

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

1. Call to Order

Present:

Tatum Barclay
Johanna Bowen
Emily Boviero
Jeffrey Bush
Luke Carstens
Olivia Chandler
Juliet Davidson
Michelle Estrella
Lucy Hamann
Emily Fienco
Ashley Garcia
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
Caroline Ullem

Excused:

Jackson Harris

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

3. General Public Comment Period

Nicole Eisenberg '21 spoke about a project that SMART, the Sunrise Movement, and the Womxn's Center have been collaborating on. She mentioned that a virtual rally will be held on Friday at 4PM to show solidarity with the survivors, especially Charlotte Bennett who has founded SMART, who have all come out against Governor Cuomo and shared an open letter that will be sent to the NY state speaker to urge impeachment and support to survivors. She urged support for the letter and the campus wide rally and emphasized the non-political nature of this action to stand with survivors and Hamilton Alumni.

Madison Lazenby '23 wrote:



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

“Dear Student Assembly,

I am writing to you today in my capacity as hub coordinator for Sunrise Movement Hamilton College in support of the open letter addressed to Speaker of the NY State Assembly Carl E. Heastie that SMART and Sunrise released on Saturday night. The letter demands justice for one of Hamilton’s alumni, Charlotte Bennett class of 2017, who recently came forward about the sexual harassment that she endured while working for Governor Andrew Cuomo, by demanding that Speaker Heastie begin impeachment proceedings for the Governor. We believe that it is time that Cuomo be impeached for his gross and inappropriate actions that have harmed nearly a dozen women, including one of our own alumni. This is a pattern of behavior that has proven him unfit to hold office.

I and many of my co-organizers of this open letter and Friday virtual rally are here today in person and in writing to ask the Student Assembly as an organization to sign onto the letter.

Signing onto this letter is not about politics. It is about demanding justice for one of our own. The letter sends the message that no one should be able to sexually assault or harass anyone without punishment or repercussions, no matter how much power they have. When we demand justice for Charlotte Bennett, we are demanding justice for every woman who has come forward about the harm that Gov. Cuomo has done and all survivors everywhere. This is about believing and fighting for survivors.

Now more than ever, we need to show unity and solidarity across the entire campus behind Charlotte. Gov. Cuomo, Speaker Heastie, and Hamilton as a whole need to know that when one of us—no matter what year they graduated—is hurt, we will have their back. You cannot mess with one of us unless you want all 1800 of us at your doorstep. And considering all the work that Charlotte did while on campus to support survivors of sexual assault and harassment, by and large making this campus a safer place for all, it is only right that we stand together to support her. We need to put action behind our oft-repeated admission slogan and act like a true community. Signing this letter shows that we have not forgotten about Charlotte and we will do what we can to protect her and bring justice to her.

I implore the Student Assembly to sign onto the open letter as an organization and for each representative, treasurer, president, and cabinet member to sign it themselves and also show up to the virtual rally on Friday at 4 PM.

Sincerely,
Madison Lazenby”

Jillian Rhodes ‘22 offered her support for SMART, the Sunrise Movement, Charlotte Bennett, and the impeachment of Governor Cuomo on behalf of the Womxn’s Center. She expressed her belief that people should believe survivors and hold their representatives accountable. She then



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

expressed her hope that the Student Assembly will join in the open letter and the rally on Friday to support survivors and call on Cuomo's impeachment.

Luke Carstens mentioned that he and many seniors disapprove of the recent email sent out by Dean Martinez regarding the move out times on graduation date. He mentioned that a petition was sent out with hundreds of signatures from seniors to try to get it changed. He explained that it is a big burden on many students to have them all move out by 5PM on graduation date. He expressed his belief that the response from the administration was not adequate enough given how big of a deal he felt the date is.

Zoe Suave '23 wrote:

“Charlotte Bennett helped create a safe space here at Hamilton, and it is important that we reciprocate the love and care she showed us by standing by her.”

Rebecca Toomey '24 wrote:

“Believing survivors of sexual harassment and sexual assault is necessary to provide justice. We as a community must stand with alumni and members of the Hamilton community. We can't justifiably say that we are a Hamilly unless we stand in solidarity with one another. This is not political, this is about loyalty and justice. Vote to impeach Governor Cuomo.”

Sara Schneidman '24 wrote:

“I stand with Charlotte Bennett and I demand Governor Cuomo's impeachment.”

Matt Knowlton '21 wrote:

“Howdy, I was wondering if we could add the COVID vaccination percentage/number of students to the COVID dashboard. Or if this is not possible get a statement from the college on the current percentage of students/faculty vaccinated in the weekly COVID appointment email. Thanks!”

Questions/ Comments:

Dorothy Poucher mentioned that having vaccination numbers appear online was something that her committee talked about during their last meeting and will be brought up to Barb during tomorrow's meeting. She mentioned that there will be a follow-up.

Lauren Cavignano wrote:

“Dear Student Leaders,



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

I write to implore you to see that the college must extend the remote learning option for students through Fall of 2021. President Wippman and Dean Martinez have indicated to me that this option will not be available for Fall 2021 and all students will be required to live on campus despite the ongoing global pandemic. This is a very unwise decision on the college's part with so much remaining uncertain about COVID-19. The CDC and WHO are unsure how long COVID-19 vaccines provide relative immunity and even more uncertain about the vaccines' protection against virus variants. The CEO of Pfizer recently announced that the Pfizer vaccine will most certainly not provide protection beyond 12 months. Many U.S. colleges and universities have indicated that they will at least allow students the option of studying remotely for Fall 2021. However, the Hamilton administration seems to believe that a largely vaccinated student body will justify an overcrowded campus and zero options for community members to continue social-distancing with remote education.

Students and faculty who are high-risk for COVID-19 complications should absolutely have the option to continue learning and teaching remotely. However, as I'm sure you understand, the policy to require remote students to return to campus in the Fall is also unjust to nontraditional, self-supporting, and poor students. There exist at Hamilton students who must work for a living. If the college needed to again forbid students from leaving campus (for example, to report to work), self-supporting students would lose necessary income. If a student was required by the college to quarantine for 2 weeks, he or she would lose necessary income. There exist students at Hamilton who cannot afford to participate in the college's COVID-19 operational plans and many who cannot afford to become ill with COVID-19. On-campus jobs, which offer minimal hours and pay minimum wage, are not enough for most self-supporting and poor students. I understand the great lengths taken to protect the Hamilton community. Further crowding the campus with students who should not be present or who cannot prosper during a global pandemic is perhaps one of the worst decisions the college could make. Financially vulnerable students and high-risk individuals will suffer the most at the expense of their livelihoods or even their lives.

Dean Martinez and President Wippman have been unable to address any of these concerns in our email correspondences. Instead, Dean Martinez suggested that I take a leave of absence. Self-supporting students like me should not have to delay our educations because of the college's inflexible policy that inevitably discriminates against us.

I sincerely hope that your organization can represent the financially vulnerable students and high-risk members of the Hamilton community by helping to provide this insight to the Dean of Students and President. If the college does not permit students the option to study remotely this Fall as the pandemic rages on, many students and members of the Hamilton community will pay the price.

Kindly,
Lauren Cavignano”



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that they have been emailing back and forth with Lauren and will bring this topic up in the next meeting with President Wippman and Dean Martinez. They further clarified that Lauren is also planning on meeting with the two.

4. Special Vice Presidential Election

Saphire Ruiz congratulated Christian Hernandez for winning the election as Vice President and thanked Adina Mujica's work as Election Chair. They explained that Christian Hernandez will be the official vice president until Eric Stenzel takes office. They then thanked Wriley Nelson and Jiin Jeong for helping Adina with election work.

5. New Business

- **Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the 4/12 minutes passes.

- **Sustainability Working Group Draft Sustainability Action Plan Presentation**

Jessica Sanchez and **Salwa Sidahmed** gave a presentation and explained each section on the Sustainability Action Plan Outline:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j-QePFYzvCEBDW5Z1kH9ppwcq5XAq9jj/view>

Questions/ Comments:

Olivia Chandler asked if the plan is working in conjunction with the administration or if the plan has to be approved by them. She further asked how the plan will be carried out.

Salwa Sidahmed replied that certain aspects of the Sustainability Action Plan such as the Climate Action Plan have already been presented to the administration but currently they are mostly trying to seek out feedback from the larger campus community. She explained that eventually the group will have to gain approval from the administration and the board of trustees because the plan involves financial matters.

Dorothy Poucher expressed her appreciation for the group's work and thoroughness with the plan.

Jessica Sanchez reiterated that if anyone has any questions they can email her or Aaron Strong. She also urged others to fill out the feedback form regarding the Sustainability Action Plan:

https://hamilton.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5tjfMLmTDAGkWug

- **SMART and Sunrise Movement Letter to NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

Jessica Sanchez shared an open letter to Speaker Carl Heastie regarding Charlotte Bennett and Cuomo.

Questions/ Comments:

Emily Fienco expressed her belief that as representatives of the student body, they had an obligation to stand in support with Charlotte Bennett and students past, present, and future. She emphasized that it is not political nor is it radical to call for the impeachment of Cuomo as she believes that no one should be keeping that position of power after committing acts of sexual assault and harassment. She further emphasized that the assembly cannot forget the names of the survivors harmed by Cuomo and urged the Student Assembly to support the open statement and encourage the student body to attend the rally and denounce Cuomo.

Jiin Jeong asked if the open letter is written to be supported by US constituents and voters or people in general. She explained that she was uneasy signing the letter at first because the wording (“We are your voters”) was exclusive of non-US voting citizens such as her. She asked if the wording can be changed to be inclusive of those people and people registered to vote outside of New York.

Jessica Sanchez thanked Jiin for the comment and mentioned that they will discuss it together. She mentioned that the group kept in mind that not many students are not voters in New York. She explained that those in support of the cause should sign the petition and that the group will look over the language.

Sapphire Ruiz reiterated that signing the statement is more than just politics and that it is about supporting survivors, especially alumni who had a significant impact on the campus community. They reiterated that part of their campaign ran on anti oppression stances which supporting this statement will do. It is important that the assembly send a message to the community that they will not stand for sexual misconduct. They emphasized that as an assembly they will support their alumni and cannot call themselves a Hamily if they do not support alumni who are going through traumatizing moments.

Tatum Barclay asked if student assembly members, when filling out the form urging Cuomo’s impeachment, should indicate that they are a current student assembly member or a current Hamilton student.

Jessica Sanchez responded that people should choose the option that makes them most comfortable.

Christian Hernandez strongly encouraged everyone to vote in favor to sign the statement. He mentioned that signing the statement is important to show the community and past alumni.

The motion to sign the petition as Student Assembly passes



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

○ **Student Investments**

Alex Medina mentioned that he will be meeting with the Finance Club to go through the feedback given by the Student Assembly.

Saphire Ruiz asked if anyone else wanted to share their opinion about the funds being requested by the Finance Club.

Gianni Hill asked if the Student Assembly would be willing to allow the Finance Club to submit an itemized budget. He also asked what the Student Assembly would be willing to do or permit funding for since it is an issue that may come up in the future.

Jeffrey Bush expressed his concern with having an itemized budget because investing by the Finance Club will not be a one time thing. He explained that if the Student Assembly were to approve the funds a strict oversight would be needed to see where they are selling and buying.

Dylan Morse mentioned that the Finance Club has a more in depth plan than he had anticipated. For example, every trade made will be audited by the school so there will be rules and regulations regarding their investments. He encouraged the Finance Club to come back to the Student Assembly and talk about their plan so it could be heard in detail.

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that they believe the club shouldn't be allowed to invest because they will be using the student activities fees and it is not something that can be enjoyed by the entire student body. They expressed their belief that this will set a bad precedent to how the student activity fees should be used. In the event that this is something done, they expressed that there needs to be strict guidelines to what the Finance Club is investing in. They added how the Finance Club would have to do a lot of research on the companies they are investing in and how the profits should go back to the students and Student Assembly.

Tatum Barclay expressed her agreement with Saphire in terms of setting a bad precedent. She gave an example how in the past funds have been given to clubs but clubs would make sure that the materials bought also had a future use. She worries that this will not benefit students in the long run and mentioned that there are simulations that can be used to simulate stocks. She asked what the benefits and drawbacks are to using real money for stocks rather than a simulator.

Caz Ullem thanked everyone for stating their concerns but reiterated that Hamilton students could benefit from this investment to the Finance Club because it is a club that is open to everyone and anyone could participate. She agreed that a more detailed plan on how the funding will be used is needed. She also emphasized that the profits will be going to the Financial Aid office which would also benefit the students at Hamilton. She agrees that laws should be created to make sure there is accountability with the Finance Club.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

Jeffrey Bush mentioned that many funding requests have been approved for clubs that are exclusive such as acapella videos, club trips, etc. His main question and concern is why the Finance Club wants to use real money instead of a simulation because one can lose more than what is invested.

Alex Medina thanked everyone for their feedback and mentioned that the second proposal should come in the coming weeks. He asked if people have any additional thoughts of what the proposal should include.

Wriley Nelson addressed a question regarding student activity fee funding codes concerning charitable donations. He explained that student activity fees cannot be used to fund nonprofit organizations but also emphasized that he does not believe it applies in this case.

6. Funding

Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$32,250.53**

Amount Remaining Discretionary: **\$998.00**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Buffers	Senior solo	\$750.00	\$750.00	N
Poetry Slam	Slam prizes	\$30.92	\$30.92	N
Emerson Literary Society	Outdoor movie screening	\$650.00	\$650.00	N
Duelly Noted	Senior solo	\$150.00	\$150.00	N
Spanish Club	Bingo night treats and prizes	\$227.07	\$227.07	N

Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$1,807.99**

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

Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$1,807.99**

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



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$30,442.54**

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

The motion to pass the funding requests passes

7. Old Business

○ **Audit & Action Council**

Saphire Ruiz mentioned that the Audit & Action Council sent a survey last week to get the public's feedback on the Advisory Council's processes. They mentioned that the Audit & Action Council will be going over the data in the following weeks. In addition, the Audit & Action Council will be working on planning new things for the rest of the semester and the following semester. They reiterated that people should continue to fill out the survey.

○ **Class & Charter Day Award Nominations**

Christian Hernandez mentioned that every year, the Student Assembly presents three awards with one given to a faculty member and two given to students. Three surveys have been sent out which allow anyone in the student body to nominate a professor or a student. The awards that will be given out by the Student Assembly are the Sydney Wertimer Award, Hamilton College Campus Service Award, and Adam Gordon Campus Service Award.

8. Committee Reports

Dorothy Poucher mentioned that there will be a movie screening on May 4th which features films regarding mental health and personal experiences at Hamilton. She mentioned that the space will be used to discuss the films and personal experiences at Hamilton in regards to mental health. She invited the Hamilton community to come to the movie screening.

9. Announcements

○ **Kudos**

- Everyone involved in the spring play

○ **Cluster Funding Q+A Session**

- Orgs can ask the treasurers questions about how cluster funding is going to work
- April 21st from 5-6PM
- Meeting ID: 918 0355 0140

○ **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



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/19

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
- https://hamilton.medicatconnect.com/?mkt_tok=NTMzLUtGVC01ODkAAAF8hK7bx67jnM2aaJ_oPeSCpSdUVZbaiKjsQ_U_OpV7SeOx6ttIHJouNXwSWDS1muUpCa8H3frvRbwY8TlrKb3is8o_FCIfWMtOlvr3wQ

