

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

4/26

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
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
Dorothy Poucher
Pablo Reina-Gonzalez
Sapphire Ruiz
Mariam Saied
Salwa Sidahmed
Caroline Ullem

Excused:

Jess Parsons

Unexcused:

Juliet Davidson

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

3. General Public Comment Period

Izzy Rutkey '22 wrote:

“I'm writing in support of the resolution recommending measures to pledge to divest Hamilton College's endowment from fossil fuel companies. First, I want to thank Olivia Chandler, the members of the Sustainability Committee, and everyone else who worked to write this resolution and get it introduced in tonight's meeting. This alone is a commendable accomplishment, but it is only the first step. I implore all members of the Assembly to vote yes on passing this resolution. Hamilton's divestment from fossil fuels is the necessary next step in the College's move towards sustainability. The climate crisis, if left unaddressed, stands to make the earth uninhabitable in our lifetimes. The fossil fuel industry is the leading contributor to the climate crisis and it is time that Hamilton stops supporting it. In addition to humanitarian and environmental reasons for



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divestment, the money invested in fossil fuels comes from the endowment which is initially generated by our tuition money, so it makes sense that the students should have a say in how that money is invested. It is our money, our lives, and our world that are at stake. Hamilton must divest from fossil fuels and the Student Assembly must pass this resolution to hold the College accountable to doing so and being transparent in its path towards divestment.”

Zoe Sauve’23 wrote:

“The climate crisis is one that will affect each and everyone of us, but will especially impact low-income and people of color. If Hamilton truly cares about inclusivity and it's student's lives/futures, the endowment should at least be divested from fossil fuels. Non-renewable resources will and have impacted upstate NY as well (flooding, abnormal seasons, farm animal health/diseases, etc.), so divesting would not only mean that Hamilton would be supporting a better future for all of its student's of all backgrounds, but also a better future for itself.”

Madison Lazenby ‘22 wrote:

“Dear Student Assembly,

I am writing today in my capacity as Hub Coordinator for Sunrise Movement Hamilton College to support the resolution to divest Hamilton’s endowment from fossil fuels.

First, I want to make clear that this resolution is part of a long movement for a just endowment, one where Hamilton will no longer invest its money—money generated from our tuition—in the fossil fuel industry, the very industry that has been shown to be the leading cause of the climate crisis. This movement has existed since at least 2013, when the Hamilton Divests group organized the campus around divestment. The seeds of this movement can also be found in the protests of the 1980’s demanding divestment from Apartheid South Africa. This is to say, divestment has been a conversation and movement long before fall 2019. Students at Hamilton, a school renowned for its Economics program, have long known that money has power and can either aid or abet the eternal journey towards justice. Members of the Assembly, the movement to divest from fossil fuels is about, in simplest terms, justice.

Our money—Hamilton’s money—students’ money—can no longer be used to fund the climate crisis. Not when the climate crisis will impact each and every one of us if nothing is done about it. Not when Black and Brown communities are already feeling the impact of the climate crisis today. Not when most people who are displaced from their homes because of the climate crisis, better known as climate refugees, are women.

In response to students’ demands for divestment, President Wippman has claimed—though not in writing—that the college is in the process of divesting, but this is not a promise that we can hold him to. This resolution solves that by including a stipulation that a publicly known timeline of divestment be known so as to hold the College accountable to this pledge. Divestment is not



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something that we can passively trust to happen. When we are fighting for our futures, we mean business—and the Board of Trustees, particularly Bob Delaney, the Investment Committee Chairman who sits on the boards of seven different fossil fuel companies, needs to know that we will not back down until we can guarantee that Hamilton’s endowment will not fund the destruction of our planet.

Members of the Assembly, passing this resolution to divest will bring Hamilton onto the right side of history, and we will join so many of our peer institutions in doing so. As one international crisis begins to, thankfully, subside, we will be confronted with another, and it is time that Hamilton as an institution acts with a responsibility to help solve it in whatever ways it can—starting with where we invest our money, which we all know Hamilton has a lot of.

Thank you to Representative Olivia Chandler and the rest of the SA Sustainability Committee for working so hard on this resolution. I implore the rest of the Assembly to pass it.

Sincerely,
Madison Lazenby”

Fatima Oliva’23 wrote:

“Hamilton College has currently, and for some time now, been taking steps in order to promote sustainable practices within the campus community in light of the effects of climate change. The courses and curriculum offered by the college has taught us about the climate crisis and the disproportionate effects it has on marginalized communities and how younger and future generations will face the most extreme consequences of the climate crisis. News articles written by the communications office demonstrate how the education provided by Hamilton has helped send into the workforce critical thinkers that are dedicated to mitigating the effects of the climate crisis. The research developed by Hamilton professors on the climate crisis and its effects is oftentimes celebrated by this institution as well. Hamilton cannot simultaneously ask us to be critical thinkers and promote climate action while at the same time continue to invest money generated by students' tuition into the fossil fuel industry. I hope the Student Assembly will support the resolution to divest Hamilton's endowment from fossil fuels in order to demand a timeline on when divestment will occur from the college administration and hold them accountable to it.”

4. New Business

- **Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the 4/19 minutes passes

- **Resolution 21-2 on Divestment from Fossil Fuels**



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Olivia Chandler acknowledged that the resolution has been a long-standing, team effort as many Student Assembly and Sunrise Movement members have contributed to the resolution. She emphasized that as a Student Assembly, their job is to advocate for and vocalize the needs and wants of the student body as there is a long history at Hamilton College calling for divestment. She mentioned that in the past, there have been many petitions and protests calling for the divestment from fossil fuels so it is clear that this is a popular position. She emphasized that the wording of the resolution is intended to be understanding of the fact that the college cannot instantly divest its endowments immediately. She then talks about the resolution more in depth.

Questions/ Comments:

Jackson Harris expressed his appreciation for the professionalism of the resolution and thanked Olivia Chandler and everyone who worked on the resolution.

Cole Kuczek also expressed his appreciation for the resolution.

Tatum Barclay asked what the process was for moving forward in terms of the accountability structure for the process of divestment if the committee were to get a written response from the administration.

Olivia Chandler replied that the main facet of accountability is the fact that the administration is making a public and written response especially if the administration gives a timeline as the resolution requests from them if they were to divest from fossil fuels. She also mentioned that universities and colleges that plan to divest get a lot of public attention to them which will keep the college accountable. The public factor will keep the college accountable.

Saphire Ruiz emphasized the fact that the resolution has been a collaborative effort with different organizations and expressed her belief that the assembly's best work is when it works with these different organizations and people. They are appreciative and thankful to everyone that worked on the resolution. They explained that this is what the Student Assembly should be about: getting students involved and excited for assembly work like this.

The motion to pass Resolution 21-2 passes.

- **Hamilton Post-COVID 19**

Saphire Ruiz emphasized that they are transitioning their mindset into the fall and what Hamilton College will look like when the pandemic starts to slow down. They wanted to open discussion about what Hamilton will look like after the pandemic, the lessons learned from it, and what to prioritize when things start going back to normal.



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Cole Kuczek mentioned that the Hamilton community has been going nonstop without breaks this past year and expressed his belief that this practice is unhealthy and unsustainable. He mentioned that the assembly should try to find ways to build off the mental health resolution to find ways to prioritize breaks next semester as breaks should be a priority.

Tatum Barclay agreed with Cole that having breaks during the semester are important. She mentioned that having a lot of extracurricular activities canceled this year has made her realize how important it is to appreciate these moments. She added that having students at the events is really important. She also mentioned that she has heard from a lot of students, particularly freshmen, who have developed into a fixed mindset of learning as a result of the pandemic and it might be challenging to transition to a normal Hamilton school year. She emphasized that it is important to keep in mind that this transition might be difficult for a lot of students.

Jackson Harris mentioned that one thing that has been highlighted during this COVID school year is the significant power that student organizations have to make changes happen. He emphasized that the type of activism that student organizations have shown in the last year is something that has been augmented by the COVID times. He mentioned his belief that this is something that should be carried forward even when COVID is behind them, especially with the recent LITs email regarding political speech within student organizations.

Mariam Saied emphasized her belief that Student Assembly should not have to work over the summer as they did last summer as she believes it is very intense and draining. She believes there shouldn't be any mandatory summer work during this break.

Christian Hernandez mentioned that he feels that the current freshman class has experienced a lot of loss and confusion coming into college due to the pandemic which he feels as if it was never addressed. He expressed that a lot of incoming students might have also experienced loss and grief. He emphasized that it is important to make a space for the upcoming first year students to reflect on what they missed in their senior year of high school and what they hope they will gain from college. He expressed his belief that orientation could be a space where first-years could reflect on what they missed and what they hoped to accomplish in their incoming four years.

Saphire Ruiz agreed with Christian and emphasized that many people have had many losses during the pandemic. They expressed their belief that there had to be vulnerable and candid conversations over the effects of the pandemic instead of pushing through and pretending that nothing is wrong. They also mentioned how students have not been prioritizing their mental health due to the constant need to be productive and wanted the student assembly to think of ways that mental health could be improved within the student body. They then clarified that summer work would not be mandatory.

5. Funding



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Total SA General Amount Remaining: **\$30,442.54**

Amount Remaining Discretionary: **\$998.00**

Organization	Items/Services Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Resubmit
Duelly Noted	CD & Spotify distribution, music rights	\$759.73	\$759.73	N
Hamiltones	Audio mixing services	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	N
Student Dance Alliance	CDs with performances recorded	\$20.00	\$20.00	N
Tumbling After	Posters for a performance	\$12.50	\$12.50	N
Asian Student Union	Multiple quarantine style pantries for APIDA week for their different branches	\$929.11	\$929.11	N
Poetry Slam	Posters	\$20.00	\$20.00	N
International Cultural Association	Supplies for South Asian Awareness Day w/ ASU	\$450.00	\$450.00	N

Amount Requested (from SA General): **\$3,441.34**

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



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Amount Recommended (SA General): **\$3,441,34**

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

Amount Remaining if Funding passes (SA General): **\$27,001.20**

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

The motion to overturn the funding codes to allow voting for late funding requests passes.

The motion to approve the funding requests passes.

6. Old Business

○ Student Investments

Alex Medina mentioned that they met with the Finance Club to discuss different possibilities with finding funding for the club. He also mentioned that they will work with the club over the course of the summer to try and find these alternatives. In addition, they will be going over the bylaws in case the funds are approved.

7. Election Updates

Adina Mujica mentioned that if people are planning to run for Student Assembly they have to go to an informational meeting. In addition, elections will be held on May 8-9. If anyone has any questions Adina can be reached through email (amujica@hamilton.edu).

8. Committee Reports

Dorothy Poucher mentioned that the Student Health Committee met with Barb Fluty to discuss the new updates from the health center. One of the updates is that timeline wise people need to keep in mind that if they are getting two doses of a vaccine on campus, it is almost too late to do so. This is because many locations require students to get the second dose of the vaccine in the same location. She emphasized that if students have any questions or concerns about the Johnson and Johnson vaccine they can always reach out to the health center to discuss their concerns. She mentioned that if anyone is in need of an STI or STD test they can also reach out to the health center as the health center will connect people to the resource needed.

9. Announcements

- Kudos**
 - Olivia Chandler for her work on the resolution & the Sustainability Committee for helping make edits
- Vaccinations**
 - Reminder to fill out your vaccination records if you're fully vaccinated
 - [Student Health Portal](#)
- Student & Org Recognition**



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- Student Activities is highlighting student leaders and organizations, use this [link](#) to submit folks/org. You can submit multiple times and the form closes on May 3rd.

