

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/2/2020

1. Call to Order (TIME: 00:00)

○ **Members Present**

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

○ **Members Unexcused Absence**

- Luis Morales
- Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke

2. Public Comment Period (TIME: 1:04)

○ **Sunrise Movement Hamilton College**

- **Presented by: Madison Lazenby '23 and Eric Stenzel '23**

Two of the three Hub coordinators for Sunrise Movement Hamilton College, **Madison Lazenby '23** and **Eric Stenzel '23**, spoke at Public Comment asking for the support of the Student Assembly for their Rally on Friday, March 6th at noon outside of Buttrick Hall. The rally echoes their message from December 6th, 2019 with some revisions. They believe there is



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more Hamilton College could be doing to fight the Climate Crisis and to build a livable future for the student body. They added some context to the rally, sharing that because the Board of Trustees will be on campus this week for their quarterly meeting, they want to make sure they are hearing what current students are thinking because they're unsure that the Board of Trustees are aware of all the work that the Sunrise Movement Hamilton College has been doing. They added that President Wippman has not given a public response to the demonstration from last semester. And they want more transparency about what is going on in regards to divestment, carbon neutrality, and declaring the climate emergency, amongst other things. The revision to the demands from last December specifically include requesting a public statement from David Wippman and the Board of Trustees, listing where they stand on the present issue and what work they are doing when it comes to protecting our futures as students at this institution who have to deal with a world in a climate crisis. Noted that at the end of the conversation, it was also added that Vassar College declared a climate emergency.

The rally demands are as followed:

1. The total and complete divestment of Hamilton College's endowment from all companies directly involved in the extraction, production, and/or distribution of coal, oil, or natural gas as soon as is legally possible
2. The investment of an equal or greater amount to the College's total historical investment in fossil fuels into socially responsible renewable energy companies or environmental social governance mutual funds
3. The recusal of all members of the Board of Trustees with substantial stakes (\$100,000 or 10%, whichever is less) in or management of fossil fuel assets from discussions and decisions regarding divestment, in particular the chair of the Investment Committee, Robert Delaney '79, who sits on the Board of Directors for seven different fossil fuel companies
4. If the College is to decline divestment at this time, the widespread publication of an exhaustive white paper on the financial rationale for remaining in fossil fuel companies, including but not limited to these companies' names and types of fossil fuels, total stock values and returns over history of ownership, the connection between these specific stocks and continuation of specific, named College programs, and reasons as to why monies divested cannot be invested into other non-fossil fuel funds or companies with equal or greater historical and projected returns
5. An official College policy of being good stewards of the land of the Oneida people which it rests on, and the recognition that as such the College must reduce emissions and consider reparations, all with the prioritization of the self-determination and consultation of the Oneida Indian Nation
6. The declaration of a Climate Emergency for Hamilton College, which will entail a recognition of the grave threat to the human species in accordance with the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that the anthropogenic climate crisis poses, and an ongoing commitment to placing emissions reductions, direct or indirect, at the forefront of all future College policy



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- **Questions/Comments** [\(TIME: 5:37\)](#)
- **Nadav Konforty**: Asked if Georgetown University also committing to divestment, and suggests that Hamilton should look to those they consider its peers.
 - This is a true statement verified by Eric Stenzel '23.
- **Tommy Keith**: Added that the Assembly appreciates the work of the Sunrise Movement, adding that the Board of trustees owes the students an explanation as to why they are not divesting given the growing calls for divestment on campus. Finally added that Hamilton should follow its peer institutions in divesting.
- **Seamus Wiseman**: Was the Oneida Nation consulted on that point?
 - Eric Stenzel '23 responded that, yes, this is a continuation of an effort that they previously worked with SKI (Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative) on.

The assembly voted to release a statement standing in solidarity with the Sunrise Movement, releasing their demands, and encouraging people to come to their climate rally on March 6th.

The vote passed.

3. New Business

- **Campus Emergency Preparedness Drill- Frank Coots, Director of Campus Safety** [\(TIME: 8:35\)](#)
 - **Presented by: Frank Coots**

He began by clarifying that this is not a drill. He presented a class that he will be holding for Hamilton and the general public on Wednesday, March 11th from 6:00-8:00pm in the Fillius Events Barn. If you sign up and attend, there will be a bag of giveaways. He is asking for the student Assembly's support in this class in the idea that the public has a right to be prepared. Emails will be sent out also announcing the event. Coots also spoke on some drills the safety department will hold over the Summer with law enforcement and others. The State Police will be on campus over break working with campus safety. For any one interested, they are looking for 15-20 roleplayers to work through their drills on March 25th in the morning. A free lunch is included! He passed around flyers for the class to the assembly.

- **Questions/Comments** [\(TIME: 11:40\)](#)
- **Juliet Davidson**: What is this class preparing for?
 - Frank Coots responds this is as a long term type of preparedness. For example: general weather preparedness, what happens when the power goes out, or if Commons was on fire. He says the class answers the questions.
- **Bryce Febres**: In the wake of the spread of coronavirus, what is the plan for studying abroad students?
 - Frank Coots Currently there are thirteen students who are studying abroad in Italy whose programs outside of Hamilton have been suspended. It is



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unclear at this time whether they will come back to campus or earn credit this semester.

- **Julian Perricone:** What happens if someone comes back with Coronavirus over Spring break?
 - **Frank Coots:** There isn't a clear answer. But if someone comes back to campus with it, it will be something we have to confront then. Current procedures for when someone is sick (ie. staying in their dorm, emailing professors, and voluntary self-containment/isolation) are set in place to prevent the spread of outbreaks like this. It is expected that students will go to the health center and get tested for viruses. Tommy Keith added that Bon Appetit rolled out a program where students can get Commons and McEwen for when someone is sick.
- **Mariam Saied:** Do these tests cost money for students?
 - **Frank Coots:** The college would get the tests through the county health department. The test for Coronavirus is an unusual test. He added there are about 15,000 tests available around the country, averaging to about 2 per hospital. Because the test is administered through a hospital, it can be understood that there may be some sort of fee.

- o **Town Hall: Community Health (TIME: 18:19)**

- **Presented by: Tommy Keith**

Tommy Keith introduced the idea of having the Town Hall the second week after Spring Break be about community health, specifically from a position of diversity, inclusion, and mental health in the Hamilton community. He argues there's a discrepancy between the resources available on campus and what students know. He says the topic of the Town Hall is subject to change. He encourages the Assembly to think about resources we want to students to know that they currently probably are unaware of. He opens the Assembly to questioning about the topic and about how to involve the entire student body. Attendance has been poor in past years.

- o **Questions/Comments**

- **Connie Lorente** stated Town Halls are cyclical (Ie. no progress is ever made in the conversation). So how will this one be different?
 - **Tommy Keith** responded that this town hall should cover resources that are outside the Health Center, taking a more holistic approach to the understanding of mental health.
- **Juliet Davidson** asks if there are any changes made to the structure of Town Hall?
 - **Tommy Keith** added the "stop, start, continue" method has been good in the past, but if others have better ideas, they are welcome.
- **Juliet Davidson** suggests obtaining student feedback about the Town Hall topic, because if they feel these expectations are heard all the time, and we can't put a spin on the conversation, then the Town Hall is a waste of time.
 - **Tommy Keith** agrees that this is a good idea adding that we should get student feedback on this.



4. Old Business

- **Summarized Funding Feedback (TIME: 21:47)**

- **Presented by: Tommy Keith**

Based on feedback about the funding meeting obtained on notecards by the Assembly last week, there are some overarching concerns about members having the funding requests and reasoning before the meeting. Frank Meng made a good suggestion about having the funding recommendations to the Assembly members prior to the meeting; this will be a good solution for that concern. Clubs presenting their case and rationale behind funding, being asked clarifying questions by the assembly, then leaving the meeting will help with the chaos. This is the same format used by both Organization Relations and the Media Board. Another concern was the talking order of the clubs and how that impacted who got funded and by how much. There were also similar concerns about the talking order of the Assembly members, which Bryce Febres acknowledged and explained he will work on managing the conversations in a way that allows all members a chance to speak.

- **Abbreviated Minutes Feedback (TIME: 24:46)**

- **Presented by: Tommy Keith**

Tommy Keith began by clarifying that after the conversation is had, the Assembly will vote to approve last week's minutes for legitimacy not for formatting. He stated that in the opinion of the Eboard, these types of note-taking were well-received and liked. It put less strain on the Secretary, and allowed her to participate on the Assembly, Eboard, and in committee. They also addressed the redundancy of the minutes by summarizing discussion, finally the time codes helped for those looking for greater detail. Finally these minutes fit the formatting of both the Hamilton College faculty meetings and those from the Newton School Committee, of which Maya Mathews used to be a member. He opened up to discussion for comments and questions.

- **Comments/Questions**

- **Nadav Konforty** personally liked the minutes, but asked that members not be referred to as "Member" and their last name. It felt too formal.
- **Penelope Hoopes**: noted a typo in the Philanthropy Committee update: Penelope was lower case without her last name and indented improperly.
- **Amanda Kim** asked are there amendments to be made to previous week's minutes, and will the Assembly publicly re-release them? Or will they not be published to the entire community? She foresees confusion for the public with these minutes.
- **Connie Lorente**: She doesn't like the abbreviated minutes. She finds the paragraphing to be univiting. She also had qualms with the formatting, pointing out inconsistencies in the past week's format. She also echoed Amanda Kim's concerns about the confusion of sending out revised minutes adding that editing/proofreading the minutes before each meeting is not the responsibility of the Assembly.



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- **Bryce Febres** responded by acknowledging the concern of proofreading by saying the time meant to approve and edit the minutes is to ensure that there aren't any glaring summaries, egregious errors in other words.
- **Frank Meng** offered a solution, suggesting adding a section on old minute revisions into new minutes.
- **Jeffrey Bush** points to the way newspaper release revisions in next week's paper is the only way he sees it working. He also raises a concern that what is said being summarized by another can be problematic. In other words, he worries his statements may be misconstrued by the abbreviations.
- **Tommy Keith** suggests having minutes come out on Tuesday, give representatives a day to reach out if they see any glaring errors. Afterwards, have them go out Wednesday night.
- **Julian Perricone**: Acknowledges the the effort, but feels this format is very contrived. The editing process could take too long and adds unnecessary work that could be avoided by verbatim minute taking. He wants to wait for the survey sent to the student body results to come in review before making a call as to whether or not people liked the abbreviated minutes more. He also brought up that Facebook is not a great place for Student Assembly's live stream as more and more people are deleting their accounts adding the second question, how are alums accessing our works?
 - **Ashley Garcia** addressed this point by saying one does not have to have a Facebook account in order to watch the livestream. She also said people can access the livestream through the Student Assembly page on Presence.**Julian Perricone** continued by saying breaking the sections into bullet points rather than chunks may be more ideal. Finally listing the members' names in a vertical list like the old minutes would be ideal.
- **Lóri Fejes** is confused if the Assembly is completely getting rid of verbatim minute taking. He also raises a concern about the extreme reliance on the livestream. If the minutes rely so heavily on this technology, what happens to them if they fail for some reason? He shared examples like the audio going out or losing access to an account.
 - **Tommy Keith** addresses this point saying if there is a technical difficulty, the minutes are hampered either way. Noting that the tech has no impact on the style of minutes taken. He also added that the abbreviated minutes are not set in stone just yet. The eboard has received mixed feedback. Alas, we are currently only collecting suggestions from the Assembly and assessing the results from the survey sent out to the student body.
- **Matt Knowlton** suggests giving the Student Assembly access to commenting on the minutes as they're being typed, so by the time they are finished, they are ready to go out to the public.
- **Shavell Jones** asks what the purpose of the abbreviated minutes were. He continued he thought it was to ease the workload on the secretary and for transparency. However, verbatim minute taking it the most transparent, because summaries can be misconstrued.



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- **Nicole Ramirez** added there was a typo in terms of amount requested with Mock Trial 1,600 when she had asked for 116. She also proposed finding a technology that can transcribe.
- **Amanda Kim**, in response, said there are softwares available that can do verbatim transcribing, however this is very expensive and would have to come out of discretionary funding.
- **Amari Leigh** liked the idea of sharing it with everyone. However, as an alternative, she suggests that maybe some people can be assigned proofreading these minutes. She emphasizes that if we continue with abbreviated minutes that we make sure there are as few typos as possible. Because the shorter the document, the cleaner it should look.
- **Connie Lorente** added that, yes, it's a lot of work, but people have been doing it. And with all the talk of collaborative editing and such, it seems that minutes are going to be released later and later, making them irrelevant and no one will read them anyhow.
- **Matt Knowlton** added that the minutes do come out late now, but they have in the past as well and the point of this change is to also address the past lateness.
- **Jackson Harris** added that it was incorrectly suggested that Assembly members write their own minutes on a collaborative document, but rather just rectify the minutes for clarity and accuracy.
- **Connie Lorente** corrected her comment and said that if all Assembly members had to go in and correct the minutes, it would still take a long time. And with abbreviated minutes, they shouldn't take longer to come out.
- **Caroline Paulson** suggested that Maya should have a committee like the rest of the executive board.
- **Ashley Garcia** added that just because the Assembly has been doing something for a long time doesn't mean that it shouldn't change it. She understands the issue with transparency, but nods to the extremely rigorous workload the Secretary has and argues that it shouldn't take a while for people to comment on abbreviated minutes. And also agrees that creating a Committee under the Secretary would be a good move.
- **Maya Mathews** reinforces that there is no issue with the workload. The issue at stake is that the 45 page minutes are not a user-friendly document for the average student. Therefore, the minutes are not an adequate resource for the public to use. So when we as an Assembly look to make ourselves accessible to the student body, the minutes should be a place where we consider changing.
- **Julian Perricone** disagrees and argues that the summary serves more of a purpose to the Assembly, whereas the general public needs verbatim minutes to know what actually happens in the conference room. While he understands the live stream argument satisfies this need, the livestream viewership is so low that it cannot be considered an adequate resource. He also adds that people enjoy hearing what their representatives say in these meetings. Julian has had times when people come up to him laughing about something that was said in the minutes they had read.



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- **Juliet Davidson** argued that the verbatim minutes humanize the assembly. People can know what their representatives are like even without meeting them. She also added that if people aren't reading the verbatim minutes, they aren't going to read the abbreviated ones. She also asked if summarizing public comments is fair.
- **Mariam Saied** argued that perhaps viewership is low on the livestream because people do not have to watch them right now.
- **Bryce Febres** noted that accessibility on the livestream as well as all other Student Assembly documents on the website should be worked on, focusing on adding an archiving feature to the document.
- **Amari Leigh** said that currently the Presence website is only accessible to students, so it's not a resource for alumni and other people who are not in the student body.
- **Juliet Davidson** asked how long the new minutes format was going to be piloted.
- **Caroline Paulson** inquired what happens if the minutes are not passed?
 - **Bryce Febres** responded they will be sent back to the secretary, and then revised, and then they will be sent to an evote.
- **Tommy Keith** has set a deadline for the minutes to be finished by Tuesday night, so they can be reviewed on Wednesday for the entire committee.
- **Tommy Keith** asks is there a motion to approve the minutes from last week. He clarifies that the Assembly is not voting on the new minute formatting, rather on the legitimacy of the abbreviations in the February, 24th minutes, ie those minutes reflect the conversations had during the February 24th meeting.

The Minutes from February, 24th, 2020 passed.

5. Acknowledgements

There are no acknowledgements

6. Funding [\(TIME: 53:34\)](#)

- **Presented by: Nicole Ramirez**
- **CSA: [\(TIME: 53:56\)](#)**
 - They requested some food items. There was a discrepancy in their request; they didn't itemize their amount remaining to fulfill the funding in full. Meaning, they asked for more money than they itemized.
- **Mock Trial [\(TIME: 54:18\)](#)**
 - Requested to satisfy their transportation costs for their trip on March 6th, they asked for \$116 for gas.
 - **Perri** adds, we really need this money, fund us. (TIME: 54:46)
- **Slow Foods [\(TIME: 54:28\)](#)**



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- Requested food items. There was a \$.10 discrepancy for mileage gas that had to be addressed.

The funding passes as recommended.

- **SAAC (TIME: 55:13)**
 - Asking for Game of the week pizzas, this is recommended to be funded in full.
- **DJ and Production club (TIME 55:20)**
 - Requested the revised DJ equipment they submitted funding for and spoke about last week. However, we only recommended \$270.79, in order to fund all the clubs requesting funding. This recommendation includes a case for the equipment. It was assumed given the information that we know. That not all the funding was needed right away, so we are asking them to resubmit for the money at a later time.
- **Finance Club (TIME: 55:58)**
 - The bus funding they requested wasn't \$3,000, it was \$3,300. So the recommendation is funding the difference in this transportation cost.

The funding passes as recommended.

- **Culinary Society (TIME: 56:30)**
 - They asked for a new meal night and we will fund them for this. However, we will not fund them for an event the requested funding for because it's a month from now, and currently we do not have the funding. Requesting to resubmit.
- **International Student Association (TIME 56:59)**
 - They are asking for funding for their formal, and we recommended \$416. Because they requested over the \$5 per head funding code rule for an event, we made the adjustment in their request.

The funding passes as recommended.

Amount Remaining (Non-Strategic): **\$1,831.54**

Amount Remaining (Discretionary): **\$3,968.06**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Carribbean Student Association	Food Items	\$235	\$208.81	N
Hamilton Mock Trial	Transportation costs	\$116	\$116	N
Slow Food	Food Items	\$11.55	\$11.45	N
SAAC	Game of week Pizza	\$480	\$480	N



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DJ and Production Club	DJ Equipment	\$307.81	\$270.79	Y
Finance Club	Transportation to NY	\$300	\$300	N
Culinary Society	Two meal nights	\$206.54	\$0	Y
International Student Association	ISA Formal	\$566	\$416	N

Amount Requested: **\$2,222.90**

Amount Recommended: **\$1,810.84**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes: **\$20.70**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes (Discretionary): **\$3,968.06**

7. Announcements (TIME: 57:34)

- Look out for a survey on the new minutes!
- **Connie Lorente** announced that the FRESH committee sent out a survey, please look for the email, send it to your friends and fill it out!

