



Hamilton College Student Assembly

General Meeting of the Central Council - April 18th, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

Present:

Isa Cardoso
Nickie Conlogue
Cicille Dan-Morton
Michelle Estrella
Max Ganemn
Nevaeh Gutierrez
Jackson Harris
Josue Herrera Rivera
Emily Jiang
Tommy Keith

Lena Klink
Alex Kropaneva
Marvin Lopez
Joe Maalouf
Dewayne Martin
Ryley McGovern
Evelyn Molina
Adina Mujica
Raymond Ni
Rafael Osella

Allison Sheehan
Matthew Sinning

Excused:

Abigail Hagan
Subin Myong
Felix Tager

- *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: 2:40](#))

Eric Cortes-Kopp '22 (he/they) introduced himself and stated that he is at this meeting regarding the recent email from Dean Martinez. He mentioned being disappointed in the administration's response to the targeted harassment of certain campus members and certain accusations being thrown around. Instead of the school providing resources to address the main issues, he expressed his belief that the school is just blaming the people who took issue with it, which he found to be incredibly disappointing but not new for the administration. He further found that, more importantly, there is a level of cognitive dissonance seen with the administration regarding the Our Hamilton movement and recent protests. He noted that people have been saying that the school cannot do anything because the targeting is done by outside groups. However, they emphasized that when a white man is targeted surrounding misogyny and homophobia, the response is to shame the people targeting him. Regarding the email sent out by Dean Terry Martinez, he stated that addressing the "crude" posters in Commons is not addressing the issue. Instead, the issues that should be addressed are the homophobic, the misogynistic, and the anti-abortion rhetoric which is



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perpetuated by students to other students. He noted that if anyone speaks out about those issues, they are told to stop complaining and told by the administration that they are the ones causing the issue. He mentioned that during his first year, during a sexual assault rally in front of Buttrick Hall, a similar email was sent out by the Dean of Students detailing the precautions to take in order to not get sexually assaulted which he notes is tone-deaf. He emphasizes that this is not a new level for this school but instead, a continual pattern. Instead of taking a stand and taking action on how to address or solve these issues, the administration has instead opted for blaming “everyone who is complaining and everyone who’s ridiculed by the Rosary Club.” He asked for Student Assembly to address this issue with Dean Martinez and President Wippman as he believes that it is extremely disappointing that Hamilton is letting outside groups and organizations dictate their actions instead of doing what is best for the community.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel '24 (he/him) read the following speech:

“For many reasons, I have largely stayed away from these meetings this semester. But recent events, in particular, Chief Diversity Officer Terry Martinez’s email to the campus last night, have given me quite the incentive to come to speak here. Before I continue, please be aware I will be discussing racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, harassment, and more.

I will read Martinez’s full email here so that it may appear on the record:

“Dear members of our Community,

In recent weeks, we have seen multiple instances in which members of our community have, intentionally or not, expressed themselves with little or no regard for the feelings and values of others, whether through bigoted posts on Jodel, crude banners in Commons, satirical pieces in campus publications, or disrespectful emails to other students. There is a difference between free expression and thoughtless expression. The former is central to our academic mission, but I ask everyone to think about the impact of their words and actions on other members of our community before they speak or act. We are a community that aspires to be welcoming and inclusive of all its members, and that imposes an obligation on all of us to consider the interests, values, and welfare of others as well as our own.

Thank you,

Terry Martinez

Vice President and Dean of Students”



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Chief Diversity Officer Martinez, who did not use that title in this email, has managed to write what I find to be the single most contemptuous announcement I have seen from any administrator in my life. However, while this email came from her it was no doubt known to President Wippman and potentially others that it would be sent, and they too should be held responsible.

The examples cited in this email are, generally, the same ones cited by the founder of Rosary Club in his Enquiry article and the story in the far-right national publication The College Fix about the supposed discrimination he has experienced for publicly declaring his homophobia, among other things. The founder and president of the Alexander Hamilton Institute is heavily quoted in the article, including events from nearly a decade ago. He has been quoted in two other College Fix articles which also targeted students and events on campus. In the past few days, this article in The College Fix has spread far and wide, with thousands of comments, reactions, and shares across numerous websites. Some of these people have made clear they are calling and writing to Hamilton to demand they defend the Alexander Hamilton Institute and Rosary Club. Make no mistake, Martinez's 9pm Sunday email is only coming in response to outside public pressure from the far-right and an effort to cover its liability.

They made no comment when, last year, an Enquiry author described Black Lives Matter protestors and formerly incarcerated people as "rabid dogs." In fact, in a meeting former SA President Sapphire Ruiz '22 and I had with CDO Martinez and President Wippman last semester, CDO Martinez described students' response to this article as "cancel culture."

When, over a month ago, hundreds of community members protested to support marginalized professors who have resigned in part due to these exact issues of discrimination and targeting, neither President Wippman nor CDO Martinez had anything to say in campus media or an announcement. They just pretend these issues don't exist and that we'll forget about them.

It would seem Hamilton College and its representatives, even those supposedly responsible for addressing discrimination on campus, only have something to say about bigotry when a white man says they're the one experiencing it.

But it does not stop there. If we are to believe the claims made by the founder of Rosary Club about the timeline of its status as an organization, we find not only is he wrong that Rosary Club has been treated unfairly, but that President Wippman and the Director of Student Activities have provided special exceptions and privileges to Rosary Club beyond what is permitted by college



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policy. Having overseen these policies myself, I am confident this is what has occurred. Here is why:

All student organizations must be officially recognized via a formal process outlined in the Student Organization Manual. According to the manual:

“Religious and spiritual organizations are administered through the Chaplaincy, and as such, Student Activities defers to the Chaplain to determine if they have the capacity or need to support additional faith-based groups. If the Chaplain approves recognition for any new faithbased organizations, the Chaplaincy will inform Student Activities of the approval.”

This did not occur. This group was approved as a subgroup of the Newman Council. I should note, the Newman Council leadership has very publicly stated they do not support this other group and they do not have any tools to stop them. The founder of the group admits as much multiple times in his Enquiry article, so all sides agree: Rosary Club did not go through the student organization recognition process outlined in college policy.

The manual, among other things, says these are some benefits of club recognition:

- “Creation of an organization email account”
- “Mass email privileges”
- “Participation in various events for recognized clubs and organizations, such as the annual Student Activities & Organizations Fair”

This group has been granted all of these privileges despite never even so much as applying to be a recognized organization, as required of all other groups. In other words, every mass email they have sent and their sanctioned attendance of the club fair are explicit violations of college policies, policies multiple administrators overlooked.

When Student Activities finally began enforcing these policies, the author of this article claims he emailed President Wippman and soon after the policies again went unenforced.

I want to be really clear that what I’m talking about here isn’t this specific organization or any particular student. Rather, I say this all to make you, as our student government, and all those reading or watching aware that Hamilton College is proactively defending these groups that have regularly perpetuated hate.



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Thus far, Student Assembly has also not said anything publicly about the events of the past couple months. I know most of you are firmly in agreement with the students who have been protesting for justice, but these private thoughts and individual declarations of support are not enough. I would urge the Assembly to pass a statement or resolution in the near future condemning Hamilton's inaction on bigotry and discrimination against marginalized communities, and call upon them to sever all ties with the Alexander Hamilton Institute. Just as the College is currently responding to public pressure from the outside agitators aligned with AHI, they will have to respond to public pressure from the Assembly, student groups, and I hope, the faculty governance structure."

Questions/ Comments:

Matthew Sinning asked whether this period of time would be the only time that assembly members can talk about this issue or whether the closed session will discuss this issue.

Emily Jiang responded that they will motion for a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss this issue.

Isa Cardoso addressed Eric Santomauro-Stenzel and Eric Cortes-Kopp and thanked both of them for coming in to speak.

Jackson Harris asked if Rosary Club receives any funding from Student Assembly.

Emily Jiang replied that the club only has an email with email privileges.

Saphire Ruiz '22 (they/them) commented:

"I'm writing with regards to Rosary Club and Dean Martinez's email to the campus community last night. The Monitor has published a piece I wrote fully responding to Rosary Club's piece in Enquiry and Dean Martinez's email, titled "Rosary Club, AHI, and Chief Diversity Officer Martinez: Hamilton's Commitment to Defending White Supremacy," but I wanted to send in public comment as well. Although SA doesn't currently have any jurisdiction over Rosary Club, as it's an organization under the Chapel, I find it incumbent on the Assembly, especially the President and Vice President, to make clear its stance on this issue.

I can only hope that the majority of the Assembly agree that what we have right now is an opportunity: an opportunity to unapologetically defend the lives of and protect LGBTQ+, Black, and otherwise marginalized students (and faculty and staff). Doing so requires that the Assembly



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condemn Rosary Club's homophobic, transphobic, anti-Black, and misogynistic statements and beliefs, and by extension the hateful statements and beliefs of AHI and Enquiry.

At a moment when the impacts of AHI and other far right organizations and people are being felt heavily on campus, when over 300 students just a month ago called for the College to take action to protect those who have (and will) be targeted by the "Internet Outrage Machine" and the far right organizations and people who operate it, when the College's own refusal to condemn this hate has been made explicit via Dean Martinez's email, it is the responsibility of the Assembly to step up and fight for what's right.

Hamilton has never defended its students, faculty, or staff from bigoted attacks from AHI or other white supremacist organizations, and it has demonstrated that it will not do that unless students, faculty, staff, and alumni demand it. It's not a coincidence that the far right students on campus who feel "suppressed" turn to AHI for protection. Whether or not the institution wants to admit it, AHI has deep connections to Hamilton, and is more than capable of making the College itself a target if AHI isn't allowed to function as it has been.

Hamilton would rather allow AHI to regularly target community members and threaten and oppress marginalized peoples than take basic actions like revoking email access from Robert Paquette, disallowing Enquiry to send emails or publish its material on campus, and terminating the AHI Undergraduate program, the latter two of which would simply be enforcing the standard policies on student organizations and harassment.

This is not a matter of censorship or free speech. It is a matter of ensuring that marginalized Hamilton community members are protected, valued, and treated with basic dignity and respect, and I deeply hope that the Assembly does right by our marginalized community members, as senior staff and other members of the College continue to demonstrate that it will not."

Questions/ Comments:

Tommy Keith expressed his belief that it is ironic how Hamilton College brands itself as a diverse and inclusive college while the opposite is true which is something that most people find out about during their time at this college. He noted that it is the opinion of most of the people on campus that the Rosary Club has been sending heinous emails that go against the ideals of diversity and inclusion. He expressed his belief that the Student Assembly should stand behind the individuals that came to the meeting to speak because as he believes, the administration is wrong and is only doing this out of concerns for money and liability.



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Jackson Harris mentioned that the Rosary Club emails have been heinous from the beginning. He noted that their emails started off being Catholic oriented but now they are Catholic and anti-abortion-oriented. He asked whether there were any college policies that say anything about explicitly political clubs because the Rosary Club seems like essentially an anti-abortion club that spreads offensive material. He asked whether the Rosary Club would violate the college policy if it was branded to be an “anti-abortion club” instead of a religious organization.

Dewayne Martin asked [inaudible]

Eric Cortes-Kopp mentioned that the Rosary Club’s first campus-wide email used the phrase “revolt against the modern world through spiritual warfare.” He noted that the phrase “revolt against the modern world” is also a book title used by Julius Evola who has been described as associated with the alt-right.

Emily Jiang responded to Jackson Harris, explaining that hate speech is a violation of Hamilton’s policies as it creates a hostile environment for some protected groups. They mentioned that they have spoken to President Wippman and Dean Martinez about AHI but they were told that they cannot do anything about the organization because it is not affiliated with the college. They noted that SA has not issued any public comments because they had committees and plans in place to address harassment and discrimination which will be finalized before the end of the semester. They mentioned that they will be writing up a statement regarding recent events that will be voted on during the next meeting. There will be an open discussion next week regarding the statement they want to send out. There will be a closed session after this meeting to discuss this issue further as they don’t want to generate any unnecessary discourse on the minutes as it is not productive. They thanked individuals for coming in for public comment and Saphire Ruiz or sending theirs in.

Eric Santomauro-Stenzel mentioned that when the college says that they have no connection to AHI, this is untrue because there is a student organization called the AHI Undergraduate Fellows which is funded by Student Assembly which is how the group distributes the *Enquiry* via email. He explained that the organization has the ability to send mass emails, book spaces within the college, and have direct connections with the AHI. The college’s student organization policy requires that all student organizations be run primarily on campus with an autonomous board which he explained was not the case with the AHI Undergraduate Fellows. The AHI Undergraduate Fellows are commonly featured on the AHI website with the AHI office phone numbers listed as the contacts. Most of the events that AHI Undergraduate Fellows have hosted on



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campus are directly tied in with AHI and its associates. He emphasized that the claim that there is no connection between AHI and the college is objectively false.

Emily Jiang reiterated their appreciation for individuals coming in or submitting their comments through the Public Comment Google Form. They further mentioned that public comments are not limited to students.

3. New Business

- **Approval of Minutes from 4/11**

The motion to approve the 4/11 minutes passes unanimously.

- **Guest Speaker: Karen Leach, VP of Administration and Finance, COVID-19 Task Force Chair (TIME: 27:10)**

Karen Leach introduced herself and noted that she has been at Hamilton College for the last 19 years and for the past two years has been overseeing the Covid Taskforce and is here to answer questions. She explained that the COVID-19 response team is made up of the task force that meets once a week as well as a Steering Committee consisting of President Wippman, Nathan Goodale, and herself two other times a week. She stated that she is open to answering any questions.

Questions/ Comments:

Isa Cardoso thanked Karen Leach for coming in. Her biggest concern is what plans are looking like after the summer, given the result of the way things were handled after Spring Break. She expressed her belief that a lot of people would feel more comfortable going into the next semester knowing that something was learned as a community because of this outbreak. She noted that there was frequent talk about testing being taken away next semester and restrictions loosened, so asked if the COVID-19 Task Force had anything specific in mind as of right now.

Karen Leach replied there is not yet a plan currently in place for next fall because they do not know what is going to happen with COVID. She stated that a lot of schools are following similar procedures such as testing twice a week, some with outbreaks and some without outbreaks. Many other schools have experienced outbreaks but Hamilton is late to the game with the current outbreak. She noted that some schools, like Colgate, are not testing at all (just symptomatic people) and are dealing with cases fine. She mentioned that she gets a lot of emails from parents, in particular, stating that the college is either doing



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way too much or not enough when it comes to COVID-19 protocols. Hamilton College is trying to navigate a path somewhere in the middle. She expressed her hope that by next fall, the school will be beyond COVID, but she cannot say that is what is going to happen as COVID is unpredictable. She stated that with the current variant, unlike with the Delta variant, people are experiencing symptoms. While they are not deathly ill, they are infectious and immunocompromised people are very worried. She stated that her personal view is that the community needs to move beyond COVID and get back to normal. They are trying to ground Hamilton's response to science and CDC guidance to keep people safe in this intensive environment.

Jackson Harris mentioned that the COVID-19 Task Force has and can be seen to change policies at will. He noted that the current testing program may or may not continue next year given that its existence is reliant upon a lot of money. He asked if there is a deadline for the submission of the testing budget. He asked what would happen if COVID-19 were still a thing and Hamilton did not submit a budget.

Karen Leach replied that the budget is developed every year and is approved in March at the Board of Trustees meeting. The budget includes an allocation of expenses for COVID-19. The college carries a contingency budget which is 1% of the overall budget which is about 1.5 million dollars. The plan currently is to not spend as much on COVID-19 in the coming year as a lot was spent in the 2020-2021 year (\$15 million) and the 2021-2022 school years (amount unknown). She mentioned that testing will continue because it has an impact on controlling the outbreak.

Joe Maalouf stated that Hamilton College has been on and off about the mask debate. Mask mandates have been differing since before Spring Break. He mentioned that Hamilton students are in the dark about short-term COVID assessments and plans. Furthermore, people are worried about events like C&C day given that the underclassmen formal was postponed. He asked about Hamilton's response in regards to the federal mask mandate expiring on the date of this meeting.

Karen Leach replied that there is an attempt to create an environment that is as close to normal as possible. She noted that the only way to do that is to slow down the spread because it is difficult to deal with hundreds of COVID cases at a time. The college is required by Oneida County to isolate students who test positive. For many students, they are rapid testing themselves. She acknowledges that no one wants to wear a mask, but they are trying to slow the spread which is why masks are not required in residence halls. The



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biggest goal is to try to slow the spread which is why people who are worried should definitely wear a mask.

Joe Maalouf mentioned that in many areas around campus, people do not wear masks such as in Commons when people are eating. He asked how effective the mask mandate is when it is not in full effect.

Karen Leach replied that masking in other areas would protect employees and professors in classes. While no one wants to wear a mask, they are effective when you wear them. She mentioned that students get upset when they need to go into isolation but no one also wants to wear a mask. She noted that she cannot do much for people who test positive because it is mandated that those people go into isolation.

Matthew Sinning asked what metrics are used for making decisions for this semester and the next year to decide on COVID-19 policies.

Karen Leach replied that a number of factors are taken into consideration such as the number of cases and the capacity of hotel rooms. She then asked whether he was referring to decisions regarding masking or decisions on status changes.

Matthew Sinning replied that the CDC has been more concerned with hospitalization rates over transmission rates. He asked if this decision-making is something that has been more concerned with CDC guidance or merely hotel rooms and transmission rates.

Karen Leach replied that all of the factors are looked at. In Oneida County, they are required already to isolate students who test positive. This is subject to change but only if the laws in the county change. A whole bunch of factors are looked at such as the number of cases currently, what experts say, general transmission, and how sick people are. She expressed hope for a regular semester this upcoming fall.

Matthew Sinning asked if the isolation requirement is something imposed on everyone in the county or if it is only imposed on the college.

Karen Leach replied that everyone in the county needed to self-isolate if they test positive and the college is required to meet their requirements for isolation. She further mentioned that while she understands that some students want to take walks outside of their hotel rooms due to the duration of the quarantine, Oneida County does not allow this.



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Adina Mujica mentioned that while she was not a Hamilton student during the Spring 2020 semester when students got sent home, she heard from other students that low-income and marginalized students had the worst experiences. She noted that even now when there is talk about going back to normal on campus, a large part of the discussion is neglecting the topic of the accessibility of resources to the aforementioned groups. She asked to what extent there is accountability to those students because not much empathy was given to those students from the COVID-19 Task Force as she believes.

Karen Leach replied that when people did go remote in the Spring 2020 semester, COVID-19 was a new threat and people did not know what was going on. She mentioned that many students have faced tragedies as a result of COVID-19. She noted that much was given to students during that time such as giving students in need funding. Now coming back, she does not know what type of support is needed whether it is more online classes, hybrid classes, etc but she does not think the college will ever go back to everyone studying remotely 100%.

Adina Mujica mentioned that Karen Leach talked about how she considers parents' opinions on what the campus COVID-19 policies should be. She expressed her belief that there are other groups that are relevant as a deciding factor to the campus's COVID-19 policies such as students currently on campus.

Karen Leach replied that while the parents write to them, they listen more to the students as there are students on the COVID-19 Task Force helping make the decisions. She noted that she gets emails from both extremes of the spectrum regarding the masking policies so there is no right answer to please everyone.

Nevaeh Gutierrez asked why the COVID-19 Task Force did not require testing during Spring Break before students came back to campus. She noted that only positive tests had to be reported so there seemed to be no incentive to test before coming back.

Karen Leach responded that the cases on campus were currently at that time very low before the break and did not seem to be a big threat. She mentioned that many schools brought students back with no testing and had no surge, so she does not know what happened with Hamilton College that caused the college's surge. The COVID-19 Task Force didn't think it was necessary at the time and mentioned the difficulty in enforcing rules to require every student to test before coming back to campus.



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Adina Mujica mentioned that one thing spoken about is how the college seemed to consider the convenience of the general student body's preference over the anxiety and livelihood of immunocompromised people. She asked to what extent immunocompromised people are considered in decision-making.

Karen Leach mentioned that people across the spectrum are anxious- people are anxious because they have to wear masks, people are anxious because they are testing, and people are anxious when they don't test. She emphasized that she hears from all of those people so there is no one right answer so they are trying to take the right path to not being anxious. She emphasized that she cares about everyone's mental health but she does not know the right answers but is welcome to hear suggestions.

Adina Mujica mentioned that the solution would be to prioritize people who are immunocompromised and can lose their lives to loose regulations. She emphasized that it would be a tragedy if someone developed more severe symptoms because Hamilton was careless in who they decided to prioritize.

Karen Leach asked if she thought that students should test.

Adina Mujica replied that she believed that students should be required to test and mask as long as needed.

Karen Leach mentioned that they are trying to forge a path forward that makes sense. Eventually, there will come a point where people will need to think about what the normal level of risk is going forward.

Adina Mujica mentioned that at least for the community's small bubble, it could be rewritten as what normal looks like. For example, more consideration can be given to student resources here.

Joe Maalouf mentioned that seeing that peer institutions such as Colgate are only testing symptomatic people, the surge at Hamilton College currently could probably be explained just by the fact that Hamilton is still testing everyone. He noted that Colgate seemed to be doing fine despite them not testing everyone. He asked why Hamilton was not only testing symptomatic people as doing so could conserve resources for people who are more COVID-19 conscious and takes the burden off of people who have not had a real class experience.



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Karen Leach responded that the comments she has heard so far in the room are representative of the tensions she wrestles with all the time. While there are people that just want to stop the testing and live a normal life, there are other students who want to be more careful because they do not want people who are at risk to be at risk. She assumes that people who are doing the rapid testing are symptomatic. There are currently a lot of people who are symptomatic testing and coming up positive. Colgate is not experiencing the same scenario with their symptomatic tests. Because Hamilton is trying to minimize risks for most people and is in the middle of a surge, this is why everyone is getting tested. She noted that the task force will continue working during the summer so what happens with COVID-19 will depend on the CDC and New York state guidelines.

Joe Maalouf mentioned that the college is seeing a surge in cases because of the constant testing. He expressed that most of the positive cases were without symptoms.

Karen Leach responded that most of the positive cases were coming from the Health Center which means that they came from rapid tests. She explained that while school-wide results are received on Tuesdays and Fridays and displayed on the COVID-19 dashboard, case numbers still appear for the other days of the week which are a result of rapid testing.

Emily Jiang emphasized that according to science, people with asymptomatic cases can still have devastating effects. If the campus does not test for COVID-19, the cases do not disappear. They wanted to make it clear that COVID-19 affects you no matter if you are symptomatic or not.

Matthew Sinning mentioned that in another college, something that is done is giving out mandatory testing but not for everyone. The college would take a significant amount of randomly selected students and test them. He noted, however, that this practice is usually done at colleges larger than Hamilton. He further mentioned the idea of wastewater testing.

Karen Leach mentioned that Hamilton did do wastewater testing during Fall 2020. There is not a way to test in every single dorm, so they could see COVID-19 show up but could not locate it. As a result, wastewater testing is not as effective as standard testing. She noted that some schools are doing pool testing where they randomly select students to test which significantly reduces the cost compared to testing everybody. It was worth the investment, however, to test everybody at Hamilton. It explained that doing so worked well last year and until this point, also this year until this new very contagious strand. She expressed her belief and hope that the numbers would come down soon as it did in most other places after approximately three weeks.



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Jackson Harris mentioned that the COVID-19 Task Force received a lot of praise for how they handled COVID-19 in the last school year and having minimal cases. However, he expressed his immense disappointment with the error from the Task Force coming in from Spring Break. Currently, there is an unprecedented outbreak and conflicts arising between students on differences in opinion on how to move forward. He mentioned that some students think that if you don't test for COVID-19, then the problem doesn't exist. Furthermore, the COVID question distributed around campus has generated some serious disturbance on campus. He noted that in Leach's interview with The Spectator, she was asked if she regrets the Spring Break return decision where she replied "It's always easy to second-guess a decision in hindsight." He expressed his belief that the statement was not an appropriate response to the question.

Karen Leach clarified that the question asked to her was whether the COVID-19 Task Force regretted not requiring masks upon return from Spring Break. Her answer to the question was that she didn't think requiring masks coming back from campus would have made a difference because masks were still required in most classes. She further expressed that she does not regret not mandating testing before returning to campus because the Monday tests would have picked up any cases.

Jackson Harris replied that in some instances, the positive cases do not show up in someone until days later. He noted that to have this complete reversal from last year where Spring Break was nulled to the current blind optimism is shocking. He expressed his frustration from the fact that the COVID-19 Spring Break return question was asked to the Task Force in a Student Assembly meeting prior to the break but no action was done. He reiterated that informed decisions could have been made on how to properly come back from Spring Break whether it is more testing, masking again, or checking whether students actually took their rapid tests before coming back. He asked whether she took responsibility for the successes of the Task Force.

Karen Leach replied that she and the COVID-19 Task Force do not take responsibility for the lack of COVID-19 cases as there are many voices within the college that goes into these decisions. She expressed her belief that mandating masks in the beginning would not have changed the outcome. She stated that they did the best that they could in a very difficult situation. She mentioned that there was a lot of luck in the beginning and not so much luck right now. The next step for her is to think into the future for next fall. She emphasized that while the circumstance currently is less than ideal if everyone acts responsibly, the community can get out of this.



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Marvin Lopez mentioned that as Vice President, he noticed that the majority of opinions SA has received from the student body lean toward asking for more restrictions despite the differing opinions expressed within the assembly. He noted that the issue is not just about physical health but also mental health. He expressed his belief that the students who want fewer restrictions will only face an inconvenience if they are required to wear one. If masking is not required, then it will affect those that are immunocompromised more severely as it would not just be an inconvenience to them but also a risk to their lives. In considering this, regardless of what the college does in the future, he asked whether students who suffer that anxiety will still have an avenue to be tested even if case numbers are low.

Karen Leach mentioned that this was causing problems in the world. She noted that in some places, people care more about COVID-19 than other people. Her question is whether there truly is a majority of students who think the way he described as she gets many negative messages. Some people say to her that the college is permanently damaging their mental health by having them wear a mask and that they are devastating their entire college experience. She emphasized that if students are worried, they can keep protecting themselves by choosing to wear a mask even if everyone around them is not. There will always be testing and rapid testing for COVID-19. She noted that both sides of the student body need to be considered. People are either very strongly pro or very strongly against COVID-19 restrictions so the answer, as she believes, is somewhere in the middle.

Marvin Lopez emphasized that there is always a group that has something to gain and a group that has something to lose from policy changes.

Emily Jiang asked if there could be another survey.

Karen Leach replied that at the moment, it would not really matter because the college is in the middle of a surge so decisions will be made based on that. In the future, considerations can be discussed when the surge goes down.

Tommy Keith expressed his agreement with the current policies on testing and masking. He mentioned that many people have come to Marvin and Emily expressing their concerns about immunocompromised people. He noted that they should consider the adverse effects of masking all the time at some point and how it affects a student's Hamilton College experience. He guesses that 60-70% of people do not like the masking requirements nor do they follow them in his observations.



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Karen Leach stated that if there are any questions to please send her an email at kleach@hamilton.edu. She emphasized that she wants to hear from students and would be happy to come back any time to speak to the Assembly. She recognized that these questions are not easy to answer.

Emily Jiang noted that they encourage everyone to submit concerns to the task force or to public comment. SA sent out an email that has links to all paths at Hamilton through which students can express their views. They emphasized that the Task Force and SA take student thoughts and appreciate them.

- **Committee Updates: ([TIME: 01:12:40](#))**
 - **Constitutional Review Committee: Allison Sheehan '23, Parliamentarian, Committee Chair ([TIME 01:12:48](#))**

Allison Sheehan stated that the committee has been off to a little bit of a slow start. The slow start is partially because the committee does not definitively know how it is going to shape the amendment process. A big goal of this administration is was a big constitutional overhaul that includes a lot of amendments and a lot of reviews and revisions to the document. Something the committee is going to discuss is the role the constitutional review committee has in the process. She mentioned thinking that it would be great for the committee to be a check-point of sorts for amendments before they reach the Assembly for greater voting. The committee would look at the format and what is actually asked by the person that wrote it. This process is not written out in the constitution. The original purpose of Constitutional Review was to adjudicate constitutional disputes. While this is still a function of the committee, it is not something that is not really thought to the committee. She noted that the committee has a lot of potential and that the committee will start next semester with the working order. The committee also hopes to come to a consensus on how they want to approach formatting issues. She emphasized that if anyone had any amendments they wanted to write, to bring them forward. She noted that this would be a good opportunity for the committee to try out this process. As long as the amendments are written with a fast turnaround, they can go to the committee on Saturday and then be voted on during the meeting on Monday. She lastly noted that the committee is still trying to figure out a definitive process.

- **Newsletter Materials: Max Ganem '25, Publicity Director ([TIME: 1:16:15](#))**

Max Ganem mentioned that he needs pictures and information from the new members and the entire delegation of the Class of 2023 and from Adina for the SA newsletter. He mentioned



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wanting to put committee updates in the newsletter and asked members to send updates to him as fast as they can.

Emily Jiang suggested asking for updates from all committee chairs. They mentioned that there was a spreadsheet of all the chairs.

- **Wellness Packages: Emily Jiang '25, President (TIME: 1:17:30)**

Emily Jiang mentioned that the care packages will be finals care packages and that items are being ordered this week. They expressed their hope that students will like them and get students through finals.

- **SA Tables Schedule - Week of April 18th, 2022 (TIME: 1:18:10)**

Marvin Lopez mentioned that SA will be doing tables on Tuesday from 1-2 PM and Friday from 6-7 PM. And if anyone wants to participate, they should reach out and they will be put on the schedule.

- **Funding Requests: (TIME: 1:18:10)**

Club Name	Requested Budget	Recommended Budget
Slow Food	\$150.00	\$150.00
La Vanguardia	\$66.28	\$66.28

Joe Maalouf asked about the La Vanguardia funding and if it is appropriate to give them funding with the email they sent out in mind. He asked if it is appropriate for SA to give them funding or if it would seem like a gesture of approval.

Marvin Lopez replied that it seemed like club internal drama. If there was something in the emails that goes against the SA code, that can be reported. Otherwise, there is no reason to deny funding.

The motion to approve both budgets as recommended passes.

4. Announcements

- 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**”



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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 Tuesday 4/19.

- Food Truck Fridays are back! Every Friday 6-9pm. See the weekly email for details on who is coming and where the trucks will be located!

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.