

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

1. Call to Order

Present:

Muhammad Ahmad Rao
Christopher Akuleme
Adan Corea
Bethany Fell
Max Ganem
Ailis Hayden
Emily Jiang
Lena Klink
Alexandra Kropaneva
Marvin Lopez
Ryley McGovern

Ting Mei
Quentin Messer
Kiara Nelson
Raymond Ni
Jacob Piazza
Mason Schroeder
Nicole Soret
Felix Tager
Katrinah Tejada
Prim Udomphan
Joshua Zeledon

Excused:

Allison Sheehan
Corey Bravo Sloan

Unexcused:

Ailyn Burbano
Alex Axton
Evelyn Molina

2. General Public Comment Period ([TIME: 02:52](#))

Jack Jee '24 (he/him) wrote:

“Bring back the night jitney (from don rok to campus)”

Dylan Fargis '24 (he/him) commented:

“Please bring back the jitney from town on the weekends”

Matt Lilley '24 (he/him) remarked:

“Bring back the late night jitney(from don Rok to campus)”

Spencer Goldberg '25 (he/him) wrote:

“Bring back the late night jitney (from don Rok to campus)”

Ashby Howard '25 commented:

“bring back the late night jitney from dons Rok to campus on weekends”

Seth Tobin '25 (he/him) remarked:

“bring back the late night jitney (from Don Rok to campus)”

Henry Storch '25 (he/him) commented:

“Bring back the late night jitney from don Rok to campus.”

Nicolas Gritz '25 (he/him) wrote:

“Bring back the late night jitney (from don rok to campus)”



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Connor Griff '25 (he/him) wrote:

“Bring back late night jitney (dons rock to campus)”

Emily Jiang noted that the public comments concerning the Jitney will be skipped and that they will give an update on the Jitney later in the meeting.

Adam Koplik '25 (he/him) wrote:

“please fix the diner jukebox i miss doing diner sing a longs”

Madeleine C '26 (she/her) commented:

“The flag pole on campus outside of the admissions building was not flying the American flag at half mast on 9/11. How can we better raise awareness about this historical remembrance day? I've lived in NY all my life and this is important to me.”

Emily Jiang mentioned that the only regulation for flags to be flying at half mast on 9/11 is for government buildings. The admissions building is not a government building as far as they know. Furthermore, this is not something that SA can influence and that it should be brought up to Facilities. However, they mentioned that they can bring it up to Facilities as well.

3. Old Business (TIME: 06:13)

- **Minutes from 9/5**

The minutes from 8/29 pass as written by unanimous consent.

4. New Business (TIME: 06:26)

- **Guest: Prof. Ann Owen, CET**

Emily Jiang introduced Professor Ann Owen who is at the meeting to talk about the teaching evaluations.

Professor Ann Owen thanked the Assembly for having her speak and introduced herself as a professor of Economics but is at the meeting as the chair of the Committee on Evaluation of Teaching (CET). The committee is a faculty committee that was put together a few years ago that also has worked with the Assembly about two years ago. During that work, the committee got feedback and has in general been thinking about how to move to thinking about teaching evaluations that involve students more. For context, she explained who faculty are evaluated. Faculty are evaluated in three dimensions that include teaching, scholarship, and service. When evaluating teaching, a few different things are taken into consideration, including peer review which is done through professors visiting classes and observing each other, self evaluation done by professors, and student feedback either through the end of semester course evaluation or even



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

through letters when faculty members are considered for tenure or promotion. Looking at feedback and talking to students, CET has seen potential to improve the way in which feedback is collected to make feedback more useful for evaluating faculty but also more helpful for faculty to improve their teaching. Those two aspects, evaluation and improvement of teaching, are the main goals of the evaluations. She mentioned two particular things she came to the meeting to talk about, the first one being the resolve of conversations with students where students mentioned that it would be helpful if faculty gave guidance on what kind of feedback is helpful to them. In response to that feedback, CET has put together a handout concerning ways to give helpful feedback in hopes of SA sharing it with students and encouraging the use of it. She mentioned being open to answering questions concerning this topic.

Professor Ann Owen further stated that the second thing she came to talk about was the pilot study of the way in which evaluations are collected CET is running this semester. Right now, 39 faculty members have agreed to be part of this pilot study. Any student who is in a class of a faculty member who is part of the study would be participating in this study. With the study, CET is trying to think about ways to improve the prompts, as one piece of feedback from students and faculty has been that the current prompts are repetitive. Therefore, some students participating in the study will give feedback through responding to different prompts. The other thing that CET is trying out is collecting feedback at a different time of the semester. Right now, students fill out the course evaluations at the end of the semester but CET has been told by students that this is the worst possible time for evaluations. Professor Owen noted that this also shows in the quality of the feedback as students are stressed and time constrained. In the pilot study, some students will be asked to reflect more on their responses and submit evaluations at the beginning of the next semester. She continued with an explanation of the design of the pilot study. The study is designed so that students are randomly put into three different groups. One third of the students will complete the current end of the semester evaluations. One third of the students will respond to different prompts at the end of the semester. One third will respond to a different prompt at the beginning of the next semester. Through comparing the response rates and quality of feedback across the three groups, CET hopes to get insight into changes they might want to make to the feedback system. If students are in a class that is participating in the pilot study, the faculty member will communicate that to students. She mentioned that she wanted to come to SA to let students know what is going on and to answer any questions and ask for SA's help in encouraging people to fill out the surveys. She reiterated that professors and CET care about what students think as they offer a unique perspective through them being in the class all the time. CET wanted to include that in their studies. She stated that she is happy to answer any questions.

Jacob Piazza asked how the new system will work given the timing of the evaluations. He was concerned about unexpected grades potentially influencing the feedback

Professor Ann Owen replied that there is no ideal time to ask students to complete evaluations. The end of semester time period, however, is particularly problematic due to the stress students are under, which is why CET wanted to take evaluations out of that time period.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

At the same time, CET did not want to place evaluations immediately after finals as they wanted to prevent students writing about what happened to them most recently (e.g. during finals). CET wanted to give students more time to reflect. As such, the alternative prompt encourages students to reflect and to think about what the characteristics of good teaching are and in what ways a particular faculty member displayed them in the course. However, she mentioned CET being concerned about the response rate. With grades being already out and consequently there being no penalty, students will fill out the survey because they want to provide feedback. CET hopes that everyone will fill the survey out, not just the students that got grades on either end of the grading scale. She noted that if students want to take evaluations out of the end of semester crunch time into a time in which there is an opportunity for more reflection and want to have a bigger impact because they write more thoughtful evaluations, they will have to fill out the survey. She emphasized again that this is a study and that CET does not know what will happen.

Raymond Ni stated that he remembered the course evaluations being repetitive and asked if the questions will be changed in terms of the content and amount of questions.

Professor Ann Owen replied that the alternative prompt is much more open ended and consists of only two questions, one being related to what the student thinks good teaching is and the other how the students saw evidence of good teaching in the class. She further noted that students have told faculty that the questions are repetitive and that she has seen evidence of such herself as she, as department chair, reads a lot evaluations. Because there is a lot of repetition in what students are responding to, she hoped that the new questions will encourage students to reflect and be thoughtful and reflect and give feedback that helps professors become better teachers but also helps evaluate people as student feedback is an important part of evaluations.

Bethany Fell mentioned that an important part of getting students to fill out evaluations is telling students what their responses are used for. A lot of students do know what exactly evaluations are used for and do not see their impact especially if professors are tenured or chair of departments.

Professor Ann Owen replied that this is a really good point. CET wants to help educate students on how evaluations are being used. The handout CET put together is the first step in that process. She agreed that if students would understand the importance of the evaluations, they would never not complete them.

Felix Tager asked how feedback from students that do not finish the full class will be incorporated. He mentioned there being an issue where students do not complete the full semester because they do not feel comfortable in class and drop it for reasons that are beyond academic. These students cannot provide feedback but they left the class for reasons that need to be understood by the department and the professor.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Professor Ann Owen replied that if a student does not complete the whole class, the student is not in the pool of students that is tasked with completing evaluations. If a student is in a class and has to drop it because of issues in the class, the mechanism through which they could voice their concern is not anonymous, but they could go to the department chair or the Dean who would be responsive to the issues raised. There is not a way to include those students in the pool of students who provide feedback as this pool is created based on the class roster. Therefore, students who are not on the roster, will not be included in the pool. If there was an issue in the class and a student had to drop it but still wants to provide feedback, there are ways to do so. They are more difficult and not anonymous but the student could go to the department chair and if the concern goes deeper than that, the student can go to the Dean. She closed stating that she has never heard of a student whose concerns were not heard.

Quentin Messer asked about the feedback audience.

Professor Ann Owen replied that there are multiple audiences for feedback. One of the audiences is the faculty member who will use the feedback to improve their teaching which is part of their self evaluation. Other audiences include the department chair, and the Faculty Committee. However, if a student needs an issue to be addressed right away, they should go to the department chair.

Muhammad Ahmad Rao asked why CET would risk grades having an impact on evaluations by asking for feedback after grades have been released. He also asked why feedback could not be asked for earlier in the semester like during Fall Break or Thanksgiving Break.

Professor Ann Owen replied that faculty would like students to go all the way through the course before giving feedback. While it is not true for all courses, many courses are tied together in the end. Faculty would like for students to have the full experience before completing evaluations. She reiterated that CET will see what happens but also noted that grades influencing evaluations is a concern that faculty have. She stated that this question can only really be answered after the study because it provides feedback recorded at different times.

Emily Jiang mentioned that it is worth looking into an anonymous reporting method for students who had to leave a class early especially if they are leaving because of the professor. They noted that anonymity would make giving feedback more accessible than going to the chair.

Professor Ann Owen agreed that this can be thought about and that she understands the concern. However, she reiterated that this needs to be thought about more.

First Year Elections - Elected Students ([TIME: 25:25](#))

- **Class President:** Ting Mei
- **Class Representatives:** Quentin Messer, Ailis Hayden, Adan Corea, Muhammad Ahmad Rao



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Marvin Lopez finalized the first year elections through commemorating the newly elected First Year members. He gave each member a moment to introduce themselves and share a few words to the assembly and those watching live.

Ting Mei introduced herself as an international student from China. She mentioned that she is glad to be here, having many things to bring up in the future, and working to make things better.

Ailis Hayden introduced herself as a student from Athens, Ohio, and stated that she is excited to be here.

Quentin Messer introduced himself as a student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and expressed his excitement about being here.

Adan Corea introduced himself as a posse scholar from Miami, Florida and also stated that he is excited to be here.

Rao introduced himself as an international student from Pakistan, and mentioned that he is happy to be here and excited about what the future holds.

Emily Jiang welcomed them, stated that they are excited to be working with them, and thanked them for their presence.

- **Honor Court Confirmations:** Annika Benn '25, Lorenzo (Enzo) Battaglia '26, Kate Constan '26, Arjun Mehra '26 ([TIME: 27:03](#))

Enzo Battaglia introduced himself stating that he is from Providence, Rhode Island and noted that he is very grateful to have the honor to be present. Prior to Hamilton he attended a Quaker school that had the motto *for the honor of truth*, where honesty was an essential tenet of the educational ideology of the school. The experience of having it embedded throughout the years, honesty has become a core principle for him. He is excited to have the opportunity to give back to the Hamilton community by upholding the standard of court. His qualifications included being a top student in his class, part of a society, and mock trial captain. He added that he was recognized by a statewide public policy research group for a thesis he wrote in his junior year. Furthermore he noted having had a lot of involvement in local and statewide campaigns. His favorite subjects are government and biology, which is why he ended up in a liberal arts college. He ended on him being excited to get to know everyone.

Kate Constan introduced herself as a member of the Class of 2026 and stated that she is honored to serve on the court. She plans on being a neuroscience major and uses she/her pronouns. She mentioned that she keeps having the same conversation with peers here at Hamilton and that her fellow peers are nice which was really lovely for her as not everyone had that experience in High School. While she is not expecting her whole Hamilton experience to be warm and fuzzy, she plans on upholding the core value of kindness that is shared within the



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Honor Court. She mentioned that kindness and justice means applying the rules fairly with a goal towards betterment rather than punishment. She noted being a researcher, as well as a proponent of social equity, and having hopes to pursue research science as a career. She expanded that academic honesty and an ethical sharing of ideas are very important to her. As a person who has protested and worked with social justice organizations, she is a student that values the interaction between identity and justice. It is important to her that justice is applied equally between groups. She ended by stating support towards the idea that equity is not only an ideal, but an active commitment.

Marvin Lopez opened it up for public comment and questions for candidates.

The motion to confirm all candidates together passes unanimously.

The confirmation of Annika Benn '25, Lorenzo (Enzo) Battaglia '26, Kate Constan '26, Arjun Mehra '26 to the Honor Court passes unanimously via voice vote.

- **Initiative Updates: President Emily Jiang '25 ([TIME: 33:55](#))**
 - Weekend Late Night Jitney

Emily Jiang mentioned that they met with President Wippman, Dean Card, and Dean of Accessibility Harrison on Thursday (9/8/22). They spoke about the Weekend Jitney, and the fact that SA gets around 10 comments a week about it. Emily explained, for first-years and sophomores, that the Late Night Jitney ran to Clinton on the weekend, and it was discontinued during COVID and not brought back. Since then, there hasn't been any initiative to bring it back. It is managed by Upper Level Administration and by Student Transportation. President Wippman gave a few reasons for why it has not been brought back. First, there have been issues with intoxicated students abusing the jitney and the drivers. People are worried that it encourages underage drinking. In the past, students had to show an ID to get on. There are also worries about property damage and the physical safety of students in Clinton. There have also been complaints from Jitney drivers and business owners in Clinton. There is also the worry that it seems that we have a "Bar Jitney," as the Jitney went directly to a bar from campus, despite the fact that many students on campus are underage. Despite this, however, they weren't completely against the idea, especially considering the increased student interest. They are looking into what different departments think of it, and Emily will be a part of at least some of the conversations with different departments about the future of the Weekend Jitney. They encouraged people with ideas about combating underage drinking and other problems to reach out, and they have suggested the return of showing an ID in order to get on the Weekend Jitney. It's a work in progress, but faculty and senior administration are aware and working on bringing the Weekend Jitney back in a safe manner.

- Campus Physical Accessibility



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Emily Jiang detailed their recent conversation with President Wippman about physical accessibility on campus. President Wippman said that Hamilton is an ADA compliant campus, and that there is a general misunderstanding of what that means. Institutions that receive federal funding must have all services and buildings accessible to everyone, however, there are exceptions to it. If it's too complicated or expensive to make a building accessible, institutions are exempt from it. ADA compliance does not cover that much, and many old buildings on Hamilton's campus aren't required to be compliant due to the complexity, cost, and historical nature of the buildings. Hamilton is ADA compliant but there is still much to be done. President Wippman also mentioned that it takes a lot to renovate. For example, to put in elevators, it could cost up to \$50,000 USD. The administration has to prioritize college expenses, and President Wippman said that in the last few years the College has been focusing on mental health and expanding the health center. They are currently doing a study on how to spend a certain amount of money on accessibility, and there is currently an audit happening with Facilities that is being brought to senior staff. Emily brought up an idea that President Wippman and the administration are open to, of having a QR code near accessible entrances to buildings, to be able to send in a report in case the buttons or automatic doors aren't working. They also mentioned receiving comments about financial barriers to accommodations, and mentioned that Dean Harrison wanted to let people know that the Accessibility Office is able to fund testing and has access to reduced-cost testing, and you are able to request financial aid for these tests. They also brought up the potholes on campus (which the Class of 2023 is also working on) as a mobility issue for everyone and an issue of beautification as well, and something currently being addressed. They are meeting with the new VP of Facilities, Michael Klappmeyer, about it. They mentioned that they hoped this update could show everyone that there is progress, and change is being made, it is just slow.

Raymond Ni asked that if President Wippman and Dean Card are open to the possibility of Late Night Jitney, what the timeline for the service returning would be.

Marvin Lopez replied that first there needs to be a decision on the harms, risks, and benefits the service could pose so there is not really a timeline yet. The service could return this or next semester.

Emily Jiang added that Don's Rok might be closing which will impact the necessity of the Jitney. However, they noted that they will keep anyone updated.

Marvin Lopez mentioned that there is a slot for SA at the next Board of Trustee meeting in which he will ask for the accessibility budget to be increased. If there is anything anyone wants to add to that, they should let him know.

Emily Jiang also noted that some organizations have asked if they could use their funding for accessibility renovations. However, these will have to go through the Board of Trustees before going forward.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

- **P/VP Election Process: Vice President Marvin Lopez '23, President Emily Jiang '25 (TIME: 42:28)**
 - Wednesday 11/16 (before break) or Friday 12/2 (after break) instead of the usual date during Finals week

Marvin Lopez noted that constitutionally the elections for President and Vice President have to happen at the end of this semester. Elections for everyone else took place at the end of last semester and SA has found that the end of the semester is not the best for campaigning particularly due to the stress of finals. Therefore, he mentioned proposing to switch the dates to Wednesday, November 16, or Friday, December 2. The dates are either before or after Thanksgiving Break and while there are pros and cons to both dates, it would be nice to get comments from people who have gone through running for elections.

Bethany Fell asked if the Friday would be the first Friday after Thanksgiving Break.

Emily Jiang responded that we come back on Monday and December 2nd is the Friday of that week.

Marvin Lopez added that December 2nd is one week before final exams.

Emily Jiang noted that the idea behind changing the dates is to give people more time to decide if they want to run and prepare their campaign, but also for students to vote. They noted that a vote this week is not necessary. They asked for comments or a preference for either date.

Ailis Hayden mentioned that December 2nd would be better because it provides for a shorter 'lame duck' period.

Felix Tager noted that it is tough to decide as both are during evaluation periods and have pros and cons. However, he thinks that most people would prefer after break so that they can use the break to prepare.

Marvin Lopez asked if Felix could suggest a different date.

Felix Tager responded stating two weeks after Thanksgiving Break would be his proposed time.

Emily Jiang replied stating that week is Finals week. Elections also cannot be earlier as that would mean that the President-elect and VP-elect do not do anything for a month.

Raymond Ni stated that it would not be that weird as it would give the President-elect and VP-elect more time to prepare for their term. He noted that Emily and Marvin were rushed in their preparations and that students should not be having to work over break.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Emily Jiang noted that elections on December 2nd would leave for 1.5 months before the new President and VP enter office. Holding elections on November 16th would leave 2 months.

The motion to vote on the proposal to change election dates today fails.

Emily Jiang said that this proposal can also be revisited next week.

○ **Committee Assignments** ([TIME: 47:04](#))

Emily Jiang noted that there are five standing committees and a few ad hoc committees that are up for membership. This is the last chance for members who have been previously given the chance to select committees to get themselves on a committee and a chance for first-year members to join a committee. They noted that there is no need to decide on a committee right now but asked that everyone join one by the last meeting. They continued by reciting the committees and their responsibilities, a list of which can also be found in everyone's email inbox.

Ryley McGovern gave an explanation of the Justice and Equity Committee. He noted that J&E works with the DMC and the Dean of Diversity and Inclusion to advocate for a safe and comfortable space for students at Hamilton. Currently, J&E is working on a survey to get an overview of the issues students on campus are experiencing so that they can make a plan for addressing these issues.

Felix Tager introduced himself as the Senior Class President and the Chair of the ResLife and Safety Committee and gave an explanation of his committee. He noted that the committee mainly deals with issues on campus that impact students outside of classrooms, which include housing issues, major policy work such as housing accessibility, and campus safety issues. Last year, the committee was in charge of the changes made to the judicial process regarding marijuana use on campus. He reiterated that if students want to work on issues that impact students outside of the classroom, ResLife is their place.

Marvin Lopez gave an explanation of the Sustainability and Facilities committee. He mentioned that the committee works with Brian Hansen, the Hamilton Sustainability Coordinators, and Karen Leach. This semester, they will work on the College Sustainability Action Plan which will be presented at the next Board of Trustee Meeting. The Committee also works with a College Committee that works with the SA committee.

Emily Jiang reiterated that every member must be part of at least one committee. Members can add themselves to committees right now or notify them through Slack or text if they want to be added to any committees. They also noted that meeting times and Committee Chairs will be sorted out soon.



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Emily Jiang introduced the Ad Hoc Committees. One Ad Hoc Committee is the Constitutional Review Committee which is headed by the Parliamentarian. The Committee will go over the constitution throughout the semester to work out what can be changed, added, or taken away from the constitution. They encouraged everyone to read the Constitution if they have not yet and stated that anyone interested in joining the committee should let them or Marvin know.

Marvin Lopez introduced the R-22-1 Follow-Up Committee. Last semester, SA passed a resolution regarding access to different reproductive health services on campus. Part of the resolution was to follow up during the beginning of this semester and this committee is for that purpose. The committee has some demands and recommendations. The work of this committee would be to go through the resolution and to check with the appropriate administrator if improvements have been implemented and suggest further improvements. He noted that if this is something of interest to anyone, the committee is open to anyone, not just SA members.

Alex Kropaneva introduced herself as the Student Org Relations Chair and the Club Review Committee. She noted that the committee comes about every fall and has one important goal of establishing the eligibility of clubs on campus. There will be a new org intro meeting during the last week of September, Org Leaders can apply to become a new club during the week before Fall Break, and then there will be a one week review process and a one week appeal process. After that, the committee is basically disbanded. If anyone wants to be a part of establishing new clubs on campus, they should join the committee.

Max Ganem stated that Assembly members should please send him their names, pronouns, hometown, a fun fact about themselves, and a picture of themselves, if they have not already.

Marvin Lopez emphasized that everyone should send their information to Max and stated that he will put something in the Slack as well.

Felix Tager made a small announcement about the project to address the potholes on campus which make campus basically inaccessible. He noted that it would be very helpful that if someone saw one to send it to him either through Slack or text as he will make a list of every pothole on campus. Currently, his list sits at 58 potholes.

5. Announcements ([TIME: 57:17](#))

- SA's yearly retreat/onboarding will happen this weekend. All Central Council members please check your emails tonight for a When2Meet form!
- Please join the SA Slack! If you haven't received an invite in your email, please let Emily know.
- Contingency budget form announcement from Treasurer Prim Udomphan



STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

9/12/2022

Marvin Lopez invited Tessa Chefalo to speak as she is the advisor to SA until the process of hiring a new Student Activities Director, who is the official advisor to SA, is completed.

Tessa Chefalo introduced herself as the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Engagement which supervises Student Activities. She is temporarily acting as the SA advisor until the role of Student Activities Director is filled. She noted being happy to answer any questions that anyone might have and to meet with anyone.

Prim Udomphan made an announcement regarding the Annual Budget Form and the Contingency Budget Form. She noted that the Annual Budget Form has been sent through email. The form is for organizations that did not submit a budget in April. This is the last change to request funding for the year and the form will be due on Friday, September 16, at noon. The Contingency Budget Form will be open weekly and the form will be due on Fridays at noon. If a club would like to receive contingency funding, they would have to fill in the form before Fridays at noon and the request will be approved during the SA meeting on the following Monday.

6. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn passes unanimously via voice vote.

