

**STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**4/12**

**1. Call to Order**

**Present:**

Tatum Barclay  
Johanna Bowen  
Emily Boviero  
Jeffrey Bush  
Luke Carstens  
Olivia Chandler  
Michelle Estrella  
Emily Fienco  
Ashley Garcia  
Lucy Hamann  
Jackson Harris  
Gianni Hill  
Jiin Jeong  
Savannah Kelly  
Stephen Kelly  
Lucy Hamann

Jackson Harris  
Cole Kuczek  
Emma Liles  
Dewayne Martin  
Alex Medina  
Dylan Morse  
Adina Mujica  
Wriley Nelson  
Raymond Ni  
Dorothy Poucher  
Pablo Reina-Gonzalez  
Saphire Ruiz  
Mariam Saied  
Salwa Sidahmed  
Caz Ullem

**Excused:**

Juliet Davidson  
Christian Hernandez

**Unexcused:**

Jess Parsons

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

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

**3. Statement on the Murder of Daunte Wright**

**Saphire Ruiz** read the following statement:

“Yesterday we lost yet another Black person to an act of police violence: Daunte Wright, just 20 years old, was shot and killed by an unnamed police officer outside Minneapolis in Brooklyn Center. This, following the murder of 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Chicago less than two weeks ago. This, during the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, occurring just miles away from where a Brooklyn Center police officer murdered Daunte Wright.

There are no words to ever truly express the horror of watching so many Black people murdered by the state.



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We must understand by now that this is far from a “few bad apples” when the largest police force ever in Minnesota’s history is now assembled in the area Daunte was murdered to respond to protests with tear gas and rubber bullets. The government continues to respond to the pleas of Black people for their right to life with more violence, more force, more authoritarian and anti-democratic measures. This is a systemic problem. Policing is the problem in-of-itself, a system born from fugitive slave catchers hundreds of years ago. We must find another way to have community safety than armed gunmen with a badge who are never held accountable for their murders by the courts, their cities, or their overwhelming majority of fellow officers who are complicit in their violence by their silence and solidarity against any kind of consequences. Right now, a thin blue line flag is hoisted above a Brooklyn Center police station. There is no shame, no recognition of a larger problem, no action taken to meaningfully protect our lives, and they fly a flag that represents opposition to my right to life, that exists solely to oppose the idea that “Black Lives Matter.”

I am, frankly, tired of pretending that the white supremacy of this country is anything other than an intentional, designed structure which permeates every police department in this country. I see it in Boston. I see it in Clinton and Utica. I see it where I am now in Philadelphia. And I know from so many of my friends that there is no town in America where a Black person is totally safe from a racist police officer. That I feel unsafe, that Black people feel unsafe wherever we go because we know we are only a traffic stop away from being a hashtag, is not a few bad apples. It is what policing is in this country.

We support those who are on the ground fighting for Black folks’ right to live. We support those who are doing everything they can to make sure the world learns that Black Lives Matter. We hope that the family of Daunte Wright may one day find as much peace as can be found, and we hope that one day we will never have to hold another vigil, or have another protest, or make another statement in honor of Black lives lost.

Black Lives Matter, forever and always.”

#### **4. General Public Comment Period**

**Lóri Fejes ’22** wrote:

“I am writing to oppose the funding of \$4,000 to the Finance Club. I am surprised by the Funding Committee's decision to recommend funding in full, so they can, in essence, treat the SA budget as investment capital. They intend to do business with Robinhood, a harmful company that needs no introduction after the recent GameStop lawsuits. I understand the club plans to donate (portions of) their profits to the Financial Aid office, which, to me, seems performative, as well as going against the Funding Codes, since SA funds cannot benefit donation campaigns, or students in a cash format. As someone with almost 3 years of experience on the Assembly and the Committee, I am calling on SA members to DENY funding, and do



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NOT allow for a resubmit on this request and recommendation. I am very disappointed to see that the four class treasurers and the Assembly Treasurer support this request.”

**5. COVID-19 Remarks from Dean Martinez**

**Dean Martinez** emphasized the need to continue following the safety guidelines in light of large parties that have occurred recently during the past weeks. In one instance, a student threw a bottle at a campus safety office. She strongly discouraged participating in large parties as evidenced in the other NESCAC schools which are experiencing spikes in COVID-19 cases as a result of large parties. She also reminded students to make sure that they are uploading their COVID-19 vaccination records to their health center portal because that gives them an idea of how much people are vaccinated. She further emphasized that within the two week period after the last vaccination shot, one can still get COVID because the shot is only used to minimize the effects of COVID. Because a new strain is spreading at record speed, she emphasized that all that is needed is one case on campus and a large gathering to turn Hamilton community’s work around and possibly prevent seniors from reaching commencement and celebrating in ways that they plan. She further mentioned that New York state is going to allow larger numbers in their in-person graduations which means Hamilton could do their 500 person indoor graduation. She concluded by reiterating the need for everyone to protect themselves.

**Saphire Ruiz** reiterated the need to follow guidelines and restrictions for the next couple months while everyone is getting vaccinated. They mentioned that the school is only on track for a relatively normal fall semester if everyone is acting safely and getting their vaccines.

**6. New Business**

- **Approval of Minutes**

*The motion to approve the 4/05 minutes passes.*

- **Wellness Day Reflection**

**Tatum Barclay** mentioned that she personally had a wellness day. However, she felt that wellness days are being used more as catch-up days due to how they are positioned in the week. She mentioned that both catch-up days and days where people had a break from work were both necessary. She explained that she has heard a mix bag of responses from students with some professors adhering to the wellness day principles while others have not. She reiterated her belief that having catchup days were important.

**Saphire Ruiz** agreed with Tatum and mentioned that it would be good to have a reflection of what wellness really means. They reiterated that the issue with the wellness day is that it is not enough but that it was still good to have it.

**7. Funding**



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Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$47,128.71**

Amount Remaining Discretionary: **\$998.00**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Items/Services Requested</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>	<b>Resubmit</b>
Feminists of Color Collective	SpeakEasy	\$6,455.00	\$6,455.00	N
Sunrise Movement	Earth Day art display	\$9.18	\$9.18	N
Finance Club	Investments	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	N
Special K	Licensing and distribution rights for Spotify	\$414.00	\$414.00	N
Hamtrek	Hamtrek	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	N

Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$18,878.18**

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

Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$18,878.18**

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

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$28,250.53**

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

*The motion to override the 8% funding rule for FCC and Hamtrek passes.*

**Tatum Barclay** asked where the money requested by the finance club is being invested.

**Alex Medina** responded that the money requested by the Finance Club will be used for continental capital to help teach its members a wide variety of strategies related to finance. The description given by the Finance Club also mentioned that a portion of the profits will be donated to the Hamilton Financial Aid office. In addition, another part of the funding will be going into stocks. He mentioned that the Finance Club also had a meeting with the Vice President for Administration and Finance Services, Karen Leach,



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where it was agreed that the Student Assembly was allowed to allocate the funds but that it was up to description of the Student Assembly. He reiterated that he does not support the funding because there wasn't much clarity on where the other portion of the profits will be going and if this would be a one time thing.

**Saphire Ruiz** mentioned that they felt that the student activity fees should not be used this way since it is not something the student body would benefit from or be a part of. They reiterated that even though the funding could be allowed the purpose of the student activities fees is that it has to be able to benefit the entire student body in some way shape or form. Another concern is that there are no accountability structures, therefore, there is no way to oversee this request and note if it is benefitting the student body.

**Dylan Morse** reiterated Saphire's point that there are no accountability structures in place. He emphasized that more input and discussion around the idea is needed before any decision to fund a portion of the money is made.

**Gianni Hill** mentioned that he is not opposed to the funding but that there are a lot of unknowns. He emphasized that the Student Assembly has never given money to a club or organization to just spend it how they want. Instead they come with an itemized budget of where exactly the money will be going.

**Jackson Harris** agreed that he is very hesitant to fund the Finance Club. He mentioned that in his high school a similar club used applications that would follow the same trends of the stock market without actually investing real money. He explained how the Finance Club could use similar applications to accomplish the same goals.

**Jeffrey Bush** mentioned that the program Jackson was talking about is called paperMoney. The application follows the same trends as the stock market and would teach the same skills the club is trying to get across. He also emphasized that for future meetings if the Student Assembly is not planning to fund or fund in full that it should be listed in the agenda.

**Emily Fienco** agreed that there is now way to measure the accountability and that the Finance Club needs to be more specific about where the money is going. She reiterated that the club should use applications.

**Saphire Ruiz** emphasized that they are also opposed to funding because there are no accountability measures. Bylaws and policies would have to be passed before the funds are even approved since there is no guarantee to what goes into the stock market.

**Gianni Hill** reiterated that the Finance Club should work with the Student Assembly to come up with ideas and see if they can figure something out. He mentioned that more guidance and clarity is needed before the funds could be approved.



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**Noelle Niznik** added that the club did their due diligence by working and having meetings with various people. She mentioned that the meeting with Karen Leach shows that they are supportive of the club's efforts but that they did not look at the funding codes. She also suggested that raising money through fundraising is something that has been done by the MicroFinance Club to invest in local businesses. She emphasized Gianni's point that there are ways to work with the Finance Club but that more conversation is needed to see what options there are available.

**Saphire Ruiz** noted that there was a mistake with the funding record. The funding committee had actually not recommended to fund the Finance Club in full.

**Gianni Hill** mentioned that since some funds were overridden they should be voted on separately.

*The motion to approve funding for the Fiance club fails to pass.*

*The motion to approve funding for the Sunrise Movement and Special K passes.*

*The motion to approve funding for Hamtrek and the FCC passes.*

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **○ Sustainability Action Plan**

**Saphire Ruiz** mentioned that the Audit and Action council will be releasing their survey and encouraged people to respond to the survey.

**Cole Kuczek** mentioned that the Sustainability Committee will be meeting with the Sunrise Movement to discuss a resolution that had been drafted last semester. He also mentioned that he has been working with Adina and Noelle to put together an infographic for facilities, clubs, and organizations to distinguish when they are meeting in person.

**Salwa Sidahmed** mentioned that she is working with the sustainability working group and the education and community engagement sub committee to create what will ultimately become the Sustainability Action Plan. The outline of the plan has been sent out to the campus community. The Action Plan will guide Hamilton's journey to carbon neutrality and other sustainability commitments. She mentioned that feedback sessions will be held to have input from the Hamilton community. The sessions will help shape the development of the action plan.

**Jackson Harris** mentioned that ResLife started the idea of having campus safety changes in the uniform over the summer in the midst of all the protests. He reiterated that the goal was to make campus safety look less like cops to due to past trauma students might have with police officers. He also mentioned that another goal was to get rid of the divide between community members and campus safety.



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**Emily Fienco** asked Jackson Harris whether this ruling would contradict the purpose of the police as being noticeable by making it harder for them to do what they are tasked to do. She asked for more clarification for the reasoning on merely working on the uniform.

**Jackson Harris** mentioned that he understands Emily's concerns. He also mentioned that the committee has also been working on other aspects besides the uniform. In regards to the uniform, he stated that there will still be ways to distinguish campus safety from regular students and staff since campus safety will have other distinguishable features. He emphasized that with time people will become more accustomed to these new changes.

**Saphire Ruiz** agreed with Jackson and Emily's statements. They understand that it is good to make campus safety less intimidating but also understands the concerns that campus safety will become less identifiable. They thanked ResLife for all the other work that they are also doing.

**9. Announcements**

- **Class and Charter Awards**
  - Student Assembly assists the Class and Charter Award selection committee in seeking nominations for student leaders and an outstanding professor every spring. Earlier today, a survey went out asking you to make nominations so we can continue this great tradition of recognizing students and professors for great work. Please fill this out as soon as you can! Nominations will close on 4/19!
- **Vaccinations**
  - Reminder to fill out your vaccination records if you're fully vaccinated
- **Hamilton College Spring Theatre Production: The Last Days of Judas Iscariot**
  - The production runs this week from April 15th-17th. More information can be found at [judas.hamilton.edu](http://judas.hamilton.edu)

