

STUDENT ASSEMBLY MEETING

2/21/22

1. Call to Order

Present:

Isa Cardoso
Nickie Conlogue
Cicille Dan-Morton
Michelle Estrella
Max Ganem
Nevaeh Gutierrez
Abigail Hagan
Jackson Harris
Emily Jiang

Tommy Keith
Lena Klink
Marvin Lopez
Joseph Maalouf
Dewayne Martin
Ryley McGovern
Adina Mujica
Subin Myong
Raymond Ni

Rafael Osella
Allison Sheehan
Matthew Sinning
Felix Tager

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

3. General Public Comment Period

Evelyn Molina '23 (she/her) wrote:

“I would like to bring up the mold issue on campus, specifically on Dark Side in Babbit and Milbank residence halls. I would like to add that I did not go through every dorm on Dark Side just a few suites in Babbit and Milbank.”

Marvin Lopez mentioned that as head of the Sustainability Committee, this is something that they might like to address.

Jackson Harris mentioned that his ResLife and Safety committee has already planned on reaching out to facilities and Residential Life and that the committee will bring this issue up to them.

Eric Santamauro-Stenzel '24 (he/him) wrote:

“I just wanted to express my strong support for creating an updated land acknowledgment. Samuel Kirkland was a racist missionary on a crusade to "civilize" the Oneida people through Christianity, and we ought not honor him. When we brought in the land acknowledgment last year from SKI, we thought it best to lean on the assumption that the organization would have the best available option. We made a mistake. I think that was inappropriate, and as someone who has read the current acknowledgment many times publicly I regret my actions in perpetuating the



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myth that Samuel Kirkland was a well-intentioned ally to Indigenous people. I am sorry for any harm I have caused through crafting that image. The previous president and I had had discussions about changing it over the summer and in the fall, but we did not do it at the time in light of all the other crises pulling our attention. I want to encourage the Assembly, and all campus organizations that use land acknowledgments for that matter, to avoid framing Samuel Kirkland as a positive figure, to name the fact no Oneida student has ever graduated Hamilton-Oneida Academy or Hamilton College, to name that the Oneida Nation has no official role in the current governance of the College and Hamilton continues to sideline the issue, and most importantly commit itself to action on building such a role. We had planned to begin this work last semester via the Sustainability and Facilities Committee prior to resignations. A land acknowledgment without action is a performance, so I feel that for whatever new acknowledgment is hopefully written, it is accompanied by tangible action to hand power back to the Oneida Nation on the land that is and has been theirs for hundreds of years. If the Assembly will not be engaging in work to hand that power back, I think serious discussion should be given to not having the acknowledgment at all; it would ring hollow, as it did when my predecessor and I read it, to acknowledge land and rights taken without working to give them back.”

Jackson Harris expressed his agreement that it was empty to say the land acknowledgment without putting action to embracing the Oneida nation. He mentioned that SA used to have a committee regarding traditions that dissolved due to SA losing members. He stated some people might want to do some research into Oneida organizations so that SA could reach out and work with them.

Adina Mujica explained that the point of the land acknowledgment is to work from that. It is not necessary to have a land acknowledgment if nothing is going to be done about it.

4. New Business

- **Approval of Minutes 2/14**

The motion to approve the 2/14 minutes passes unanimously.

- **Update: Health Committee x Counseling Center**

Michelle Estrella Dominguez explained that the Health Committee is planning a collaboration with the Counseling Center to plan more de-stress events. This includes more wellness activities such as bringing dogs on campus, as it was popular last semester.. She mentioned that the committee will meet with David Walden this Friday and have more information on it next week.

Planning: SA Table Scheduling for Week of 2/21

- **New Locations: Diner Only this week.**



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- **Suggestion Boxes (Suggested by DeWayne Martin, '24)**
- **Underclassmen Postcards at SA Tables**
(write letters for your senior self!)

Marvin Lopez stated that the hours for SA tabling will change to only the Diner Hallway hours due to limited attendance at the Commons table. He further mentioned that suggestion boxes should be implemented so people can submit comments within the boxes. These could be either distributed to relevant committees or read as public comments. The shift to only Diner hours will be implemented because only one student came to the SA table the previous week.

Emily Jiang mentioned that postcards will be another option for the SA tables for students to write to their senior year self. They mentioned that merchandise will also be given on a first come first serve basis within the tabling events furthermore.

Marvin Lopez mentioned that if anyone is interested in creating new merchandise for SA, they should reach out to him.

Noelle Juliano mentioned that a banner was found by Emily and Felix while organizing the SA office which can be used during the tabling events.

- **Confirmation: Josue Herrera Rivera '24 as Class Representative**

Josue Herrera Rivera expressed his excitement to be working with the assembly.

The motion to approve Josue Herrera Rivera as Class of 2024 passes unanimously via voice vote.

- **Discussion: New Land Acknowledgement**
(Adina Mujica '24, Emily Jiang '25)

Emily Jiang mentioned that a new and edited land acknowledgment is in the works because the current one glorifies Samuel Kirkland and the relationship with the Oneida Nation into something that isn't true and does a disservice to history and present. Furthermore, there is also a lack of commitment to what the land acknowledgment asks for people to do, which is pursuing an active relationship. They noted that they have reached out to the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative and Oneida Nation representatives in order to open a line of communication and potentially write a new land acknowledgment by the end of the semester. They also mentioned



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that one of their goals would be to commit to actionable plans in partnership with the Oneida Nation to cultivate a genuine relationship. They asked for everyone's thoughts and suggestions.

Marvin Lopez mentioned that they got in contact with Jeff McArn, who can contact someone who can speak officially on behalf of the Oneida Nation.

Dewayne Martin mentioned that they should wait for the conversation to be had before SA acts any further on the acknowledgment.

Emily Jiang expressed that this will be an ongoing project and that people from outside the assembly are welcome to participate in whatever action the assembly comes up. They expressed that the initiative will look to recruit faculty and other non-students in hope that this will live on beyond the current administration, and encouraged underclassmen to take part in the process.

Nevaeh Gutierrez mentioned that it is an important step for the student body, and wants the Justice and Equity Committee to be involved as the committee is open to non-assembly members. She further mentioned that she did not know that the Traditions Committee existed but that the Justice and Equity Committee is open to taking over their responsibilities.

Emily Jiang assured everyone that more information is to come, and that there will be opportunities for everyone to join in the work on the process, especially when it comes to cultivating a genuine relationship with the Oneida Nation and having activities on campus.

- **Update: SA Retreat, ASGA, Future Leadership Programming**

Joseph Maalouf mentioned that the retreat was a nice opportunity to have an open conversation within the assembly. He hoped that everyone took something from the retreat and looks forward to continuing working with the assembly.

Emily Jiang wanted to summarize the retreat for the minutes and members of campus. They explained that an outside consultant was brought in to help SA find their place with each other and to work out future plans, as well as to have SA to be in a place to live up to the goals set for the year. They stated that the consultant is on retainer for the semester and is therefore available for further consultation. One benefit is that she is an independent consultant with no affiliation to Hamilton College; her only obligation is to the Assembly and not to the school. Furthermore, she has access to and experience with student governments at other institutions and can give advice based on that.



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Marvin Lopez encouraged everyone who might have ideas on how to restructure the assembly and the constitution to reach out to their reps, not just SA members.

Isa Cardoso stated that she enjoyed the retreat. One of the consultant's ideas that stuck out to her is the idea of hosting leadership development for leaders on campus outside of SA so the student body can see SA as a body of resource and also to better connect with the student body. A further conversation should be had over whether the assembly should continue relationships with the consultant.

Marvin Lopez brought up the idea of a yearly leadership retreat, not necessarily with a consultant.

Noelle Juliano thanked everyone who went to the retreat. She mentioned how inspirational the comments were in the breakout sessions and expressed her excitement to be working with this group of assembly members.

Rafael Osella mentioned that one of the most important things done in the retreat was the poster activity, where SA members wrote on aspects of their collective leadership identity. He mentioned that before coming into SA he felt like SA has not done anything, but after the exercise he realized that a lot has been done already that he didn't know about. He mentioned that SA should work to make people more aware of what SA is trying to do and has done.

Emily Jiang mentioned that the posters are still held and can be referred back to.

Joseph Maalouf mentioned that letting everyone know what SA is doing is a part of branding. The student body does not know much about what SA is doing and he thought it would be a good idea to reestablish that transparent and communicative relationship with the student body.

Nevaeh Gutierrez asked Rafael what he thought the best approach would be to communicate with the student body about what SA has done.

Rafael Osella replied that being honest with the student body and having a more direct line of communication. This could include sending more updates on committees and general meetings, not just the agenda and minutes.



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Abigail Hagan mentioned that the newsletter sent out to students and parents is an effective avenue to pursuing this goal, as it is read by a large part of the community, not only students.

Adina Mujica agreed with Abigail and mentioned that another idea would be to invite more people to the conversation by making sure non-Assembly students participate in committee meetings, which are open to all students but have not been properly publicized.

Subin Myong mentioned that because committees are open to the public, SA should publish when and where the committees are meeting, for example in our weekly emails. This would allow students to have an opportunity to meet with SA members and bring up issues outside of the SA tables and general meetings.

Nickie Conlogue mentioned that emails should not be the only avenue of communication, and that social media can be an effective way to advertise committee meeting dates and locations.

Rafael Osella mentioned that for SA portraits on the Diner bulletin board, more information can be advertised to allow students to be more aware of what they are doing on the Assembly and in their committees.

Matt Sinning asked whether members should respond to public comments.

Emily Jiang replied that each public comment submission will have relevant point people who will follow up.

Matt Sinning added that having personal connections is the best way to get students to engage with SA. Some things done are more visible than other things and SA needs to be more visible to the student body. If SA were to market its accomplishments, it would be more visible to and seen as a resource by the student body.

Max Ganem emphasized that if anyone ever has ideas for social media-related content, they can speak to him as he is the Director of Publicity. He mentioned that he has not been posting as much as he should be due to a lack of content and emphasized that if anyone has any ideas for posts, they should reach out to him.

Noelle Juliano agreed that just having a picture and a name for the SA Diner portraits is not enough. Something the Assembly might want to consider is to add more information such as contact and position details to make it easier for students to reach out.



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Tommy Keith mentioned that in the past people would come in for public comments which allowed the assembly to be much more personable. However, it was not very accessible to many people. He felt that having both options, in-person and a form to submit public comment would be preferable, especially if it were advertised more by SA. He liked just submitting the public comments if SA followed up with the people who submitted them.

Emily Jiang replied that SA already has a publicized option for students to come in for public comment, and indeed in the last semester there were a few in-person public comments, but agreed that most students have found the online form to be more accessible.

Joseph Maalouf asked how the SA meeting time of 8:30 PM on Mondays came to be and how SA knows that people want to come in at that particular time.

Adina Mujica replied that the time was established because a third of the students here are athletes who have practice until about 7 PM, and then eat dinner from 7-8 PM.

Emily Jiang moved on to announce that SA has rejoined the American Student Government Association (ASGA) which SA used to be a part of in the past. The ASGA is an organization with membership from college student governments around the United States. They mentioned that every assembly member will be added to the email list for ASGA so they will all have access to resources. The organization will be an effective tool to help SA with the constitution, recruit new members, improve voter turnout, and be a source of information, since through ASGA there is access to information and resources about other schools. Conferences are also hosted by the ASGA, which the DOS has mentioned they are open to funding some attendance to. They also mentioned that they were approached by one of the faculty here who worked at Hamilton College who runs a free leadership program based on values articulated by leadership guru John Maxwell. The program constitutes a six-session-long leadership program called “Change Your World” which discusses leadership values by John Maxwell. They added that SA members can reach out with interest, and that the faculty member is interested in expanding to other student leaders as well.

Marvin Lopez mentioned the possibility of another SA retreat in April after spring break. This retreat might have the possibility of Assembly members having a plus one — someone from outside the Assembly. This would bring the student body and the Assembly closer together.



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Abigail Hagan mentioned that in another college she is familiar with, a leadership retreat is provided which gathers all the student leaders in the school along with the student government to go on a retreat together, which is something that SA could consider.

Emily Jiang agreed that this idea was something that can be worked on. If the leadership training programs are successful with SA, then expanding those programs to the full student body is a good idea.

- **Project: SA Portraits in Diner Hallway**

Marvin Lopez mentioned that a form will be sent out to everyone to gather ideas about SA portraits in the Diner Hallway which will be implemented soon.

Jackson Harris explained that the way the portraits in Diner used to be done is that the posters of student assembly members would have their name, class year, and a fun fact. He agreed with Noelle Juliano's suggestion of placing committee assignments within the potential posters. He noted that adding a fun fact to the introductions is a nice addition to humanizing the assembly members. He further agreed with Rafael's idea about having a bulletin list and with Dewayne's idea of a suggestion/comment box.

Marvin Lopez asked if it might be more beneficial to have a more permanent box for SA to use rather than just the SA table ones, which come and go.

Adina Mujica mentioned that instead of just adding the committee assignments, more information can be given to access a specific person and the type of work the person and their committee is in charge of. This way students can direct their questions and concerns to specific SA members who may be more poised to act on certain issues.

Dewayne Martin mentioned that the comment boxes can be placed within different parts of campus where they can leave a comment on different things and be transcribed.

Nevaeh Gutierrez asked to clarify that there used to be posters of SA members hung up in previous years.

Marvin Lopez confirmed that they were located in the Diner Hallway with SA members' names, class years, and fun facts.



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Isa Cardoso brought up the possibility of adding physical posters everywhere around campus as not everyone checks social media. Posters and printouts can be placed to describe what committees are working on at a given time. This is useful as it is an “in your face” advertisement.

Marvin Lopez noted that the wall is starting to seem more like an SA wall rather than just a portrait wall.

○ **Funding Requests:**

Club Name	Requested Budget	Recommended Budget	Approved Budget
Paws for a Cause	\$16.35	\$16.35	\$16.35
PreHealth Careers Club	\$49.99	\$49.99	\$49.99
Student Dance Alliance	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$368.00
Board Club	\$1,266.81	\$1,197.81	\$1,197.81

Emily Jiang explained that all the club fundings are recommended to be funded in full with the exception of the Board Club, which is being partially funded.

Rafael Osella asked why full funding was not provided for the Board Club.

Felix Tager replied that they asked for a Fujifilm camera which was already available in the storage and thus not needed.

Cicille Dan-Morton asked what the Board Club was.

Joseph Maalouf replied that it was the college skateboarding club.

The motion to fund the funding requests as recommended passes.

5. Announcements

- The DOS Search Committee invites students to participate in a dialogue with representatives from Isaacson, Miller, the consulting firm retained to assist in the search for Hamilton’s VP Dean of Students.



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- **Tuesday, February 22, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom**
Meeting ID: 998 0108 2242
- **or**
- **Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**
Meeting ID: 979 8249 8523

- If you have not already, please submit proof of your COVID booster onto the health portal ASAP, linked [here](#).
- Remember to register for weekly COVID tests! Registration helps the process move along quicker, reducing long lines at testing. Link is [here](#) and in your email.
- We want to fund your events! If there are any events, big or small, that you want to see on-campus, please reach out to the President, VP, or your class representatives.
- The Judicial Board is looking for two members from the class of 2023. An email went out last week.
- SA will be hosting tables at Diner on Wednesday (1-2pm) and Friday (6-7pm) this week. There will be suggestion boxes available, as well as postcards available for underclassmen to write and send to their future senior selves (an email will go out later)!

