

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**2/3/20**

● **(1) Call to Order**

○ **Present:**

- Tommy Keith
- Bryce Febres
- Nicole Ramirez
- Seámus Wiseman
- Maya Mathews
- Ashley Garcia
- Orlando Paz
- Julian Perricone
- Penelope Hoopes
- Connie Lorente
- Luis Morales
- Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke
- Caroline Paulson
- Shavell Jones
- Amari Leigh
- Stephanie Wu
- Amanda Kim
- Tatum Barclay
- Lóri Fejes
- Jackson Harris
- Jeffrey Bush
- Jenny Tran
- Juliet Davidson
- Emily Fienco
- Nyaari Kothiya
- Omar Lopez
- Frank Meng
- Mariam Saied

○ **Excused:**

- Nadav Konforty
- Jay Menner

○ **Unexcused:**

- Matt Knowlton

● **(2) Executive Board Nomination**

○ **Maya Mathews '23, Secretary**

- **Maya Mathews:** Thank you to the E-board for the opportunity to work with all these amazing people. Eric, the previous secretary, sent me a really thoughtful email about transparency and accountability today, and really how this position is the root of all that, and I hope I can do it justice.



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So thank you again for this opportunity. I hope I can exceed your expectations.

- **(3) Public Comment Period** -- *Members of The Posse Scholars Program and like groups were present during public comment, accompanied by Nigel Westmaas, Professor of Africana Studies.*
  - **Saphire Ruiz '22:** So before I say my specific part, I'm gonna say something from Katherine Barnes, and this in regard to something that happened this past weekend at Posse Plus Retreat.
  - **Excerpt read by Ruiz from Katherine Barnes:** "Boston Posse scholars are recruited from schools that are under-privileged, meaning that when we come to campus, we already feel (and oftentimes are) behind our peers who went to well-funded public schools or private schools before Hamilton. Posse scholars from both Boston and Miami work twice as hard as other Hamilton students to succeed here, and we DO. We make Dean's List, have multiple majors and minors, go abroad, have internships, keep multiple on-campus jobs and are student leaders and activists. Not only do we academically, on our own, meet our peers, we also become deeply entrenched in the Hamilton Community. At the Posse Plus Retreat this weekend, a space where Posse scholars invite faculty, staff and students to spend the weekend and discuss issues of politics, race, class and other important topics, we were told that we were none of those things. Art Masolo, a Trustee, let us know that he believed Boston Posse was removed from Hamilton because we could not keep up academically with everyone else on campus. It was deeply painful to be told this and not be able to say, definitively, that this was not true because we have never been given a reason as to why Boston Posse was cut from Hamilton. The first night of PPR, David Wippman opened the dinner, the first time he has ever come to a PPR event, telling us how important we are to the community. If Posse scholars are so important to Hamilton, then why is Boston Posse still not being recruited for Hamilton? Why have we not received an explanation? Posse scholars are unfortunately used to being disrespected and mistreated on this campus. By administration, but also by our peers. This is an opportunity for you, our peers, in Student Assembly and those reading the minutes, to stand with us, your fellow classmates, teammates, and friends in our time of need. Because within a very short period of time, there will be only one Posse on this campus and that will hurt this campus for years to come."
  - **Saphire Ruiz '22:** So that was from Katherine Barnes again. I have made an additional personal statement. For those of you who don't know, at last year's PPR the termination of Posse Boston was a popular topic. There, scholars began to realize what it truly meant for the College to terminate Posse Boston. Not to suggest that it had not been on our minds prior, but rather that it was the first time since the announcement that we were all gathered at once to talk about major political and social issues, and of course that included talking about the



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termination of Posse Boston. On February 21st of 2019, I published an op ed in the Spec titled “Hamilton’s elimination of Posse Boston: searching for the answers as part of the Posse community’s attempt to bring awareness to the elimination of Posse Boston. When the decision was made to eliminate Posse Boston, there was no formal announcement made by the College. This meant that for the most part, the only folks who knew the elimination occurred were Posse scholars and students, faculty, and staff who were close to Posse scholars. In publishing the op ed, we hoped to gather support for Posse scholars from the greater Hamilton community. We came today to ask once again for the support of the greater Hamilton community. Many of us as Posse scholars are marginalized students; we’re from low income backgrounds, we’re students of color, we’re first generation students, etcetera. Being at Hamilton is difficult to say the least. Every day I face racism, misogyny, and classism. Every day I feel suffocated in my classes, at my job, at Commons, even in my dorm room. I feel suffocated by the emotional and mental exhaustion and pressure I experience as a Black and queer femme of a lower class than just about everyone on campus. Every time someone speaks over me in class, or bumps into me on Martin’s Way because they expected me to be the one to move to the side, or speaks flippantly about race and gender, I am reminded of all the ways that living and attending school at Hamilton has been one of the most difficult things I’ve had to do in my life. Every day I am on this campus, there’s a part of my body that is carrying a very heavy weight, one that consistently drags me down, and one that I can never escape from. In my engagements with members of the administration, namely President Wippman, Dean Martinez, and Vice President for Enrollment Monica Inzer, that heavy weight only worsened. At our first meeting with Dean Martinez and Inzer, we brought up the fact that there were rumors traveling that the academic performance of Posse Boston influenced the College’s decision. We were told that that was not the case, and it was implied that any scholars saying that had influence were lying. When we asked to get clear reasons for why Posse Boston was eliminated, we got “geographical diversity,” and “diversifying our diversity recruitment.” When we asked about the specific actions the College was taking to strengthen diversity recruitment, we weren’t given explicit answers. When we asked if finances had anything to do with the decision, they refused to answer. When I asked President Wippman at the town hall last May whether the College could make an official public statement about the elimination of Posse Boston, he proceeded to tell me that the College doesn’t make announcements in regards to changes to their admissions processes, and that his being at the Town Hall & the Town Hall being recorded was a public statement. Throughout this entire process of attempting to get clear answers from the College, the administration has been largely uncooperative. Although we have had two meetings with Dean Martinez and Inzer, and we were part of the town hall last year, none of our questions have actually been addressed. Not only that, but many of us have faced condescension, stubbornness, and rudeness. We have been treated with absolute disrespect. We



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demand answers, and we demand apologies. We deserve these answers and we deserve apologies. As Katherine mentioned, we contribute greatly to this College. We are as successful, and as deserving, as every other student here. We deserve to be treated with respect. We deserve to have our voices heard. We deserve to not have to carry endless weight while doing our best to succeed academically, and take part in extracurriculars, and overall live happily and healthy at our short but impactful four years on Campus. We are asking for your support tonight. And that's all that I have.

- **Tommy Kieth:** Is there anybody else that would like to speak?
- **Malik Irish '22:** So just to go off what Sapphire said, there's a few points I want to really reemphasize. One, we as Posse Scholars and not only that we as marginalized people on this campus, we are tired of being gaslighted, and for those who may not know what that term means, it just means being invalidated and told that we basically don't know what we're talking about that we're lying. And that we know no better about the structure's here at Hamilton. But basically we're tired of being gaslighted by not only by administration's but also by students themselves. Who feel as though our assistance on campus should not really matter, that we shouldn't be here at all. And also, if we are looking at this from kind of a long-term viewpoint, we really want to focus on what they inclusion and diversity means on this campus and how the ways that Hamilton looks at diversity and inclusion is not actually helpful, and that they need to fix this systems that really do affect black and brown bodies on this campus, low-income bodies on this campus, and actually let us have a voice and what our concerns are so that we can actually make a change here. Because, as Sapphire stated, Administration specifically David Whitman, Monica Inzer, and Tara Martinez, have found ways to censor everybody and in terms of their problems and choose to continue to harm us. And so if we really do want to fix the problem of Posse Boston and other diversity programs on this campus, and really make them beneficial, we really need to harp on those people at Administration to realize the issues and make a change.
- **Tommy Keith:** Is there anybody else that wants to speak?
- **Sapphire Ruiz '22:** Can we like let the record show that there are a lot of people here from Sunrise, Posse Miami, and from other scholarship programs on campus that are here right now in support, and also people that are just really connected with Boston Scholars.
- **Tommy Keith:** The record will show that. Now I just want to open up what was said to the assembly. Does anybody have any thoughts, any questions, any comments?
- **Luis Morales:** First of all, I couldn't have said it any better than the people who spoke today. Thank you Sapphire, thank you Malik, and thank you to those who have yet to speak up about this issue. We greatly appreciate everyone here who is not Posse especially. Because this community is really big, and it means a lot to us that there are people who are involved, working tirelessly with us to make sure



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that this issue is brought to light, but also that, you know, the administration is held accountable. So again my name is Luis for those who don't know me, I'm a class rep for 2020. I'm a senior. Since we were notified, as a Posse, about this decision, I have been working tirelessly with my Posse to get answers, there hasn't been a clear answer and that's why we're here at this point. Just like Malik made very clear we have been gaslighted and we have been disrespected by members of the administration. You know, when I tried to confront President Wippman at the last Town Hall, I was told that this is they his public statement, I was told that the decision was made based on Geographic diversity. Yet we have a trustee who was involved in that decision making process telling us something entirely different. So, you know, clearly there is a misunderstanding amongst people who are involved in the process. And we're not getting clear answers, and I just want to make it clear that Posse Scholars work really really really hard academically to succeed on this campus. I think the trustees comments that were made are unfair and they are not representative of the effort that we put in as Scholars on this campus. Posse Scholars across the country are very successful. Look no further than Ithaca College, the president of that college is a Posse scholar. We have basketball coaches in the NBA who are Posse Scholars. We have people who are working in engineering that are Posse Scholars. The successes endless, and I think it's very unfair to, you know, point the finger at a specific group of marginalized students and say it's your academic performance, which isn't any better or worse than the typical academic Hamilton student is a reason for why this program is ending. And I think it's selfish for the administration to not come clear as to why this decision was made, and make an official public statement. So, I urge the administration, starting now, to make it very clear as to why this decision was made or we will continue to press until that's done. I'm not graduating until May, and I'll make sure that me and my fellow seniors work with the scholars that are here to make sure that they're supported, and I want everyone here to continue to be involved in the process as well. We are a huge community, and I want us to be supported until we all graduate. I want to make sure that the babies that are still here feel supported. I want to make sure that Posse Miami Scholars feel supported too. That questbridge Scholars feel supported. We are all in similar circumstances. There is not a divide, and I hope that through this process we come together and fight for what's right.

- **Tommy Keith:** Is there anybody else from the Assembly that wants to speak?
- **Bryce Febres:** Really quickly, it's important that I stay pretty unbiased on issues that come in. And I won't be making any direct statements, but I will say, I myself, I am a Posse scholar from Miami. as a lot of you know, but for those of you who don't know, I am also a Posse scholar; and, I am also vice president of the assembly. And it's really unfortunate to hear that a lot of people that I know as friends, that are my peers, that have been support groups outside of my support groups are in a lot of pain. And even though it wasn't something that directly affected me and my lineage of Posse students that come in. In some way, I feel



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some sort of pressure. And in that sense, after hearing what was said this weekend, I do feel a sense of pressure to perform. I do come from a very marginalized community where are a lot of the students from my high school didn't go to college. A lot of them are dead now. And there's this pressure to perform after hearing the statement that makes me wonder, you know, if I don't do well enough, does that mean that I'll eventually deprave another student that could have been saved like I was from this opportunity? And I couldn't imagine what that must feel like for the Posse Boston students.

- **Tommy Keith:** It's really disheartening to see this discrepancy between the different administrators saying the reasoning behind disbanding of Posse Boston, because the implementation of this decision was abrupt and the negative impact of the decision was felt across this campus. Last weekend I had the pleasure to attend the PossePlus retreat, and the amount of love and kindness abundant in that space was previously unimaginable to me. The strength of the Posse program lies in its tight community bonds, which is integral for everyone's existence, especially marginalized groups on campus. The Posse Retreat taught me that vulnerability fosters connection and allows us to humanize with each other in a meaningful way. Though I understand the administration often needs to make tough decisions, I wish they were more transparent and honest in the reasoning behind disbanding Boston Posse, because these Posse Hamilton students deserve better. This administration [*Student Assembly*] is very sad Posse Boston is gone, And we're going to make sure that the administration gives us a reason as to why. But is there any committee here, just talking to the committee chairs, that would be willing to push these conversations forward alongside the Eboard?
- **Luis Morales:** I mean, I'll say, the Cultural Affairs Committee is more than happy to work with other organizations on campus that, you know, are representative of diverse backgrounds to make sure that, you know, people feel supported. A lot of Posse Scholars are involved in these clubs as well, but that we want to make sure that all students, across the campus, feel supported throughout this process too. Something else I want to say is that, you know, Posse Boston has committed 18 years to this college, and I think it's a disservice that the administration hasn't given us that respect that we deserve because we contributed to this committee and we have fostered a part of this community but not feel like it, you know, it's unfair.
- **Emily Rojas '21:** I used to be class of 2020 with my Posse member Luis. I wanted to speak on my personal experience: the whole point of Posse is that the founder would have finished college, wouldn't have dropped out if he hadn't had a Posse. And so the language is old but the idea still stands that there are people who get you And go through really particular experience it's really indescribable. Like my Posse is not my family it's not my friend, my Posse is a different kind of bond that we have and everyone who goes through Posse across the nation goes through that preparation and shares that experience and is connected to that no matter what city you come from. And so I think like Luis said I think it's





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disrespectful that after 18 years of people being here Posse students being here Hamilton decided to have abruptly cut the connection. I think it's disrespectful in the way it was delivered. If you remember the email I believe it was from Monica Inzer and it said that Hamilton is not, it was a break up over text essentially is what that felt like, for such a serious thing. And I think that the first thing we wondered was, are we going to lose our scholarship to be here? Because we would most certainly not be in this institution had it not been for the Posse program. And so had we not stay together, so I think it's disrespectful on somebody different friends, and I think that to the point if it was the academic performance, I think speaking as someone who had to take a year off, and will not be graduating with her Posse, that I still feel involved in included because I have leftover Posse groups that I see as part of my Posse as well, that I don't have to graduate, that I have the space to to fail and then be able to come back, and have people to support me and recognize that. So I think that the whole situation of academic failings I think really overlooks the amount of work that goes into being at this institution, not even just getting good grades but staying at this institution and participating and still making the dean's list and managing your Posse and all their friends you have and managing yourself and I think that has to be said. Personally I think it's very offensive that academic performance is any type of motivation to cut up a program. It does not make sense to cut a program, why are you not looking at the institution? What could have been done in part of the institution to change that. If that continues to happen over and over again, why is nothing, was there no pattern that was seen, was there no structure that was understood so that's how I feel about it. Because it doesn't take cutting an entire program, leaving a bunch of students who are already here, a bunch of Posse were already here, leaving them without more we call them our babies, more babies to come and foster that growth with them. I had a freshman from Miami Posse tell me this past weekend at PPR that she looked to me and other older Posse students when she was struggling with feelings on this campus. And that means so much, and that's it. And she's not even from Posse Boston come and so I think that, yeah. I just think that it doesn't make any sense to me how everything went down. And the fact that they continue to be unclear about their, their decision. I think it speaks to a lack of knowledge of what actually happens on this campus, and I think that they need to come down and have a chat.

- **Jackson Harris:** I wanted to firstly say thank you to everybody that is here, sharing their experience, trying their best to represent the community, the Posse Community on campus. As we've seen already it's a much broader community than just Posse. And the reason I'm talking is because I'm new on SA, and I don't fully understand the range of authority that we have, and I wanted to at least try to spark a conversation, if not figure this out now, what we actually can do about this as Student Assembly, as the representatives here of the student body at Hamilton College. Because, personally, I recognize that this is a huge problem on a bunch of different levels, so I wanted to hear firstly what, we don't have to talk



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about it now, an enumerated list maybe of what would be acceptable to students, particularly Posse students, as a way to that the administration can, I mean there are a lot of things, apologize, or create public announcements, the things that would make it okay, or better at least

- **Tommy Keith:** Well before we talk about what SA can do about it, are there any Boston Posse scholars who want to speak upon what our demands for the administration should be?
- **Saphire Ruiz '22:** I mean, I know there's a general consensus that the topic to release an actual public statement, saying that the college terminated Boston Posse, and we're coming up on two years now since I called just made the decision. That's especially important because the one thing that President Whitman told me at the Town Hall was that the college doesn't make official statements on when they change, when they make changes to the admissions process. What's is just untrue, they announced when they started Posse, announced when they started new blind admissions, all these other things, and I would consider the end of Posse Boston. And I would consider the end of Posse Boston part of a change in admissions that they should announce. So first thing is the public statement, and at this rate, we also want an apology in particular from President Wippman, Dean Martinez, and Monica Inzer because those three have been the ones that a lot of us have felt personally disrespected by.
- **Tommy Keith:** Well the Assembly for those who don't know meet with the current administrators about different issues on campus. And this is something that Bryce and I can bring up to the President to the Dean of Students. And hearing from all of you tonight, that's something we definitely will do. Because you all deserve the truth, you all deserve justice. And yeah.
- **Emily Fienco:** I'm also a Posse baby, I'm the last group to have come here, and we don't have another group of Boston Posse to be here with, and their presence is extremely felt on campus, like you're missing another group of people to be here and to bring all these thoughts and conversations on campus. It's just crazy at PPR we noticed it, you know, like we were the only ones like at the same time you just know there was another group that was supposed to be there and wasn't because you know the administration like they won't be honest with us until why they stopped, but I don't know what I'm trying to say, but it would be really nice if we can answer from admin. And I haven't even been here that long like it's only my second semester of the year, like, to know that much about the conversation at the same time the pain and all the problems that is caused is noticed a lot by me and my Posse mates. we would also like to support the seniors support the Juniors and the sophomores like until we get some answers
- **Tommy Keith:** I wanna thank everybody who came tonight, your stories were very powerful. It's clear that there has been some injustice at our school that needs to be addressed. And the assembly will work hard to address that. I understand that you felt considerable pain from all that's gone on, any Administration not really being honest with you guys, you deserve better and we're going to work to





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make it right for you guys. So thank you for everyone who came, Posse non Posse.

● **(4) New Business - HALT Overview- Frankie Lapertosa, Asst. Director, Annual Giving**

- **Tommy Keith:** All right so we're going to move on to new business. Here with me I have Frankie Lapertosa, assistant director of annual giving. He's going to talk about the importance of giving an update on senior gift.
- **Frankie Lapertosa:** Alright everyone, My name is Frankie Lapertosa. I'm the assistant director of annual giving here at Hamilton. I also handle student philanthropy. So if you're a senior, you've probably got an email from me, probably a few. So thank you so much for making time for me this evening, I really appreciate it. So like I said, I'm here to talk about philanthropy here at Hamilton College. So just a couple goals of this presentation, I just want you to understand why philanthropy is essential to the college. Annual giving and endowment what those two things are, and what the difference is, Alumni participation, and why it's important, understand Holt and the senior class gift, and 5 simple ways to be a good Hamilton alum. So I'm sure you've all heard of the endowment. I'm sure a lot of you heard it's a billion dollars. Who's heard that term before or are way of that figure? Okay so pretty well-known. And then there's annual giving. So I work the annual giving portion of our office, so what annual giving is, it's like the checking account. So you know how you have your checking account in your savings account, your savings account you don't like to touch right? You may invest in the market and hopefully get a return. Your checking account you keep renewing, you keep spending, and renewing it, and spending, and renewing it. So the college's budget to keep the lights on all year long cost about \$130 million per year. My team is responsible for \$7.2 million of that. So we raise that money from alumni to go into the college budget. Unrestricted giving, so we can go to whatever, whether it be the air conditioner breaks whatever it may be, so that's unrestricted giving. Restricted giving would be like if, you know, are on the tennis team and you were an alum one day, and you want to support the tennis team. That would be a restricted gift. And then the endowment, so we've heard of that billion dollar figure, and I think a lot of people are little surprised by that figure. The next question is well why is Hamilton so expensive? Well we only spend the return, so that money is invested in the market. The return is about \$60 million a year. That's what we spend on scholarships and what have you. So yes we could all live high and hog for a couple years, but at a \$130 million a year, in about 60 years Hamilton would cease to exist. So alumni participation, so alumni participation is really important and a lot of people you hear about those really big gifts and you think well what is why does my gift matter? So large gifts to help the college meet our goals. But everyone starts somewhere, and participation does matter. It goes into the algorithm that the U.S. news report uses to rank our school, so the perception of the school. That's not everything, but unfortunately everyone says they don't read



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the U.S. news report but somehow everyone seems to agree with the US news report. So, you know alumni participation is an important metric. Our peers use it to measure, you know, how we compare each other to ourselves, you know, it's sort of the value of your degree so to speak. So, you know, this is some of the feedback we get, you know, why do \$10 matter? Well once you make it a gift, no matter how large or how small, you are part of that participation. I'm not going to give until I'm going to give big, I'm still paying off my loans. Unfortunately if you don't give right away. Most people don't take 20-year laps. They usually don't come back to us so if you start giving either while you're in school, even if it's a buck, and you know those years after you graduate, and trust me I'm not that far out. I know how tough it is, and you're paying loans, probably living in another city, rent, all those good things. You know even the smallest gift does matter. Your gift does matter, and we appreciate it. So this is just a little bit, some figures on annual giving. Like I said, we were raised about 7.2 million dollars. Here's some of our peers, again we're in the middle of the pack, it doesn't necessarily reflect that we are doing a poor job, you know different schools have bigger alumni bases, there's different factors. I just thought it'd be, you know, a good statistic or good graph for you guys to see. So this is 25 years of alumni participation, so we are sort of on the downward trajectory. So our internal goal is to get back to 50%, we would like 50% of our alumni to participate. So we're getting close, we're inching our way back, but we're not quite there. So this is the school year 19, class by class participation. This is an interesting graph as you can see it kind of goes all over the place. Interestingly enough, the class of 2014 is way up there. So some classes you know give more than others, it's important, we want to get all of our classes you know sort of on a trajectory. So part of my job here is, to over the next couple of years, I've only been here eight months is to sort of embed a student philanthropy education into, you know, the everyday life of a Hamilton student. So this idea of Hamilton students, you come to Hamilton you're already a giver. Many of you before you got to Hamilton have been involved in nonprofits maybe have done community service. So we really want to create a campus culture of giving, and I do see it more and more as I walk. You know there's always a fundraiser going, you guys are very very generous Community. But we just want to add a little more of a tie-in of why it's important to give to Hamilton as well. You know we're not just trying to nickel-and-dime you, we know the price to come here. We just want Hamilton students to be aware of the giving opportunities that are available to them. There's Chapel Bell, so it's sort of like, I'm sure a lot of you guys have Netflix accounts and stuff like that, set it and forget it. So it's five bucks a month, the price of a coffee, and then you can have a more significant impact throughout the year. Make sense? Okay, and then the second goal. So over the course of four years at Hamilton, we just want you to have a basic understanding of philanthropy and nonprofits in general. Which would include, like I said, understanding philanthropy to Hamilton. It sort of just part of, you know, your toolbox for when you graduate Hamilton. It's a skill.



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You'll have a lot of skills when you leave Hamilton, and knowledge of how nonprofits work and how giving works, we think, is a very valuable skill we believe as Hamilton graduates you guys are going to go be leaders in your community. And you probably will be involved in a non-profit at some point in your lives. So it's good to learn about volunteer service, stuff like that. So students can gain practical experience outside the classroom by giving to, you know, different organizations. There's a lot. I met with a couple organizations on campus, I know a lot of Greek organizations have fundraisers, and they're always they always want to learn about the best practices how do I raise money. Winter is a good time of year to do stuff like that. So and then I also manage the senior gift. So the senior gift is sort of the senior class votes on what they want to make their lasting impact on Hamilton before they leave on campus. So this year the students voted for a spend on fund on summer internships. So what that is is, a lot of Hamilton kids obviously want to do internships in the summer. And living expenses and stuff it cost money. So we want money, So this money this one is going to go help some fun some of these opportunities. but we also, for the first time, our office is sort of shifting this in general. We really want to promote this idea of giving to what you love. So if you are involved with something on this campus that made your time here on the hill special and you want to support that, we completely welcome that. So if you were on the cross country team or if you are involved with the radio, you can support that. So we've given seniors that option. And it's never too early to start, you know, if you're a freshman or sophomore and you want to make a gift, you certainly can. We're actually having on February 13th, so the day before Valentine's Day so Sunday, Give to What you Love Day. It's going to be really promoted to alumni, but there's going to be a lot of really cool hoopla on campus Happening right in front of sadoff, so please participate. And again, just so you guys know this is the 10-year anniversary of the need-blind decision. So Hamilton meets the needs of each student who comes here, regardless of their ability to pay. We work very hard. A lot of schools cannot say that, so again we are working very tirelessly so we can keep that promise. I know that I had like 10 minutes, and I think I was in the window. Do you guys have any questions for me?

- **Julian Perricone:** I'm a senior. I got an email the other say. I just had a quick question about the senior gift So I might not be totally alone, I might be totally alone. But I wasn't super thrilled personally with the offers listed for the senior gift. And I was hoping that there would have been a wider variety of options or at least some sort of survey that at least goes out to students where you know the senior class puts in a bunch of ideas. The whole Community you know Sister those ideas, comes up with maybe 10 or so. And then sent that back out to the student body to pick one or two of them. I feel like in a future that might be a bit of a better way to address the senior class and probably would get you greater participation because having voted on what you want to see as a student you



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might be more interested in eventually putting money behind that. Yeah that's all I kind of want to say, I don't know if I'm wrong in anything I said

- **Frankie Lapertosa:** That is a great great point And we definitely consider that. So this is my first year doing this, we have done that method in the past and it didn't turn into a little bit of a Mayhem because students got upset they did get what they want and it just sort of created a lot of Chaos so we really did try give the idea of gift to what you love which we've never done before. So if it wasn't something that was meaningful to your Hamilton experience, you can give to what made your time here special. So that was sort of the route we took, again totally hear your feedback. I definitely, we'll definitely try to do better with that, we won't try, we'll definitely do better with that next year but it just caused a little bit of mayhem: point taken. Any other...
- **Connie Lorente:** I have a specific question about HALT and how it's composed. How do you decide who's in the team, how are they selected? And also how representative of the community are they?
- **Frankie Lapertosa:** So the way HALT is selected. They fill out an application, you have to be nominated. You fill out an application, and then there's an interview process with the halt leaders. see me with the HALT later so there seven hot leaders. So they go through that process each year and the rest of the HALT you have to be nominated, does about 57 students this year. Any other questions?
- **Julian Perricone:** You said there's two different types of giving you can do. You have like a restricted giving or an unrestricted giving Restricted meaning you specify where you want the money to go and it will go to that thing. So that's the way the Give To What You Love Works...
- **Frankie Lapertosa:** exactly, Yeah so again restricted giving. The unrestricted dollar is harder to raise. It just goes to the annual fund which supports, it just goes into the budget. It could support ,you know, fixing the lawn mower that broke, where as a restricted gift is something that you know something that you're really passionate about. Not that people who support the annual fund are passionate about Hamilton. It's just a specific thing that you're supporting.
- **Jackson Harris:** **Less of a question for you and more of a comment to the body. Because it's more about the endowment, and that's not really your area of expertise.**
- **Frankie Lapertosa :** I mean I can speak to the endowment. It's just basically a collection of funds that equal a billion dollars. Some people make any endemic, it's not just a pool of a million dollars. It's a \$100,000 scholarship that someone set up. You know, it's \$50,000 so...
- **Jackson Harris:** **My understanding is that there is some of that, I think it might be 1% of that billion is currently invested in companies in the fossil fuels industry, and I just want to make a comment to the body. And I wish the sunrise people were still here actually. I think that it's, let me use the word interesting, that when the students demand that Hamilton divest from the fossil fuel industry they say no. But then they'll come and ask yourself for**



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**the money anyways, for our money. The same people who asked for them not to invest our money in the fossil fuels industry. And that was my comment that I wanted to make.**

- **Frankie Lapertosa:** And that is an ongoing conversation. I mean, it is a little above my pay grade. But it's an interesting conversation. And they are, I believe trying, to work out a way to taper that. But, like I said, I can't really speak to that because it's not in my wheelhouse, but point noted.
- **Lóri Fejes:** So I just had a question about how transparent or how kind of like if there's any like oversight in the restricted gifts. Because I might be really mistaken in this but I feel like there might be some activities on campus that are kind of just like really over funded by alumni who enjoyed that certain activity like 30 years ago. and then now that activity for the college is really either not successful. Despite the funds that we get for it. Or it's really just not as popular as it used to be. And then other efforts are lacking because you know they might rely on the annual giving or other funds.
- **Frankie Lapertosa:** Yeah I mean, we respect every donor's wishes about what they want to give too. We certainly don't want to, let's say the basketball team is super well-funded and soccer is unfunded. We're not going to take money from a basketball donor and put it to soccer. But we really do let our donors I know what's lacking. I mean The Boathouse I don't know if any of you have heard about it but people have work so hard to get that boat house. The Boathouse was in rough shape, and now you guys are going to get a brand new, beautiful Boathouse. And that's the result of a lot of people's hard work and trying to get dentist understand where there's a need. So we do try like I said, I mean we can't I mean you know move funds from other places that donors have specified. That's what their wishes are. But it's a great point
- **Lóri Fejes:** I also had another one. About just like the nature of the senior gift, and if I'm understanding it right. So far this year for the past year whatever you had up on the side, like you now offer the gift to what you love option. Does that mean in future years the senior gift might be like really fragmented, and they might not even exist after a couple years because people just end up giving to a hundred different places?
- **Frankie Lapertosa:** No, I wouldn't say that. It's a long Hamilton tradition. It's a really important one I think, I think a lot of students enjoy having one specific thing. It's out of your way for your class to leave your mark. So I certainly would like to keep a senior gift, but still give you the option to give to what you love. Just so that you know you guys have something to look back on as a class, but then you also could support something that's more meaningful. Do that answer your question?
- **Lóri Fejes:** yeah
- **Omar Lopez:** Just to get an idea of what senior gifts look like. What have the past three senior gifts been?



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- **Frankie Lapertosa:** So last year, the gift was a labyrinth. Which is like a place we can go meditate. And then two years of health and wellness related gifts, so they weren't like physical gifts. Again it was a gift of money to something.
- **Bryce Febres:** Really quick, we have time for like one more about. And then we'll kind of cut conversation right there.
- **Connie Lorente:** Mine is not meaningful at all. I was just going to ask about like the Labyrinth, it's not in construction right?
- **Frankie Lapertosa:** Yeah, again I wasn't here last year when that was done, but I know they're working with the architect. I don't know the specifics of the labyrinth, but yeah.
- **Tommy Keith:** Just a clarification from Jackson's comment. It's about 3% of the endowment money, not 1%. And me and Bryce are having ongoing conversations with President Whipman on divesting from fossil fuels and that's something we're gonna keep pushing in the
- **Frankie Lapertosa:** And just so you guys know on that point, it's not like they're sweeping it under the rug. They are having serious conversations, you know, about that. Thank you guys so much for your time. For you seniors that have not given. I've been having meetings with students. So if you do want to, you know, express any concerns, please feel free to email me. So thank you so much.
- **(5) SA Retreat this Saturday February 8th from 11AM to 12:30PM in Events Barn**
  - **Tommy Keith:** Now we're going to continue on with new business. So we're gonna have an SA retreat this Saturday, Feb. 8th from 11:30am-12:30pm. and there will be Taj severed, hopefully if we approve this discretionary budget. I would encourage all of you to attend. If you for some reason cannot attend, please let us know 24 hours in advance. And if you don't let us know, we're going to count it as 1/3 absence towards your student assembly absence. Bryce and I are going to have some team building activities for you. We're both really excited about it.
  - **Bryce Febres:** Try your best to make it, It won't take too much of your time. The purpose of it it's the kind of do activities that get you guys to know each other more. instead of just being faces that sit across from each other, I mean they're human beings behind those faces. So it's kind of nice you know she just likes it to some activities to help you get to know each other and it's really kind of see where you're coming from, whenever you guys can you speak up any sort of Topic in the meetings.
  - **Juliet Davidson:** Where is this taking place?
  - **Tommy Keith:** It's in the event barn, awesome. Afterwards, the freshman, especially members of SA are gonna be helping setting up the freshman formal. So any SA members that also want to stay on and help them out with that. I'll be there.
  - **Juliet Davidson:** Please, thank you.
  - **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke:** If you need any motivational dancers...





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● **(6) Old Business**

○ **Student Assembly Reminders**

- **Tommy Keith:** So now we're gonna move on to old business. I am just going to give some Reminders. Just want to have another reminder to wear your quarter zips on Mondays. Because as I said before, if we don't wear them on Mondays the purpose of the funding for these cordyceps becomes obsolete. Does somebody have a comment for that?
- **Penelope Hoopes:** Can we get a Sunday night reminder? Just this week
- **Tommy Kieth:** Okay, we'll send out a reminder.
- **Bryce Febres:** I'll send them out weekly from now on. I'll give you guys reminders on Sundays .
- **Amari Leigh:** Do new members get sweatshirts?
- **Bryce Febres:** That is something we need to get to working on. It takes a minute every semester but we'll be getting guys
- **Tommy Kieth:** we will get those orders in by next week at the funding meeting. Another reminder to Coordinate met with your committees I'm meeting sometimes this week. We will be sharing committee documents with all the committee chairs, and we'll be checking that those documents are being utilized by the end of the week. And we expect committee reports to be going out, not next meeting but the meeting afterwards, February 17th.

● **(7) Acknowledgements**

○ **Amanda Kim**

- **Tommy Keith:** Now we're going to go onto acknowledgements. I just want to acknowledge or give kudos to Amanda Kim again for doing the heavy lifting and getting my up to speed with her job as secretary and really helping out with that. She's been an integral part of this assembly.

● **(8) Funding**

- **Tommy Kieth:** Alright so now we're going to go into funding that's where I'm going to give it to Nicole

Amount Remaining (Strategic): **\$52,605.86**

Amount Remaining (Non-Strategic): **\$2,046.60**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Items/Services Requested</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>	<b>Resubmit</b>
Bridge	Discussion Dinner	\$68.59	\$68.59	N
TEDxHamilton	Political Discussion Event Snacks	\$157.70	\$157.70	N
<i>Student Assembly</i>	<i>Retreat Lunch</i>	<i>\$350.00</i>	<i>\$350.00</i>	N

Amount Requested: **\$226.29**



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Amount Recommended: **\$226.29**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes (Non-Strategic): **\$1,820.31**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes (Discretionary): **\$4650.00**

- **Nicole Ramirez:** Hey guys okay, so as you can see we only have two this week. There was an evil that went out this past week. So that is why our amount remaining non-strategic is \$2,046.66. So the first one we have is Bridge and they're asking for large pizzas for their event which is a discussion dinner. Since it is centered around the food, they're requesting \$8 a person, but it's actually less than \$8 a person, less than \$5, because it's pizza, so it's really economic. So they're asking for \$68.59. And we recommended to fund it in full. The second one is the Tedx club which they're also inviting some guest speakers to come in, and they're asking for events snacks and some flyers. And what really takes up most of the budget here is the cookies, coffee, and tea which is \$1 per individual. So they're asking for \$157.70 and we recommend to fund it in full.
- **Nicole Ramirez:** And then the last thing is the Student Assembly with a discretionary fund.
- **Tommy Keith:** We're gonna do that one after we fund the rest. Does anybody have any comments about that, any questions? All right all right is there a motion to fund has recommended?
- **Nicole Ramirez:** Perfect, and then the last one is for the retreat lunch to get some yummy Taj on Saturday, and we're requesting \$350 from our discretionary funds which would leave us left to us \$4,650.
- **Tommy Kieth:** Amber Denning is seeking student assembly representatives for a hill card mobile credential working group. This working group is going to talk about possibly switching Hill cards from having a physical he'll card to using your mobile device for he'll card. And they want to get students' opinions on that. So if after the meeting all the representatives could meet with their class year and figure out one person that could go on the committee, that would be really helpful to us

*All funding passes as recommended with those present members*

● **(9) Announcements**

- The Freshman Dance will be held on February 8th in the Fillius Events Barn from 8pm-12am
- Febfest is coming up Tuesday February 11- February 15th! Be on the lookout for the calendar of events COMING SOON!
- Seeking Student Assembly Representatives to serve on the HillCard Mobile Credential Working Group

-End of Meeting-

