



Hamilton College Student Assembly

General Meeting of the Central Council - April 11th, 2022

8:30 PM – 10:00 PM, Sadove Conference Room Minutes

1. Call to Order

Present:

Isa Cardoso

Cicille Dan-Morton

Michelle Estrella

Nevaeh Gutierrez

Abigail Hagan

Jackson Harris

Josue Herrera Rivera

Emily Jiang

Tommy Keith

Lena Klink

Alex Kropaneva

Marvin Lopez

Joe Maalouf

Dewayne Martin

Ryley McGovern

Adina Mujica

Raymond Ni

Rafael Osella

Matthew Sinning

Felix Tager

Excused:

Nickie Conlogue

Max Ganem

Evelyn Molina

Subin Myong

Allison Sheehan

- *We are working with the Oneida Nation to create a new land acknowledgment as well as actionable plans to honor our commitment to developing a relationship with the Oneida Nation.*

2. General Public Comment Period ([TIME: 02:22](#))

Sofia Weinstein (she/they) '24 wrote:

“I am writing to ask for a widened selection at Bundy Cafe, specifically for lunch and dinner. This will greatly improve the quality of life down the hill, and is largely a matter of accessibility on campus.”

Jackson Harris asked if the Health Committee talked to Reuben Haag regarding the issue.

Abigail Hagan replied that they have mostly been talking to Barbara Fluty about the drastic rise in COVID-19 cases as it is the more prominent issue at the moment. She expressed her hope for the COVID-19 Task Force to come in next week to speak to the Assembly to answer questions regarding the current situation and procedures.

Felix Tager mentioned that he and Emily Jiang have been in contact with Lucy Burke and suggested reopening a conversation with her.

3. New Business

- **Approval of Minutes from 4/4**



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The motion to approve the 4/4 minutes passes unanimously.

- **Amendment Voting: Student Activities Funding Codes Amendments, proposed by Chair Felix Tager '23 and the SAFC ([TIME: 5:20](#))**

Felix Tager mentioned that there are a couple of things to be voted on today. He mentioned wanting to break it up into sections and vote on them separately. The first is a constitutional revision and the second is a bylaw amendment. The first thing is the student activities fee proposal in regards to the general student activities fee. It is written by Emily, himself, Joe, and Kaity. It introduces the rollover system and the traditions fund. The current plan is to break down the parent budgets and allow them to have rollovers for the following year. The trustees are going to vote on turning the student activities fund into an agency fund in the following academic year. Starting this year, there will be a trial run in which the Student Assembly will be following this guideline. As such, the Student Assembly parent budget will have rollovers. Any funding that is not used this semester will roll over into the next one. The 10% rollover clause will apply and the SAF committee will be meeting for the first time this spring.

Joe Maalouf spoke about the traditions fund. He mentioned that the traditions fund is a parent budget managed under the SA's full jurisdiction. The guiding principle states that traditions should be used to provide for the class years with the intention of being repeated. Through this, he is defining what a tradition is, the circumstances under which something can be classified as a tradition, and setting a standard for future traditions and events. He emphasized that not everything can have a traditions status. The whole reason behind this is to save money so there will always be funds in the traditions fund. He explained that new ideas for events have to go through a petition process with SA including the date of the event, the cost of the event, and how often it will include. His reasoning for introducing that specific clause under the traditions amendment is so that SA does not blindly give out items with the traditions fund based on non-documented aspects. It is very important to keep everything structured because it helps keep track.

Tommy Keith mentioned that he had concerns with the language in the proposal stating that traditions must have occurred three other times in order to count considering that some traditions were stopped with COVID-19.

Joe Maalouf replied that there was a section that clarified that for extenuating circumstances. This section states that the Assembly shall take a vote including all voting



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members of the Student Assembly to override the requirement for traditions to be held in consecutive years or semesters under extenuating circumstances.

Rafael Osella asked if the freshman formal would fall under extenuating circumstances.

Joe Maalouf replied that it would. The freshmen formal is not technically a documented tradition right now. They say it is a tradition to have it year after year but this can be grounded into the policy because it is an event that has happened year after year.

Joe Maalouf mentioned that he wanted a clause allowing for class councils to appeal the traditions status to increase inclusivity. For an appeal to work, it has to be passed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority instead of a simple majority, because it was not passed the first time. There is only so much money coming from that fund, so traditions need to be somewhat limited. He furthermore mentioned that if a class council committee needs additional funding, the traditions funding can allow for that to happen. The amount of money allocated for a tradition is determined by the Assembly through a vote. There is the ability to apply for additional funds through the distractionary fund.

Felix Tager brought everyone's attention to the deletions as part of this new proposal. He noted that once this funding proposal is passed, the SAFC committee will be disbanded following the Ad-Hoc by-law proposal in Fall 2021. This will remove the class treasurer position and the cluster treasurer positions from SA. He explained that rollovers will be 10% of the maximum of the total budget allotted to the club a year. The goal of that is exponential so if a club saves money, its budget would increase over time. Anything over that 10% of the budget will be put into the excess fund which will be determined by the SAF committee which is comprised of one Media Board representative, one CAB representative, one Central Council Treasurer, one Central Council President, and a DMC representative. This member would not be able to be a student employee but a neutral party who is an E-Board member of a club. This committee will have a Student Activities officer able to advise but not have voting power so this committee is entirely student representative ran. Additionally, he noted that the 10% rollover cap does not apply to the traditions fund which will have a 100% roller, and to the C & C concert fund which will have a 50% rollover in the event that a concert cannot be had.

Questions/ Comments:

Jackson Harris asked in regards to the SAF committee, why the committee should exist separately from the Student Assembly itself. He noted that it was difficult to get participation, especially from the Class Presidents on SA to come to the SAFC meetings. It was even more



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difficult to get representatives from CAB and the Media Board to come to the meetings. He asked why it would be better in the future in terms of attendance.

Felix Tager replied that they would need to show up otherwise they will not get funding. The SAF committee is going to discuss parent budgets and the allocation of funding for it. If Media Board or CAB wants to change their budget by chance, then that is what they would be discussing during the meetings. If they do not show up and do not represent, they are losing the chance to advocate for themselves regarding their own budget. Their own budgets depend on their attendance and organizations need money.

Tommy Keith asked whether there should be some Student Assembly representatives on the SAF committee with everyone else so that there is still a student voice besides just the President and the Treasurer.

Emily Jiang replied that selecting the membership of the committee was quite contentious. As a result, the SAF committee decided to just decide on having the SA President be a part of the SAF committee. The SA president is supposed to be the representative of the whole school.

Jackson Harris expressed his belief that it would be beneficial to include SA members on the board. He asked that given CAB and Media Board are both responsible for electing their own members to the committee, how do they foresee the organizations adapting to the meetings, especially with changing memberships year to year.

Felix Tager responded that there will be a clause in the Media Board constitution that will affirm all the matters to what Student Assembly says. Everything being voted on will be in the student activities handbook, so organizations have to follow it in order for their organization to be active. He noted that Noelle Juliano is the faculty advisor for the Media Board and would help coordinate that role for the SAF committee. For CAB, they would decide on that at the beginning of every year as well.

Emily Jiang reiterated that they all are involved in the writing process of this proposal and should be aware of some of these issues.

Matthew Sinning asked if the traditions section only applies to class traditions. He noted that the underclassmen formal currently is made for two class years. He asked if it would still be compliant if more first years came to the event than sophomores.



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Joe Maalouf replied that the specific demonstratable value doesn't mean that they have to have attended. It just shows that means it could be applicable to 50% but it does not mean that the value must be provided for in the end. It will only be held under the stipulation that presumably it will provide the set value.

Marvin Lopez stated that the work SAFC has been doing for the past year has culminated in the funding/rollover proposal and the new Student Assembly bylaws for the new funding codes. This will have to go to a whole school vote after it is approved by the Assembly since it is an amendment to the main charter constitution. The bylaws will not have to go through a whole school vote.

The motion to pass the funding/rollover proposal passes unanimously via roll call vote.

Marvin Lopez read aloud the highlighted section, indicating the main changes, to the funding code bylaws. The new budget allocation process will allow student organizations to receive funding in advance. Under this model, the Assembly will be voting on the budgets for the semester before the first meeting takes place. This will remove the need for the Assembly to continuously vote on budget proposals. The new budget allocation process will utilize a declining budget model. 10% of unused money will roll back and organizations that practice good spending will be rewarded and organizations that underspend have that money to use somewhere else.

Emily Jiang clarified that organizations get a set amount of money for the year that the Assembly decides on. That budget will decline throughout the year. If the rollover proposal passes in the whole school vote, any extra money left over at the end of the year will rollback.

Felix Tager clarified further that this is only true for parent budgets, not for organizations themselves.

Marvin Lopez mentioned that something else added is a statement that allows for the funding of apparel for student organizations. He reiterated that the purpose of the amendment is to introduce a new funding system for the following year. If that passes, the process for that will begin immediately. He further mentioned that sections were updated to correctly reflect processes and defined undefined terms. Funding rules were clarified to how they apply to CAB and Media Board. The current restrictions for how much money can be received for off-campus events and lodging have been bumped up for better flexibility for student organizations.



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Emily Jiang added that the increase also reflects inflation.

Felix Tager restated that this is a bylaw, so once this is voted on and passed, it will go into effect. Tomorrow would be the start of the updated funding process. The final funding form will be designed which will go out by the end of this month. He furthermore shouted out the authors of the proposals: Marvin Lopez, Allison Sheehan, himself, Gabriel Bit-Babik, Joe Maalouf, and Katy Stewart. He added for general understanding that CAB and Media Board do not have merch guidelines, but following this, they will. They will have lines added to the bottom of their constitution stating that SA's funding codes have to comply with their funding codes as well. Everything that is in SA's funding codes, will apply to them as well except for some exceptions. Transparency clauses will now also apply to the Media Board and CAB, meaning they will have to publish what they are spending their funding on. This will apply to all purchases. The only time this does not apply is when an NDA is applied for CAB concert fees for C&C. Additionally, this also applies for merch. CAB cannot provide merch that is over \$35 per item to students. He noted that there were redactions on top of the bylaw. He thanked Eric Santamauro-Stenzel for making many of the recommendations. All the text that refers to Class Treasurers will be removed from the funding codes along with the funding committee because it will no longer exist due to treasurers no longer existing. Contingency funding is to allow for student clubs that did not have the ability to get funding because they did not get an academic year to request funding because this is now done in the spring. He noted that the annual budget proposals are going to be extremely lenient. Clubs can submit a list of things in which they hope to plan and they will be given funds around the ballpark in which they hope to spend. His, Kaity, and Noelle's goal is to look at how each club historically spends and use that information to allocate funds. The other thing that is going to be done is figuring out how to give the college more leniency. One thing that is being worked on during the first trial run is figuring out how much clubs are going to need in addition to what they are already requesting. This way if they try to do events, they can do so. This is not said specifically because they want to ensure that it fluctuates as clubs need more or less and to match up with inflation. Food spending has always been changed to \$25 per day for on-campus events to reflect college policies. He explains that the apparel section defines the terms and speaks about the expenses. This is done because clubs oftentimes need uniforms. For example, Buffers patches are usually paid for by themselves but now it is allowed to come from their spending. Additionally, members of HEAT can now keep the uniforms that they request instead of passing them down year to year. He noted that E-Boards of organizations cannot purchase the merchandise for themselves unless designated otherwise unless they are given to other students on campus whether it is the G-Board or the general population. This prevents small clubs to just buy merchandise for themselves. Prizes now will not be able to exceed \$25 instead of \$20 and \$50 for an event or activity instead of \$40. Exceptions were also made for CAB to allow them to use single-use plastic



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water bottles in the scenario that a performer requests it. He explained that there is still emergency funding and contingency funds. Clubs will be able to request contingency funds in the event that their club spending ended up going over their budget slightly. This will be used as minimally as possible. The main reason for this is because not much funds will be placed into the contingency fund. It will grow as rollovers occur but the intention is to not use it very much as it is a last resort in cases of emergency. Sanctions will still exist.

Questions/ Comments:

Rafael Ossela mentioned that Section 8, part 8 says that the codes will be reevaluated every two years. He asked if it would be best to instead evaluate it every 6 months or a quicker time frame than two years.

Felix Tager replied that it is mandated to review it every two years but they can always review the codes more before the two-year review period.

Joe Maalouf asked if they could edit it while they are talking to say that they meet every 6 months or more often.

Emily Jiang replied that if there is a mandate with a shorter time frame, it will most likely not happen considering how long it took the SAFC committee just to complete the document.

Matthew Sinning agreed with the two-year mandate. In terms of the contingency budget, he asked if that would be affected by the 10% rollovers for the budget.

Felix Tager replied that the rollovers go to the parent budgets. There are three major parent budgets: CAB, Media Board, and Student Assembly. Any remaining budget over the excess will be designated by the SAF committee to go into different things. Generally, the 10% will not affect any of the internal budgets of the parent budgets.

Matthew Sinning asked if this is a purely sub-designated section of the SA budget.

Felix Tager replied that it was.

Emily Jiang thanked the committee and explained that the first amendment will go out with the SA vote at the end of the semester.



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The motion to pass the new funding code bylaws passes unanimously.

Felix Tager announced that at this time since this passed, the SAFC committee will now be disbanded.

Announcement: Abigail Hagan '25, Class of 2025 Representative - Underclassman Formal Postponed (TIME: 42:47)

Abigail Hagan noted that the underclassman formal had to be postponed due to the current COVID-19 cases but they wanted to reschedule for the current first-year and sophomore classes. She mentioned that more information will come in everyone's emails.

- **SA Tables Schedule - Week of April 10th, 2022 (TIME: 43:37)**

Marvin Lopez mentioned that SA tables will be in the Diner Hallway on Tuesday from 1-2 PM and Friday from 6-7 PM.

- **Funding Requests: (TIME: 44:50)**

Club Name	Requested Budget	Recommended Budget
Tropical Sol	\$125.97	\$125.97
Hamilton Democrats	\$87.00	\$87.00
Duelly Noted	\$100.00	\$100.00
Fencing Club	\$2,558.90	\$0
Plants at Hamilton	\$1,368.65	\$1,368.65
Board Club	\$1,686.50	\$1,686.50
ICA	\$113.00	\$113.00
Justice and Equity Committee	\$630.00	\$630.00



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Felix Tager noted that Fencing Club is a club sport so their funding request has been voided as their funding should be requested by the club sports advisor, not Student Assembly. Rollovers have also been acquired from Hamilton Debate so the budget have been updated accordingly.

The motion to approve the budget requests as recommended passes unanimously.

The motion to approve the discretionary Justice and Equity budget request as recommended passes unanimously.

4. Announcements (**TIME: 48:00**)

- Student Assembly assists the Class and Charter Award selection committee in seeking nominations for student leaders and an outstanding professor every spring. An email with survey links with the subject line “**Class & Charter Day Awards**” has gone 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.

Felix Tager reiterated his gratitude for the people involved in the SAFC committee. He mentioned that in the last five years, treasurers have tried to resolutions for a new funding system. While one group was able to get the cluster model proposed, that was the farthest the assembly has ever gotten in changing the funding model.

Jackson Harris shouted out Felix Tager for the time and effort he has put into the new funding proposal and codes. He expressed his hope that this new system will work out well. He also announced that the Campus Safety office now has an ATM.

Tommy Keith mentioned that he, Adina Mujica, and Marvin Lopez talked to Bryan Hansen and Sarah about installing hand dryers on campus as it is more sustainable and will reduce waste on campus. He noted that there was pushback ten years ago but there isn't as much pushback now so they are going to do it.

Emily Jiang mentioned that there were some concerns about hand dryers which they have been working with Dean Martinez to resolve.

Rafael Osella asked whether he can ask about the nature of the complaints.



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Felix Tager mentioned that air dryers spread germs around which is worsened given the pandemic. He noted that he has spoken to a residential area director about putting alcohol wipes into the bathrooms so people can sterilize surfaces. People are using more paper towels than necessary due to the lack of quality of the current ones provided by the college.

Emily Jiang mentioned that they spoke to President Wippman about how in residential areas, paper towels serve more purposes than just drying hands. They emphasized the need to submit a public comment if they have any opinions on paper towels.

Adina Mujica agreed with their comments and mentioned these ideas are something to put down for future admins.

Marvin Lopez reiterated that they will be talking to Bryan Hansen regarding this topic.

5. Adjournment

If you would like to be put on the agenda for a public comment, email sa@hamilton.edu by 8:00 PM on Monday. Otherwise, submit them [here](#) using your Hamilton email account.