

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE

September 25th, 2018 MINUTES

TONIGHT'S MINUTES:

Call to Order & Introductions

7:30pm

We had 5 Executive Board members, our Advisor, 4 guests, and 23 Senators present for the evening. Those Senators present were Bennett, Colton, Wirfel, Bessner, Lyon, Bentkowski, Lisser, Starpattern, Street, Louis, Andrzejewski, Gunther, Cook, Robb, Bhau, Rivard, Daniels, Kollman, Harris, Hart, Ma, Hudson, Dualan

This Senators absent for the evening were: Rodgerick (excused)

Our guests for the evening were: Madison Linville, Michael Dietzen, Tamils Jones, Carlin Green

Presidential Reports

Senators need 2 hours of community service per semester. There are community service record forms outside Sarah Dowd Dyer's office and the Senate Office. Turn them in to the Senate office when completed.

If you would like to go with Senator Hart to volunteer at Brooks Home, reach out to President Enoch or Senator Hart. Hiram Halloween can be one of your events for the semester for Senate. If you're interested in this event, contact President Enoch.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Nick Hirsch & Dr. Ella Kirk came to speak about the Academic Redesign.

Removed majors are no longer in the catalog and students can no longer declare in these disciplines. Legally, the college is required to provide programs students declared in through the accreditation, so if you have declared in a major that has been removed, you will still be able to finish that program. If you would still like to study some of these removed areas, find Professors in the department, appear before APC and the Associate Dean to present with the possibilities of creating an individualized major. Nick Hirsch is the Faculty Chair. He serves as a conduit between faculty and administration. He has biweekly meetings with President Varlotta and Dean Muyskens and reports information to faculty meetings.

Dr. Hirsch said: "Higher education is in a fundamentally transformative time." There are 2 new tenure track professors. New and old faculty are working currently on new majors that will likely be available by 2019, such as Criminal Justice, International Studies, and Sports Management. The IES Department will be expanding, more Sociology staff will be hired, and Economics will be integrated into the Business Department.

There are 5 Schools within the new model: Scarborough School of Business and Communication, the School of Arts, Humanities and Culture, the School of Education, Civic Leadership and Social Change, the School of Health and Medical Humanities, and the School of Science and Technology. Under the old model, as an Institution, we were spread very thin. We had one faculty member and 5 or 6 students in some departments. Our old model consisted of three divisions of majors: Fine Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. This new model should not affect students. Instead, will create affinity groups for students by giving them a school (or two for double majors in varying fields, and so on) to belong to along with their major.

Heads of schools have already been nominated and voted upon by fellow faculty. The Dean interviewed candidates and these individuals will be announced soon. These are rotating 3 year positions. The faculty chosen for these positions will be compensated for their administrative work, relieving many professors of this burden.

With these changes occurring, Hiram can now build to create something concrete and lasting. Around 30 faculty worked this summer to work on the Schools model, changes in the core curriculum, and changes to majors. This was done to benefit the college and faculty are optimistic to the changes.

The core curriculum is being re-examined and may be changing. In their junior or senior year, students will address an Urgent Challenge. There were several Urgent Challenges identified by students and faculty and classes will be created in order to address these.

Changes that are happening will not affect current students, unless they would like to adhere to the new standards. The core and major curriculum that was set when a student enrolled is the one they should follow.

Executive Board Reports

Administrative: Abigail Stevenson, VP of Administration

Senators Cook, Lisser, Robb will be in the Dining Hall Friday the 28th hearing concerns and suggestions from students during our inaugural Sit-In with Senate. Senator Wirfel and Michael Dietzen are making a poster for this event.

New Business

All of our 25 of our Senators are sworn in!

Psychology Club Proposal: Andrew Lang, VP of Activities

Sylvia Erika-Blevins came to spoke about Psychology Club. Dr. Andrew White proposed to reinstate the club. This past month, interest was gauged and a meeting was held. Mental health and stress were topics of interest. Professionals in the field will be brought in along with NAMI speakers. Goals include addressing how mental health is portrayed in the media and to address stigma surrounding mental illness. Funds would be used for supplies and additional funds will be obtained via fundraising. Last spring was a planning stage and the constitution was written then so that they could hit the ground running this Fall. Active Minds is no longer active as an organization, so the club wants to take over their efforts.

Use this time to read over the constitution, talk to constituents, go to Sylvia or Andrew if you'd like to see the interest list. A vote will be held to approve the club next week.

Old Business

Regarding the printing issue, the Computer center and Tech and Trek were contacted. They will be in next week to speak.

Lighting is being worked on currently. If you have concerns about lighting on campus, send them in to the Executive Board. Send areas of concern to President Enoch. Physical Plant is fixing existing structures where they can and are going to add ones where they are needed.

Senators signed the final approved copy of the Ethics and Responsibilities agreement.

Senators Mention

Meal Plan Committee

Senator Lyon would like to start a Committee to address meal plan options. Students were concerned about costs of meal plans. Over the summer, he researched comparable small, liberal arts schools and their meal plans.

Most of the plans were comparable, but based in amounts of food, with options we don't have. He would like to research if a decrease in cost or the creation of alternative meal plans could be a viable option. There will be meetings, Committee members will update Senate on progress, do research, meet with Dining Services and administration.

Senator Hart: Incoming students thought this was a big issue and a lot of students used this as a factor to decide where to attend. Therefore, it is a pressing issue and should be addressed.

The vote to approve this committee was tabled until next week. 3 senators must be interested in a committee to make it official and then it must be voted upon.

A motion was made to extend the meeting to 8:37PM. With a vote of 16-4-0, the motion passed.

Meal Swipes

Senator Robb has been researching guest swipes. He and his constituents believe that 2 are not enough. There are only 2 per semester. He provided data from similar private institutions and concluded that Hiram students spend \$150 dollars more in board, with less dining options. He proposed that there be an increase in guest swipes from 2 to about 6.

Senators Rivard and Starpattern suggested that Sen. Robb join the Meal Plan Committee.

Notes from the Gallery

Michael Dietzen asked for an update on the issue of the acceptance of AP scores and the language requirement. Senator Starpattern, APC Committee member reported that APC met today and they are currently reworking the core completely so there are no concrete answers yet. On the matter of AP scores, many professors are AP graders and they believe that low scores should not receive credit. Some classes will be lowering the score requirements and faculty will take this into consideration while the Redesign is taking place.

Adjournment

Abigail Stevenson, VP of Administration

8:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Katherine Geric, VP of Communication