

The Central Council of Student Assembly, Hamilton College
STUDENT ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL STATEMENT
MAY 4TH, 2020

Dear Hamilton Community,

Numerous incidents of discrimination and harassment on and off campus have come to the attention of the Assembly. These incidents include but are not limited to: three racist incidents reported on campus before moving to remote learning, racist and malicious comments posted on Jodel regarding coronavirus and Student Assembly candidates, and racist Tiktoks posted by a falsely rumored prospective Hamilton student. The Assembly is aware of the prejudicial nature of these incidents on members of the Hamilton community; and, no individual should have to experience such levels of exclusion or feel as if their accounts are being neglected by community leaders. The Assembly condemns this kind of activity, as it has no place in our community. Furthermore, the Assembly wholly reproves the use of anonymous online platforms as an extension of the Hamilton Community as they create a toxic environment in which prejudicial behavior is more likely to occur. However, it is not enough to solely condemn such behavior; we must also define the characteristics of an inclusive community and the actions all our members must take to uphold it.

Hamilton is a community of people who yield from all different parts of the world. Each comes to the college with a myriad of various perspectives and ideas. It is the belief of the Central Council of the Student Assembly that admittance to this community means assuming the responsibility for upholding a standard ([outlined by the college](#)) as to how these assorted perspectives and ideas are shared, in the intention of fostering a safe, intellectually productive community.

Given the continued occurrence of prejudicial behavior, the Assembly has come to a realization that a standard for participation in our community has been lost on its student body. In order to create a campus where marginalized identities are respected and heard, the Assembly will begin to partake in the ongoing initiative of restructuring our college's culture. Over the past few weeks, the Student Assembly has met to discuss how we, as leaders of the Hamilton community, can most effectively lead this shift. We, your representatives of the Student Assembly, commit to developing and implementing the following initiatives by fall semester 2020:

- Define and require a set of values the Student Assembly expects its members and the entire Hamilton community to uphold.
- Integrate this work into the Student Assembly Constitution and encourage organizations to implement such values in organizational affairs
- Reconstruct the overall goals of the Student Assembly Cultural Affairs Committee to deal with the intricacies of shifting a community culture



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The Student Assembly recognizes that we are not the only constituency on campus interested and enthusiastic about partaking in encouraging cultural shift, and that is why the Assembly has committed to working directly with the Days-Massolo Center, the Dean of Students Office, Dean Maria Genao-Homs, faculty, student organizations, and the student body on this work. Moreover, the Assembly recognizes this is the start of what will be an ongoing collaborative process.

While the college already has policy standards regarding [harassment and discrimination](#), The Assembly is of the belief that this work needs to be recognized legislatively by the Assembly and paralleled throughout all aspects of the Hamilton community there being students, staff, and faculty.

In the meantime, the Assembly urges its student body to utilize the existing resources aimed at reporting violations of discrimination and harassment and how to be an active bystander (all can be found below). Let it be confirmed that all resources below are active during the college's shift to remote learning.

List Resources:

- [Bias Incident and Hate Crimes](#)
- [Harassment & Sexual Misconduct Resources](#)
- [Bias Incident Report Form.](#)
- [How to be an Active Bystander](#)
 - A video on how to be a productive bystander
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0Ti-gkJiXc>

In Solidarity,
The Student Assembly

