

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

1. Call to Order

Present:

Tatum Barclay
Johanna Bowen
Emily Boviero
Jeffrey Bush
Kavya Crasta
Olivia Chandler
Lóri Fejes
Emily Fienco
Ashley Garcia
Jackson Harris
Christian Hernandez

Gianni Hill
Jiin Jeong
Savannah Kelly
Stephen Kelly
Amanda Kim
Cole Kuczek
Emma Liles
Omar Lopez Alvarado
Dewayne Martin
Alex Medina
Dylan Morse

Adina Mujica
Wriley Nelson
Jess Parsons
Dorothy Poucher
Pablo Reina-Gonzalez
Saphire Ruiz
Mariam Saied
Salwa Sidahmed
Caroline Ullem

2. General Public Comment Period

3. New Business

○ **Introduction & Expectations**

Saphire Ruiz'22 and Kavya Crasta'21 introduced themselves to the entire Assembly. They expressed their excitement to be working with every member this semester.

○ **Executive Board Nominations**

- Alex Medina '22 (he/him), Treasurer

Alex Medina'22 mentioned his experience with the Days Massolo Center; he expressed his interest in helping the committee transition into the new cluster model.

- Christian Hernandez Barragan '24 (he/him), Secretary

Christian Hernandez'24 expressed his excitement to work with the two new deputy secretaries (Emily Ly'24 and Raymond Ni'24) to help him facilitate his secretary duties.

- Savannah Kelly '21 (she/her), Org. Relations

Savannah Kelly'21 talked about her experience engaging with the campus both remote and on-campus through events and town halls. She also spoke of her experience working with the Equity and Inclusion Committee.

- Ashley Garcia '22 (she/her), Publicity



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

Ashley Garcia’22 talked about working with her new Deputies to build a better bridge between the Assembly and students with the Publicity Committee.

- Wriley Nelson ‘22 (he/him), Parliamentarian

Wriley Nelson’22 talked about his experience with Model UN and in the political field where he’s seen the parliamentary procedure first hand. He looked forward to having a positive and creative role of increasing the external and internal legitimacy of the constitution.

- **Class of 2022 Nominations**

- Pablo Reina-Gonzalez (he/they), Class Representative

Pablo Reina Gonzalez’22 talked about wanting to uplift the voice of marginalized students on campus and holding people in power accountable for a more equitable community.

- **Class of 2023 Nominations**

- Salwa Sidahmed (she/her), Class Representative

Salwa Sidahmed’23 expressed her excitement of being a part of the Assembly and helping the student body.

The motion to confirm the nominations passes

- **Vote to Postpone New Funding Bylaws**

Alex Medina’23 explained that the previous bylaws were criticized by various clubs for the lack of outreach by the Assembly. Postponing the bylaws would allow for more time to receive feedback from the student body.

The motion to postpone the funding bylaws passes

- **COVID-19 and Mental Health**

- Resolution introduction

Saphire Ruiz’22 presented and explained the [COVID-19 and Mental Health resolution](#).

- Resolution Public Comment

Dianne-Lee Ferguson’22 highlighted the importance of transparency and that the resolution went through a thorough process to be completed.

Saphire Ruiz’22 read a public comment by Eric Kopp’22 surrounding the recent changes to the seating in Opus:

“Hi Everyone,



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

I am in Opus and there is a lot of movement replacing the regular seating with Adirondack chairs. Is this being done because it provides more seating in Opus? As one of the few study spots on the dark side, I am frustrated that tables are being removed. This was shared by most of the people in the space when the move happened. Someone came up to me, who I do not know and said “It feels like we defaulted on our mortgage and the bank has come to seize all of our assets.”

A staffer mentioned that “This is what you get when you don’t follow the rules.” If this is a safety concern, I find it ironic that some facilities workers are still wearing gators AND bandanas, after multiple instances of clarification and even emphasizing double masking, which probably places more people at risk than four friends sitting near each other. If the concern is regarding students congregating and sitting down, the Adirondack chairs in this space is not the solution. If more common spaces are phased out, people will be forced into congregating in residence halls, even when in yellow. I want to emphasize that this WILL create a situation where “safety” is merely a facade, which creates more danger and possibility of transmission. Not to mention placing students at greater risk of judicial hearings because they cannot hang out in a common space in line with guidelines.

Also, I have not seen a problem with lack of dining seating. I almost only eat in McEwen or Opus, and I have never had a problem finding a space to eat. I was under the impression that discussions about converting certain areas or major changes (which this is) would be held off for discussion until the second/third week.

Also what student discussion was given on this? We had the courtesy to ask faculty about major changes to spaces in the building. If this was discussed at one of the two meetings where I was absent, I apologize.

Nevertheless, I would like to discuss this further at the meeting tomorrow.

Thanks,
Eric

If you have any opinions on this change, email the COVID-19 Taskforce. If you have any opinions, thoughts, or information you think is important, please reach out to one of the student representatives on the Taskforce”



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

Questions/Comments:

Tatum Barclay'22 asked about the reasoning behind the two points regarding Emocha badges on pg. 10 of the resolution.

Dorothy Poucher'21 explained that it would foster a more positive environment when it comes to reinforcing the use of the Emocha app opposed to a fear based method.

Savannah Kelly'21 mentioned that not everyone on campus has access to a smartphone to fill out the Emocha badge.

Tatum Barclay'22 suggested that different language should be used in the resolution and that another method could be used to monitor symptoms if one cannot access Emocha.

Johanna Bowen'21 asked about Article IV of the resolution and about what exact positive reinforcements the Assembly would want to see from the administration.

Dorothy Poucher'21 explained that the administration must change their negative reinforcement and how it has impacted the mental health of students.

Gianni Hill'21 explained that it was necessary to keep the Emocha badge procedure. He emphasized that it was a small ask for the community and that everyone should concentrate on keeping each other safe.

He then asked about Article VI. He mentioned that the article misrepresents the role of being a Residential Advisor (RA). He specifically spoke about the mention of RA's providing mental and emotional help to their residents. He expressed that RA's should not be expected to provide that help, but instead provide resources.

Dewayne Martin'24 mentioned that being directed to different mental health resources on campus takes a long time and emphasized the need for immediate support which should be expected of RAs. He shared a personal story about mental health on campus and needing immediate support. He suggested that there should be additional training added for RAs.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

Shagheyegh Lashgari'24 shared a personal experience with delays in mental health services and appreciated her RA for providing support. She then inquired how the school can help RAs support students.

Amanda Kim'21 mentioned that some parts of the resolution were unnecessarily long, wordy, repetitive, and inconsistent. She spoke specifically about the adirondack chairs.

Dylan Morse'22 suggested that they'd work together to edit that specific part of the resolution.

Gianni Hill'21 explained that the language in the resolution, specifically regarding the Emocha badge, was unclear. He believed that there were solutions to accessibility surrounding the Emocha app.

He agreed that RAs could use more training and support but said that the language in the resolution was more negative when RAs in reality want to support their residents. He emphasized that RAs don't always have the answers and that students should have more access to different resources.

- Amendments

Saphire Ruiz'22 reported that no amendments were submitted prior to the meeting.

The motion to open for more amendments passes

Saphire Ruiz'22 said that the Assembly would vote on the resolution and amendments at the end of the meeting to allow members to draft new amendments

- Voting on Mental Health Resolution
 - **Racial Justice**
 - Updates

Saphire Ruiz'22 reported that the Audit and Action council would have their first meeting on Thursday February 11th. They said that the Audit and Action council were waiting for one more confirmation.

- Reading of statement



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

Saphire Ruiz’22 then read the statement from the Audit and Action council to be sent to the Hamilton community:

“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.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

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"

4. Kudos

- Mental Health & COVID-19 Student Task Force



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

Sapphire Ruiz'22 thanked the Mental Health and Student Taskforce for meeting over the winter break, reaching out to students, and working with faculty and staff.

Ashley Garcia'22 thanked Kavya Crasta, Jackson Harris, Wriley Nelson , Savannah Kelly, for helping at the club fair.

5. Addressing Resolution Amendments

Gianni Hill'21 suggested that amendments be collaborated on by Assembly members and with the sponsors of the resolutions.

Wriley Nelson replied that he was concerned with using past methods because it may not account for the original sponsor's intent for the resolution.

Lóri Fejes'22 commented that representatives had ample time to edit the resolution and add in their concerns.

Amanda Kim'21 recalled the issues regarding the adirondack chairs that were brought up earlier in the meeting as an issue that arose in the past 24 hours. She was also concerned regarding turnaround time on amendments.

Jackson Hariss'22 expressed his appreciation for being sent the resolution early on but also agreed that having a discussion and collaborating as an Assembly is vital. He recognized the sense of urgency but believed the amendment process deserved to be given adequate time.

Sapphire Ruiz'22 recognized the concerns surrounding the adirondack chairs and timeliness. They wanted to highlight the desire for effectiveness with a new administration.

Wriley Nelson explained the new process for drafting and collaborating on resolutions. He mentioned that there could be an extension to the vote on the resolution but suggested that in the future, representatives should collaborate with the time provided.

Tatum Barclay'22 mentioned that her main concern was not having the wording correct with the limited amount of time.

Jiin Jeong'21 commented that the resolution was very long and that the information could have been presented via cards or slides to make it easier to digest.

Gianni Hill'21 mentioned that he did not know who to reach out surrounding the Emocha aspect of the resolution. He emphasized the importance of accommodating changes when questions arise.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

Saphire Ruiz'22 mentioned that they would create graphics explaining the resolution. They then called for a vote to postpone the vote of the resolution. They explained that the resolution would be voted on next week and that they would be sending out the official procedure to pass amendments.

The motion to postpone the vote of the resolution passes

5. Committee Overview

Kavya Crasta'21 mentioned that she would be sending out a form for all committee chairs to fill out. She then announced the chairs for this semester.

- **Justice and Equity Committee**
 - Chair: Emily Fienco '23; Vice-Chair: Mariam Saied
- **Student Health Committee**
 - Chair: Dorothy Poucher '21; Vice-Chair: Amanda Kim '21
- **Residential Life & Safety Committee**
 - Chair: Jackson Harris '22; Vice-Chair: Dylan Morse '22
- **Academic, Enrollment, & Development Committee**
 - Chair: Olivia Chandler '23; Vice-Chair: Omar Lopez '23
- **Sustainability & Facilities**
 - Chair: Cole Kuczek '23; Vice-Chair: Adina Mujica '24
- **Constitution**
 - Chair: Wriley Nelson '22
- **Organization Relations**
 - Chair: Savannah Kelly '21
- **Funding**
 - Chair: Alex Medina '22

6. Announcements

- The Jitney will be running a curbside pickup grocery delivery service for the Spring 2021 semester from the New Hartford Hannaford and Walmart (NOT the Clinton Hannaford) for all of your grocery needs,
 - The grocery jitney runs from 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday
 - Place your order to either the New Hartford Hannaford or Walmart at least a day in advance (if you want groceries on a Tuesday, order by Monday evening)
 - Fill out this form to let us know your info!
 - Wait for a jitney driver to give you a call to let you know your delivery is ready to be picked up outside your dorm
- **Student Life Steering Committee Update:**



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/8/21

- As Student Assembly representatives, we believe it is important to have student input when institutional decisions are made on campus. To further that representation, we want to have a few student representatives for the Student Life Steering Committee, which is a subcommittee of the COVID Task Force.
- This committee is comprised of staff and administrators from the Dean of Students Office, Residential Life, Dining and Auxiliary Services, Facilities Management, Athletics, and Student Activities, and it will address various aspects of campus life during these COVID times.
- Topics that will be discussed include but aren't limited to housing concerns, facilities and space usage, wellness opportunities, programs and events, dining etc.
- They meet on Thursdays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm so you'll have to be available at this time to join them via Zoom.
- Please let us know if you are interested and able to make this time, and reach out if you have any questions! We would like to have someone selected as soon as possible so please respond to this email ASAP.
- Preference may be given in the order the interested students respond to make it fair. Please let us know what other clubs and activities you are involved in!

Reach out to VP Kavya Crasta (kcrasta@hamilton.edu) if you are interested!

