

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/5

1. Call to Order

Present:

Tatum Barclay
Johanna Bowen
Emily Boviero
Jeffrey Bush
Luke Carstens
Olivia Chandler
Juliet Davidson
Michelle Estrella
Emily Fienco
Ashley Garcia
Lucy Hamann
Jackson Harris
Christian Hernandez
Gianni Hill
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
Sapphire Ruiz
Mariam Saied
Salwa Sidahmed
Caz Ullem

Excused:

Jiin Jeong

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

3. General Public Comment Period

Tierney Latham '21 wrote:

“I am commenting in response to the change in Hamilton’s policy on A+ grades. First, I'd like to say that I do support the change of an A+ grade from a 4.3 to a 4.0. I recognize that certain classes are far more likely to reward A+ grades, which benefits some students more than others. I also recognize that we use a 4.0 scale, so a 4.3 causes unnecessary inflation. Personally, I've always thought it was odd that Hamilton awarded a 4.3.

However, I absolutely am confused and disappointed by the way in which this change has been implemented. To start, there was little communication regarding the change, if any at all. Moreover, I do not understand why this change was implemented mid-way through our careers at



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Hamilton. To my knowledge, for the class of 2021, A+ grades received in freshman, sophomore, and junior years will remain at 4.3, while A+ grades earned senior year will only earn 4.0. So, if you are a senior who earned an A+ in 2019 it will remain a 4.3, but if you earned an A+ in 2020 it will award a 4.0. This seems extremely unfair and inequitable. It will negatively impact students who excelled senior year but struggled in previous years. It will unfairly boost the grades of students who performed well in their underclassmen years. Beyond the fact that this is generally unfair, this change could also have a profound impact on graduation designations (cum laude, etc) and other achievements.

To fix this problem, I would either recommend: back-tracking and converting all A+ grades earned by the class of 2021 in any semester to a 4.0; or, carrying-over the 4.3 policy to apply to all current and remaining grades for the class of 2021. At the very least, there needs to be transparent communication on how this change will impact latin honors and other awards influenced by GPA calculations.

It really doesn't seem fair to change the grading scale midway through the career of students. It would've been a lot more reasonable if this started fresh with the class of 2024 or 2025, which is what typically happens with most academic policy changes.

I'd really appreciate it if SA could push this issue further. Thank you!"

Questions/ Comments:

Gianni Hill mentioned that he has been working on this issue ever since the policy has been announced last semester. He mentioned that he has spoken with Dean Keen and worked with faculty members in his committee to push for the same thing. He further commented his confusion on why the policy could not have been staggered and phased in to only apply for the class of 2024 onwards to allow the other students to phase out. He mentioned that technological difficulties have been the reasoning that he has gotten so far for why that cannot be implemented and that he is happy to continue pushing on this issue.

Tiernet Latham asked who to contact in regards to this issue.

Saphire Ruiz responded saying that the academic, enrollment, and development committee has already been working on the issue. They mentioned how the committee can be emailed to bring up the issue and to get involved in the work that the committee is doing.

Melanie Geller'22 wrote:

"Hi! I was wondering if there would be a way to improve Food Truck Fridays. My friends and I are thrilled that it's provided and the food has been fantastic, but I think the organization / distribution of the food could potentially be improved and made more efficient. My friends and I



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have arrived at the truck each week at 6 when it opens (or even earlier), and both times we waited in line for over an hour (about an hour and a half). Maybe this won't be a burden when the weather is warmer, but for now it's an issue, especially in raining or cold weather. One suggestion could be to create a google form sign up that only allots x number of kids for a specific 15 min window from 6pm-9pm. That way the line is consistently manageable and not everyone is rushing there at 6. Thanks!! Looking forward to this week's food :)”

Questions/ Comments:

Noelle Niznik mentioned that she understood the concerns about food distribution with the food trucks. She explained that student activities is the primary sponsor of the food truck Fridays and that there were issues getting started in the first two weeks because of the short notices and the inability to have three trucks. She explained that they are planning to take feedback with the people that have been working the food trucks and feedback from the public and reassess for this week. She emphasized that she understood the students' concerns and thanked them for submitting their feedback. She is looking forward to improving the conditions every week and emphasized that further concerns can be addressed to SA.

4. New Business

- **Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the 3/29 minutes passes.

5. Funding

Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$47,742.73**

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

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Duelly Noted	Song rights & licensing	\$464.02	\$464.02	N
Duelly Noted	Solo arrangement	\$150.00	\$150.00	N
Student Health Committee	Art for Impact	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	N



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Class of 2022 Delegation	Cupcakes and postcards	\$425.00	\$425.00	N
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Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$614.02**

Amount Request (from Discretionary): **\$3,425.00**

Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$614.00**

Amount Recommended (Discretionary): **\$3,425.00**

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$47,128.71**

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (Discretionary): **\$998.00**

The motion to approve the funding requests passes.

6. Old Business

○ **2021 Special and General Elections**

Adina Mujica mentioned that the two elections for VP replacement election and class election will need to be separated due to constitutionality issues. The class election will happen in the last three weeks per usual while the VP election will occur in the next three weeks.

7. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

8. Announcements

○ **Vaccinations**

- If you've been vaccinated, please upload your record to the [Student Health Portal](#)
- Starting tomorrow, everyone 16+ in NY can get vaccinated
- New York State maintains a [website](#) where you can check your eligibility and make an appointment.
- Oneida County currently has a [waiting list](#), but that could change this week as supplies of the vaccine are distributed throughout the state.
- Neighboring Madison County currently has [appointments available](#) for the Moderna vaccine, which is approved for people 18 years of age and older.
- Local pharmacies also serve as vaccination sites. You can learn more and schedule an appointment on [vaccinefinder.org](#).
- Students who do not have a car (or live with a roommate who has a car) should contact the Transportation Office to inquire about assistance getting to the vaccination site after they have scheduled an appointment.
- A mobile vaccination pod will be on the Hamilton College campus on Friday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with approximately 250 doses of the



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Pfizer vaccine for Hamilton students. Appointments are first come, first serve, and exceptions cannot be made.

- **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**
 - 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.

