



February 10th, 2021

Dear Members of the Hamilton Community,

As of the writing of this statement, President David Wippman, as has become a pattern with student leaders, has not directly contacted the current President or Vice President of Student Assembly since mid-December 2020.

The [Audit & Action Council](#) is a valuable addition to the Hamilton College community. It is a body that represents the way decision-making should be made on issues of racial justice: by, and for impacted communities. We, the undersigned, stand in strong support of its goals:

- Review the drafted recommendations of the Advisory Council for their effectiveness at genuinely challenging white supremacy at Hamilton and creating institutional change
- Host feedback sessions and other methods of feedback on both the Advisory Council's original draft recommendations and the Audit & Action Council's review
- Upon reviewing the Advisory Council's drafted recommendations, publicly release its audit and its conclusions about the effectiveness of the recommendations
- Create and publicly release its own set of recommendations to the College on how to effectively challenge white supremacy
- Draft proposals for the \$200,000 per year for the next five years that the College committed to racial justice initiatives over the summer.

**If you also support the A&A Council, we are calling for a formal boycott of the Advisory Council, its feedback processes, and any private meetings it requests. Say "no" to this illegitimate process. Had the Advisory Council originally included the advocates it needed, we would not have to create an alternative process specifically to include excluded voices. The A&A Council process will include these voices.**

By actively excluding and lying about engagement from student advocates in his process, by ignoring the voices of prominent anti-racist advocates on campus, the President of the College made it clear that his processes are not here to listen and meet the needs of BIPOC students on this campus. His process is simply here on a performative basis, to placate our community members and say he is on the same side as us, all while holding no power over him or the Board of Trustees to actually implement any recommendations. If we are truly to say that we are a Student Assembly rooted in justice, rooted in anti-racist work, then we must do everything we can to center the voices left behind by Hamilton. That means supporting the A&A Council.

**The problem is not with the individual professors, students, and staff on the Advisory Council itself, but that President David Wippman intentionally excluded numerous vocal BIPOC anti-racist advocates on campus from the body, and vested it with no formal power.**

Saphire asked the Advisory Council to pause its work while the A&A Council carries out its own community-led processes. They denied this request. We invite the community to exclusively participate with the A&A Council, anyway. This will show how anti-racist work must be done.

Out of alternative options, with love and solidarity,

Authored:

President Saphire Ruiz '22 (they/them)

Vice President Kavya Crasta '21 (she/her) Vice President-Elect Eric Stenzel '23 (he/him)

SA Justice & Equity Committee Chair Rep. Emily Fienco '23 (she/they)

SA Justice & Equity Committee Vice-Chair Rep. Mariam Saied '23 (she/her)

Signed:

Treasurer Alex Medina '22

Director of Organization Relations Savannah Kelly '21

Director of Publicity Ashley Garcia '22

Secretary Christian Hernandez Barragan '24

Parliamentarian Wriley Nelson '22

Rep. Dorothy Poucher '21

Rep. Jackson Harris '22

Rep. Salwa Sidahmed '23

Rep. Olivia Chandler '23

Class Treasurer Omar Lopez '23

Class President Cole Kuczek '23

Class President Tatum Barclay '22

Rep. Pablo Reina-Gonzalez '22