

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**MARCH 4, 2019**

**1. Call to Order**

○ **Present**

- Amanda Kim
- Gianni Hill
- Will Andriola
- Eric Kopp
- Alex Kurtz
- Morgan Perry (*Excused Late*)
- Karthik Ravishankar (*Excused Late*)
- Casey Codd
- Harry Dubke
- Jack Fischman
- Ben Rhind
- Luis Morales
- Ines Ayara
- Ruben Martinez
- 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
- Jay Menner

○ **Excused**

- Richard Court
- Aurora Cai

○ **Unexcused**

- Jack Carroll

**2. Public Comment Period**

**3. New Business**

- **Honor Court Confirmations - *All Nominations Pass Unanimously***



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- Caroline Nash '22
- Jacob Hane '22
  - **Ruben Martinez:** What are the nominations based on?
    - a. **Will Andriola:** The Honor court itself decides who's going to be nominated based on applications. The application form was sent out earlier this semester and people responded. The Honor Court looked at that and voted by majority to nominate new people. That's the process
    - b. **Ruben Martinez:** So then what do we do?
    - c. **Amanda Kim:** We're voting to confirm the nominations.
    - d. **Gianni Hill:** As the Central Council, we oversee the other branches of Student Assembly. Student Assembly as a whole is made up of the Central Council. Appeals Court, and Honor Court. We oversee those other two bodies. We approve all their nominations.
    - e. **Amanda Kim:** We're technically the Central Council, but people call us Student Assembly.
    - f. **Ruben Martinez:** So my question is how am I going to vote for someone that I don't know?
    - g. **Harry Dubke:** The students already voted on them, we're just confirming them.
  - **Jay Menner:** I was just wondering why you want to be on Honor Court and what you could bring?
    - a. **Jacob Hane '22:** In my application for the Honor Court, I talked a lot about how too often grades define students, but it should really be learning that defines students. What I wanted to bring to the court is an understanding that students are people and we should be focusing on that aspect.
- **New Hamilton App — Minh To**
  - **Minh To:** We have a new version of the Hamilton App. If you already have the app, you can just update it and it should have the new features. If you don't already have the app, then you can download it on Google Play or the App Store. It should have all the old and beloved features, like the news, the menus, the Scroll. You can access different office numbers through the app. This is the new look of the app. I want to highlight the new safety tool box, which is huge for this app. You're going to be able to report a tip, you can trigger a mobile blue light. If you feel like you're in danger, you can call Campus Safety immediately. You can share your location with your friend or campus safety. They can just follow you on



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your way as you walk. You can call Campus Safety or chat with them and let them know that you're okay or you're in danger. We're really proud to introduce this to the student body. If you go to preferences and scroll down a little bit, there is a section where you can send app feedback. If you have any suggestions, questions, or things you want to add to the app, click on it and let us know what you think. You can also come to Student Assembly, we'll be taking notes of the new app. I'm not sure if you've guys had time to look at it, but if you have feedback, I'm happy to take it back to the development team.

○ **HALT — Karthik Ravishankar**

- **Karthik Ravishankar:** The goal of this presentation, as a representative of HALT and the other members in this room, is to give you guys a little understanding of how annual giving works and how important it is to have alumni participation once we all graduate. At the end of this presentation, I hope you guys understand how we stand to other colleges. It's really important to the school and the statistics. Also in terms of the benefits it provides to the student body. The first is why it's essential, the next is the difference between the annual giving fund and the endowment. To give you guys an idea of what it is and why they're important, and the difference. Lastly, the alumni participation rate, which is something I'll touch quite frequently upon throughout this presentation. Lastly, how to be a good alum. So let's look at why Hamilton College would be a horrible business. The college spends roughly \$90,000 per student. This includes maintaining facilities, housing, room, board, all that stuff that we do pay for, but we're using a lot more than what we're actually giving. Here's a quick breakdown of it. To give you guys a difference of the \$90,000 and \$68,000 that we're giving is made up by philanthropy. Let's look at the annual fund versus the endowment. All of us who maintain banking accounts to a certain extent understand the difference between checking and savings accounts. Basically, the annual fund is a checking account that we can pull money out of and the endowment is the savings account where we put money in it and we hopefully don't have to touch it and hopefully we can invest it later. While we do have a huge endowment, we're touching a billion, we probably surpassed it by now, it's not money that can be readily spent. It's really annual giving that's super important for that. In terms of annual giving, as of 2016, we're in the middle of the pack. Ideally you always want to be number one, but just to give you guys ideas on how we stand as of now. Trinity, Middlebury, Amherst, Wesleyan, Boudin, and Williams are ahead in case some of you guys were worrying. I'm going to touch upon what's extremely important to the



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school, which is the alumni participation rate. These are some of the most important questions. Does my \$10 matter? Does my \$1 matter? Why is raising money so important? The alumni participation rate is important because it provides us metrics that actually increase our standing relative to our peers. If we have 50% or 55% alumni participation, then it looks really good. This is how it's calculated: the number of gifts we get from alumni versus the amount of alumni we have. That \$10 can be \$10 million. This is just annual alumni participation rate over the years. As you can see, there are some peaks and some troughs. Right now we're at 45%, a little less than average just by looking at this graph. We obviously want to make it go up. It starts with alumni, people like myself who are going to graduate soon. It's important that you get this information so you can be good Hamilton alumni at some point. The five simple ways to be a Hamilton alum. Updates your contact info. It's just a good way to keep in touch with the school once you graduate just so the school can ask "Hey, what's going on?" They could be interested in a career panel, also soliciting donations, but it's just a good way to keep in touch with the school. The second is regarding giving. Sometimes you might think that "I don't want to give on annual giving. I wanna give to a specific program like Ultimate Frisbee or I wanna give to Student Activities." You can do that. You can say that you're interested in giving to specific club or program and I want to do that. Your money will go there, no questions asked. The benefit of that is that it improves our alumni participation rate, which is really important. Ideally, we would like alumni set up recurring gifts. If you were going to give a dollar, have it be a dollar every year or twenty five dollars every year. It really helps maintain annual gifts and the school doesn't have to keep reaching out and bothering alumni for continued donations. Try to attend at least one Hamilton event every year. There are a ton of events going on in major cities. It's a really great way to not only stay in touch with your classmates, but with the school in general. Lastly, to sponsor a program if you can. That's pretty much it. There's a lot of benefits that come out of giving large sums or even small sums. Just on behalf of HALT, we recommend we hope you keep this in mind in the future so we can help future Hamilton students.

- **Ruben Martinez:** First, is there any way in one can see the breakdown of the \$90,000?
  - **Karthik Ravishankar:** Yes. I don't have that. I can check on that.
  - **Harry Dubke:** I'm also involved in HALT. It's made up of seniors who they want to help work with giving after college. We had a meeting with Karen Leach who came up with that number and the breakdown of it. Basically it's how much it cost to run the college



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each year and then divide it by the number of students. It's a pretty rough number. If we wanted more information on that, it would come from her because she had a breakdown for it.

- **Ruben Martinez:** I think it's pretty obvious that you can donate to any program you want I can say that I want it to go to HEOP. I guess it doesn't matter if you can't change that. But there's 90,000 alums that are obviously going to chose to donate to a certain amount of things based on their socioeconomic status. I just wonder if those types of preferences affect the types of gifts that they get.
- **Karthik Ravishankar:** Theoretically that makes sense, but what happens is actually different. The majority of donations if form people saying to give their money to where the need is greatest. Right now, financial aid is the biggest one right now. Most of the money from annual giving goes to financial aid. It does make sense, everyone of us can donate to whatever organization or club that we're affiliated with. That actually doesn't happen in practice.
- **Ruben Martinez:** Say a certain year, everyone wants to give money to Ultimate Frisbee, but that's not where the need is greatest?
- **Karthik Ravishankar:** The school will obviously petition for areas where they think the funds are most needed If someone wants to give to a certain organization, the schools not going to say no.
- **Gianni Hill:** Karen Leach will be coming in later this semester. We're setting up a meeting with her in April, she's really busy this time of year. Once we meet with her, we're going to invite her to Student Assembly and ask her to break down the operating budget. That might clarify some of the questions you have right now.
- **Harry Dubke:** One of my concerns is what if one year everyone wanted to donate to Ultimate Frisbee and nothing else had a lot of money. When they actually break it down, it's not how that works. Basically they allot a certain amount of money towards each group. So HEOP, Ultimate Frisbee, whatever, they're always going to get the same amount of money. If you chose to donate to that, it will go on top of it. If they don't have enough money to cover those areas where need is greatest, then they'll have to pull out of the endowment. It's not what they'd want to do, but they could do it. It's not totally biased, it is definitely just a little bit. Some groups are going to get more money than others.
  - **Ruben Martinez:** Do we know what groups get the most donations?



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- **Harry Dubke:** Yeah I'd like to see what groups get the most donations.
  - **Karthik Ravishankar:** That's a great question.
- **Consultant Lunch — Amanda Kim & Gianni Hill**
- **Amanda Kim:** On March 14th, there's going to be a lunch with consultants who are going to be talking about advising on campus. They want to have lunch with some students, just to discuss how to better integrate curricular and co-curricular advising. Three consultants are coming to campus, the lunch will be at noon on a Thursday. We'd really like to have someone from SA representing SA at that lunch. If you are interested in attending that, please come talk to me.
  - **Nasheley Boursiquot:** You said they're coming for what again?
    - **Amanda Kim:** To talk about how to better integrate curricular and co-curricular advising.
    - **Nasheley Boursiquot:** Where is it going to be?
    - **Amanda Kim:** They didn't say. Let us know if you're interested and we'll reach out to them and get information.
    - **Noelle Niznik:** It looks at career and internship and study abroad, all the different types of advising and how we can have an integrated model. They're consultants coming in to get feedback from everyone. They can report back and see if we can add something into the strategic plan to better advise students as a whole.
- **NESGOV — Amanda Kim & Gianni Hill**
- **Amanda Kim:** We don't have any solid information about this semester's NESGOV as of yet as it's still being planned, but Colby is hosting it this year. Gianni can talk more about what NESGOV is.
  - **Gianni Hill:** We send representatives almost every semester in the past, last semester we tried to host it. Due to its lack of organization in terms of schools that are invited every semester, the invite list has changed. We're trying to solidify a solid group of schools that will go every time. Basically it's a lot of NESCAC schools and other elite liberal arts colleges in the Northeast that meet up every semester, that's twice a year. They discuss what's going on in their student governments and within their student body at their schools. This semester it'll be at Colby, it's six hours away so we're trying to think logistically if it's possible for us, how many people would be interested in attending, and what we'd be wanting to get out of it.



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- **Amanda Kim:** It's multiple representatives from each school's student government or assembly. This semester it's on the weekend of April 19th. If you're interested in attending, please let us know.
- **Gianni Hill:** It's an entire weekend commitment. We'd be leaving campus Friday afternoon after class around four o'clock. It's six hours to Colby and we're there the entire weekend. We'll be back by Sunday night. A really long weekend but it's really worthwhile to hear what's going on in other schools and how we can work together to solve some of those issues.
- **Alex Kurtz:** Have people in this room gone in the past?
  - **Gianni Hill:** I went to both NESGOVs last year, as a freshman in the fall and the spring. We were going to host again this past fall, but we didn't have enough schools sign up. We're trying to work on how to make sure more schools go in the future. Pretty much, I remember the first one at Colgate and then Middlebury. The schools come together, we chat in a GroupMe before the conference and we talk about a lot of the hot button issues going on in our campuses. First semester, we talked a lot about mental health and sexual misconduct. We saw what other schools were doing and what campaigns they were leading. We were pulling ideas from each other. We really pitched our Student Assembly minutes. Other schools were like "How do you get your student body to engage and know the work you're doing." We talked about our minutes and a lot of other schools are now doing minutes like ours so they can reach others on campus. It's a really great opportunity to share ideas.

#### 4. Old Business

- **New SA Logo**
  - **Our new logo will be announced in this week's edition of *The Spectator*, coming out this Thursday. Make sure you go check it out!**
- **Trustee Committee Meetings – Amanda Kim & Gianni Hill**
  - **Amanda Kim:** We're going to be consolidating the information from the people who attended the trustee meetings and touching base with them to see what they talked about. Then we'll have something to give you guys next week.

#### 5. Acknowledgments

- **Kudos**



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- **Morgan Perry and the Publicity Committee for running the Logo Competition. They did great work!**
- **Harry Dubke who won the Harry E. Wright Prize at the 2019 Public Speaking Competition!**

**6. Committees**

○ **Executive Committees**

■ **Constitution**

- **Alex Kurtz:** We're currently working on a bylaw change in discretionary spending. We'll be drafting that up this week and probably be presenting that to you next week.

■ **Publicity**

- **Harry Dubke:** We'll get pictures of everyone real soon, then we can get your pictures on our board. Make sure you fill out the survey so we can have your descriptions for the board.
- **Gianni Hill:** Morgan is running late, she has an exam tonight, but she will take a group photo of us. This group photo will go in the yearbook. Do we have the camera?
- **Amanda Kim:** She's bringing a camera. We were supposed to do it last meeting, but there were difficulties with the memory card.

○ **Student Life Committees**

■ **Cultural Affairs**

- **Lóri Fejes:** We've continued what we've been doing for the past couple of weeks for International Fair Day.
- **Luis Morales:** We met with Phyllis to go over logistics for the meeting and where we would need to secure funding from. It would be a number of different sources. We got a venue now and we're focusing on getting students who want to be part of International Student Fair Day.
- **Lóri Fejes:** If you are an international student or you consider yourself a first-generation American, we're inviting you to share your background and culture with the whole campus community. We're planning this to be the biggest cultural event on campus this semester. You can channel your little presentation. We're really struggling to name it because it's super up to you on what you want to do. If you want to teach people a traditional dance, teach them how to write their name in a different script, introduce themselves in a different language, serve people food, and have that shared experience. This is just a list, you can go wild, but not too wild, but showcase what you want to the entire community.





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We're here to make these ideas happen. If you have something, we'll be reaching out. If you're shy and you don't want to be that proactive about reaching out to us, you can respond to our email that will go out this week. I know we've been saying that for a couple of weeks, but it's actually going to happen. If you have an idea just bring it to us and we'll see how we can do it.

- **Gianni Hill:** How did the 25Live booking go?
  - a. **Lóri Fejes:** We're going to talk to you about that, after the meeting.
- **Facilities, Safety, Health, and Residential Life**
  - **Ben Rhind:** Nothing new to report. Can FRSH committee members stay behind after the meeting just for like thirty seconds so we can set up a meeting time with Ashley Place?
  - **Gianni Hill:** Luis has been working with Student Life with Travis Hill and the residential experience. We have a pretty interesting collaboration for you guys to work on.
- **Community Affairs**
  - **Karthik Ravishankar:** We met with Derek Roy from Bon Appetit. Number one: freezer in Commons for ice cream. They've been getting a lot of problems regarding the freezer, because the supplier keeps sending the wrong freezer. That's why they haven't been able to put it up. I don't want to speculate, because they just got another freezer that was wrong again. They are looking at alternative ways to get ice cream out there, whether it's the same type of freezer as before, or just putting tubs of ice cream in a freezer. We'll get back to you on that one. The second is some general maintenance and dining hall stuff. The biggest thing is dressing for salads in Commons. Sometimes people found that there were no dressings there. But it's pretty well replenished now. Meatless Mondays, we talked as a Food Committee about how we could improve it because a lot of people we surveyed were not happy with it. Today they had avocado toast and chili with chips. Last week was eggplant parm, which is good quality for vegans. Keep your eye out for that and bring back feedback. Also let me know your thoughts.
  - **Amanda Kim:** We met with HSC last Friday and we're going to be making sure that we can collaborate more in the future. We're going to create a sustainability committee on Student Assembly so we can work with HSC more in the future.
  - **Alex Stetter:** I think meatless Mondays was branded as only lunch. I'd just love to see clarity going forward.



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- a. **Amanda Kim:** We actually asked them about that when we met and they explained it. They originally only branded it as a lunch only thing because that's what they thought it would be. There was some miscommunication somewhere between them and Bon Appetit and Bon Appetit thought it was for lunch and dinner. They ended up keeping it that way but HSC's original advertising for it was only for lunch because that's what HSC thought it was going to be. They weren't trying to mislead anyone, there was just some confusion. But Bon Appetit was like "we want to do this," so they kept it lunch and dinner.
- **Ben Rhind:** To Bon Appetit, I think the quality of the food during Meatless Mondays has increased in the last two weeks. I think it's a great initiative, but it's more important to teach a man to fish and show students that once a week, you can cut out meat. By making it noticeably better in the past two weeks, they're really doing a great job.
- **Gianni Hill:** We talked with HSC and checking for numbers to make sure there isn't a significant decline in people attending McEwen, just because we know how busy Commons can get at lunch time. Making sure we spread the wealth and that we spread it across all the dining halls. If it looks like an overwhelming amount of people flooding Commons and no one is going to McEwen, we can see how we can make that option a more attractive option.
- **Karthik Ravishankar:** One last thing. A lot of vegans said there's no longer soy milk yogurt. Mr. Roy said that they had it out last semester and there was almost no usage. They would just be throwing out gallons of soy yogurt. They replaced that with almond yogurt. People (and the vegans reading this) can check that out and provide feedback on that.
- **Ruben Martinez:** Why the separation between SA? What's happening with the meal plan for next year? Is that something pertaining to you?
  - a. **Harry Dubke:** I have my own problems with that as well, but what they're moving to full twenty-one for everyone.
  - b. **Ruben Martinez:** Everyone?
  - c. **Harry Dubke:** Yeah. Take it as you will. I think some people are excited, but even more people are not. Everyone has to pay except those in MoHo and G-Road.
  - d. **Karthik Ravishankar:** Things are a little different right now with Bundy Cafe coming into play, it's a little earlier



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than what we thought before, because we thought there was going to be a grab-and-go section in Commons and a lot of other stuff. Not sure how that plays into budgeting for updating the dining halls.

- **Harry Dubke:** I'm not sure if the campus-wide community is sure that they're making that change. Bold and underline that.
  - a. **Amanda Kim:** To my knowledge they're going to be sending out an announcement soon. We met with Dean Martinez on Friday to talk about it and we're going to talk to her about it again. So just know that the conversation around that isn't finished.
- **Associative Committees**
  - **LITS**
    - **Bryce Febres:** There's two LITS liaisons, Lea Barros and Julia Stevens. They pitched an idea for an online add-drop form, rather than a physical one so you don't have to go back and forth between professors. In their presentation, they included that professors will get emails and they could just do an e-signature. Then you can submit it to the registrar. They also proposed one for declarations. That was presented to a committee and they were pretty down for it. Now it's moving on to a new committee with Suzanne Keen, the dean of faculty. Once it gets approved there, it will be implemented campus wide. It could get stopped there, but it did get past the first committee. Once it gets past the people that don't like the change. You know they've proposed this before and they've always rejected it. This time they really seem like they like the idea, because there's a lot of features that let teachers feel like they're still interacting with the students. Hopefully it gets passed and you'll guys will be seeing the add-drop online and you won't have to run back and forth.
    - **Eric Kopp:** Was it that it was going to a committee, or if Suzanne Keen was going to decide if it went to a committee?
      - a. **Minh To:** They're bringing it to the department. So Suzanne Keen is the dean of faculty.
      - b. **Amanda Kim:** There is a faculty meeting tomorrow that Gianni and I will be attending. If they discuss it there, we'll let you know.
  - **Traditions**
    - **Casey Codd:** We have been talking about, after seeing the success of the FebFest food truck festival, to see if we can get more trucks



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come more regularly to campus. We wouldn't have the meal tickets, but just to maybe have another option on Fridays. The another initiative we're looking at is changing the school's song.

- **Harry Dubke:** There's a school song?
- **Gianni Hill:** We talked about the C&C event for Student Assembly. We're going to be working with Traditions to hash that out. Once we get a gameplan from them about what we can do, you'll hear more about it.
  - a. **Nasheley Boursiquot:** What is C&C?
  - b. **Gianni Hill:** Class and Charter Day.
- **Ruben Martinez:** In regards to the town hall, I talked to four professors about making a small committee to review policies, kinda like what we were talking about last time. It was random, but I just wanted to let you know.
  - a. **Amanda Kim:** Thanks, we can talk more about that after the meeting.

7. **Funding:** No funding requests
- Amount Remaining: **\$11,968.51**

### 8. Announcements

- **Announcement from the Hamilton Sustainability Coordinators (HSC)**
  - **Have thoughts about Green Monday?** Click [here](#) to submit your feedback!
- **Dean Martinez Open Hours in Commons**
  - Tuesday (3/5) from 12:00-1:00pm
- **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.

