

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/9/20

1. Call to Order ([TIME: 00:00](#))

○ **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
- Matt Knowlton
- 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
- Nadav Konforty

○ Excused:

- Amanda Kim

○ Unexcused:

- Juliet Davidson

2. Public Comment Period ([TIME: 1:21](#))

- Presented By Gavin Meade '20

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The Mental Wellness Collective is hosting an event on March 31st (the Tuesday we return from break. They are trying to host an “I’m-possible Event,” a one man show that speaks to the power of depression and the impact it can have. Following this there will be a panel answering questions about what does suicide prevention look like, and how you can help your friends, family, and peers. Gavin Meade '20 is asking for \$750 from the Student Assembly’s discretionary budget to help cover a part of the speaker fee. He mentioned the sum of the event is \$3,250 and is seeking other funding pools on campus to cover the remaining portions.

- Questions/Comments ([TIME: 03:24](#))
 - **Connie Lorente** asked if a budget has been submitted and if so why it wasn’t on the agenda.
 - **Gavin Meade '20** assured the budget proposal was submitted this morning. Nicole Ramirez added it was late for processing and that’s why the proposal is not on the agenda.
 - **Penelope Hoopes** asked how many people do you expect to attend?
 - **Gavin Meade '20** responded they expect 75-130 people to attend.
 - **Jackson Harris** asked if there is a plan to reschedule given the events proximity to Spring Break?
 - **Gavin Meade '20** responded that the money is due the day of the event and is being given a discount because the speaker will already be in the area at this time. So rescheduling is not an optimal option they are considering.
 - **Nicole Ramirez** asked if they had scheduled a time to speak with the Mental health Liaison.
 - **Gavin Meade '20** responded no.
 - **Jackson Harris** wants to know what discretionary fund will be used for the rest of the semester as a gauge as to whether to fund this event.
 - **Tommy Keith** responded, most of the discretionary budget goes to the Ice Cream social, the town hall, and the remaining money goes to a food truck at the end of the year. **Bryce Febres** added this money is usually kept for Student Assembly Committee projects for example International share day, Class and charter, among other things.
 - **Geoffrey Ravenhall Meinke** asked if committees have any money they do need as he personally wants to make sure internal committees are financially supported before outside events are.
 - **Luis Morales** responded that he only needed \$300. **Lóri Fejes** cultural affairs says their committee requests funding from the Days-Massolo Center first as they have been turned away from Student Assembly funding in the past, but will look for money all around campus. **Nadav Konforty** added the Traditions Committee only needs \$100, and added that he personally supports SA funding this event.

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- **Connie Lorente** asked the treasurers for the remaining total the discretionary funding would have after studying all the events discussed.
 - **Nicole Ramirez** responded to remaining total would be XXXX
- **Gavin Meade'20** asked if there are any concerns about how much money is needed in discretionary funding, also worried about attendance given react issues.
 - **Connie Lorente** reiterated his concerns of the timing of the event and whether or not it would take funding from Student Assembly Committee affairs .
- **Penelope Hoopes** reinforces Connie Lorent's statement.
- **Tommy Keith** asked if there is a motion to fund the event.

Funding Passes as requested (\$750 dollars).

3. New Business

- **David Wippman's Email about Racist Charges** ([TIME: 12:00](#))

- Presented by Tommy Kieth

Acknowledged the statement from President Wippman on the racist incidents that occurred over the past weekend. As an assembly committed to upholding an inclusive, diverse community, we condemn these actions and support the administration in the investigation of these incidents.

- **Coronavirus concerns: Jeff Landry** ([TIME: 12:30](#))

- Presented by Jeff Landry

Jeff was given a list of questions, but starts with a quick overview. The HERT team responds to any type of crisis around campus. Currently HERT has been meeting twice a week. Some of their early response tactics have been a lot of cleaning and disinfecting. Facilities Management has done a remarkable amount of work, disinfecting all traffic areas, and touch points around campus. HERT has decided to follow all Center for Disease Control, New York State Department of Health, and Oneida County Health Department recommendations. Noted that all Spring Break travel with the exception of the four level 3 countries (China, Italy, Japan, and Iran) are permitted.

The following questions were prepared by the Student Assembly ahead of Monday's meeting, Jeff Landry's responses follow each bullet.

- **Will students have to report their travel records for spring break, and if so, what is the process?**

They are toying with things, considering making a Google Sheet where students can tell HERT where and when they're traveling. The value of a Google Sheet like this would be to help the school reach a student if the state of their location changes. Landry gave Paris as an example. Currently Paris is recognized by the CDC as a level 2 country; if that should change while a

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student is Paris, then the school would be able to work with the student. A decision about a Google Sheet will be finalized in the next day or two.

■ **What countries can students NOT travel to?**

Italy, South Korea, Iran, and China (Landry suspects Japan will join this list in the near future and recommends people to reconsider traveling to Japan). The school is also working with any students who plan to study in Japan.

■ **Are the registrars helping abroad students that got sent home find online/summer classes?**

This is a tricky question. Hamilton is only responsible for aiding the three study abroad programs they own. Those programs are in China, France, and Spain. All other programs are run by other Universities, and they are responsible for getting those students credit. Landry provides Italy programs as an example. All Italy programs that Hamilton students are on students except for one have been provided with online class substitutes. Landry suspects the last student's program was canceled and refunded. The downside being this student will not receive credit for this term.

■ **How to self-quarantine if you live in doubles/quads?**

Students in doubles and quads will not self-quarantine. Self-quarantining is assigned through the Department of Health. Hamilton does not make those calls. If a student returns from a level 2 country or region, Hamilton has to provide the Department of Health with that student's contact information if they come back to campus from a level 3 country/region, and next steps will be given from the Department of Health. The complication with quarantining though is New York State protocols are different than other states. Therefore if a student needs to be sent home, the Department of Health will communicate with the student's home state. If a student cannot get home; they will be quarantined on campus. The definition of quarenting is a single with a private bathroom and the ability to give a student resources with the ability to check in on the student multiple times a day. No student is going to quarantine themselves.

■ **If an outbreak does start on campus, how will we even know it is Coronavirus and not the flu? Does the school have testing kits or are the nearest ones in some state hospital?**

Coronavirus has specific symptoms: a cough and a fever. It's not nasal or a drippy nose. The Health Center has a first point of contact being the EMTs where they will check a student's symptoms, ask where a student has traveled and if they've come in contact with an individual with Coronavirus. If it's suspected positive, they will call an ambulance and the Oneida County Health department. Students will be treated at a hospital, not the Health Center.

■ **Will students have to pay for their own testing?**

No, the testing will be covered by health insurance after its requested by a doctor.

■ **If the virus spreads on the Hamilton Campus, will we have online classes? How will the college respond?**

HERT is still working on this plan. They are working very closely with LITS figuring out how all classes can be handled online via Blackboard. He also nods to systems like Skype and Zoom can be used to help aid the coursework deliveries. Labs and Arts classes are the only case where delivery gets tricky; this is currently being worked through.

■ **How is the college prepared if the virus is still a threat around the time of Senior week and/or graduation?**

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Currently no events have been restricted by the college. HERT is preparing for a scenario where Coronavirus becomes a long term problem and what end of year events look like.

■ **Who do students contact when they are quarantined somewhere off-campus?**

They would work through the Health Department, and Hamilton would help sort this out. Ideally, students can be quarantined at a student's home. Having people quarantined at home is easier for both the Health Department and Hamilton College. But if this is not possible (ie. if the only way home is to fly) then Hamilton would help sort this out.

■ **What effect does "Declaring a state of Emergency" have on the college?**

Landry explains the statement "declaring a state of emergency." He clarifies that only states can declare a state of emergency, not universities. "Declaring a State of Emergency" is a vessel in which a state can receive extra funding quickly, a preventative tactic in other words.

■ **If someone has any flu symptoms, should they get tested?**

Yes. Call the Health Center and they will go through the protocol. Landry specifically stresses not going into the Health Center physically because they will have to start turning people away for fear of exposure to the health professionals on campus. It is better to use the triage line provided on the Hamilton Health Center page.

■ **Are any Sports Training Sessions being canceled?**

None of the Spring Break Trips are cancelled as of (3/8/19). This could change everyday. Discussions with both administration, faculty, students, and family are being had about this. No student is required to attend these trips. The choice to go or not will not affect a students playing time in a sport or in anything else.

○ **Questions/Comments (TIME: 25:09)**

■ **Connie Lorente** asks will the Spain and France trips be canceled if those countries reach level 3?

- Jeff Landry responded, yes, both France and Spain are level 2 countries classified by the CDC. (Landry clarifies that France internally has declared the country level 3 in order to receive funding, but the CDC has not) Everyday, HEAT is in contact with these programs. If they are canceled the students will be able to finish their courses online.

■ **Ashley Gracia** asks what happens if Hamilton authorized Spring Break trips are cancelled while the trips are underway?

- Jeff Landry responded, yes, this could happen if there is a big outbreak in the area where the students are. He explains all teams except for rowing are going to Florida. Rowing is going to South Carolina. Currently those regions are affected.

■ **Caroline Paulson** pointed out that Amherst College went online today. Paulson asked if other NESCAC decisions affect our own.

- Jeff Landry responded, he points out that a lot of schools in the area are only offering online classes but are not sending their students home. This is not a protocol Hamilton is interested in,

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rather they are discussing if the school has to respond to the outbreak, will the college campus shut down for the semester.

- **Jenny Tran** asks if students have to report they are being quarantined, and if so who do they contact?
 - Jeff Landry responded, yes, a student should report to the Dean of Students Office if they are being tested, if they have the virus, and if they are being quarantined because it is likely that student will miss two weeks of class and will need to stay caught up.
- **Stephanie Wu** asks for clarification about if a student is suspected of having the virus will they be quarantined on campus.
 - Jeff Landry responded, probably, they will quarantine the student on campus if they have the virus or send the student home depending on the situation. If you can not go home for a number of reasons you will be quarantined here.
- **Stephanie Wu** asks a follow up, if home is not a great place for a variety of reasons, is there a way to stay on campus.
 - Jeff Landry responded, sure we'll figure out something with the students. And making sure to pick a solution that works best for everybody.
- **Nyaari Kothiya** for students who are on Hamilton sponsored spring break trips, what happens if Hamilton goes online during that period?
 - Jeff Landry answers saying there will be an email coming out tomorrow, suggesting student's bring home their school work. He adds it's not likely we would close the campus over break. It is more likely we would close it when student's come back.
- **Nyaari Kothiya** had a follow up question asking what happens if the campus shuts down for the students who are on campus.
 - Landry said arrangements for the students would have to be made.
- **Kate Everett '20** asked what would need to happen for the school to shut down over break.
 - Jeff Landry said it would have to do with the amount of space the school has for quarantining. The campus does not have a lot of quarantinable space. When it gets to a point when the school can no longer accommodate people who need to be quarantined is when they would start making those decisions.
- **Tatum Barclay** asks if there are any discussions about longer term planning. For example, students who have already turned in their leave of absence forms for fall abroad?
 - Jeff Landry said there are discussions around planning, but nothing to be said for at this time. Landry says often there are cases where a student who said they were going abroad does not. And so the school is capable of working with them to find housing and classes after deadlines, into the summer, etc.

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- **Julian Perricone** asks if the same precautions for students are being taken for Faculty and staff.
 - Jeff Landry added, yes, travel plans for faculty and staff are being discussed with supervisor. Supervisors should know where their employees are traveling for leisure and for business. Landry gave an example about business trips to Seattle that are being canceled.
- **Lóri Fejes** asks if the college moved all classes online, how will that change the visa status of students. He asks if they will be sent home.
 - Jeff Landry said this is a big reason why they do not want to shut down the college. At the end of the day however, the college will do what it needs to be done to keep people safe. If that means accommodating people on campus, or sending them home, it will be done.
- **Lóri Fejes** asks would online classes allow them to stay on campus?
 - Jeff Landry said there have been a lot of current changing policies around online classes due to the pandemic. The State Department is loosening restrictions around online classes and international students, allowing students to stay and change their visa. Allen Harrison in the Dean of Students Office is tracking the changing visa regulations.
- **Matt Knowlton** asks what does moving out of dorm rooms look like if that campus is closed?
 - Jeff Landry said if the campus shuts down, that means there is a case of the virus on campus. The college would have to make arrangements for students to pack their things once those cases dissipate at a later time.

Jeff Landry finished by saying HERT will try and send out updates via email more frequently, aiming to send a couple a week. So he asks everyone to regularly keep checking their emails.

4. Old Business ([TIME: 40:50](#))

- Minutes Committee
 - Presented By Maya Mathews

Tommy Keith opened the discussion about creating a *Minutes Committee* according to the recommendations that **Caroline Paulson** gave last week. The goal is to have one representative per class year. The E-board decides to keep the abbreviated format for this week, keep piloting this format while resending the minutes survey to get more responses (current number responses = 94). Maya Mathews picked up from there listing the...

- Goals of the new *Minutes Committee*:
 - Create resources that the Assembly and the student body can benefit from equally
 - Work together and discuss how to improve the format of the minutes.

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- Corrections to this week's minutes:
 - Change how the minutes refer to members of the Assembly
 - Presence/Absence status has been added to the top of the minutes
 - Have key take-aways from Q&A sessions instead of verbatim.
- **Questions/Comments (TIME: 44:20)**
 - **Luis Morales** asked how often the committee will meet every week.
 - **Tommy Keith** responded that the committee will likely meet every Tuesday night to review the minutes that come out on Wednesday.
 - **Connie Lorente** asked for clarification on the changes to the Q&A section.
 - **Maya Mathews** clarified: last week, the Q&A section was just a summary of the questions and responses. This week, the minutes will show the Q&A section in a dialogue format, but still abbreviated and not verbatim. **Tommy Keith** added that this change helps increase the transparency of the minutes.
 - **Julian Perricone** asked what the feedback from the survey was.
 - **Tommy Keith** responded that 94 students have responded. Among these, 56% people do not support the new minutes and 44% do. Yet, the current responses do not represent the community.
 - **Julian Perricone** asked if this committee needs to have five people because a big concern has always been that there are too many committees and too few people on each committee. He suggests that the committee should keep the number of members at 2-3 people.
 - **Tommy Keith** responded by asking for a straw poll. **Maya Mathews** added that the idea behind a five-person committee is to have equal representation of different class years.
 - **Connie Lorente** suggested that whatever Jeff Landry said needs to be verbatim so that: students can read the information clearly, we can hold the school accountable, and everyone can communicate effectively surrounding this issue.
 - **Bryce Febres** assured that the initial questions posed by the Assembly will be listed.

5. **Constitutional Amendments** ([TIME 48:50](#))

- Presented By Seamus Wiseman

There are generally two amendments the Constitution Committee will make to the Assembly this semester. The first being linguistic changes to the bylaws, results of proofreading and so forth. These amendments will be sent out together with the minutes and next week the Assembly will vote on the changes. This work was purley grammar, linguistic, and formatting errors, nothing major.

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6. Acknowledgements (TIME: 50:11)

- **Tommy Keith** acknowledges the work that *Facilities Management and Bon Appetit Staff* have put in to disinfect public areas on campus.
- **Nadav Konforty** acknowledges the E-board for getting Jeff Landry to come in and discuss issues concerning coronavirus.
 - **Bryce Febres** acknowledges the help of **Connie Lorente** and **Amari Leigh** for their help in this matter as well.

7. Funding (TIME: 51:42)

- Presented by Nicole Ramirez

This week the Assembly did not receive any proposal from outside organizations. However, the Assembly is requesting \$375 from discretionary to fund the Ice Cream social event. The *Funding Committee* recommended to fund in full. **Ashley Garcia** gave a synopsis of the Ice Cream Social. On Friday, April 3rd, the Assembly will be having an Ice Cream Social from 12-2 pm at the Annex. It will be focused on the Assembly's committees and their work. Representatives will be present with descriptions about the committees' main objectives, tasks that students can tackle, and things they have accomplished thus far.

The funding passes as recommended.

Amount Remaining: **\$118.85**

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

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
<i>Student Assembly (DF)</i>	<i>Ice Cream social</i>	\$375	\$375	N

Amount Requested: \$375

Amount Recommended: \$375

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes (Non-Strategic): **\$118.85**

Amount Remaining if Funding Passes (Discretionary): **\$3,262.91**

8. Announcements (TIME: 53:58)

- **Lóri Fejes**: INTERNATIONAL FAIR DAY! April 25th in the afternoon. If you are an international student or just very passionate about sharing your culture, please look out for our email about the IFD to sign up or reach out to us through:

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- SAculture@hamilton.edu
- **Bryce Febres**: Look out for the student feedback survey for the upcoming town hall (Community Health)
- Listen to Bryce and Tommy on Life on the Hill Podcast [here](#).
- **Bryce Febres** will be handling re-election season. He'll be reaching out to the Assembly incumbents and everyone on campus about re-elections.
- **Julian Perricone** urges everyone to stay safe for the sake of everyone else on the campus as the coronavirus situation is getting more complicated, and graduation is approaching soon (we do not want our seniors to have to graduate over Zoom).
- **Lóri Fejes** urges everyone to use utensils in the dining halls and not touch the food with their hands.