

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/1

1. Call to Order

Present:

Tatum Barclay
Johanna Bowen
Emily Boviero
Jeffrey Bush
Kavya Crasta
Olivia Chandler
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
Alex Medina
Dylan Morse
Adina Mujica
Wriley Nelson
Raymond Ni
Jess Parsons
Dorothy Poucher
Pablo Reina-Gonzalez
Sapphire Ruiz
Mariam Saied
Salwa Sidahmed
Caz Ullem

Excused:

Dewayne Martin

2. Land Acknowledgement

Sapphire 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. New Business

- **Approval of minutes**

The motion to approve the 2/22 minutes passes

- **COVID-19 Response Team**

Kavya Crasta reported that the COVID-19 response team met over the weekend and discussed the wording of the testing reminder emails and the allowance of in person tours on campus. Kavya mentioned that the specific wording and tone of emails came off as serious and could lead many to believe they could face a potential sanction. She mentioned that multiple students reached out with concerns over the raise in anxiety over receiving the emails. She mentioned meeting with President Wippman and Dean Martinez, who have said they will be looking into reviewing the email. Kavya then mentioned the worry of having people arrive on campus for tours starting March 22nd. She mentioned that students are concerned about the rise in cases that could potentially occur from the tours. Many students feel this is a double standard as students are not currently allowed to leave campus. Allowing unvaccinated people to enter campus increases the risk for students on campus. She mentioned that tour guides were offered the option of not having in person tours but she mentioned that BIPOC and low-income students would feel the burden because they are more likely to take on the optional in-person tours. Currently the tours are to start on March 22. She mentioned the list of criteria that the college should follow to allow in person tours.

Criteria to be met before tours resume



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- Green status
- COVID-19 positivity rates in Oneida and Herkimer County are trending downward and fall into the “Low” or “Medium” risk categories [according to the New York Times tracker](#)
- Tour guides will receive extra hazard pay if they are not vaccinated

Conditions of tours

- Admitted students only
- All visiting families must submit verified negative COVID-19 tests from within 24 hours of their scheduled visit to the Testing Center, and the Testing Center will communicate to the Admissions Office the result; positive or inconclusive results will prevent an official visit to campus in any capacity
- Visiting families/groups shall be limited to 3 people each
- Families and individuals that blatantly and/or repeatedly do not abide by guidelines shall be asked to leave campus
- The College shall make the greatest effort possible to retrieve vaccinations for all tour guides and other staff in positions that necessitate regular contact with off-campus individuals

Questions/Comments:

Johanna Bowen mentioned that based off of New York State laws, she doesn't believe students could get vaccinated. She expressed her disapproval on the College's allowance for in person tours and believed their actions were irresponsible. She mentioned that it was unfair to the mental health of students and not being allowed to go off campus to allow unvaccinated people on campus. She mentioned that it was disappointing to see the college prioritize prospective students over the current student body.

Olivia Chandler mentioned how she heard many students upset with the decision to allow people onto campus before current students are allowed to leave and questioned whether there has been communication with the town of Clinton on whether they approve of this decision.

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that the vaccination requirement for tour guides was just a suggestion and the college should try to see if tour guides could be considered as frontline workers to have easier access to the vaccinations.



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○ **Meeting with the Trustees**

Kavya Crasta mentioned that she and Sapphire Ruiz had a meeting with Steven Sadove, Linda Johnson, Bob Delainy, and President Wippman to introduce themselves and explain SA’s work surrounding the Mental Health and COVID-19 Resolution and racial justice. She reported that they would be having 10 minutes to speak at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

○ **Student Trustee Delegates**

Mariam Saied explained that she had discussed her proposal with various faculty members and mentioned how she is presenting at the board of trustees meeting on Friday.

5. Funding

Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$54,416.73**

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

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Mock Trial	Competition registration fees	\$500.00	\$500.00	N
People Who Like To Do Fun Things	1 year membership for an online gaming platform	\$24.00	\$12.00	N
Student Dance Alliance	2 Masterclass videos	\$80.00	\$80.00	N
Spanish Club	Movie rights	\$13.00	\$13.00	N
Spanish Club	Snacks for movie night	\$175.15	\$175.15	N
Spanish Club	Flamenco workshop	\$150.00	\$150.00	N

Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$942.15**

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



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Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$942.15**

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

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$53,474.58**

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

The motion to approve the funding requests passes.

6. Committee Reports

Olivia Chandler reported that the AED Committee has created a draft for students to request light days from their professors.

7. Old Business

- **Audit & Action Council**
 - Minutes will be on website this week

8. Announcements

- **Kudos**
 - Ashley Garcia & Kate Perruc for the graphics breaking down the Mental Health Resolution
 - Sophomore delegation for all of their work celebrating Sophomore Declaration week
- **Wellness Day**
 - We have our first wellness day of the semester this week, on Wednesday, March 3rd
 - Reminder of light week on March 22nd, ask your professors if they're taking part
 - Clubs and Organizations should not plan meetings or events on Wellness Day
- **Jitney Service**
 - Jitney grocery service will not be available on the wellness day

