

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/22/21

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
Raymond Ni
Jess Parsons
Dorothy Poucher
Pablo Reina-Gonzalez
Saphire Ruiz
Mariam Saied
Salwa Sidahmed

Excused:

Caroline Ullem

2. Land Acknowledgement

Saphire Ruiz read a land acknowledgement created by the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative (SKI).

“Land Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth. It is usually done with a recitation of text of the particular geographical area or institution’s history and continued involvement with Indigenous people. Acknowledgment by itself is a small gesture. It becomes meaningful when coupled with an authentic relationship and informed action. But this beginning can be an opening to greater public consciousness of Native sovereignty and cultural rights, a step toward equitable relationship and reconciliation.

In reading this, we are starting a new practice which we hope will eventually find its way into the constitution. For now, though, I am reading it as a part of our agendas every week.



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The Student Assembly of Hamilton College recognizes our collective responsibility to acknowledge our colonial history. Our campus is located on the traditional lands of the Oneida Nation. We express gratitude for the relationship between Chief Shenandoah (Oskanondonha, Wolf Clan) and Samuel Kirkland, who together founded the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793 to educate Indigenous and settler youth together. That institution became Hamilton College. Today, the Hamilton College community commits itself to developing and maintaining a relationship with the Oneida Nation, and to ensuring that the perspectives and cultures of Indigenous people are honored and embraced. While the aforementioned words are not a reconciliation, they are a move in the direction of improving relations and a call to honor the commitment made two centuries ago to Chief Shenandoah.”

3. General Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Resource Spotlight: Lexie Mucci, LGBTQIA+ Identity Support Specialist

Lexie Mucci (they/them) works as the LGBTQIA+ Identity Support Specialist within the Days Massolo Center (DMC). They gave a background on the DMC as a resource for exploring intersections around human difference through a wide range of programming through partnerships with faculty, staff, and community partners. The DMC is going under a period of rebuilding and revitalizing after years without a full-time director. They mentioned that the purpose of their goal was to focus on the needs of the LGBTQIA+, Trans, and the Ace community to provide the support needed to ensure all students can live authentically. They mentioned that their position is specifically designed to bring a Queer professional staff member to Hamilton and provide nonclinical, support group environments. They mentioned that they have met with various students so far surrounding questioning their identity, coming out, sexual health, imposter syndrome, relationships, etc. They mentioned that they provide three virtual support groups designed to provide a space for students to explore their identity and their experiences through facilitated narrative sharing with the goal of finding mutual support amongst themselves. Open doors are available for members part of the LGBTQ+ or questioning. More information regarding the weekly meetings can be found within the Meeting Minutes, Days Massolo Center website, or you can email at lmucci@hamilton.edu.

Questions/Comments:

Saphire Ruiz emphasized the need to utilize the resources available by the DMC. They highly recommended taking advantage of meeting with Lexie and expressed their appreciation for having someone the students can go to.

New Business

- **Approval of minutes**



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Kavya Crasta called a vote to approve the minutes and explained the new procedure to vote.

The motion to approve the 2/15 minutes passes

○ **Texas Relief**

Kavya Crasta mentioned that they are collecting different names of organizations that are providing aid to Texans experiencing the effects of the crisis. They recommended that students donate directly to organizations.

Amanda Kim expressed her gratitude to be addressing the situation and mentioned the direness of it. She thanked the Assembly for bringing attention and organizing resources to the situation in Texas.

○ **Internal Affairs Update**

Kavya Crasta reported that the Internal Affairs committee met over the weekend and designated tasks to members surrounding the Mental Health and COVID-19 Resolution. Members will be giving updates regarding their tasks in the coming weeks.

Alex Medina explained the funding requests.

5. Funding

Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$54,700.72**

Amount Remaining Discretionary: **\$4,423.00**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Tumbling After	Soundrop licensing fees to record covers	\$249.99	\$249.99	N
Tap That	Tap shoes for a member	\$34.00	\$34.00	N

Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$283.99**

Amount Request (from Discretionary): **\$0**

Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$283.99**

Amount Recommended (Discretionary): **\$0**



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Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$54,416.73**

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (Discretionary): **\$4,423.00**

The motion to approve the funding request from Tumbling After passes

The motion to approve the funding request from Tap That passes

6. Committee Reports

○ **Student Health**

Dorothy Poucher reported that the main committee project this semester was to create a resource list of mental health and wellness resources for students to easily access.

○ **Res Life & Safety**

Jackson Harris explained that the ResLife and Safety committee had two extensive projects that they are currently working on. One is carried over from last semester: a campus safety review board which they are working on drafting the language of. The other project is working with Residential Life on a communication campaign to allow students to more widely know who to contact with residential conflicts so RA's and campus safety can more effectively respond to their designated duties.

○ **AED**

Olivia Chandler reported that the AED committee is working on advocating for a light week at the end of March and talking with staff to implement catch up days. In addition, they are working to receive clarity on the A+ policy change. She mentioned that they are working with the student appointee on the committee surrounding academic continuity. She then mentioned that the Sophomore Class Council will be having a grab and go event for all sophomores declaring their majors this week.

○ **Justice & Equity**

Emily Fienco explained that the committee has been planning ahead for the semester and has an international fair day in sight. They are working with the Know Thy Institution and Equity and Action Plan.

○ **Sustainability**

Cole Kuczek mentioned that the sustainability committee is working on a long-term resolution and working with the facilities management. He mentioned that the committee is open to any projects or ideas from members of the Assembly or the student body.



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- **Funding**

Alex Medina reported that they are hoping to set bi weekly meetings to review the bylaws from last semester and work to improve them. He said that he would be working with different organizations that will be put in funding clusters in the future. He hoped that at the end of the semester they could implement the new cluster model.

7. Old Business

- **Audit & Action Council**

- Questions, comments, proposals for future actions

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that the Audit and Action council would be meeting tomorrow (2/23) to finalize the feedback process and approve the minutes which will be posted on the SA website. They mentioned that they are requesting that all community members engage exclusively with the Audit and Action council. They mentioned that the council is meant to be an accountability process and send a message to the College that when they create racial and equity centered groups they must include student voices. They mentioned that if anyone wanted to speak to the entire council, they could request to do so.

- **Mental Health & COVID-19 Resolution**

- General updates

Christian Hernandez Barragan reported that all the required recipients of the resolution, including President Wippman and the COVID-19 taskforce, have received their specific articles from the resolution. At this time, there has just been one response from President Wippman saying that they would need time to read through the resolution and release an official response.

Noelle Niznik mentioned that The Division of Student Life would be sending a response with feedback from all of the departments under the Dean of Students umbrella.

Ashley Garcia mentioned that she sent out a press release about the resolution to outside publications and the Spectator and the Monitor. She shouted out *The Spectator* for publishing it and mentioned that an infographic would be sent out detailing the mental health resolution.

8. Announcements

- **Kudos**

- Amanda Kim for helping the Assembly put together Texas relief information
- Christian Hernandez Barragan for sending the Mental Health Resolution articles to the corresponding faculty, staff, and administrators
- Ashley Garcia, Kate Perruc, and Sha Lashgari for writing the public release statements about the Mental Health Resolution and sending them to different publications



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- Mariam Saied, Jackson Harris, and Cole Kuczek for their continued work around securing student trustees and their recent article published in *The Spectator*
- Lóri Fejes for helping extend the deadline to declare a minor to March 12th, after reaching out to the Registrar when he realized the deadline was last week but many juniors weren't aware
- **Lexie Mucci's support services**
 - Virtual Support/Dialogue Groups:
 - Facilitated by Lexie, each group is intended to provide a supportive, brave, and affirming space for students to explore their identity and experiences through facilitated narrative sharing with the goal of finding mutual support. These groups are NOT affiliated with any student organizations and are designed to protect the privacy of all participants.
 - Open Doors (LGBTQIA+) Wednesdays @ 6:30pm EDT
 - TNC (Trans, Non-Binary, & Gender Creative) Tuesdays @ 6pm EDT
 - Aces & Aros (Asexual & Aromantic) TBD see link for info
 - Groups began last week and will be facilitated via Zoom. Want to join one of our upcoming 8-week support/dialogue groups? Click [here](#) to RSVP!
 - 1:1 Support Meetings:
 - I'm here to support you! Just a few examples of things we can chat about:
 - a. Questioning your identity
 - b. Coming Out
 - c. Navigating your identity
 - d. Exploring what it means to be your authentic self
 - e. LGBTQIA+ Sex Ed
 - f. Understanding of campus & local resources
 - g. Just want to connect with a queer/trans adult
 - Want to connect 1:1 with me? Set up a virtual meeting [here](#)!
- Want to make cards for Campus Service Providers?
 - Come to the Events Barn on Saturday from 2-4PM, Hosted by HAVOC!

