

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

MARCH 11, 2019

1. Call to Order

○ **Present**

- Amanda Kim
- Gianni Hill
- Will Andriola
- Eric Kopp
- Alex Kurtz
- Morgan Perry
- Karthik Ravishankar
- Casey Codd
- Richard Court
- Harry Dubke
- Luis Morales
- Jack Carroll
- Laura Rodriguez
- Alex Stetter
- Diana Perez
- Savannah Kelly
- Drew Anderson
- Aurora Cai
- Ishan Mainali
- Caroline Paulson
- Bryce Febres
- Lóri Fejes
- Finlay Adamson
- Keir Adamson
- Nasheley Boursiquot

○ **Excused**

- Ines Ayara
- Jay Menner

○ **Unexcused**

- Jack Fischman
- Ben Rhind
- Ruben Martinez

2. Public Comment Period

3. New Business

○ **Sustainability Liaison — Michael Moubarak '21**

- **Amanda Kim:** We met with the Hamilton Sustainability Coordinators and we talked about this. Basically, because sustainability is a priority of the



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college's it should be one of ours. We wanted to appoint a sustainability liaison to be the in between person between Hamilton College Sustainability Coordinators and us. Michael is going to have his own committee, which will be made up of HSC members and SA members, along with any other interested members of the committee.

- **Michael Moubarak:** That's pretty good. Just to elaborate a little more, HSC is a group of students that works with Facilities Management. We're broken down into three subcommittees: awareness, one that works with Facilities Management, and food/waste. We run initiatives through those committees. You guys should be familiar with Green Mondays, that was done by the food and waste committee. We worked really closely with Bon Appetit on that. We also did the reforestation of the golf course through the grounds committee, that's the one I work closest with. We're really excited to set up this committee. We originally started out as the Recycling Task Force, by running cram and scam the past couple of years. We have a lot of new ideas, but we're looking for the right outlet and channels for those ideas and how do we set up a culture of sustainability within this administration and throughout student organizations. I think this committee will be a really great thing. We're going to look for three members from SA and three members from HSC to work together to do some sustainability initiatives.
- **Amanda Kim:** Yeah, that was great. For those of you on SA last semester, HSC came to us at our last meeting. Because it was towards the end and we really didn't have a chance to set anything up, we're going to be working with them closely now. We want to provide them with the support that they need, as sustainability is one of our priorities. Just to streamline communications between all the members involved in talking with the administration
- **Will Andriola:** Do you have any plans for the future. At what point do you think that these things could go public?
 - **Michael Moubarak:** Right now it's just HSC members taking initiative and getting together to work on info and work on it themselves. To be honest, we've never had this outlet before and we haven't talked about how we're going to handle it yet, but it's something that we'll consider. A lot of the things we've been trying to do involves a little more involvement with the administration and club organizations.
 - **Amanda Kim:** Part of this new initiative is getting student input.
- **Harry Dubke:** I've heard some backlash towards Green Mondays. How are you going to address it?
 - **Michael Moubarak:** We've heard a lot of backlash as well. That was set up with Bon Appetit. We sent out a survey last semester



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and we got positive feedback. Bon Appetit has mainly made their decision to keep Green Mondays due to positive feedback from the public, specifically three emails sent to them. Bon Appetit has said that they'll continue that initiative until they see a lot of backlash from the community. We've met with some people that responded to the HSC account directly with valid concerns with Green Mondays. We've discussed rebranding to make it more popular among students. We also want to send out another survey to get more feedback and see student preferences.

- **Harry Dubke:** One of the biggest criticisms I've heard is that Green Monday hasn't been that effective, because a lot of the people going to eat at McEwen, instead move to Commons and still consume the same amount of meat. A lot of people have said that an education campaign would be a lot better than simply removing the meat option. I'm wondering if we have any information on the amount of people that have switched from average McEwen Monday to Commons.
- **Amanda Kim:** A large part of our meeting with HSC was about that. People had brought up concerns about Green Mondays, which is why we thought it was a good idea to form this committee. Not only to promote sustainability, but to have more input from the student body and SA. When we asked them about that, there had been a lot of people moving to Commons on Mondays. Recently they started advertising what food was going to be there. After they started sending out those emails, they've been getting a lot of people going to those events. We talked to them about getting specific numbers for that, and they're going to work on that, but Bon Appetit doesn't have those numbers. That's Auxiliary Services that have that number, not Bon Appetit.
- **Gianni Hill:** We're also going to meet with them after we come back from break to talk about that and revamping elections. We're going to ask them to give us numbers and compare trends on Mondays versus other days of the week. If McEwen looks really dead on Mondays as compared to Commons compared the rest of the week, then we could change some things.
- **Harry Dubke:** The biggest thing I've heard is to educate, rather than force it one way or another.
- **Karthik Ravishankar:** It sounds like Green Mondays has become part of Bon Appetit's programming. When we met with Derek Roy about a week ago, that was not entirely the case. HSC had the idea and discussed it with Bon Appetit. It's an ongoing dialogue. It's not like one party, i.e. Bon



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Appetit in this case, is just taking it over and making it their own thing.
That's not the case at all

- **Richard Court:** Is sustainability the goal that it's hoping to achieve?
There weren't any emails about what the goals were. I'm just curious for transparency purposes, what the aims are.
 - **Michael Moubarak:** We want to promote vegan eating. As a group, HSC believes that's a more sustainable way to consume food as a society. We were trying to reduce the college's meat consumption.
 - **Amanda Kim:** They put a PDF together of their goals and educational pamphlet that they sent out about reducing meat consumption. When we talked to HSC about it, they said it's not necessarily a vegan initiative. It's not a "We should be vegans" type thing, more of a sustainable thing.
- **Aurora Cai:** The food is not vegan but vegetarian.
 - **Harry Dubke:** They also have the lunch meats.
 - **Amanda Kim:** It's meat, less. You can put that in the minutes.
- **Faculty Meeting — Amanda Kim & Gianni Hill**
 - **Amanda Kim:** Gianni and I went to the faculty meeting last Tuesday. The two big takeaways was they looked at information from peer institutions about add-drop deadlines and credit/no-credit deadlines. There is a discussion around lengthening those deadlines or changing the deadline in general. They also voted to remove the requirement where seniors had to take a course in their majors during both semesters of their senior year. There's no more requirement for that.
 - **Caroline Paulson:** Did they talk about moving the add-drop form to online?
 - **Amanda Kim:** They didn't at that meeting.
- **Bylaw Changes — Alex Kurtz**
 - **Alex Kurtz:** The reason we thought this was necessary was because Amanda and Gianni were looking at their initiatives, like C&C and a media push. They realized they needed more money and they wanted to think ahead to the future, what might future administration's want and need. The old wording set discretionary at \$5,000 every semester. At the beginning of the semester, you might remember that we detected that \$5,000 into discretionary. We want to set it at a percent because our budget shifts every year. We want to set it at 5%, which is currently \$5,600. The important provision here is that they can ask for more money for the pursuit of specific initiatives. If they want money beyond the \$5,600 or a C&C day type thing, they can bring that to the Assembly and



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request that money. That allows you to get the money without overriding the funding codes. We decided to put in a cap of 10%, just so administrations in the future don't go crazy and allocate all their funding to discretionary. We can override that with a 2/3 votes, but it's a steeper bar.

- **Harry Dubke:** Should we put in that additional funds can be requested by the President or E-board with a majority vote of the Central Council? Should we put that in so we can vote on it?
 - **Alex Kurtz:** The wording at the top is that the discretionary fund will be set at \$5,000. We still voted on that \$5,000.
 - **Amanda Kim:** The assumption of the bylaws and Constitution is that every vote is a majority, unless it's specified as 2/3.
 - **Alex Kurtz:** If you think that's important, we can always throw it in.
 - **Harry Dubke:** I think it's too wordy, especially if it's already assumed in the Constitution.
- **Nasheley Boursiquot:** In addition to what we just voted for, how much are we intended to spend this semester with the discretionary fund?
 - **Alex Kurtz:** We started with \$5,000 and requested another 5,000 which equals \$10,000. 10% of our budget would be \$11,200. We think that's a reasonable range, especially in the future.
 - **Amanda Kim:** We don't want to be taking too much of this money because it should mostly go towards funding student organizations. That's why we thought we should set a limit.
 - **Gianni Hill:** We wanted to use a percentage range instead of hard numbers to account for inflation and differing student activities fees. But also to make sure, that in the fall, we wouldn't need as much funding because we won't have the C&C event. It gives us more flexibility to request what we need.
 - **Amanda Kim:** Student Assembly tends to spend less in the fall than in the spring.
- **Town Hall & Election Conversations — Amanda Kim & Gianni Hill**
 - Student Assembly continued the conversation around a new Town Hall. We also discussed ways to make Student Assembly elections more competitive and how to encourage students to vote. If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, please reach out to sa@hamilton.edu.

4. Old Business

- **Trustee Committee Meetings – Amanda Kim & Gianni Hill**



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- **Amanda Kim:** This is just a debrief about what we talked about at our Trustee Committees. We went to Student Affairs. Basically it was an update that Dean Martinez gave to the trustees about the different conversations being held in working groups. She also talked about different initiatives that had been started, like the new dining options Bundy Cafe and Late Night Commons. They talked about mental wellness on campus, which was mostly just an update from Dean Martinez on stuff that they've gotten done.
- **Gianni Hill:** They wanted to start implementing dashboards to track progress on certain initiatives. Say if they're looking at dining options or mental wellness, how to track changes to specific categories to see if they're doing what they're needing to do. It can help them see if they're lagging in certain areas. This is just a transparent way for the board of trustees to track the administration in regard to student life on campus.
- **Will Andriola:** I went to Finance and Budget. I'm not sure what's public knowledge, but the college is a good financial state compared to other liberal arts college like Hampshire College. It might have to close or merge with another school. That's mostly a function of it having a smaller endowment. They're going to need to be selective about how they spend money.
- **Diana Perez:** We joined Governance with Gillian King. Most of our conversations were confidential, but it surrounded who was going to be the speakers for the commencements for the Class of 2020. Much of that information will be shared by the end of the semester. The names seemed pretty interesting to me.
- **Karthik Ravishankar:** I was in the Buildings one. It was an interesting opportunity to see them allocating funding to building projects on campus. There are no new plans for a parking lot yet. They talked about Res Life initiatives and Alumni Gym as well.
- **Louis Morales:** I have a question to Karthik. Has there been a large initiative for students to build more parking lots on campus? If so, how long? This seems like an ongoing problem.
 - **Karthik Ravishankar:** We were just spectators and we spoke afterwards to trustees if they had any concerns. The person in charge of grounds and facilities basically put together a presentation to the the trustees along with Dean Martinez and other administrators. There were no plans about parking lots. It was not something I could just interject on that.
 - **Gianni Hill:** Just some context for you, when I was on Health and Safety, we worked on parking initiatives around campus with Frank Coots and he said it's been an ongoing issue brought to his attention by students for years and years now. He'd be the best



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person to talk to about it. He's always willing to meet up with people. Basically they started tracking numbers to see how many cars are parked in the lots at different times. He definitely has some data that he might be willing to share with you.

- **Harry Dubke:** I would be down to reach out to him about it. I've done it in the past.

- **NESGov — Amanda Kim & Gianni Hill**
 - **Amanda Kim:** We have been in touch with Colby. We are going. We need to have an exact list of who's going. People who expressed interest, please let us know if you can actually go.
 - **Karthik Ravishankar:** I thought you guys mentioned last year that it was kind of, sparse. Why are we still participating in it if there aren't a lot of people?
 - **Amanda Kim:** What I should've said is that we are going, but with the reservation that other schools are going. We're not going to go and have a one-on-one with Colby. We gave them an estimate of the number of people we're bringing, but we also asked that they let us know if not a lot of other colleges are going because it is a long drive for us. We don't want to fund it if we get there and it's just Colby in a room. We're going under the condition that it will actually be attending by other colleges
 - **Karthik Ravishankar:** I'm just saying that because it's your time. If it turns out to not be fruitful, will that be reconsidered in the future?
 - **Amanda Kim:** Definitely, but the times that it has actually panned out, it's been a really productive and valuable conversation.
 - **Gianni Hill:** The two I went to last year were great. We decided to host last semester, we went through all the academic calendars for all the NESCACs and other liberal arts schools in the Northeast. We sent them all a doodle poll and we made sure every school was free. Out of the eighteen schools we invited, only one had a conflict with that weekend. Even so, people did not get back to us. Part of this meeting this year is how to streamline this process. If we are not happy, we might join the NY6 Conference. It's more regional. We are open to switching it up. Collaboration is really valuable.
 - **Amanda Kim:** We're encouraging everyone to go, because it's a great experience. We've had a lot of interest from the freshman delegation, but no one else. Please step up, it's a really valuable experience.
 - **Keir Adamson:** What's the date of the conference?



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- **Gianni Hill:** The weekend of April 19th.

5. Acknowledgments

○ **Kudos**

- **Publicity Committee and Morgan Perry for killing it with the Logo Competition!**
- **Aaron Simons '22 for his work on the Logo - thank you Aaron, it looks amazing!**
- **Our Parliamentarian Alex Kurtz and the Constitution Committee for their hard work on the bylaw changes!**

6. Committee

○ **Executive**

■ **Publicity**

- **Morgan Perry:** We want to start a bi-weekly/monthly table outside of Diner to have meet your representatives events.
- **Gianni Hill:** She's very busy this week and she's taking time to put up the bulletin board outside of Diner, so please complete the surveys. They literally take 30 seconds.

○ **Student Life**

■ **Cultural Affairs**

- **Lóri Fejes:** We just want students to respond to that email. If you're interested, please fill out the form.
- **Luis Morales:** I just sent out an email regarding SDC. We just want feedback they want to see what clubs want, including events we can do next semester. We want all the clubs on the list respond, because it makes it harder for us to do our job.

○ **Associative**

■ **Philanthropy**

- **Richard Court:** For the Young Civic Leaders Scholarship, no one reached out to me. If you're interested in being on that committee, please let me know. I'm going to be handing out applications this week. If you guys want to come with me, that would be great. We're going to raise around a grand or two for this scholarship. Please reach out to me if you want to be involved in that process. We want more perspectives, so please reach out.
- **Gianni Hill:** We have the SA Philanthropy committee with three members on it to help you with the scholarship fund. If you don't think 3 is enough, feel free to reach out to others on SA.



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7. Funding:

Amount remaining non-strategic: **\$15,697.23**

Amount remaining discretionary: **\$3,864.40**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Student Assembly	Discretionary funds for C&C Day event	\$5,000	\$0	N
Vegan Club	2 vegan ice cream socials	\$85	\$85	N

Amount Requested: \$5,085.00

Amount Recommended: \$85.00

Remaining non-strategic if funding passes as recommended: \$15,612.23

○ **Student Assembly - Funding Passes of Recommended**

- **Amanda Kim:** We are requesting some extra discretionary funds. We wanted to do this before we talked about discretionary bylaw changes., We just wanted to make it clear that in the interest in transparency just so people know that we are not changing these bylaws just so we can fund ourselves. This funding is possible even without the bylaw changes. The bylaw changes are something we see as useful for the future in any administration, not just ours. It says for C&C event funding that, but it isn't just for C&C we want to do. It's also going to go towards NESGov, stickers and banner for our new logo, and changing our website host because our current one is pretty ugly
- **Gianni Hill:** In the bylaws, it says we're supposed to reevaluate the discretionary fund every semester as an Assembly. We have yet to do this during my time on the Assembly. We worked with the Constitution Committee to really read through the Constitution more closely and to make sure we follow its guidelines.
- **Will Andriola:** The \$0 recommended is not tension within the Executive Board. The funding codes say we can't give more than \$5,000 to discretionary. The funding codes can be overridden by a 2/3 vote, but it seems like a good cause.
- **Lóri Fejes:** Did this five thousands dollars will be moved from the non-strategic to discretionary?
 - **Gianni Hill:** Even if we don't spend all of it, we still hav the discretion to give it to other organizations throughout the semester. In planning the C&C event, we cannot go through with making plans unless the funding is secured.



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- **Amanda Kim:** This all isn't just for C&C.
- **Nasheley Boursiquot:** So this money is going to go towards the discretionary fund or not? I'm really confused.
 - **Will Andriola:** It would go into the discretionary fund from the non-strategic pool. When it's in discretionary, it means SA can spend it any way they want to.
- **Lóri Fejes:** This gets transferred and whenever the C&C budget comes around it will be itemized. I'm just wondering on the impact itemization has on this budget, because that is required for other clubs.
 - **Amanda Kim:** Since it's discretionary, we don't have to apply to use it. We could submit an itemized budget, but we really can't plan for anything or secure vendors without knowing if we have the money. So we need this approved first.
 - **Lóri Fejes:** But we will as a Central Council will vote upon?
 - **Gianni Hill:** Right now for the codes, we would have to override it and give ourselves this additional funding. Any funding we request through discretionary, we still have to submit a budget to the Assembly, but just a simple majority is required to pass it. It's not like we get the \$5,000 and we start spending the money like a credit card. We would have to come forward with an itemized budget. We're just setting the amount just so we have it in discretionary, instead of the non-strategic pool.
- **Savannah Kelly:** For our viewers at home and myself, what was the C&C event?
 - **Gianni Hill:** We wanted to host an event before the concert and want to make this an ongoing event every year. We wanted to make it food centric so that people can come. We already have a food truck on campus, so we're working out something on Sadove Terrace between 11-1. Basically having popcorn, cotton candy, and slush, tons of foods, lawn games, and a DJ there just to bring people together. It's a centralized event on campus so all the darksiders walking over to the concert can stop by and it's close to lightside. It's a good way to have people interact with Student Assembly.
- **Harry Dubke:** Are we going to have control over how much you spend on discretionary?
 - **Gianni Hill:** All this vote is doing right now, is moving the funds from the non-strategic fund, to the discretionary fund. We would have to submit an itemized budget to the treasurers and they'll have to make the recommendation and present it to the whole Assembly.



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- **Amanda Kim:** This will be a conversation. The C&C event won't just be me and Gianni getting a food truck. We're going to have discussions with you in how to implement it.
 - **Gianni Hill:** We're also making it super cost-effective by utilizing things we already have on campus.
 - **Amanda Kim:** We met with the C&C committee last week to see what things we can have to attract people. Also, how to set it up so you guys don't have to be staffing it during C&C.
- **Vegan Club - *Funding Passes as Recommended***
 - **Will Andriola:** They requested \$85 for two more ice cream socials. It's pretty cheap, so we're recommended funding in full
 - **Amanda Kim:** I know there was some problem with Vegan Club reallocating their funding without authorization. Does that have any bearing on what funding they're eligible to receive?
 - **Will Andriola:** For this particular reallocation, I sent a sternly worded email to the group. Since it was their first reallocation, we didn't think we should block their funding for all of the semester. If it were to happen again, the consequences would be far more significant. Vegan Club had in their strategic budget an ice cream social on April 3rd. They actually had that social on February 28th. That's an unauthorized allocation. They should've email me, and I would've accepted or denied the allocation. In the future, all clubs should be aware of this. This should follow this rule if they want to receive funding for the entire semester.

8. Announcements

- **Please be sure to answer the Diversity and Equity Campus Climate Survey!**
 - The survey is part of a national data collection survey and will allow the College to understand how all members of the community perceive our campus.
 - Answers will help inform support, policies, and practices that will ensure an inclusive, engaging, and supportive environment for students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
 - Thank you in advance for providing your perspective on this critical issue and for sharing your experiences.
- **We hope everyone has a great Spring Break!**

