

# HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE

## October 16th, 2018 MINUTES

### Call to Order & Introductions

7:34PM in East Hall Forum

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

*The Senators absent for the evening were: Ma, Hudson, Bessner (excused)*

*Our guests this evening were: Sylvia Erika Blevins (filling in for Bessner), Michael Dietzen, Hannah Mann, Madison Linville*

### Presidential Reports

Previously, the Ethics and Responsibility Agreement was made and voted upon by senators. We, as an Executive Board would like to hold our Senate to the standards we have set for ourselves. We have noticed that more iPads are being used, which is fine, but we want to remind senators to be mindful of how they are using their iPads during meetings. We are a strong Senate, we should keep up the hard work and be proud of what we have accomplished.

Senators were reminded to send an introductory email to their constituents ASAP. CC the Senate account to keep us in the loop!

If you need a picture taken for your headshot or would like it to be redone, let VP Stevenson know.

Hiram Halloween is coming up! It is a fun night where we pass out candy to children from the town. In the KC, clubs hold tables for games for the kids. This event is on Oct 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8PM. If you're interested, reach out to President Enoch. Costumes are encouraged!

We are thinking about making a few PowerPoint slides to show in the KC to introduce Senators. Sen. Thornton and Bentkowski have volunteered to help make these with President Enoch.

Take Back the Night is an event being hosted apart from Senate by President Enoch to raise awareness of sexual assault and violence on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 6-8 under Hinsdale Arch. There will be a candlelight vigil and a Townhall II Rep to listen and to give information on how to report or be an ally. There will be a banner to sign your name and place your handprint on. There will also be teal ribbons given so you can label yourself as an ally in support of preventing sexual assault.

### Executive Board Reports

*Administrative: Abigail Stevenson, VP of Administration*

Please sign up, if you haven't already, for a one-on-one meeting with VP Stevenson.

On the topic of class Senators receiving access to "Class of [year]" emails, we cannot give senators direct access to them, but Advisor Okuma or Shelley Gordon can send out an email on their behalf and they will be able to receive replies directly to their account from that email.

We are making a list of senators for senators to post where they see fit, so individuals can easily find out who their senators are.

Also, the issue of the amount of overwhelming event advertising is being dealt with. There is a list of events on [www.hiram.edu](http://www.hiram.edu) Under the master calendar, an email called "Plugged In" from College Relations, multiple individual event emails from other organizations, and Sarah Dowd Dyer's emails for campus events. Our goal is to make a single source where all events can be viewed.

Advisor Okuma reported that a Hiram app is being developed! If you would like to be involved in the process, let Advisor Okuma know.

## **New Business**

*Ethics Bowl Club: Presented by Hannah Mann*

Ethics Bowl meets to collaborate, share opinions and discuss ethical issues. Funding would go towards Regional and National competitions. Club status lapsed because previously it was not registered.

VOTE 20-0-0

APPROVED – Ethics Bowl is Reinstated!

*Sit In with Senate* will be next Thursday at noon in the Dining Hall with Senators Bentkowski, Lyon, and Kollman! Thank you, Sen. Wirfel and Michael for the amazing poster!

Advising begins this week. Sen. Lisser stated that some of the people she had talked to don't know how to determine what classes they are able to take.

## **Senators Mention**

Sen. Lyon reported the Meal Plan committee will meet for the first time tonight.

Sen. Bennett talked about Sustainability Club exploring feasibility of composting, especially by the Townhouses. This initiative is geared towards being more mindful about the waste we create. In addition to being environmentally friendly, this could deal with fruit fly issues by the Townhouses. She was told to reach out to Ed Frato-Sweeney so Physical Plant can be contacted to coordinate. Also, it was suggested that Sustainability Club create educational events about how to compost.

Sen. Harris stated more towel hooks are wanted in the Townhouses, as there is only one in each bathroom. She is still working on a public hang out space, such as benches or a firepit, for Townhouse residents.

Sen. Colton is working on a proposal to bring to Senate for students to get swipe access to all the dorms. He will present his proposal next week.

Sen. Andzejewski reported a bee problem behind East Hall, as several students have been stung. Sen. Rivard said there is also a bees nest in the ceramics room in Gelbke. Sen. Starpattern added that the lights in the Gelbke studio spaces turn off every 10 minutes. Other artists have expressed this concern. Sen. Wirfel is also concerned about the appearance of Gelbke due to trash. There are Physical Plant storage items in it. The Executive Board said that they will reach out to the proper parties to address these issues.

## **Notes from the Gallery**

Michael Dietzen stated mental health should be a priority on campus. He believes that we should have more than one grad student and one counselor on campus. Open counseling sessions were proposed. He suggested that Senate should start to sponsor events that support campus mental health. Sen. Bentkowski suggested that we should think about getting Active Minds back up and running to make others aware of resources available. Sen. Cook brought up that Sylvia is President of Psychology Club. Sylvia Erika-Blevins said that a subgroup formed with a focus on mental health. The Executive Board will work on finding solutions to this concern, as well.

To reiterate from last week, colleges should have one counselor per 1,000 students. We meet this criteria and rise about it through the interns that we have on campus.

Advisor Okuma reported that group counseling could be brought back onto campus, exploring topics such as homesickness, relationships, or anxiety. There may be another intern added to the staff. Also, there is a Townhall II Representative at the chapel every Tuesday and Rev. McCreight is available for guidance as well. Sen. Starpattern said that if you need to see someone regularly, it's important that you build a rapport with your counselor. If there is a crisis, and you tell the staff, you will be taken care of in some capacity immediately until the proper help can be given.

Sen. Wirfel made an important statement that it should not be any students' responsibility to care for the mental health of other students. He believes we need another full time counselor on campus. Sen. Louis added that mental illness is more than just suicidal thoughts. Senate should promote more awareness of different mental illnesses and increased awareness

of resources on campus. Sen. Rivard said that it is difficult for students to go to counseling because work days are only 8AM-5PM. It was suggest that a counselor stays past 5PM a few times a week so there is more availability. Sen. Bentkowski asked if there was a way to refer students to local counselors. He also wondered if student insurance could cover this. Sen. Bennett added that she has heard that response from the health center to high functioning mental illnesses has been highly inappropriate and this should be addressed.

Advisor Okuma will talk to the Health Center about these concerns. Not everyone has transportation, so we may bring in a psychiatrist a few times a month.

A motion to extend meeting 5 minutes to 8:35PM passed 17-0-2.

Sylvia Erika-Blevins suggested we introduce Dr. Kevin to the freshman class during Institute Week so they know what resources are available. We should aim to decrease the stigma of going to therapy.

**Adjournment** *VP of Administration Abigail Stevenson*  
*Minutes respectfully submitted by VP of Communication Katherine Geric.*

8:31PM