

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY
April 20, 2015

Concerning pledging and student governance.

RESOLUTION
Introduced by Erik Marks '15

WHEREAS the Dean of Students Office, per the recommendations of the Committee on Greek Recruitment, has mandated that all Greek society pledging take place during the fall semester from the 2014-15 academic year onward; and

WHEREAS the Committee on Greek Recruitment expressly operated under “a commitment to [determine] what is best for Hamilton students;” and

WHEREAS the Inter-Society Council (ISC), at the behest of the Greek community, anonymously surveyed recent Greek initiates in order to publicize their assessments of pledging in general and the new pledging policies in particular; and

WHEREAS the Fall 2014 Pledging Survey revealed, with a 95% response rate, that an unequivocal majority (74%) of recent Greek initiates would rather have pledged during their freshman spring; and

WHEREAS the College’s current Strategic Plan enjoins that “constituencies,” including students, “ought to be self-regulating;” and

WHEREAS the Office of the Dean of Students and the Student Activities Office both emphasize the importance of student leadership in realizing their vision for Hamilton College; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Student Assembly “to pass such legislation as shall be consistent with the wishes of the student body.” Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Central Council of the Student Assembly:

- (1) Considers student opinion a crucial factor in all decisions affecting student life at Hamilton College;
- (2) Urges the Dean of Students to actively and transparently collaborate with the Greek community and the wider student community in evaluating the College’s pledging policies in the coming years;
- (3) Urges the Dean of Students to earnestly consider the alteration or reversal of the new pledging policies should it be warranted by relevant evidence and student opinion.

*Approved by the Central Council of the Student Assembly (21-0, 1 abstention) on April 20, 2015.
Endorsed by the Inter-Society Council on April 20, 2015.*

Sources

- www.hamilton.edu/dos
- www.hamilton.edu/studentactivities
- www.hamilton.edu/studentactivities/greek-life
- Recruitment Report: p.1
- Strategic Plan: p.10
- SA Constitution: p.1
- <http://students.hamilton.edu/spectator/news-2015/p/pledging-survey-shows-displeasure-with-changes/view>