

## STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2020

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETINGS ARE HELD MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:30PM IN THE SADOVE STUDENT CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM. ANY AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE HAMILTON COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE.

### 1. Call to Order (TIMECODE: 00:00)

- **Members present:**
    - Tommy Keith, Bryce Febres, Nicole Ramirez, Seamus Wiseman, Maya Mathews, Ashley Garcia, Orlando Paz, Julian Perricone, Penelope Hoopes, Connie Lorente, Luis Morales, Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke, Shavell Jones, Matt Knowlton, Amari Leigh, Stephanie Wu, Amanda Kim, Tatum Barclay, Lóri Fejes, Jackson Harris, Jeffrey Bush, Jenny Tran, Juliet Davidson, Emily Fienco, Nyaari Kothiya, Frank Meng, Mariam Saied, Nadav Konforty, Dylan Morse
  - **Members excused absence:**
    - Caroline Paulson, Omar Lopez
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### 2. New Class of 2022 Representative Confirmation - Dylan Morse: (TIMECODE: 00:50)

Tommy Kieth brought the Assembly to a confirmation vote for Dylan Morse, a new class representative for the Class of 2022. Member Morse said he has been interested in joining SA because he wants to get involved in politics on campus and figured Student Assembly would be a great way to do that. He is excited to work alongside everybody and get work done.

- There were no questions about Member Morse's confirmation.
  - Tommy Kieth brought the confirmation to a vote. The vote passed.
  - The Assembly welcomes Member Morse to the Assembly.
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### 3. Public Comment Period - (exclusive of club funding discussions): (TIMECODE: 1:56)

**Member Shavell** asked for an update on the Posse Boston discontinuation dilemma brought to the Assembly during the public comment portion of the February 3rd meeting. It was noted that the issue has not been publicly discussed at meetings since February 3rd.

**Member Febres and Member Keith** had lunch with Dean Martinez to discuss the matter. There they learned that Deborah Beal, founder of the Posse foundation, is coming to campus Friday, February 28th, to have lunch with Posse Boston Scholars, Posse Miami Scholars, and notable Administrators here at Hamilton. After that lunch happens, more details on the topic will be made known.

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### 4. New Business

- **Abbreviated Minutes - Secretary and Publicity Committee (TIMECODE: 03:30)**

Member Keith announced that the assembly will be piloting a new method for minute taking. Member Mathews spoke to the benefits of this method and how the format will layout.

- **Benefits include:** quick, easy access to discussion conclusions and major takeaways for both Student Assembly members and the student body. Abbreviated minutes also eliminate any barriers with mis-understanding Student Assembly jargon for the typical student.



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- **Format:** this format will consist of conversations, main takeaways, and influential questions that shape conversations.

Member Keith stated that discussion on the merits of the abbreviated minutes within the context of this Assembly will occur during next week's meeting after this week's piloted minutes have gone out.

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- **Funding Codes Working Group - Funding and Constitution Committee** ([TIMECODE: 05:33](#))

- Presented by Tommy, Nicole, and Seamus

**Member Keith** is tasking a new working group comprised of the Constitution Committee, Funding Committee, and anyone of the Assembly or in the student body who would like to look at the funding codes and begin revising them. **Member Wiseman** added that the recent history of overriding funding codes is a sign the codes are not working in the way the Assembly desires. Likewise the current funding codes are poorly organized and littered with grammatical errors. So the goal of this group will be to revise and clean up the funding codes so that the assembly feels they reflect a more equitable distribution of funding. **Member Ramirez** stressed the importance of all Assembly members and club treasures having a comprehensive understanding of the funding codes because it leads to deeper and more meaningful conversations about funding. She added, as a member, knowing the funding codes also helps making sure the Assembly does not breach any rules itself. **Member Seamus** added, another side project this working group may take on is creating a user friendly presentation of the codes, so that members of our community do not have to juggle or fret misunderstanding the official jargon as it appears in the funding codes.

*If you are interested in partaking in this initiative (help revise the Student Assembly funding codes) Please contact our Parliamentarian, Seamus Wiseman at [swiseman@hamilton.edu](mailto:swiseman@hamilton.edu). Any and all members of the student body are welcome to participate.*

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- **Late Night Jitney Issues - Noelle Niznik** ([TIMECODE: 07:54](#))

- Presented by: Director of Student Activities, Noelle Nizink

The Late Night Jitney is provided by Hale bus services Thursday- Saturday. Recently there have been a few issues on weekends that warrant discussion here at Student Assembly: this past weekend there was an incident of a student smoking marijuana on the bus. Footage is currently being reviewed to confirm the students' identity for this policy violation. This student will be held accountable and lose their privilege to ride the late night jitney. Please note that students are not allowed to smoke indoors on campus or on the Hale bus/Late Night Jitney; it is a company/campus policy. Additionally, there have also been multiple cases of students throwing up on the bus on weekends and that is likely due to alcohol use. With all of these issues it is becoming harder to staff the late night jitney with student Event Staff, as no one wants to work under these conditions, making it harder to continue to provide Late night Jitney support.

The main point discussed, however, is a **change in Late Night Jitney guest policy**. At the beginning of the semester, a schoolwide email was sent out by the Transportation Office about Late Night Jitney policies and procedures. One of the points stated: "**Non-student guests who are over 21 may board the shuttle with their student host and must possess a valid form of ID. If this policy is**



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**abused (i.e. current students are using a fake ID to pose as guests) we will no longer allow guests to ride down from Sadove.”** Since then, we’ve learned that many students have been using their fake IDs to pose as “guests” to ride down the hill, and then swiping their Hill Card to ride the bus back up. Because we cannot transport underage students downtown with the Late Night Jitney service and students are abusing the guest policy, **students will no longer be allowed to bring guests on the jitney down the hill.”**

Nizink also mentioned that this policy update is not up for debate as it is a decision that has already been made since students were told that if the guest policy was abused we would have to suspend it.. An email will go out to the campus Tuesday from the Transportation Office outlining the update to this guest policy.

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**5. Acknowledgments:**

There are no acknowledgements for this week.

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**6. Funding:**

Presented by: Member Ramirez

Amount Remaining (Non-Strategic):**\$193.46**

Amount Remaining (Discretionary):**\$3,637.91**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Culinary Society	Food for events	\$400	\$193.46	Y
SPAC	Food for events	\$981.65	\$0	Y
DJ and Production Club	Pro DJ Software	\$502.76	\$0	Y

Amount Requested: **\$1,884.41**

Amount Recommended: **\$193.46**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: **\$0**

- o **Culinary Society:** [\(TIMECODE: 12:36\)](#)

Member Ramirez states that Culinary society requested food for the club. The treasures rationalized this request as integral to their club, but recommended \$193.46. (This amount is the current full balance available in the Non Strategic budgeting.) Because they were also late to request funding, the same budget cut of 75% that was applied to Special K, Mock Trial, and Grilling Club will be applied to the Culinary Society.

- o **SPAC:** [\(TIMECODE 13:28\)](#)



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Member Ramirez said because all their events require food, the treasures recommend SPAC to resubmit for rollbacks expected to come. While we understand the club has events in the near future, there is no money to fund even one of their events. **SPAC representative, Andrew Little' 22** asked when roll backs would be and if SPAC would have priority over other clubs such as Special K, Mock Trial, and Grilling Club. He also clarified that any money is helpful, the \$981.65 does not need to be funded in full. Member **Ramirez responded** that the Assembly is expecting rollbacks soon, but did not offer a hard date as it is subject to when clubs who have received their funds roll back. She also mentioned the way SPAC's budget request was itemized does not allow for partial funding of events.

o **DJ: (TIMECODE: 16:11)**

Member Ramirez asked representatives from the DJ club to come to the Assembly meeting today and explain why they need an additional \$502.76 for equipment to the funding they already received this semester for other equipment. **Representative from DJ Club, Shenise Duboulay '21**, explained that the previous funding DJ club received this semester covered funding for a Spotify membership, a mixing program, and the Block Party they will hold towards the end of the semester. Since then, however, the DJ has received information about mixing pads they need in order to make mixes. DJ club has had two events where they have needed the mixing pads and have not had them. She stated all the money in the budget is not needed, as they can find alternative mixing pads and products that are cheaper. **Member Fejes** mentioned they already have some software for a mixing pad they don't have and was wondering would the purchased software would go to waste if they didn't have the correct pad. **Member Perricone** asked how the previous mixing pads went missing. **Representative from DJ Club, Shenise Duboulay '21** responded that the AV(Hamilton Audio Visual) did not have a proper system for keeping track of who is renting out the equipment. She ensured that because she and another member works for AV that they will have a system to make sure these pads are not last again.

*All funding passes as requested (TIMECODE: 20:19)*

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7. **Mock Trial: (TIMECODE: 20:37)**

- Presented by Mock Trial Representative, Perri Kessler '22

Mock Trial Representative, Perri Kessler '22, reminded the board that Mock Trial was only funded 75% of their requested budget for a competition they have on March 6th. (They requested about \$2,400 and only received \$1,800.) In order to make up for the loss, they unsuccessfully applied to the Rennie Endowment, but did receive \$500 from the Ferguson endowment. So they ask the Student Assembly to use discretionary funds or anything available to cover the remaining \$1,600 necessary to make this trip possible. She reminded the Assembly of some of their most recent successes: 3rd place at Rockford University, 1st place at Umass Amherst, and 1st and 3rd at regionals in Buffalo New York.

o Questions: [\(TIMECODE 22:23\)](#)

- Member Morales mentioned that because of the precedent of pulling from discretionary would set, it is hard to ask the Assembly to fund Mock Trial and not the 3 other clubs and future clubs in the same way. Discretionary money also needs to be used by the Assembly for events they hold, and so that money has somewhat be spoken for. He acknowledges its an unfortunate situation to be in and apologizes for the predicament.



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- Member Kim wanted to clarify that the \$1,600 still needed for this trip is necessary in order to go. **Mock Trial Representative, Perri Kessler '22** responded that only \$116 is necessary to cover gas expenses. Mock Trial was able to distribute cuts across the intimations, and that's why they only need \$116.
- Member Ramirez asked where funding for food comes from. **Mock Trial Representative, Perri Kessler '22** responded saying that Mock Trial receives \$1,000 for food covered by the Ferguson Endowment. And they need the money to by March 6th.
- Member Lorente suggests Mock Trial resubmit for next week to see if any rollbacks can cover this funding. Otherwise she thinks the Assembly should reconsider funding the remaining \$116 through Discretionary Funds.

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### 8. Committee Reports:

- o **Executive Committees:**
- o **Publicity:** ([TIMECODE: 26:23](#))
  - Presented by: Ashley García

Items that have been updated on the Student Assembly website: minutes, voting records, and new representative profiles. The Diner Bulletin Board has also been updated. If anyone has suggestions for FAQ questions regarding Student Assembly and its functions, please email them to [amgarcia@hamilton.edu](mailto:amgarcia@hamilton.edu) so they can be placed on the FAQ section of the website. Ashley envisioned an amped up Ice Cream Social in the Annex as a way of encouraging students to join Student Assembly committees and be more involved. She hopes the event will make student more excited about the events we hold.

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- o **Organization Recognition** ([TIMECODE: 27:33](#))
    - Presented by: Orlando Paz

This semester, 7 new clubs were presented to the committee and 5 were approved. The two rejected were: Bartending Club for legitimacy reasons and The Sustainability  
The five clubs that were approved were: The German Club of Hamilton College, Hamilton society for Students of Color in Stem, Clover Dance (a focus on Kpop), Reality TV Club, and Hamilton Long Game Society (games like Spikeball and Corn Hole).

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- o **Constitution Committee:** ([TIMECODE: 30:04](#))
    - Presented by: Seamus Wiseman

Will meet tomorrow at 7pm. The first task of the committee is to clean up the grammar, spelling, and all around language of the constitution. This will be brought forth to the committee for approval next week.

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- o **Funding** ([TIMECODE 30:45](#))
    - Presented by: Nicole Ramirez



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Working on the budget to satisfy the proposals of 200+ clubs, diving into the work, diving into the Nonstrategic funding proposals and how they fit into the funding codes. This work was divided evenly between treasures so everyone gets and experience.

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- **Student Life Committees:**
  - **Cultural Affairs:** ([TIMECODE 31:24](#))
    - Presented by: Lori Fejes

Has their meetings on Mondays at 8pm in the Sadove Student Center. He reminds the Assembly that this committee is open to participation from the entire student body. They have started organizing their main Spring semester event, International Student Affair Day. They are reworking the language of the event so some don't feel excluded as has been an issue in past years. A preliminary email about the event will be sent to all students later this week.

*If you are interested in partaking in this initiative, Please contact our Committee Chair, Lori Fejes at [saculture@hamilton.edu](mailto:saculture@hamilton.edu) . Any all all members of the student body are welcome to participate.*

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- **FRSH Affairs (Facilities, Residential Life, Safety & Health)** ([TIMECODE 32:35](#)):
    - Presented by: Connie Lorente

A list of all ongoing projects and their updates can be found below.

- The Menstrual Hygiene Product Initiative is continuing with new Dispensers installed in Commons, Mcewen, and the Gym. Posters for this will be up this week.
- A Survey for student feedback on Facilities, Residential Life, Safety, and Health will be out later this week!!!
- The Dunham basement round table is being replaced. A Dunham staple, but it has to go.
- 8 more water dispensers have been added/replaced around campus
  - Change the water jugs in Spencer House and Levitt Center
  - New locations in Milbank, Babbitt, and Dunham among others
- Additional washers and dryers have been installed. There are now 2 in Dunham, 2 in South, and 1 in Carnegie
- There is a new discussion about the lighting in the suite common rooms underway.
- Upcoming works include: summer plans to remake the Commons dish conveyor belt, potentially upgrading the radio tower for better reception, and finding storage space for International Students. Currently, there is no space but there is a plan to buy some cages in Milbank and Babbitt basement!
- The Chapel renovations will start during Spring Break and will last until Fall comes.



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- The List renovations will be ready for Literature and Creative Writing classes next fall!
  - **Questions:** ([TIMECODE 34:25](#))
    - There is a goal to install water dispensers in all resident halls around campus
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- **Community Affairs (Student Affairs & Food):** ([TIMECODE 35:03](#))
    - Presented by: Julian Perricone
      - Most of the work has been done is food related: the sandwich bar is back in commons, why it came back is unknown. Joe from the sushi counter is back, as well as. The salt and pepper shakers were taken away from the tables for the flu, but they're back. There seems to be a discrepancy between the coffee and ice cream flavors people like, and the ones available. So the committee is looking to work on changing the ratios of flavor to between suit the community. The committee also has a meeting coming in the near future with Amber Denny to discuss the vending machine survey that went out. Fun fact: Cheez-Its and Ginger Ale. The committee is also meeting with Lucy Burke to mainly discuss the 7-day meal plans. Lastly, the committee has some endowment funding to work on.
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- **Associative Committees:**
  - **LITS:** ([TIMECODE 37:49](#))

This discussion has been tabled for next week.

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- **Philanthropy:** ([TIMECODE 38:01](#))
  - **Presented by penelope:**

This semester they are focusing on the Young Civic Leader Scholarship, awarded to two recipients, each \$3,000 from Proctor and Utica High Schools. Member Hoopes asks if there is anybody that went to either Proctor or Utica High School to reach out and join the committee when they go to these schools to hand out these forms. Also if there are any clubs that would like to help fundraise for this scholarship please reach out to the Philanthropy Club or Member Penelope at [phoopes@hamilton.edu](mailto:phoopes@hamilton.edu).

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- **Traditions** ([TIMECODE 38:37](#)):
  - **Presented by: Nadav Konforty**

Last Friday the traditions committee worked on the women's Classics with SAC, the event was considered a success. They are also meeting with the Grilling Club to hammer down a game plan for fundraising their event.



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### 9. Old Business ([TIMECODE: 39:26](#))

- **Takeaways from Prior funding meetings**

- Presented by: Tommy Kieth

Member Kieth has asked the Assembly to reflect on the past few funding meetings with notecards that are scattered around the room. He asked Assembly Members to write down ways we think the Assembly can improve upon the discourse at the meeting and the funding process as a whole. He also opened up the agenda item for discussion for five minutes. Next week, he will report out on trends he finds in the note cards.

- Assembly recommendations ([TIMECODE: 40:08](#)):

- Member Hoopes: There's a lot of tension when the clubs come in to speak in at once. Perhaps a talking order can be set up in advance, giving clubs a 30minute slot for when their club will be discussed. Essentially, we should be intentionally with the order in which the budget is done.
  - Member Tran: All comments could be made and discussed before any decision is made. So that each club has a fair chance at receiving the whole strategic budget.
  - Member Meng: I'm curious if funding committees can share their notes with Student Assembly ahead of time, so everyone can be prepared, and so the treasures don't have to present every budget.
  - Member Wiseman: He shares an idea from a recent Executive board meeting. Since the assembly has overridden a lot of the funding codes hastily that have led to tight budgets, perhaps the Assembly could instate a hold on budgets that require an override vote to fund in order to ensure that the Assembly funds Clubs requests that are currently within the funding codes. This is essentially a way to slow the process of the overriding, and so dangerous precedent can be avoided.
    - a. Member Febres: brought up the goal is make sure we all follow the codes, for the sake of clubs that follow all funding codes at the time they request.
  - Member Davidson: Suggested having the meeting in a bigger event space on campus for the sake of comfortability. **Member Febres** adds that the way this room is set up can be intimidating. However this has been brought up in the past, but it's been hard to find a venue that serves all the needs of the Student Assembly.
  - Member Perricone: Suggests the Assembly practice more tempered judgment before making funding decisions, essentially asking the committee to look at the requests holistically and have a general understanding of the funding codes. Actions from the first weeks of funding made the following weeks, volatile, and hard.





The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College

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- Member Ravenhall Meinke: suggested everyone be very deliberate with the language they use when announcing what is going to be voted upon. There were many instances in the past funding meetings when Member Ravenhall Meinke felt confused and unconfident about the votes.

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### 10. Announcements: [\(TIMECODE 48:03\)](#)

Next meeting the Assembly will take a group photo, so please remember to wear your quarter zips. Also, there will be a conversation about the SA quarter zips next week for student members. Best of luck to everyone on their Midterms!

The meeting was adjourned.

