

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/8

1. Call to Order

Present:

Tatum Barclay
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
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
Caz Ullem

Excused:

Johanna Bowen

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

Saphire Ruiz thanked Ashley Garcia and Katelyn Perruc in the publicity department in addition to the DMC's Women's History Month Committee for planning today's spirit day and celebration of Women's Suffrage as part of International Women's Day. They then read this statement:

“International Women’s Day was first proposed in 1910 and became an official celebratory day in 1911. The day originates in socialist and anti-capitalist history. The inspiration for the day came out of a garment workers strike organized by immigrant women in the US in 1909. The strike lasted for 11 weeks and included over 20,000 participants. Throughout history, many have celebrated International Women’s Day by continuing to strike against unfair labor treatment across the globe, in honor of this original strike.

As we finish out on International Women’s Day and continue throughout Women’s History Month, let us not forget the roots of these movements. Let us not forget the ways in which



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women have contributed to social movements across human history and have pushed forward change and progress. Most importantly, let us not forget that when we celebrate International Women’s Day, we celebrate *all* women—Black women, trans women, working-class women, immigrant women. To exclude these women and erase the roots of this day is a dishonor to the endless sacrifices women have made and continue to make across the globe to bring about true and genuine liberation not just to themselves, but to everyone.

Before I end, I also want to acknowledge and recognize Kirkland College. Born out of a fight for educational justice for women, the history and existence of Kirkland College is intricately connected to a greater history and movement for the liberation of women. To celebrate International Women’s Day is to celebrate all of the ways that women have rightfully demanded and created spaces and communities for themselves, including spaces and communities like Kirkland. We hope that as you all reflect on this month and celebrate women, that you also celebrate Kirkland, and reflect the ways in which we can and should be honoring Kirkland and its legacy. Kirkland deserves more than a trophy case; Kirkland deserves to have its legacy brought into the fold of our institution. Its practices of student governance, thoughtful and intentional focus on the humanities, and its spirit of progress must be a foundational part of the institution that absorbed it. Together, I believe we can accomplish these goals. Honoring the women of Kirkland is not a singular action, but an ongoing practice.”

3. General Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Resource Spotlight: Aaron Ray, Director of Opportunity Programs

Aaron Ray expressed his excitement at being invited to the meeting and talked about his experience as the head of Opportunity Programs at Skidmore College and working in admissions at Union College as well as being involved in a wide variety of higher education professional organizations that work with college access. He mentioned that he recently had a baby girl last month. He mentioned that he has two daughters and three dogs. He expressed his excitement to begin his new position in a new community. He mentioned that the students and staff have been extremely kind in his transition to the college. He said that he has been occupied with trying to learn how Hamilton works and talking with students on how he can best support them. He mentioned that his goal is to be a support system to Opportunity Program students and to build bridges with faculty, staff, and other students to create a more equitable and inclusive place.

5. New Business

- **Approval of minutes**



The motion to approve the 3/1 minutes passes

- **President Wippman's Response to the Mental Health & COVID-19 Resolution**

Kavya Crasta began a discussion on President Wippman's response to the recently passed resolution regarding student mental health and COVID-19.

Gianni Hill asked whether the E-Board had discussed their thoughts on the response in relation to the college switching from blue status to green and how this change impacts the resolution.

Saphire Ruiz replied that they have not had the chance to discuss more in depth how the status change impacts the resolution as they only found out on short notice. They explained that the E board would discuss after the general meeting.

Olivia Chandler mentioned that even though there is not a zero tolerance policy for RAs, it should be explicitly clear that the RAs get the same number of chances as other students (as far as COVID goes). She mentioned that if a violation leads to a covid strike, there should be no way an RA could lose their job over that one covid strike.

Jackson Harris mentioned that he was unsure if the administration was taking issue with the use of the language of the phrase zero tolerance policy or with what they described as the zero tolerance policy for Residential Advisors (RAs) being untrue and asked for the board to get clarification.

Gianni Hill replied that Savannah Kelly and him are working with Residential Life and Ashley Place to put together focus groups for RAs. They want RAs to join these groups and share feedback to ResLife without repercussions. He has further talked with Savannah about what the policy is like for "chances" for RAs who break guidelines. Currently, if an RA violates a COVID-19 rule, they would get fired without the typical two strikes system, which is on a case by case basis. He emphasized that there was no one rule that fits all and it depends on the circumstances (RAs breaking rules with residents is different from an RA breaking rule themselves, etc).

Jackson Harris thanked Gianni and Savannah for speaking to Ashley Place and mentioned that there has to be a way to codify the consequences that RAs will face if



they break COVID-19 violations. He believes in the case by case analysis for evaluating RAs and thinks codifying will remove lingering doubts held by RAs.

Salwa Sidahmed commented on the enforcement of COVID-19 protocols section of the response. She appreciated that the response explained why EMOCHA is necessary and required by New York State and also the mention of positive reinforcement for students who do follow guidelines. She mentioned that she had an issue with the fact that the response did not address the possible reduction of punitive measures. She finds the lack of refund for COVID-19 violators problematic and an unnecessary punishment considering the circumstances and financial burdens many people have in relation to the pandemic.

Adina Mujica mentioned that an appeal rather than removing the penalty of violating COVID-19 rules could be a better option because the college can reflect on financial aid or need based aid.

Jeffrey Bush mentioned that any student who is found in violation of COVID-19 policies and is sent remote already has the ability to appeal directly to the Dean of Students Office.

Gianni Hill motioned to invite Ashley Place to an SA meeting to report on the RA focus groups after they are complete to report on them.

Olivia Chandler asked whether the focus groups would be anonymous (someone speaking that is not Ashley Place) because students might not feel comfortable speaking to Ashley Place directly.

Gianni Hill replied saying that there were many scenarios and specific situations that senior RAs cannot adequately address and since Ashley Place is not the RA's direct advisor, she can take people's concerns and answer questions. He mentioned that anonymized groups could be an option if RAs feel that they can not be open but wants Ashley to be there initially.

Saphire Ruiz reiterated Olivia Chandler's statement. They mentioned that regardless of intentions, there is always going to be a level of risk where people, especially marginalized students, who may feel dependent on their jobs, are afraid of being open about their concerns due to the fear of losing their jobs. They mentioned that workers are likely to feel uncomfortable giving criticisms to their employers due to the power



imbalances. Anonymizing would most likely make students feel safer and increase the amount of students who give feedback.

Jackson Harris emphasized that someone can have the value of Ashley's feedback and responses and still remain anonymous.

○ **COVID-19 Student Concerns**

■ **Student COVID-19 Response Team**

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that last week, the student COVID-19 response team met for the first time as part of the rising concerns surrounding visitors on campus and the language of reminder emails and sanctions for not testing at the designated times. They emphasized the importance of regular meetings in light of all the increasing concerns from students regarding guidelines.

Eric Kopp'22, a COVID-19 Task Force Student Representative, mentioned that the task force has talked about the language of reminder emails and clarified that the emails will be reworded to sound less aggressive. Regarding visitors on campus, he clarified that admission tours are still on hold and there is no official decision on them. Now that the school is in green status, he is unsure what is planned with tours but mentioned that several colleges around Hamilton, including Colgate, are still offering in person tours with open Admissions offices. Eric mentioned that as a tour guide, he did not feel comfortable leading tours.

Noelle Niznik mentioned that with students going to Colgate to tour, they have been showing up at Hamilton so this process would help regulate that concern if the school has a plan to manage tours with registration for self-guided tours.

Saphire Ruiz reiterated Eric's points surrounding student concerns. Saphire then reread the criteria the Assembly believes the college should follow to allow in person tours.

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

Eric Kopp mentioned that admissions is re-working on a plan to allow in person tours. He mentioned that two families for tours was too large and brought up this concern with Monica Inzer and his direct supervisor.

Gianni Hill mentioned that instead of trying to prevent the public from coming to campus, the college should encourage visitors to have self guided tours and try to regulate who comes on campus.

Questions/Comments:

Tatum Barclay explained that while the college is on green status and students are allowed to travel to Clinton and New Hartford, that risk of exposure is very different from the risk of exposure of allowing people to arrive on campus from various areas outside of the surrounding towns. Her main concern with self-guided tours is that many buildings on campus are open to the public as only a few places are restricted with a Hill Card. She also wanted the board to consider if tour guides can be considered frontline workers to get vaccinated. She asked whether the college could regulate access to buildings using Hill Cards.

Eric Kopp replied that some student employees have been getting vaccinations and explained that college employees are in the next phase to receive the vaccines. He mentioned that regulating buildings could possibly be an option if self guided tours are implemented.

Olivia Chandler asked whether the college has a plan to allow parents to safely visit campus.

Eric Kopp mentioned that the taskforce has not had that discussion but there could be room for improvement. He mentioned that personally, he would not want parents to come visit.

Olivia Chandler motioned to approve the recommendations discussed.

Mariam Saied asked for a re summarization on the recommendations to allow in person tours.



Saphire Ruiz mentioned the conditions to allow in-person tours on campus.

The motion to approve the recommendations to the COVID-19 Taskforce passes

- **Trustee committee meetings**

- **Enrollment**

Stephen Kelly reported that the black acceptance rate has risen by 3%. He mentioned that 30% of the Class of 2025 will be students of colors while 10% will be international students. He mentioned that the number of Questbridge scholars doubled from the Class of 2024. He finally mentioned that the acceptance rate lowered to 14%.

- **Budget & Finance**

Alex Medina reported that Hamilton is in the process of purchasing Arbor Inn in Clinton which has an area of 4.8 acres on Griffin Rd. and a total of 5,255 square feet. The college reimbursed \$4.8 million in room & board, spent \$800,000 on COVID expenses, had no layoffs or furloughs, and worked to stop spending in operations anywhere possible. In total, the college ended the FY with a \$3.7 million surplus. Current FY 21 projection is a \$1.7 million year end surplus. There is some government aid coming with a March 2021 package of \$600,000 for students on financial aid. He mentioned that they resolved the budget of the college with a projected expenditure, inclusive of scholarships, of \$201,560,800 for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2022. He mentioned that effective July 1, 2022, tuition per student will be increased by \$1,450, making a new total of \$59,380. Student Activities fee will be increased by \$10, for a total of \$590. Room charges will be increased by \$200, making a new total of \$8,320. Board charges will be increased by \$170, making a new total of \$6,910.

- **Buildings, Grounds, & Equipment**

Jess Parsons mentioned that the college is planning on replacing the McEwen Roof in March. They're planning to make renovations in the employee housing on College Hill Road to be more spacious for families and making one of them ADA accessible. They will be building a boathouse in Rome which will better the college's relationship with the town. In addition, the college has begun work to connect the science center and the library. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing three different possible plans to renovate the pool in order to update systems and they decided on a plan that will renovate over thirty years because it proved to be the most efficient and economical. The next meeting in June will be spent focusing on the energy master plan.

- **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**



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Saphire Ruiz mentioned that there was a DEI meeting with the Board of Trustees with no students besides Amari Leigh. They mentioned that the Board should have invited student representatives to be present. They mentioned that students should be aware of the discussions surrounding Diversity and Inclusion. They mentioned that this action felt like the college attempting to shut students out of this meeting.

○ **Hamilton Employees Against Racism**

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that the Hamilton Employees Against Racism (HEAR) recently reached out to the Spectator supporting the Audit And Action Council, calling for more student inclusion in racial justice issues and general issues on campus. They mentioned that they have met with the organization and discussed ways the Assembly could collaborate with faculty.

6. Funding

Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$53,486.58**

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

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Duelly Noted	Song arrangement	\$150.00	\$150.00	N
Roleplaying Club	DnDBeyond	\$25.99	\$9.00	N
Mock Trial	10 ring lights	\$359.40	\$359.40	N

Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$535.39**

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

Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$518.40**

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

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$52,968.18**

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

Questions/Comments:

Gianni Hill asked for the reasoning behind the funding request for the Roleplaying Club.

Alex Medina replied saying that they have funded People Who Like to do Fun Things during March to May last week so they are using that as their reasoning for this decision.



The motion to approve the funding requests passes.

7. Committee Reports

○ Academic, Enrollment, and Development

Olivia Chandler reported that the AED committee released templates for students to request light weeks and catch up days. They mentioned that they are also working on having clear communication about the A+ policy.

○ Senior Class Planning Committee

Gianni Hill mentioned that every year the senior class delegation work on senior week and commencement. He mentioned that the committee's members are Gianni Hill, Jiin Jeong, Amanda Kim, Lily Delle-Levine, Savannah Kelly, Peter Kelly, Noemi Meli, Robbie Rioux, Emma Liles, Patricia Shiebler, and Johanna Bowen. He mentioned that due to the current circumstances, they will not be able to invite families to the in person commencement but shared his hopes that it could change. He mentioned that this Sunday, the committee would be having a forum for anybody wanting to discuss senior week or commencement. Details surrounding that meeting will be sent out with the minutes.

○ Constitution Committee

Wriley Nelson mentioned that the Constitution Committee had a brief meeting to work on an amendment to codify the way insubstantial constitutional amendments are made. He mentioned that they are working on an amendment to broaden that responsibility to include the entire constitution committee to provide accountability for the parliamentary. He also mentioned they are in the early stages of allowing members of the Assembly to chair the general meetings.

The motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes passes

8. Old Business

○ Meeting with the Trustees

Kavya Crasta mentioned that she and Sapphire met with the Board of Trustees and reported on their work. They discussed the Mental Health and COVID-19 Resolution and the Audit and Action Council. She mentioned that Mariam Saied, Cole Kuczek, and Jackson Harris talked about the Student Trustee Delegates and hoped that they would receive a response soon.

○ Student Trustee Delegates

Sapphire Ruiz mentioned that they talked about the lessons that Hamilton can learn from the experiences of COVID-19 and go over major takeaways from it. They discussed the inclusion of student opinion in college decisions, mental health of students, how Hamilton can promote inclusion in surrounding communities, and how to better expand the ways students learn.

9. Announcements



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- **Kudos**
 - AED & Publicity for creating the templates for students to request extensions and participation in a light week
 - Stephen, Alex, and Jess for taking part in the Board of Trustee committee meetings and presentations
 - Jackson Harris, Mariam Saied, and Cole Kuczek for the presentation to the Board of Trustees
- **Deputy Updates**
 - Felix Tager '23 (he/him) is the new Deputy Director for Organization Relations for Organizing. He will report to Savannah Kelly '21 (she/her).
 - For now, the Secretary Department will stay with one deputy as all work is getting accomplished on time with them. As work increases, Secretary Christian Hernandez Barragan '24 (he/him) may request another deputy.
- **Senior Week Planning Committee Open Forum**
 - In light of President Wippman's announcement regarding Commencement and Senior Days, we, your Senior Class Planning Committee, want to hear your thoughts as well as any ideas you might have for programming throughout the semester and the days leading up to Commencement. Additionally, we would like to share some background about the conversations our committee has been having with College administrators. We will be hosting a **Senior Class Open Forum on Sunday, March 14 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm**. You can join us using the following link: <https://hamilton.zoom.us/j/8102197792>. You may submit questions in advance through this [form](#). (Note: This is separate from the Q&A session President Wippman will be hosting for seniors and their families at a later date.) If you have any questions, ideas, or feedback, please feel free to reach out to us at srwkcomm@hamilton.edu! Even if you can't attend the Open Forum on Sunday, please feel free to email us your comments!

