

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

1. Call to Order

Present:

Emily Boviero
Jeffrey Bush
Luke Carstens
Olivia Chandler
Juliet Davidson
Michelle Estrella
Emily Fienco
Ashley Garcia
Lucy Hamann
Jackson Harris
Christian Hernandez
Gianni Hill
Jiin Jeong
Savannah Kelly
Stephen Kelly

Cole Kuczek
Emma Liles
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:

Tatum Barclay
Johanna Bowen

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

3. General Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Christian Hernandez Barragan '24 (he/him), Vice President Pro-Tempore

Christian Hernandez Barragan expressed his excitement to serve as pro tempore for the next few meetings and to work with Saphire along with the rest of the E-board and central council with their goals. He hopes to make this transition as smooth as possible. He emphasized that the role of the Assembly is going to shift due to Kavya Crasta's resignation but he wants to be a resource for anyone in the Assembly whether it is committee work, personal issues, or other Assembly related issues. He then shouted out Raymond Ni and Michelle Estrella-Dominguez for stepping up as Secretary and Deputy Secretary.



5. Resource Spotlight: Kathy Wolfe, Dean of Engaged Education

Kathy Wolfe mentioned that new ALEX advisors will be assigned to students in the class of 2025. Each student will have a designated ALEX advisor who will partner with their faculty academic advisor and career advisor to ensure every student has access to opportunities and resources. Wolfe mentioned that as a first-generation college student, there was much she didn't know about navigating college so she hopes ALEX advisors will help incoming first-years with that. Under the learned part of ALEX are the academic resource centers and the experienced piece of the program includes off campus study, Levitt Center, and COOP. She further mentioned a new software which will make its debut in the fall that is currently under configuration. Wolfe also mentioned that she works on the first year course advisory committee, the faculty advising committee, global education advisory committee, and advisory for the New York City program. She then expressed the need for student input on the accessibility of academic advising to view the gaps in advising. She mentioned that there would be student focused groups connected to the software. Wolfe expressed that anyone was welcome to reach out to her if they had further questions.

6. Dean Martinez's Presentation on DEI & Answering Questions about Leave of Absence Policies for Student Activities

Dean Martinez shared a presentation given to the Board of Trustees in March about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

She mentioned that demographics have forced institutions to take a look at who they recruit and how they serve students. There has been a continuous drop in the college age population, increasing diversity, more nontraditional students, less international students, and continued adjustments to generation Z population which colleges have had to adapt to the trends of. Recruiting and supporting students from historically under-represented groups is synonymous with the missions of many colleges. Martinez then went on to introduce where Hamilton stood:

In Hamilton College, the two largest things that have made a difference in student population DEI is the need-blind student admission policy and the work of the Days-Massolo Center. Proposals have also been made supporting faculty development related to foundational teaching and the social hierarchies requirement. In 2015, the Romney Associates Rec for Faculty Recruitment took a look at how the college can recruit diverse faculty members. Dean Martinez mentioned how the college is admitting and yielding more under-represented students over time with an increase from 12% to 26%.

She stated that faculty diversification has also increased. In a seven year time frame, 50% of the faculty will be new which would allow the college to diversify in terms of ethnic and gender. On a year by year basis, considerable progress has been made in hiring faculty of color and women. The college is subscribed to the National Council for Faculty Development and Diversity for online mentoring support for diverse faculty. Implicit bias and diversity awareness training has



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

been conducted for search committees. The college has appointed and worked with diversity advocates on every faculty search since 2019. The dean has urged search committees to not read letters of recommendation until a short list is formed of applicant controlled material.

Academically the college has been introducing new courses with the hope that these courses will focus on inequity issues with many departments designating existing courses to fulfill the Social, Structural, and Institutional Hierarchies (SSIH) requirement. This coming year will be an assessment on whether these courses are achieving their intended goals.

Dean Martinez mentioned that she brought on two key staff members in student affairs who were helping reshape the work. Dean Maria, the Associate Dean of Students, is responsible for processes, support, and oversight. Dean Maria now oversees Posse and QuestBridge and is leader of the Bias Incident Response Team. Dean Maria is interested in bringing restorative justice practices to the work on campus. The college also hired Paola Lopez to oversee the DMC and she has been successful in building the co-curricular programming and community engagement. Paola's work involves building a strategic planning process to gather feedback and re-establish the center's mission, vision, values and a strategic plan to carry the center. Specific areas that Paula plans to focus on are operationalizing the new mission, vision, and values; establishing strategic partnerships for faculty fellows, developing staffing structure and capacity, student leadership development and curriculum, and developing an assessment framework for the center for its programs. Between the three of them, a number of training sessions have been conducted including workshops revolving around inclusion and equity in each of those spaces.

Dean Martinez stated that the institution has set up institutional diversity goals to make sure that the staff members have the skills to keep faculty up to date on racism and racial justice. Institutional diversity goals that the college has are to increase the recruitment and retention of historically marginalized faculty, staff, and students; create an inclusive environment; and develop culturally competent faculty, staff, and students. Each of the divisions in the college touch those four goals in a way. Martinez emphasized the increase of action within college campuses following the 2020 BLM protests.

Hamilton College has formed an advisory council since last summer to meet every week to understand what was happening on campus, to listen to the divisional leaders and their work, and to make some recommendations. The four areas that the advisory council would focus on were People, Planning, and Practices; Research and Pedagogy; Relationships; and Reporting. She emphasized that there was pushback from students and faculty members who mentioned that the advisory council was not very inclusive. They have formed the Audit & Action council which Martinez expects to have recommendations by the end of the semester. She hoped to meet up with the Audit & Action council to make changes when necessary. She then highlighted that it is important for everyone to be part of the work as everyone has a responsibility.

Questions/ Comments:



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

Jeffrey Bush thanked Dean Martinez for the presentation. He expressed his approval for the SSIH classes and was pleased that there was going to be a new assessment for that, but shared his belief that the classes are not as effective as they can be. He asked whether a broader student involvement in the discussion of the assessment will be included as he felt that the classes were not effective for him personally.

Dean Martinez answered saying that she was uncertain how the Committee on Academic Planning would approach it as they are the ones making the change and leading the assessment, but reassured that there definitely would be an opportunity for students to give feedback.

Saphire Ruiz reiterated that there is a great want to re-adjust and reassess the SSIH among students and faculty members among their conversations with them. They expressed their approval for the reassessment.

Jackson Harris expressed his approval for having new employees such as Dean Maria. He then asked a question wondering what kind of support Dean Maria has in terms of the staff who work under her. He further asked that with the additional responsibilities being placed on Dean Maria whether the administration plans on giving her more support in ways such as more employees.

Dean Martinez answered that the recommendation from the advisory council mentions staffing in particular for work that would support what is happening in student affairs. The SSIH and the assessment of it are not the only things that are happening from a curricular perspective. The Hamilton Academy has been formed with the goal of learning opportunities for faculty members. Some of the learning opportunities involve pedagogy, how the faculty teach, how to be anti racist in teachings, how to diversify curriculum. Dean Martinez stated that this has been going on since Spring of 2020 but was slowed down because of the pandemic.

Dorothy Poucher asked about the process of the new group and the Hamilton Academy. She asked in regards to training faculty, whether these classes were mandatory or opt-in, opt-out for faculty. She expressed her belief that when things are not mandatory, the same people who already care about the issue end up being the primary attendants with others who especially need the training left out.

Dean Martinez answered saying that the training was not mandatory because the meetings are only conferences. She was unsure of how many are actually attending the conferences. She mentioned that the meetings have been slow to launch but so far have been successful. She expressed that it has been really difficult to mandate people to attend if they did not want to be there.

Dean Martinez stated that the policy has always been that students who take a leave of absence are not enrolled students because they do not take classes, live on campus, nor do they pay



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

tuition fees. She emphasized that she has never considered a student who took a leave of absence to engage with the college. She stated that in every other year except for this year, students who take a leave of absence receive a letter from her office outlining what that means. Students are not allowed on campus without permission from her office nor can they engage in organizational activities or presentations.

Alex Medina asked whether Martinez can talk about how the college reports voluntary leaves of absences and how that process looks to the student population.

Dean Martinez stated that the college keeps track of people that apply for a leave of absence through an enrollment management committee. The committee keeps track of the students that are remote, abroad, or on a leave of absence which helps the college determine the spaces available. This information is then used to determine how many first-year students the college is able to admit. However, there is no public report.

7. New Business

- **Approval of minutes**

The motion to approve the 03/15 minutes passes.

- **Introduction of Juliet Davidson as Treasurer for Class of 2023**

Juliet Davidson expressed her excitement at rejoining the Assembly. She emphasized her collaboration work with the student Assembly last year including with the first year formal. She expressed her excitement at seeing the other side of the student Assembly.

- **Introduction of Michelle Estrella '24 (she/her) as Deputy Secretary**

Michelle Estrella mentioned her involvement in the Mock Trial team and HAVOC. She expressed how she has strong collaboration skills that will help her work as a deputy secretary with Raymond Ni and the entire Student Assembly. She expressed her excitement to take on the role as Deputy Secretary.

- **Confirmation of Raymond Ni '24 (he/him) as Secretary**

Raymond Ni mentioned his involvement with GSU and Hamilton Democrats. He stated that his experience as Deputy Secretary to Christian Hernandez and his wide involvement with student organizations will make him a good fit for the role as head Secretary. He further expressed his gratitude to Christian Hernandez as a mentor and his excitement to work with Michelle Estrella.



The motion to confirm Raymond Ni as Secretary passes.

Confirmation of Luke Carstens '21 (he/him) as Treasurer for Class of 2021

Luke Carstens mentioned his involvement as treasurer for the Hamilton Debate team and mentioned his involvement with Student Assembly in the past in discussing the budget. He expressed his excitement to be taking on the role as he believes it matters to the Assembly, to him, and to the student body how the budget is spent.

The motion to confirm Luke Carstens as Treasurer for the Class of 2021 passes.

○ **2021 Special Vice Presidential General Election**

Adina Mujica mentioned that the original election timeline sent to SA members will not be carried out accordingly because the Assembly is constitutionally bound to the three week election cycle. SA will carry out the current semester VP replacement election and the class elections together. She explained that the election rules and the necessary information for that will be released with the minutes.

○ **Light Week Reflections and Feedback**

Ashley Garcia mentioned that she was surprised with the number of professors that actually respected the light week as it was the first time that the student Assembly implemented something like this. She expressed that it was nice to have a light week.

Gianni Hill mentioned that he heard a 50/50 split among students who had a light week and among students who did not have a light week. He mentioned that he has heard a lot of concerns with professors pushing due dates back instead of cutting down on work as a result of the light week because. He expressed his worry about things piling up at the end of the semester. He reminded everyone that pushing something back does not necessarily reduce stress for students but just puts it off to a later date.

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that they heard similar sentiments to Gianni Hill where certain professors invested in the light week and some did not. They mentioned that many professors most likely had issues with timing and some are likely to do their light week at a different time. They then thanked Christian, the student health committee, AED, and publicity for the work that they did to help students advocate for the light week. They then encouraged students to really take advantage of their wellness day which is coming up next Tuesday. If events are to be done, they emphasized that it should be low capacity



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

8. Funding

Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$52,211.81**

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

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Student Dance Alliance	Costumes for a choreography show	\$45.18	\$45.18	N
Roots	Graduation merchandise	\$550.00	\$550.00	N
United at Large	Costume supplies	\$257.73	\$257.73	N
Slow Food	General supplies	\$156.12	\$156.12	N
Tumbling After	Audio recording and editing	\$3,940.00	\$3,940.00	N
Beekeeping Club	Additional registration fees	\$70.00	\$70.00	N

Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$5,019.03**

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

Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$5,019.03**

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

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$47,192.78**

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

Saphire Ruiz clarified that the reason the funding for Root was recommended to fund in full is because there has been a general understanding that for this year that the rules around merchandise have been suspended. The Student Assembly will still have to vote on suspending the rules around merchandise before the funds are actually approved.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

Questions/ Comments:

Jiin Jeong asked what the graduation merchandise entails because she is afraid that other clubs will also request funds for graduation.

Alex Medina answered that they were requesting graduation stoles and cords for people on the Roots E-board and those that are not. The materials would cover Roots for the next two-three years.

Jiin Jeong expressed her worriedness about other clubs requesting graduation gifts. She mentioned that this would set up bad precedent as every club will ask for senior gifts. She asked Noelle Niznik how the Student Assembly has gone on to fund senior gifts in the past.

Noelle Niznik responded that in the past the Student Assembly has not funded senior gifts. She mentioned that clubs have bought their own gifts by fundraising. Noelle agreed that the Student Assembly needs to be careful of the precedent. She mentioned that this year's Student Assembly has extra funds but that the Student Assembly must be careful because they won't have the same funds for future years.

Gianni Hill reiterated the need for the Student Assembly to spend its money due to funds being higher this year since not many events have happened as a result of COVID. He agreed that the Student Assembly still needs to be careful since clubs could look back at this year and question why it was approved then and not now. He emphasized that if the funds were allowed he would advocate that clubs only buy enough for the seniors of this year. He added that in the past the Student Assembly has been against funding club uniforms that people graduate with since they have no future use.

Alex Medina mentioned that the organization can split up the funding requests and vote individually.

Jiin Jeong agreed with Alex Medina's idea. She mentioned that in the past they have approved merchandise but that it has been for the entire student body. She further emphasized that this is not the case with the Roots funds because the merchandise that is being asked for is exclusive to a specific group of people.

Gianni Hill motioned to split the overall vote and vote on Roots separately.

The motion to divide the question on Roots funding passes.

The motion to approve the funding for Roots fails to pass.

The motion to approve the other funding requests passes.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

9. Old Business

○ **Audit and Action Council**

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that the Audit & Action council is in the process of finalizing a survey and a statement that will be coming out to the community. The survey is for the public to give feedback and the general statement will be about the Advisory councils final recommendations for the college. Saphire expressed their hope that the statement and survey will be sent out to the public before the end of the week.

10. Committee Reports

Jackson Harris mentioned that updates have been made on ResLife. Everyone on campus should be receiving an update from their RAs about the communications campaign. Regarding Campus Safety, Harris mentioned that a complaint form has been made for Campus Safety. He would like to introduce a motion to put a link on the SA website so it could be accessible to everyone. He further mentioned that ResLife has spoken to members of the administration about the Campus Safety advisory board and there have been positive responses.

The motion to add the link to the Campus Safety form on the SA website is introduced.

The motion to add the links to the SA website passes.

Savannah Kelly mentioned that approximately 78% organizations have submitted their organization audit forms. The organization relations department will also finalize the standards rubric that will be applied to each organization but made to account for every organization. Once it is finalized it will be sent out to all organization leaders to promote transparency. She thanked her deputies for the work they have done.

Dorothy Poucher updated that she is currently working with the Womxn's Center to have more access to condoms on campus. She then emphasized that they were still working on their main goal which is a semester long health and wellness listing guide. She reminded students that they have access to the Calm app that could help with mental health. She mentioned that an issue that has come up is the lack of eating disorder support groups and resources for that on campus. According to the counseling center, "it is necessary to have a counselor trained specifically on the subject and also someone who works on the medical side of things to be present for those sessions as well." The counseling center is aware of the need for this space and is working to actively hire people. She also stated that she is working on a project to help show students the resources present in college.

Gianni Hill mentioned that students were not aware of the menstrual hygiene initiative that started two years ago. He stated that there might be posters that the committee could use.

Saphire Ruiz mentioned the need for gender neutral language on the posters.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

11. Announcements

- **Kudos**
 - Christian for stepping up to become the VP Pro-Tempore
 - Adina for volunteering to be Elections Chair, and Wriley and Jiin for helping her transition into that position
 - Juliet, Lucy, and Luke for joining the Assembly more than halfway through the semester
 - Ashley and Kate for the new publication of *SA On the Brain*
- ***SA On the Brain***
- **Jitney Service**
 - Clinton Jitney will begin on Monday, March 29
 - The jitney will be running 12-8pm daily
 - The jitney runs on half-hour loops between Sadove, Dollar General, Clinton Hannaford, and Walmart
 - Grocery jitney will be reduced down to Tuesday and Thursday mornings (9am - 12pm) - exclusively from Walmart
 - There will only be 4 passengers allowed on the jitney at a time
 - Please be ready to show your emocha badge and hillcard as you enter the jitney, and please keep your masks on at all times
- **Vaccinations**
 - If you've been vaccinated, please upload your record to the [Student Health Portal](#)
- **Wellness Day** on April 6th
 - Clubs and organizations should refrain from planning meetings and any mandatory events on this day
- **Food Truck Fridays**
 - There will be 2-3 food truck options from 6-9PM on Fridays
- **Additional Updates from Dean Martinez**
 - Student clubs and organizations are now invited to meet in person if they choose. Student Activities will be sending out an updated event proposal form to submit for in-person club meeting requests.
 - Canopies will be installed beginning the week of April 3. These spaces will provide additional options for having your meals and connecting with your friends!
 - Students who are unable to return home this summer and need to remain on campus should complete an application by Thursday, April 15. Please [complete this form](#) to request to stay on campus.
 - Seniors who are studying remotely this semester may return to campus for Senior Days and Commencement. The task force is currently developing the details for a return-to-campus plan, and we will reach out to seniors who are off campus as soon as it is finalized.
- **Restorative Justice Workshop**



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

3/29

- Join the Social Justice Initiative Committee and Desirée Anderson, Ph.D. as we learn about restorative justice. This is an introductory workshop to introduce the concept of restorative justice, have a discussion of how the practice may be used, and open Q&A for those in attendance.
- Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 4:30pm EDT
- <https://hamilton.zoom.us/j/98761698999>
- We will have a follow-up restorative justice circle with Dr. Anderson on April 9, 2021, centered on accountability. More information to come.

