk space. I know there's a lot of collaborative Couper tables on the second floor, some desks are not that great for spreading out and getting work done. Some of the desk space is barely large enough for a laptop.



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- **Beth Bohstedt:** Great, thank you. More group spaces is actually one of the things we've talked about, so it's great to hear that confirmed.
- **Julian Perricone:** Where would you move the VR and 3D printer equipment?
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** We're still not in the "this will go exactly here" part, but the general idea is some of the collections would be shifted around. Just north of the elevator are the periodicals, the browsing collection, the reference collection, so we would shift those. We're not sure exactly where yet but that's where the classroom would go so it's kind of tucked out of the way. That would take up part of that space, and then north of that wouldn't be an actual room for that equipment but it would be kind of a nook. So we're looking toward the very north-end of the library for that.
- **Elizabeth Groubert:** Just as Food Committee, I'm always thinking about food. Would it be possible to have healthier options in the vending machines?
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** It's funny that you ask that because we actually got a specific vending machine that is supposed to have healthier options but I find that it really doesn't. So that's something we can definitely take up again.
 - **Elizabeth Groubert:** The library is really a space where students are up late at night at 2am, and they want to shove something in their face to power through an all-nighter, and if all we're providing them is chips and candy bars it's not very healthy.
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** I agree.
- **Gianni Hill:** I was just thinking, maybe furniture is always helpful. If you could find tables that you could separate or put together, that'd be great. Sometimes even in the dining halls there will be large tables that only a few people take up and then the whole table is wasted and people go without seats.
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** Great, thank you.
- **Beth Bohstedt:** These are great suggestions, thank you. Overall, what does the library mean to you? Why do you go to the library?
- **Marquis Palmer:** For me, when I go it's a time to get work done. I go to the library when I've been slacking and I need a space to get away from friends in a place that's not KJ where everyone's talking to you and to just hide away and get work done. Toward that end it'd be nice if there were a station for coffee and tea, like a caffeine station. So when I'm trying to push through the hours and get more work done, if I'm dozing off I could just go wake myself up quickly and get back to work. I know that it's something that has been brought up these past few years.
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** Be honest, what do y'all think about the coffee vending machine?
 - **Marquis Palmer:** I think it'd be nice to have an option you don't have to pay for.
- **Jiin Jeong:** I feel like I go to the library to get my work done, but also when I go to the library I'm also very stressed. So I love sitting on the bean bags. So I see the library as a place where you can focus but also chill while doing your work. I like that combination. Also, I would suggest that when people are in the library a lot, it means they have a lot of work to do, and it piles up with everything. So I suggest cough drops or health medicines



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for students. It's often hard to go to the health center during the hours and the library is somewhere students utilize a lot.

- **Beth Bohstedt:** That is interesting, I haven't heard that before. I like that idea, thank you.
- **Julian Perricone:** Echoing what most people have said here, I definitely think the library is a great place to get work done. To that end though, a lot of the time I'm looking for a break from working on something after a few hours. Usually that comes in the form of taking a walk or leaving the library. I think it'd be cool if you guys really segmented an activity zone where you could do VR or 3D printing that would be a good source of break from work.
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** That's a great idea, thank you.
 - **Elizabeth Groubert:** Just to add to Julian's comment, I think it'd be really cool if we had puzzles or cards so kids could take a break and de-stress.
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** We do that during finals week but that'd be a good idea to have all the time. Thank you.
- **Nani Suzuki:** The library has a very good indoor space, but also focusing on outdoor space would be a good idea. We have little tables and stuff outside that are useful, but maybe expanding on that a little and making more of an outside space would be worth it.
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** That's a really interesting idea. Can you expand on that?
 - **Nani Suzuki:** Maybe making bigger tables? Not huge tables, but right now we have very small tables. We could also make it a bit nicer and have more stable tables. I don't know if outdoor cords or outlets are a thing but maybe getting those would be nice.
- **Marquis Palmer:** If you were thinking about making Couper into an actual classroom with walls, maybe during the day it could be a classroom and at night it could be a break room where people are going to chill out and where noise from chilling out doesn't transgress to the actual space.
 - **Beth Bohstedt:** That's interesting, because currently people will use it for just the opposite. They'll go in there to use the computers for quiet but that concept is interesting too. Thank you.
- **Nadav Konforty:** If anyone else has any other comments, feel free to email us.
- **Beth Bohstedt:** One more quick thing, we will be having a display in the library with more concrete designs probably sometime by the end of next week. So if you want to take a break from studying, we'll have it set up. We thought it'd be good to have it right in the space so you can look at it and look around and be in the space when you're evaluating. We'll have notecards for people to make comments. Feel free to email me or stop in my office, I'm on the first floor, you can just ask for me. Thank you so much for your time, I appreciate it.

3. New Business

- **Funding Code Reform — Jake Engelman '19**
- **Jake Engelman:** Hey guys. For those of you not on Student Assembly, thank you for coming. A quick note about what was spread out to Student Assembly members, and hopefully you have a copy. To the left we have all of the tracked changes to the funding codes that the Funding Committee recommends. To the right we have a rough document



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that's very quick rationale for each of the changes. It's not meant to be entirely complete, which is why I'm here today. So if you have any questions about that, that's what I'd like to focus on today. In terms of what we talk about, I don't really have a plan or list of things to go through. If there's a lull in the discussion I have things I think are important to point out, but I doubt that will happen so I think we'll just open it up at some point.

Just quickly on how we went about doing this, the Funding Committee has been working very hard, having multiple meetings a week for about the last eight weeks, meeting internally, sending out surveys to students and organizations, asking for feedback on the funding process and how they feel about Assembly funding. We've also met with a lot of administrators and gotten their sense with how they deal with funding that's relevant to them and how they see Student Assembly funding as a resource for students. So with that being said, please don't take these suggested changes as the opinions exclusively of the Funding Committee. This is something that we worked with a wide range of people to develop. A lot of the changes are basically just clarifications to the funding codes themselves which don't change the meaning but how they're expressed and putting some practices that have been passed down to me and that I've developed here into words. So with that, let's open it up. Ask away.

- **Conor O'Shea:** I'm here representing Mock Trial, I'm one of the co-captains. One thing that stood out to us that we feel particularly strong about is in Section 4-E2. This is food for off-campus events, cutting the \$25 per diem. For groups like us, that would be a significant cost barrier when bringing students to tournaments. One of the best things about Mock Trial is that it's low or no cost for students, especially given the recent outreach efforts we've made with students in opportunity programs. Close to one-fourth of our team this past year had some kind of connection to an opportunity program. It would present a significant cost barrier to them to say, "sorry, we can't afford to bring you to this tournament because you might not be able to pay for your own food." So that stood out to us as something that would be kind of a travesty to let through as a change in the funding codes.
- **Almahdi Mahil:** I'm one of the presidents of Model UN. A lot of the students on Model UN are on financial aid. We're also a completely non-exclusionary club. We don't hold sessions where we test people to see if they're good at Model UN before we take them. We try to be as open as possible. We've already done significant cutbacks to our budget. We've cut down the number of conferences, we've cut down the amount of places we can travel. So this would significantly increase the amount of money we have to pay out of our own liability. We had to pay a lot out of pocket this particular season. We only went to 6 competitions during the whole year. Me and our co-presidents, Lindsey and Richard, have been trying our hardest to keep things to a minimum. If anything was represented as an out-of-pocket cost, we've actually paid it. A lot of times it came to where we had to pay out-of-pocket and because we love the club we did it.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Can you talk about some of the things you've had to pay for out-of-pocket?
 - **Almahdi Mahil:** A lot of the cities we go to are very expensive, like New York City. \$25 a day is not enough for you to get breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We do skip meals. A lot of times we take the team out for lunch and we have to Venmo each other the costs. I can't ask people who I have begged sometimes to come to



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Model UN meetings because a lot of our tournaments happen during very hectic weeks at Hamilton to pay out of pocket. We say, “okay, we’ll take care of you guys,” because we see it as our responsibility to do so. That’s one example. Another example is when we have a jitney situation so one of us has to drive our private cars. We did our best and Kaity Werner works so hard and does her best as well to help us out, but sometimes we have to pay parking for an extra day or hour out of our own pockets. And parking in cities like New York and Boston can be very costly. Sometimes we have to pay gas on our own because we lose the receipt or we just don’t keep the receipt since we realize we’re not going to get refunded for it. In some of the other cases we’ve been able to withdraw funds from our liability account, but that’s depleting really quickly.

- **Evan Weinstein:** I’m President of Hamilton College Debate. I’d like to echo some of the things that have already been said. One of the key promises of our organization is that it is essentially cost-free. That’s how we recruit. That’s how people stay on our team. The first tournament we go to – the way the debate circuit is set up – is exclusively for people who have never debated before. That’s a key time in terms of recruitment for us. The fact that you don’t have to pay for food is huge. Significantly fewer people would come if that were not the case, and our organization would shrink. Food is obviously a necessary expense. We think that asking clubs to cut that necessary expense is probably not the first place to look if we’re trying to cut costs.
 - **Alex Stetter:** I don’t know to what extent this answers the question, but I know for specific clubs that I’ve been in especially with athletics, it’s possible to do a meal exchange with hill cards, and that would address the more expensive food options that you guys would face in New York City. They pack lunches for you and sometimes students will choose to supplement that with money as well, but meal exchange is an option.
 - **Evan Weinstein:** One of the biggest problems with meal exchange is that debate tournaments are 2-3 days, so it’s tough to get a meal that’s going to last you the whole time, especially since we’re already filling the jitney to capacity and we’re traveling on average 5 hours to each tournament. So it’s hard to get meals that will last and meals that we’d still be able to eat the next day. That’s the reason we don’t think that’s a viable alternative. We think we need to be able to find meals where we are.
 - **Ryan Bloom:** We used to do the meal exchange program. We had some pretty significant unreliability with Bon Appetit. They basically didn’t bring our food when we were leaving. We leave either really early in the morning or right in the afternoon and because our rides are also so long – I think most of our drives were around 5 hours this semester – we just can’t afford to get in any later than we do to wait or call or whatever. So we did used to use that in the past and it wasn’t really viable.
- **Jiin Jeong:** I totally agree that food affordable for everyone. I’m just curious, since you don’t have to eat out every single meal, would buying things at the supermarket and making sandwiches work?
 - **Sam Gordon:** As a member of Mock Trial, we are very limited on time on tournament weekends. We usually get in exceptionally late on Friday nights.



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Tournaments start in the morning and go until late evening with short breaks. While that would be great, we are very strapped for time and we use the time at the hotels for continual prep. This isn't social or hanging out. We're constantly preparing for a trial.

- **Almahdi Mahil:** Just last thing, Model UN tournaments actually start earlier. We start on Thursday, and Sunday nights is when we come back. A lot of the hotels we stay in have an explicit "no outside food" policy. Also, because we stay for four days a lot of the food would spoil if we did that. We actually encourage our club members to take their breakfast from Commons and eat it on the jitney so we can cut down the meal costs. There's a certain line I don't want to cross with students, especially since a lot of our recruits are freshmen, where I tell them "you're putting in all this effort to join Model UN but it's turning out not to be fun and it's turning out to be a financial hemorrhage for you." Another thing is that our committee sessions for Model UN are extremely long. We stay inside those schools for 12 hours or more per day. So by the time we come out we're super ravenous and there are no kitchens in the hotel rooms so we can't cook and you have to buy food from outside. I don't control the budget outside with how tax rates differ. We tell them that we're tax-exempt but a lot of New York City has its own ordinances and so does Boston. So there's only so much we can do in terms of meal exchange or making food ourselves.
- **Jake Engelman:** I want to talk about the rationale behind this change. First of all, this is not specifically targeted at academic teams, but we acknowledge that it super disproportionately affects them as they tend to be the only organizations that take extended off-campus trips for multiple nights on end, so I think that's why we're mainly hearing from academic teams. So to develop the rationale for why we're recommending removing the food costs per night, first of all, we kind of see this philosophical issue just in general with funding teams that compete off-campus or spend extended trips just because of their accessibility to all students. I think we've done a really great job thus far this semester making things really accessible to a lot of students and even offering more funding to certain groups to encourage them to bring more students to their events. But something we see as a problem with teams like Mock Trial and Debate is we know you guys try to bring as many new students to your events as possible, but these are really closer to a private society than on-campus organizations. Basically one of our main targets in reforming the funding codes have been academic teams because of their weight on the amount that we funded per year. This year thus far, over 20% of our budget has been to academic teams when this is really only a total of about 50 students. So the average cost per person for the debate team was \$250 per student per trip. For Mock Trial it was a little over \$170. That includes funding that they get from the Ferguson Endowment but when we see amounts like that, I am very concerned about disproportionate spending. That was one of the main concerns we got from students. We got a lot of questions like, "why are certain organizations are taking 10% of our budget when we're so strict with others with little things they get like cooking supplies?" This would provide us with an opportunity to further limit the amount that smaller, high-cost-per-student organizations get and try to disperse that money in the future and



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giving other organizations more leeway, or new social traditions we expect to pop up, other expenditures like that.

We also want to make our funding process more consistent across who the Student Activities fee actually gets spent on. We don't actually get the whole fee. We get a very small percentage of it. A lot of it goes to things like club sports, who this year we gave around \$71,000 to. Other organizations of the like that other departments manage and organize also get some of the fee. There are some rules on these organizations that far outweigh what we impose in our constitution. For example, all club sports are required to self-raise at least 10% of the funds that they are granted. These are groups of students that are much more vast and much more open to students on campus than academic teams. You certainly can't be cut from club sports and I know a lot of these teams don't cut, but you can travel if you want to travel. Even when they do travel they don't get payback for food or things like that. So they're paying a much larger out of pocket expense and they're required to fundraise for a lot. Last thing I'll touch on is in the process of how we would reform the funding codes, we did a lot of research on what other schools do pertinent to our efforts. What we found actually kind of amazed us. We're actually being extremely lenient here. For example, RIT will only fund up to two trips for any organization to take off-campus at all. And for many schools with similar rules, those trips can only consist of around four people. The fact that we already allow organizations like Model UN, Model EU, Mock Trial, and other academic teams to take off-campus trips is already I think fairly generous.

- **Evan Weinstein:** I have a bunch of stuff, but I guess the first thing I'll say is that every dollar we asked of SA is a vital expense. Debate is an expensive activity. The majority of our costs go to registration fees that we have to pay. I spent a significant portion of my time arguing with students at other schools, trying to get our registration rates down. We budget for getting registration breaks from other schools. That is a crucial part of our budgeting process. Any dollar taken away would be prohibitive. We would have to go to fewer tournaments. Asking us to raise funds on our own, we wouldn't come close to being able to cover costs. In terms of off-campus stuff, the Student Activities website says that "*Student Activities supports the academic mission of the College by working to create experiential learning options outside of the classroom and encouraging students to actively participate in the greater educational community.*" I think greater educational community is definitionally at other schools. We go to Ivies, we go to NESCACs, we go to tons of other schools. We collaborate and work with students and other schools. We think that definitionally meets the goals of Student Assembly and the Student Activities fund. In terms of exclusivity, we don't have cuts. The promise of our activity is that if you want to be on our team, you are. We think that despite the high cost per head, there are positive externalities. We are hearing arguments made by top students at Ivy League schools. Routinely those arguments make it back to the classroom. They are in our papers, they are in in-class debates. Those skills are highly transferable. We are also working to host more on-campus events like demonstration debates. We think that basically all of the concerns you've expressed are secondary or solved for by things we already do.

- **Jake Engelman:** So we recognize that you do spend all the money we give you and we recognize that it's necessary, but we're not under the assumption money



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will come out of nowhere. We understand you might have to take fewer trips per year. In terms of what you read off the website, one of the things we recognize is the importance of those learning options outside of the classroom, that's one of the reasons we cut the old limitation on cost of a speaker. We think that's an opportunity to seek engagement or academic opportunity on-campus. We don't want to seem like we're limiting academic opportunity. We recognize that that's part of our job.

- **Teddy McKenna:** Evan talked about how we have this money will come from somewhere and we'll have to cut trips. I think the thing that's important to understand about the debate circuit is that Hamilton is already very much less involved than the Ivy League schools we're competing against, and this has real competitive harms. So yes, maybe our peer institutions give less money, but that's not who we're competing against. We're competing against Harvard, Yale, etc. and they're sending 5 or 6 teams of 2 every single weekend, 15 weekends a semester, to multiple tournaments. This puts Hamilton at a big disadvantage in debate from the starting point, because reputational things matter. When you go into a debate, you have to write your school name on the board. The judge knows what school you're from. The fact that we only already compete in one-third of the available competitions at most means that we start every round from a disadvantage. So it's not just cutting trips, it's also cutting partially our ability to have future competitive success. So I think there is a real cost there and I think competitive success really does matter. Debate is power-paired, so the better you're doing at the debate, the better you debate. So if you believe Evan's externality argument, that we bring the best ideas from students from Harvard to Hamilton, that doesn't happen if we're losing more rounds. So there's an actual cost to the Hamilton students who are in our classes when we have less competitive success in addition to the fact obviously Hamilton's name recognition and reputation improve when we have better competitive success. So I think that making it so that no one knows us on debate has not just harms to the enjoyment of the activity but also harms to the viability of the team's success.
 - **Nadav Konforty:** And that comes from food?
 - **Teddy McKenna:** Yes, because as was admitted, when we cut food, money has to come from somewhere. That means we have less trips and less trips is bad for this reason.
- **Jake Engelman:** We expect you guys to have economic accountability for the trips you go on. As much as I think it's important for you guys to go on these trips, I don't think we need to make these trips entirely free. We're trying to make it more equitable to all students across campus. When we see organizations that have costs per student per trip approaching that of the Student Activities fee itself, that's when we identify an issue and that's when we look for solutions. Food is kind of the way we're approaching that.
- **Rachel Sutor:** Kind of echoing what Jake is saying, at Student Assembly we're trying to fund all students. And while I can definitely see the benefit of the externalities argument of having more debate students benefiting other students in a classroom, realistically that's not intrinsically benefitting all students. We're not lowering the merit or questioning how great of a club you guys are, because I definitely value that. But the problem is that we can't give that all of this money to a club that really only includes so few students. We would love to give you more money, but the reality is we're not



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Harvard, we're not Yale, these are not our peers. So comparing us to Ivy League institutions that have much larger endowments and far more resources than us is not really an equitable comparison. And I think it's very amazing that you guys go up against these students and perform as well as you do, but I don't think it's right for us to hold ourselves to those standards when we're trying to provide an equal platform for all students.

- **Ben Rhind:** I just want to respond to one point you made. Saying that we can't fund these clubs because they're too small or saying that because the money isn't going to that many students we should cut their funding I think is a little bit backward. It's economically prohibitive for the students they do have. If we make something more expensive for students, they will have fewer people on these teams.
- **Jake Engelman:** I completely agree, but I think it's important to look at the other side of what that cut money does. You're right that we're making things economically more prohibitive for a certain number of students, but again, due to the small nature of the organization, that money taken back to other organizations that provide services for a lot more students is a dollar better spent.
- **Sam Gordon:** The notion that we should only be competitive with our peer institutions I don't think really applies to this. Hamilton promotes itself as an elite college. All of us are here to further that mission and part of that is being competitive with Ivies and these massive organizations that have a lot more resources than we do. Debate constantly wins against these teams, so does Mock Trial, I'm sure Model UN does. The reasons that these organizations are so small is that we're working with the funding that we do receive. If we had a lot more money we could take a lot more students. And the last thing about on-campus events is that these organizations are fundamentally different than on-campus organizations. We compete off-campus. We can do stuff on-campus but this isn't the same thing as clubs like Club ENTO or GNAR Club. They're fundamentally different organizations and I don't think they should be treated equally. They are very different.
- **Marquis Palmer:** This issue came up before when we were discussing last semester whether or not to fund Model EU on their trip to Europe. It seems that the funding committee really didn't take into consideration that we all eventually adopted the merit of the funding code in making our decision, and that consideration was that although groups like Model EU and Mock Trial and Model UN are taking far less students, these experiences are far more enriching. These are experiences in which we have our peers who are going and developing these highly technical skills that will then transfer in a variety of ways that people have already spoken about. So aside from the competitive argument, this is an investment in our student body. In a way it certainly does give them skills that otherwise would not be as focused on. And while it does not transfer to a greater group in a way you, as a representative of the funding committee, would like, it certainly does give them skills that otherwise would not be as focused on in going to talk, for example. It's very different than going to multiple conferences in which you're forced to get up and debate someone or going to Mock Trial and testing your advocacy abilities. So I think that aside from the competitive argument, there's the real fact of the value and



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the quality of these experiences that I think the funding committee should take into consideration.

- **Gianni Hill:** Leading off of what Sam was talking about, I think that this could create very dangerous power dynamics within the teams. If you tell them to go figure out funding for food, if I need to pay for someone's meal or lend someone money because they can't afford to eat, then that creates these power dynamics on the team where people feel like they owe someone something. It's essentially socioeconomic discrimination to say "you can't be a part of this team or a team of this caliber simply because you can't afford to eat on the weekends." Now going off that, as a team that is student-led, we don't have coaches and we don't have a lot of the resources we need to compete against a lot of these schools. Yet time and time again we do come out and we compete very competitively against a lot of these teams. I think that since we do so much on our own, to ask us to go above and beyond and do all of these things on top of that is just not feasible with the amount of resources we're given already, so I just think it's a bit of a stretch. I also looked at the rationale for some of these funding code changes. To this point specifically it says that "The College doesn't require us to provide a food per diem for students that travel voluntarily." Now, we don't necessarily travel voluntarily. Unless the cap was that we could only travel to two tournaments or something, we don't go into things like "oh, we're not gonna get funding to continue." As we win, we keep progressing further into our tournament. So we're not traveling voluntarily. It's involuntary due to the nature of this activity. We have to travel off-campus to compete against other schools. And then my last point to all of this is that if we do not decide to fund organizations for off-campus food, are we encouraging only on-campus activities and organizations? Because I think that we lose a lot of those important interactions with other institutions and other types of people and we prevent a lot of good learning initiatives and activities that take place off the Hill.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Just quickly, to back up that rationale, I think you guys are traveling voluntarily. No one is forcing you to be part of that organization.
- **Lilly Pieper:** I just have a clarification question. I've gone on several trips through Hamilton programs before, all of which have been subsidized. If we needed more help, and I did at that time, I applied for funding. This was a while ago so I'm not sure what office I contacted, but I got extra funding for a trip that I needed some more funding for. I feel like there are resources on campus that can help support a financial aid fund for specifically these reasons. So while I understand people saying that this will create a socioeconomic divide between students who can and cannot travel, I think there are ways that could prevent that. I'm not necessarily for cutting the per diem funding. Cutting down from 10% to 8% I think is incredibly appropriate. I think that adding this specific clause saying that "you cannot request funding for per diems" is up to the club's discretion. If they're getting funded 8% for the budget and they want their maximum funding, then they're going to have to delegate what they want. So basically I think the per diem clause is a little unnecessary.
- **Almahdi Mahil:** I have several points to make. As to the competitiveness, I can't count the number of times people have asked me if Hamilton College is a community college and where in upstate New York we are. We have worked extremely hard – especially in Model UN – to build the club up. As to the question of holding on-campus events, we



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have held, without a single dime from Student Assembly funding, an entire school conference that we dedicate our own time to. We had students give up their own dorm rooms too. This is the one event that some of our professors had to shell out some money for. I know our advisor Professor Jument had to drive to and from some of the conferences nearby, and even then the money wasn't enough. We had to cut down our number of participants from 12 per trip to 8 per trip. That's 4 people per trip. We go to three trips per semester and if you do the math we've cut that entire trip off. As to the question of whether we provide anything to the campus, Model UN does not only an extensive amount of debate, we do a humongous amount of resolution writing. Our new Writing Center Director Jennifer Ambrose asked me whether we could ask for accommodations from the Oral Communications Center, etc. But until that far-fetched dream happens, we do not have any source of funding outside of Student Assembly. Cutting down from 10% to 8% – though it may not seem like a lot – actually affects the quality of the conferences we go to. A lot of times we end up in hotels in really shady places. Kaity Werner tries her best to get us to a place that is close to the place we're competing at, but sometimes it's just not possible with the time frame we're given of booking within two weeks that the budget is passed. You just find what you have to and then go. There have been times we thought the club was going to fall apart because selling it to people is very hard. You have to make this four day commitment, you're traveling far, far away, we're only refunding you 25, if that. You have to improvise a lot of times. I'd go as far as to say half or two-thirds of the people on Model UN have never done it, including myself and the vast majority of our e-board, but they've come to love it and enjoy the activity. I just cannot imagine going to any one of the students who are currently putting their time and their effort into making us succeed and telling them, "I'm sorry but you can't go because we're not paying for your food," or "our budget got cut so you don't get to go to this conference."

And we can't continue to hold on-campus activities because the one that we did do, which was a major effort and expenditure, we had to spend a year planning for and it was a one-time grant from the NY6 and I don't think we'll be getting that again. We did have plans to hold a Model UN Appreciation Day in October. We had plans to hold fundraisers. We've had plans to host on-campus activities, but sadly we just don't have the means to do so. We are wholly dependent on SA funding, at least as Model UN; I don't know about the other academic clubs. What's more, I think a lot of students – especially our freshmen – are very far away from home and for the first time they get to go to all these awesome cities and all these awesome colleges and meet other people. Even though we don't get any chances for recreation outside of our conferences, they still feel a little better because they got to leave the Hamilton campus and feel like they're a part of something bigger than themselves.

As for Model UN, we are super non-exclusionary and I'm sure the a lot of the other academic clubs are like that as well. Like I said, we do not hold tryouts. If someone wants to come to Model UN, we tell them the Hamilton mantra: just come and try your best. And a lot of them do. We try as much as possible to not make it like a fifth class but rather a fun and enjoyable activity. And even then we've managed to win awards at almost every single conference we went to. Hamilton has, for the first time, ranked in the Top 50 Schools in America for Model UN Clubs. Now we're seeing our name



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recognition come up among people in the Model UN circuit. And it's actually an enjoyable activity that I never thought I would love. But if we have to cut down and some sacrifices have to be made, we as an e-board have spoken about this. Once we realized that there might be a change to funding codes we said, "that means that we won't go and we'll have to send a lot of our freshmen without guidance," and I think that is really detrimental not just to our club but to the image of the school. We've just had Accepted Students Day and I cannot count the amount of times the Student Activities office had to talk to people who were in Model UN at their schools. We've all applied to this college and we all know friends who had Model UN on their Common Apps because it's a very good way to get into a good school like Hamilton. And if they come into Hamilton and we have to say, "we're sorry, that was a fun activity you did in high school but you can't do it here," it just does not look good. And not just for us, but also for the school as a whole.

- **Diana Perez:** I value everything that you said and I don't question the quality of the organization and everything that you bring to the campus, but I want to address the claims you were making about the quality of the competitiveness that would be affected if we pass this change with the per diems. I don't see the correlation. I feel like the number of things you want to participate in will not be harmed by passing the food per diem change. So I think a better conversation would be if the issue is funding for food, would the possibility of fundraising be an issue, have you attempted it, and is it not an option? I know you just mentioned is not possible because you don't have the means to do so, so how would you see that coming about in ways that we could collaborate so that you guys could have the means to fundraise as an alternative? Because Jake's points are also very valid and I just don't see the correlation here with how not funding for food will affect your competitiveness in the circuit.
- **Alex Stetter:** We received funding and made available scholarship funds. Almost made the team dues. Not necessarily prohibitive. A lot of the things we do in our costs will be really high cost. Kind of establishing that scale making it a precedent of the club. A lot of the clubs will do mandatory volunteering hours but fundraising is a great way to be involved on campus as well. But after their admission period. Super fun way to be involved on campus as well. Do a bake sale or raffle, something that students can get involved in.
- **Jake Engelman:** We're going to transition now but I want to say a few things before we do. First of all, we're not voting on anything tonight. If you have more to say, you're going to have a week to further go after the changes we've made, so please don't think that we're silencing anybody. We just want to make sure we talk about other things tonight. I do want to get two more points in quickly. First of all, as I've said, one of the reasons that we're going about doing this is because we want to maintain consistency across all the things we fund. So something I'd like people to think about is if we feel so strongly about maintaining food per diems for academic teams and the like for all organizations that we fund, whether or not we should consider having that apply to club teams as well, who similarly have a process for accepting new students and traveling. Secondly, something that I've gathered is that removing the food per diem is prohibiting students with financial need from participating in organizations. So something I'd like



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people to think about is what if we created some kind of fund that students with demonstrated need could apply to and receive funding for trips that they take off-campus for food? So please think about that. And with that, let's pivot to something we touched on very briefly but that I think is also very important, and that's the shift from 10% to 8% as the maximum funded. Again, this was an effort on our part to be more equitable with our funding. If we have organizations taking one-tenth of our budget I very fairly understand when small organizations feel that it's unfair for one organization to take that much of our budget when we're very scrupulous with the funding we give them. So maybe people have thoughts on that.

- **Conor O'Shea:** This is a question on that comment. So say 8% of the budget is \$8,000 and an organization requests \$9,000, I know there's a proposed revision in the codes that say the 8% rule can be overridden by a two-thirds vote. Does the two-thirds vote only need to apply to every dollar beyond the 8%? So does an organization get approved the \$8,000 and beyond that or above the 8% is what gets voted on? If the organization requests something beyond the \$9,000 does the whole budget get sunk if they don't reach two-thirds, or is it just the dollars beyond that?
 - **Jake Engelman:** That's a great question. I'll tell you that I'm sure it doesn't say anything about that in the codes, but I am very confident that what we'd do in that situation is do a normal vote to the normal maximum and override that. I'd also like to remind everybody that all of the codes are overridable. We often discourage it because I don't think we should make rules that are meant to be broken, but there are always extenuating circumstances. So I just want to put that out there, people should know that. But yes, I think we would probably fairly fund the \$8,000 and have a two-thirds vote to discuss the money beyond that.
 - **Conor O'Shea:** I have another question. What would ability would the organization leaders have to know what the amount is going to be so we know what 8% is? When does that happen? Because planning budgets can take a significant amount of time.
 - **Jake Engelman:** The strategic process happens so quickly and we like to do that at the beginning of the year, so to be completely transparent, I think organization heads don't find out until we meet with them during the strategic process. So if an organization hits that cap or is near hitting that cap, we tell them during the meeting process. And if it's not relevant we don't bring it up.
- **Evan Weinstein:** My issue with this specific change is not that it's 10% to 8% but it's that you're preemptively legislating something that you have the ability to do later. This applies to basically every change I have an issue with, which is that the job of the funding committee is when a club applies for funding to judge whether all of those funds are necessary. The fact is that the reason our clubs often get funded in full is that when you actually look at the itemized budget, everything is necessary. So it seems pretty irrational to preemptively decide that food isn't going to be funded in every case and we're going to cut 2% in every case. If you believe that that 2% is extraneous, then when we apply, cut 2% of our request. But the point is that this should be the job when you get an actual budget rather than categorically saying "any club applying won't get food." I think this decision could be made on a case-by-case basis. You're precluding yourselves from being able to have that discretionary ability, which seems frankly undemocratic and irrational.



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- **Jake Engelman:** I think that deciding what is and isn't necessary is a much more difficult job than you're making it out to be. I don't mean to pick on your organization here, this is just an example, but I understand that you take a number of trips every year and I understand that there is a certain respect that is lost with taking fewer trips, but I think that you and I would disagree on what is and isn't necessary trip-wise. So that is just an example and creating rules like this allows us to formulate a process that hopefully allows every organization to be on the same playing field right off the bat and doesn't put stress on the funding committee to have division in saying something like "we think that only 70% of this registration fee should be paid for."
- **Nadav Konforty:** Just in response to you saying that it's undemocratic, it's a democratic republic. You elect representatives. If you want you can run and if you want you can run for treasurer and go through the process that all these treasurers went through. So if you want something to be changed and your interest to be heard you can run. We are the ones in charge of the funding codes. I get it and I totally hear all the discontent with it, but also if you want it to be changed then get yourself elected to be the one in charge of it.
- **Evan Weinstein:** It's not that I want my input. The reason it is undemocratic is because the people we have elected preclude themselves from making these decisions. They may be difficult decisions, but that is your responsibility. Your responsibility is to make difficult decisions. I think it is slightly concerning to know that the reason clubs are funded is just because it's really hard to make those decisions. I don't think that's the case. I have significant faith in your ability to make these decisions. And my point is that by changing the codes in this way, you are allowing yourself to not have to make those decisions. And that's what I think is the undemocratic part. It is more democratic, in the sense of a democratic republic, to have my representatives make as many decisions as possible rather than as few decisions as possible, which seems to me to be the rationale behind this change.
- **Rachel Sutor:** Part of the point of having funding codes is for consistency throughout the years. Every single time we do funding we have a club come in and say, "three or four years ago we got all of our requested funding, why aren't we getting it this year?" Well, the fact of the matter is that every year we have changes in Student Assembly and changes in opinion that make decisions different. So for consistency – ultimately making it easier for you to get your funding – we're making these codes so we can have a set of guidelines. And as Jake said, these are codes but these are not set in stone. We can override them. And if you ever come to one of our funding meetings, we spend upwards of 3 hours going through every single itemized thing in your budget. We don't just say "yes, yes, yes," or "no, no, no." We go through and look at what is necessary. So the funding codes allow us to have consistency so that you can submit a budget that you know will have a reasonable chance of getting passed. It's not so that we can make our lives easier by not passing something just because it doesn't violate what we put in the codes.



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- **Julian Perricone:** All democracies have laws and legislature and these are our policies. And I would also add that the three hours we spend in here is but a fraction of the time the treasurers spend reviewing the funding.
- **Sam Gordon:** I want to take a step back and say a lot of people from the academic teams are getting heated and a lot of people on Student Assembly are as well, and we understand that we're taking a huge chunk of the budget and we understand that that can appear unfair, but our biggest question right now is what else should we do? Because this is our only source of funding. We already take what we can from the OCC and the Ferguson Endowment and if this money is cut here, what we could raise through fundraising and bake sales is not comparable to what we have previously received from Student Assembly. So maybe if you can give us more options because the reason we're so involved in this discussion is because SA is where we get our funding from and we don't know where else to go.
 - **Jake Engelman:** When we talk about things that are going to be funded, we're always going to disagree. This is an attempt to move towards less disagreement. You guys have pretty clearly made the case that no food per diem means no trip. I really want to stress that that is not the case. You guys can still take the trips. We're trying to make things more consistent for all students and maybe you have to collect dues from all members in order to make that possible. I know I have a very difficult time separating the exclusivity of academic teams from the exclusivity of social groups on campus, and we don't fund them at all because they're pretty private and closed. And it's subjective whether or not you get into them as it is with any of your teams. So I just have this philosophical issue with teams needing the funds. We understand that you need the funds but you can do some fundraising just like club sports, you can raise dues just like club sports, and you can take fewer trips just like the other organizations that get hundreds of dollars less per person.
 - **Sam Gordon:** I just want to say that a Greek organization is not Debate, it's not Mock Trial, it's not Model UN. These are fundamentally different things and they should be treated differently.
- **Ryan Bloom:** I wanted to jump back to this 10% to 8% and say that from this side of the table it makes a lot of sense. I used to be in Jake's spot. I know that it is ridiculously tough to figure out what's important and not important but if doing this kind of change would make it easier for the club leaders and every organization to confidently submit their budgets, it makes a lot of sense. It gives the treasurers a lot more faith that the club leaders are only asking for what is necessary so I think that makes a lot of sense.
- **Noam Barnhard:** To what extent are these clubs reaching out to alumni for potential donations?
 - **Conor O'Shea:** We've tried but there are so many restrictions on that, we basically can't.
 - **Jake Engelman:** That is a good conversation but it is a whole other can of worms. It is a good question, though.
- **Conor O'Shea:** This is a specific question for Jake and funding committee since I used to be on SA. It seemed to me a lot of the times we were criticizing people's budgets it was because they didn't conform with the rules or there were cheaper options and the



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budgets themselves weren't that clean, like we could find cheaper things or we budgeted for something we couldn't budget for. So a lot of the times people aren't being funded for things they either really aren't necessary, we can find something cheaper, or we just explicitly don't fund something in the codes. So are you guys finding that there are clubs who are saying, "we have budgets that are clean, it's the cheapest thing we can find, and it's essential to the organization," and Student Assembly doesn't have the dollars to give them? Because you have several hundred dollars left today on April 22 and from my experience on SA there haven't been clubs who have perfect budgets that have been turned away from funding even with the old funding codes. So I get wanting to be equitable with funds but I don't think we're actually really turning down clubs because we sink a lot of money into academic teams.

- **Jake Engelman:** Totally. I think it's a little difficult to look at the amount of money we have now just because strategic and non-strategic are very different. The amount of cutting and negotiating that we do with clubs the meeting before strategic is really where I think what you're asking about happens. Not to pick on Ben since he's in the room, but bowling club is a huge thing that we cut. It's very easy to cut a single trip from bowling club, it saves us a couple hundred dollars just to meet that 80%. So that does happen, and a lot of what you're asking about does happen in that first meeting. If we started implementing the changes that we recommend, we would be a lot more lenient with the funds we give out to organizations.
- **Evan Weinstein:** Ben touched on this earlier but the fact is that these clubs are exclusive because they don't receive enough money to be less exclusive. I think the argument this body is making is that "we are going to cut your funding because you're exclusive, so you're going to have to charge dues and go to fewer events, which will make you more exclusive. So we're going to cut your funding." I can see a possibility where I come back for funding next year and I'm told "your organization is too exclusive to receive funding." There's also less accountability for other organizations that come and ask for money. I don't know that we necessarily check in and see how many people went to the event. So it's hard for me to accept we can know definitively the cost of organizations despite their itemized budget because there's no sense of accountability on the back end. It is fine to make us more exclusive but I don't think that anyone in this room will be less confused. These changes will make academic teams more exclusive.
 - **Jake Engelman:** About the number of students at each events, that's a problem we totally have identified. The system we had is outdated. We're getting a new one and we are going to have lots of ways to start keeping track of how many people go to each event. So that's a great point and we recognize it.
- **Almahdi Mahil:** I want to make a point that I don't think this has been said outright yet. Nani, Connie, I think Jake, and a couple of other members of SA, certainly Keith, have been firsthand witnesses to how much Model UN has cut down on budget and made sure to make things as cheap as possible. There is this implied sentiment going around that we choose things that are the best for our club but not necessarily the cheapest or most fiscally responsible option. I don't think this is true at all. I've stayed in hotels I would never have stayed in otherwise and I've tried to keep morale up for my club just for the sake of competing in Model UN. Like I keep saying, this is not a resort or a spa. Yes, we



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are here to do good work and to have fun, but we're also here to represent Hamilton and Model UN. I don't feasibly see how we could cut our budget any more. I met with our e-board last week, we had our elections, and cutting it down to the bone is going to make it more difficult for us to recruit people. It certainly is going to make it more exclusive, but I think for Model UN because we have no endowment and we are wholly dependent on SA funding, it will make us obsolete. There will be no Hamilton Model UN Club. We will be meeting in KJ 101 like we do on Mondays at 7, we will be talking about foreign policy issues, and we'll say hi to each other when we go to Commons, but there will be no more trips. I cannot in good faith or conscience ask people to go on trips that are shoddy or conferences that are not recognized. We've tried to cut down and go to conferences that will actually improve Hamilton's image. I cannot ask people to go on what is essentially an AA trip but underfunded and non-resourced and I can't pick up the phone and call Andrew Jillings in case something goes wrong. We hold an enormous amount of responsibility in our hands. I'm not saying it's bad but I think that we would all support that we do better.

I'm speaking for Model UN now but I certainly think other academic teams feel the same as well. I think that we try our best to make sure that our activities, while they are academically fruitful, are not fifth classes for students. They're also stress relievers. A lot of students have academic interest that they may not necessarily be able to express in classrooms and cutting down on the funding is just sending the message that we're trying to hold you here on the Hill in a bubble and unless you guys hold or stick to Hamilton then you are not recognized as an organization. We have seen a lot of students receive better grades in their government classes just because they know how to write Model UN resolutions. I've seen a lot of students speak up more just because they know how to debate. I've seen people who would have never even considered leaving Hamilton's campus for whatever reason leave for Model UN trips, enjoy it, and actually have a more vested interest in the world. I'm not trying to make us sound like something out of an Oprah Winfrey episode, but this is reality.

Model UN does a lot for the school and it does a lot for the school's image. Every time we win an award, we're first on top of the Communications page and professors are talking to me about how they saw me on WebAdvisor. So I think that's something that not only brings a good image for the school but raises the spirits of students and is academically beneficial.

We should not be cutting down anymore than it is. I am very explicit in this. I was just texting with my e-board. If the funding cuts go as proceeded and if all the other provisions are enacted like hotel rooms needing to be less than \$200 – which, by the way – was written by someone who has never been in Manhattan, Model UN might as well be obsolete. We will have lost an academic club and a lot of students will have to go elsewhere instead of joining an activity that they would've loved.

- **Jake Engelman:** One of the problems I'm hearing is that we're making this economically no longer feasible for certain students. I think that the new suggestions of getting a fund for those with demonstrated need would solve that. It's something we can talk about later. It's getting late so I would really like to transition away from the academic talk. Please let's now discuss any actual questions about specific changes that we've made to the codes separate from that. I think we got a lot of good feedback on that



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and I want to continue the conversation. And maybe that means extra meetings for people who are interested throughout the week, but there are so many things we change besides that and I really hope all of you went through it. Is there anything else people are concerned about that they want to discuss? I am not trying to silence the conversation about food and other issues related to academic teams. We can talk about it later, I promise. But is there anything else while we're all meeting here together?

- **Zach Oscar:** I just wanted to point out that in my four years of being on the Assembly, I have been highly critical of the funding process and the way in which we've engaged with the codes. But I think part of the goal right now is to recognize that a lot of times our decisions are informed by our differences in opinion and morality. And so this is an attempt to try something more concrete in an effort to see if it goes better than the way we have generally done things in previous years. I want to remind everybody that we are making these adjustments right now but that literally next semester someone can tear them all down again. I don't want us to say this is some kind of concrete thing that we cannot undo once we've done it. I think that this just shows the initiative of the funding teams in acknowledging that we have had so many issues with funding codes that we need to try something different. You may not agree – and I actually find what all of you are saying is very valid about how this might not be the best way to do it – but I think that we need to make the attempt. We need to see that you can't go on three more trips out of the five that you normally do because you just don't have the funding for it. And then the funding committee takes that feedback and then we try it again. But right now it's not working the way that it should. We have an imbalance in funding and in clubs that we think should get more versus should get less, and the “should” part of it is what's so complicated. So I just want to remind everybody that this is not a set in stone thing, we're just trying to do work that might aid in the process.

- **Teddy McKenna:** I don't think that just changing something that might work is a very valid move. I think inertia is really powerful, especially in a body like this that changes so often and has so many people in it. It's easier to stick with the default option rather than to rewrite the funding codes every year. And it's not like, “oh, you only go to three competitions instead of five.” I think there are concrete harms. Like we've been talking about, there are some people who won't want to join an organization because they know they're paying \$50 a weekend for five or seven trips a semester. We think that if you have a really small recruiting class for one year, that has a ripple effect for the next four years because these are the people that are going to have to lead the club in the future. You aren't likely to recruit people as sophomores. Most of the new members come in as freshmen. So if the costs are prohibitively high in this trial period of the new funding codes, it cripples the club for the long term.
- **Zach Oscar:** But you don't know what prohibitively high looks like yet. We haven't gone through this process altogether to see and work collaboratively. I'm not trying to be offensive but you almost make it sound like a kid is going to die on a trip because he doesn't have access to food. We're going to make this all work and we're going to make sure that the clubs that deserve the recognition that they have – such as yours and other academic clubs – continue to function and continue to do the good work that they need to do. But as someone who's



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been here and watched how we've done funding all four years, I can't sit here and say, "oh yeah, the default is good enough." That suggestion makes it sound like we should never attempt to change things for the better. I have to wholeheartedly reject that sense that we should just stick with what we've been doing because that seems to be working.

- **Lilly Pieper:** I just want to reiterate that none of us on the Assembly are questioning the merit of these clubs because obviously they do great work. Particularly you guys are talking about people who are in these debates and going to these conferences and are significantly improving their confidence or speaking abilities. What's in question here is per diem funding and a change from 10% to 8%. As someone who is the treasurer of another club who requests high speaker fees at least once a semester, I want to say that all clubs make sacrifices. I also want to say that there are alternative routes. I would say that one is looking into financial aid. I think having a pool of financial aid is a great idea. That would solve the per diem problem. As far as a change from 10% to 8%, I'd say look into the Kirkland Endowment. I've gotten significant chunks of funding for that. It's several rounds per year. They're really open to any ideas that would improve the lives of women on campus. So that's another option to go for with the 10% to 8%. So I think that yes, you guys are coming in here with the slippery slopes of what could happen if we don't pay for per diem funding, but I think we are offering solutions to those problems. And I completely agree with those frustrations because obviously all these clubs are doing great work, but I think it's unproductive to keep arguing about the merit of those clubs because no one is questioning that. I think solutions are the only thing we should be offering. So I'm saying Kirkland Endowment. There are lots of other sources of funding too, but that's the one I've used in the past. And then setting up financial aid or looking for financial aid is extra work for people in your clubs, specifically on the e-board, but it would be worth it and would alleviate some of the pressure on us. We are talking in circles so I just wanted to give those two options out because I think we should move on to solutions.
 - **Julian Perricone:** I agree with Lilly. We're looking for comments about solutions.
- **Connie Lorente:** I have a question about another thing. Maybe I'll just provide comedic relief, cause I don't know if this is a dumb question, but could you explain the change with publicity?
 - **Jake Engelman:** I'd love to. So we have this gap between Student Assembly taking credit for all the great organizations that we fund and all the events that we fund and just making sure that everything is properly publicized from the organization standpoint. Our idea is that we basically want to require organizations to tell us not only events but by the non-strategic deadline what events they plan to have for the week so that we can include all the events that we're funding in an email that will be blasted out with the minutes once a week. Hopefully this will cut down on email clutter. This will ensure that everything that we're funding is properly being publicized on email in terms of date, time, location, and what's happening. We used to have this line saying that every event using SA funding had to have our logo on publicity items. It was a great idea for our reputation, but it was impossible to manage and never got followed through.



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This is a way to make up for that. So that's one part of publicity. Second off, we're lowering the cap from \$25 to \$20 and I promise this is not prohibitive. No organization is spending \$25 on posters. Most of it is like a \$5 charge and we're just allocating \$25 dollars. So basically it's the same thing, just ask for \$20 per event. In the case of a real campaign, we've worked with organizations to get them access to more money. If they really just want posters more than \$20 this is non-prohibitive. Again, this is just less money we're allocating up front to prevent people from needlessly rolling back later. And we just made it clear that we're not going to fund stickers for publicity. It's not really worth it to be honest. The amount of stickers for you can get with the publicity cap is just not a good idea for your organization. We have funded stickers for incentives for events and stuff so that's totally still viable.

- **Ryan Bloom:** This is just a brief comment on hotel stuff, but before I say that I just want to thank everybody for being attentive and taking everything that's been said into consideration. I know it's been a lot. Just from where I stand as someone who has done a lot of budgets with hotel rooms and again as someone who has also been very deeply involved in the SA funding process, I feel slightly concerned about having this clause in here. That's not because I feel like it would cut down on club's abilities to get hotel rooms but because I think that in the vast majority of cases having that \$200 per room per night clause is actually way more than most people would spend. Maybe not in Manhattan or Boston but literally anywhere else we've gone is under \$100 per night and that's in the D.C. area, Pittsburgh, Ithaca, places like that. I guess my suggestion there is just to take out that clause because it seems like that's going to get broken for places like Manhattan and Boston but in other cases, if I were the treasurer I would just put down \$200 per night because it's there in the rules and then theoretically SA members would be more likely to pass that because it's in the rules.
 - **Jake Engelman:** Our idea for that was that organizations will request money for hotels but the amount changes. This was not meant to be a situation where they get less money for hotels. That's definitely not what this was meant to be. This was to make it easier for club leaders to just say "\$200" even if they expect \$150 of hotel fees per night. If in New York City the amount needs to be greater, the treasurers are totally on board for that. This wasn't meant to be prohibitive. Again, when they budget for hotels, the costs can change the next day. If it's higher, we can't do that just because of how the codes work. So the idea is to allocate more money than expected for hotel costs. We also have a line saying that lodging must be booked within two weeks of funding approval. Again, we encourage organizations to get that hotel booking as soon as they're approved to go on a trip. We totally understand extenuating circumstances, but the hope was they would spend ideally less money than we've allocated and then immediately roll back the extra funds.
 - **Ryan Bloom:** That makes a lot of sense but a tiny caveat is that I know a lot of people already overshoot when they submit their budgets. If they know that's the cap, they're going to budget \$200 and then take a hotel that's \$175, and even that is way more than you need, at least in the places that we go.
 - **Jake Engelman:** That's fair, we'll look into that.



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Vote to extend the meeting passes.

- **Jake Engelman:** We have other stuff to get to and I know we have a lot more to discuss. I will come up with some kind of way for everybody to make sure everyone's eyes get on every change we've made. Please be attentive to your emails and be willing to spend some time on this throughout the week because we can't have another meeting like this week and then vote, it's not going to work. Stay tuned for an email from me, I'll have one or two Open Hours to talk about this more.

4. Old Business

- **Org Recognition Update & Next Steps**
 - **Julian Perricone:** The committee for this met last Friday. We talked about what people wrote on those group feedback forms we did. It was great, we're starting to piece together more constitution language on what constitutes a club. We'll hopefully have that done by Fall semester, such that new clubs in the Fall have more concrete guidelines on how to become a club and what they need to get done. And then what they need to get done can be a little bit more streamlined and little bit more fair.
- **Elections**
 - Class President and Class Treasurer PLATFORMS AND SIGNATURE SHEETS DUE FRIDAY 27th to jperrico@hamilton.edu and all-campus mailbox #1672.
 - **Julian Perricone:** I will take platforms and signature sheets any time Friday. Please don't forget to have those in by this Friday.

5. Acknowledgements

- Thank you, Kaity Werner, Jake Engelman, and all the Class Treasurers for the countless hours put into drafting the new funding code!!
 - **Jake Engelman:** Kaity has seriously gone above and beyond with us, so huge thanks to her.

6. Committee Reports

- **Julian Perricone:** We're not going to do full committee reports this week, we'll do that next week. Next week is our last meeting. Every single committee needs to send me a list of everything you've accomplished this semester or this year. That is crucial. Send it to me by Sunday night.
- **Facilities:** One quick thing, we're meeting with Reslife to go over online housing lottery demos.

7. Funding

Amount Remaining: **\$942.00**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Approved
SPAC	Pizza for the	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$180.00



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	Funktion II			
<i>Cultural Affairs</i>	<i>Open Hour Snacks</i>	<i>\$94.90</i>	<i>\$94.90</i>	<i>\$94.90</i>

Amount Requested: \$180.00

Amount Recommended: \$180.00, \$94.90

Amount Remaining Discretionary: \$1,504.77

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: \$762.00

SPAC:

- Pizza for the Funktion, they're asking for way under \$5 per person. They expect a ton of people, we recommend funding in full.

SPAC funding passes as recommended.

Cultural Affairs:

- We're doubling them with Food Committee. They're doing something really cool and hosting an Open Hour for students to voice concerns or ask questions. They're requesting \$47.45 for snacks. Food Committee is going to do a similar thing in the library for the new Diner menu and other food related things. We recommend the same amount for them. That doubles the total to \$94.90. This is recommended out of discretionary. We recommend funding them both in full.

Cultural Affairs funding passes as recommended.

8. Announcements

- **Jake Engelman:** This coming Saturday the 28th SA is funding a Bubble Soccer event on Mason Field (weather permitting)! Rain location is Sage Rink. We'll be out there from 1-7pm and the event is free for all students. We'll be collecting donations to the Young Civic Scholarship which the philanthropy committee raises money for, and the Grilling Club is collaborating with BLSU to host Block Party at the same time at Babbitt Pavilion.
- **Nadav Konforty:** Bystander training will be tomorrow in this room at our regular meeting time.

