

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE

October 23rd, 2018 MINUTES

Call to Order & Introductions

7:34PM in East Hall Forum

We had 3 Executive Board members, our Advisor, 4 guests, and 20 Senators present for the evening.

Those Senators present were Lisser, Street, Daniels, Andrzejewski, Rodgerick, Wirfel, Rivard, Cook, Robb, Bentkowski, Kollman, Colton, Bennett, Bhau, Lyon, Harris, Louis, Bessner, Hudson, Thornton.

The Senators absent for the evening were: Gunther, Hart, Ma

Our guests this evening were: Madison Linville, Ed Frato Sweeney, Christopher Vinci

Presidential Reports

Make a Difference Day is on October 27th beginning at 9am, there will be several programs for volunteers to take part in, on and off campus. If you want to learn more or are interested, email Val Bejar. They're looking for as many volunteers as possible and would love you and your constituents' support.

Concerns about bees, trash, and lighting in Gelbke have been addressed and work is in progress. When we have more information we will let you know.

Hiram's Etiquette Dinner and Fashion Show is on November 7th and will begin at 6pm. We believe this would be a great opportunity for you to expand on your professionalism and encourage you to attend. RSVP to Bethany Burkhart if interested. A Suit Scholarship will be announced as well; this is a \$150 scholarship to be put towards buying professional attire. To enter, go to the link Bethany sent out to campus, and attend the dinner. Senator Daniels had asked if there was an RSVP date, Vice President Stevenson clarified there is not.

In regards to the Hiram Halloween Trick or Treating event, we do not have enough volunteers from Senate to have a table of our own. If you would like to volunteer independently, let us know.

Lastly, Vice President Stevenson and President Enoch are planning a meeting with Dr. Kevin to discuss Mental Health on campus and what Senate can do.

Guest Speaker

Ed Frato-Sweeney visited Senate to discuss the Hiram Halloween events, Residential Life news, and the Midterm Elections. Beginning with Hiram Halloween, there are about 3-4 hundred children and their families around campus for the event and it would be great to have as many students involved as possible. The event will be from 6pm-8pm on the 25th and activities will take place in the Kennedy Center, Miller Hall, and Booth-Centennial Hall. On Sunday night, the annual Hiram haunted house will take place in the Quad, from 8pm-11pm. Admission is free, but there will be donations taken for the local food bank.

Residential Life is currently holding RA evaluations, please fill out the housing satisfaction survey if you live on campus. Results have been positive, but feel free to reach out about any issues. The goal is to keep an open dialogue going.

The midterm elections will be held on November 6th. For Hiram-registered voters, polls will be open from 6:30am-7:30pm in the Coleman Center. If you are registered to vote in Hiram, you will get a \$0 utility bill you can use as your identification. The state of Ohio provides forms of identification you can use, and a utility bill is one of them.

To learn more about local candidates, we will have a Candidate Night on October 29th from 7pm-8:30pm in Koritansky Hall. John Kennedy will be speaking, a running State Representative. One of the issues on the ballot is going to be state Issue One, the decriminalization of drug offenses. Candidates will be talking about Issue One at the event. If it passes it would be a Constitutional Amendment to the state of Ohio.

In Ohio, there are four poll workers at each table. Those four people, by law have to be 2 Democrats or 2 Republicans. Voter Fraud is hard to commit in Ohio because of that. If you vote, it will count. If you don't want to go home to vote, you can request an absentee ballot. By going to your home county's website and their Board of Elections, you can request

an absentee ballot be sent to you. It's difficult to get young people to vote because they are transient. Young people feel like some of these issues don't matter to them, but we encourage you, please vote on November 6th.

Senator Lyon had noted Turning Point USA and Political Science club plan to host a watch party on Tuesday, November 6th from 7pm-10pm in Drury Hall.

Senator Bennett asked Ed if attendees at the Candidates Night would be able to leave early, if involved with time-conflicting engagements.

Ed replied, everyone is welcome to come and go as they please. There is another Candidate Night at the same time as on Monday, held in Randolph County, so candidates will be coming in and out of the event.

Senator Harris mentioned how do Senators propose the Candidate Night to people who are not voting locally?

Ed suggested some of the information may not be relevant to them, but would encourage them to hear about their issues being voted on as well.

Senator Daniels added on, even if students aren't voting locally, going anyway and getting that experience would be good.

Ed followed by referring to several alumni working in Columbus with State Representatives and Senators. Members of the Hiram community go down every couple of years to lobby. Kathleen Clyde is a State Representative running for Secretary of State. She represents close to our district, and grew up in Garrettsville. She always like meeting with us and showing us around. It is a good time to make connections.

Executive Board Reports

Administrative: Abigail Stevenson, VP of Administration

Vice President Stevenson began with noting the posters made with Mental Health resources. She requested each Senator take one and hang it where they think constituents will see it. If you need help, let the executive board know. There are brochures, high lighters, text number rubber bands, text tine pens, laugh-more pens, that can be handed out as well.

Senator Bennett asked if the posters can be hung in academic buildings. Vice President Stevenson said they can, because they were approved by Senate. If anyone hangs flyers for club or personal reasons, they must be approved by the Office of Campus Involvement first. But the Executive Board can approve our flyers without OCI approval.

Going along with that, Vice President Stevenson mentioned Mental Health has been a big topic in our past meetings. We've been struggling with it for the last few years, so it is great that we are making progress. We'll get back to Senators with more things we can do, and if you have ideas come to us. We want to encourage group counseling sessions with Dr. Kevin and Savanna, the new intern. Dr. Okuma is going to come around with pieces of paper; we want you to write your first and second choices of what students would want to go to group counseling for. We'll pick the most noted and get that information to Dr. Kevin.

When we bring things up in Senate, try to bring up factual information. If you do hear things you can't prove, bring them to the Executive Board and we'll work with you on it. We don't want to bring things that aren't factual into the minutes. We don't want to silence you, but make sure as many comments that go into the minutes can be proven, as possible.

Many Senators mentioned in their one-on-one's for Senate to reinforce the 'ditto' role. If you're going to agree with someone, simply say 'ditto' and don't repeat everything the last person had said.

As well, if you missed a meeting, read through the past Senate Minutes to be updated. We know sometimes the minutes do not go out in time for you to read them, but the Executive Board will try to improve on this. Vice President Stevenson will try to remind Senators if that is something that gets brought up again.

Vice President Eddinger noted the Funding You Board allocations are closed for the semester. Moving forward, Vice President Eddinger will be presenting monthly reports on the Funding You Board status. Currently, FYB has 28% of the club budgets spent throughout this semester. Encourage your constituents who are club Presidents to throw more events.

Senator Harris asked when Club leaders should meet with him regarding allocations and when allocation sheets should be completed and sent in. Vice President Eddinger said the next allocation meeting will be November 4th, if you can't make it schedule a meeting with him. Senator Hudson asked, if a club president or a club treasurer can't make it, can the Vice President go instead? Vice President Eddinger said that he is fine with that, but they can always schedule to meet with him outside of the November 4th meeting.

Also, the issue of the amount of overwhelming event advertising is being dealt with. There is a list of events on 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.

New Business

Senator Lyon presented on behalf of the Meal Plan Committee. He began by saying the committee had their first meeting last week, and they are currently trying to put their plans into formation. The committee had spoken with Dean Okuma, and said there is not much leeway in the current budget. The current CFO had officially began on October 1st, and so there is a steep learning curve to take on. An idea has been floated for Townhouse students to pay a small fee that will give them some swipes at the dining hall. We aren't sure about the cost, but it wouldn't take affect until everyone currently in the Townhouses has graduated. Students could then split the cost a number of ways. Hopefully, it could cut down the cost of the Stone-Soup Cooperative, but this is just an idea.

Senator Bentkowski asked who had mentioned these ideas? Dean Okuma clarified, stating Commuters and Townhouse residents do not pay for meal plans. She spoke with Senator Harris about possibly asking Townhouse residents if they are interested in paying the lowest level for the dining hall. The cost is not known, a price at \$250 was floated. Senator Lyon elaborated, the cost for Townhouse residents is not known, \$250 was floated as an idea.

The Meal Plan Committee brought up the idea of the Co-Op. Senator Lyon continued, noting these ideas are fresh. There was another idea to break up the Dining Hall costs, in ways that would bring down the price for upperclassmen, or all students. They will have more information in the next two weeks after the committee meets again. Senator Andrzejewski added, as a member of the committee, those are the current topics we've gotten to so far but we want to cover more.

Senator Bentkowski asked, after you have a plan and present to Senate, what is your next move? Senator Lyon replied, the Meal Plan Committee will go as far as they can, but they already know it's going to be a slow process.

With no more questions or comments, Colton mentioned his proposal for All-Swipe Access to dorm buildings. He began by offering to show anyone who hasn't seen the proposal, to contact him and he will share it. He will present on the costs and benefits he has formed through the possibility of all-swipe access being given to campus. His goal for this proposal will try to address problems students have had in the past and how they could be improved. To have access, students do not need 24 access. There can be regulations for the access, possibly in correlation with Quiet Hours, or can be monitored by some time frame. Students he has spoken with agree with those ideas. Currently, Colton has petitioned for three hours, collecting 100 signatures. He has heard overwhelmingly from students wanting access. Very few students have disagreement or issue with it, some, but overwhelmingly not.

Senator Thornton asked for Colton to elaborate on giving all-access swipes. Colton continued, one of the biggest benefits to this is that it builds a stronger community. Students would be able to meet with people from other dorms, and have opportunities to expand their friend group, which they might not have. In his opinion, he believes it opens up community more for Hiram College students, and that's a really big benefit. It also would make getting into dorms more efficient. Students can get into the dorms by themselves without waiting for friends or club mates to let them in.

Senator Rivard asked if there any specific things students had mentioned when they said they weren't in support? Colton responded, yes there are various different things. The biggest concern he's heard is a safety concern. But he believe all-swipe access is more safe because there won't be a need to prop doors open anyone, which could allow strangers from the community into the building. As well, being able to track who swipes into any building helps create a safer environment.

Senator Bessner agreed to Senator Rivard's comment.

Vice President Eddinger asked what are some of the cons to the all-access? Colton explained that after safety, theft is another issue. In the past, it was a problem when students would go into a dorm and steal Hiram College items. While he doesn't believe we should be held to the same standard as the past, he also doesn't think that was the right way to handle it. By securing items, Hiram wouldn't have that problem, and if theft was really a large issue we could look at the feasibility of getting cameras rather than taking away all-swipe access.

Senator Street questioned Colton saying it would connect students in different dorm buildings. Usually people meet in dorms with friends they already know, but if you have to wait because you didn't text them to let you in, usually there are other people in the lounge areas to let you in.

Colton said he has a few comments to that. Anyone letting anyone into buildings is a reason why we should have all-access. Right now, anyone can get into a building by waiting for someone to let them in, pulling open the door, or climbing through a window. He's waited before and it happens. Additionally, even though not many students wander dorms currently, he doesn't see a downside to that. There is a potential benefit that by doing this proposal, we are opening up communication for people. Colton doesn't know if people will take up the option to wander dorms to meet new students, but there certainly is a benefit of efficiency, in his mind.

Senator Wirfel commented he has about concerns the safety issue. Rather than the concern of strangers getting into the dorm buildings, but other students who live in different dorm rooms for a reason. For example, people who move dorm buildings because of harassment or sexual assault. Having people being able to enter those buildings, is a terrifying fear for some students. Campus knows Bowler has the Gender Neutral floor. His first year he remember people going to the bathroom and urinating everywhere—harassing the community. Senator Wirfel states he lived there last year, and it was nice knowing that Bowler was a place he saw safe in. Colton responded by acknowledging Senator Wirfel had a valid point. His response to that, is you can turn off that persons access. They misbehave so they don't deserve these privileges anyone. But instead of punishing everyone, we can solve that on an individual basis.

Vice President Stevenson made the address that Senate was out of time for this discussion, but there are four more people on the list so we will continue this discussion. We can vote to extend the meeting if anyone wishes to.

Senator Bennett emphasized, a benefit of this would be trackability. Those who swipe into buildings are record, and if things are being stolen then we'd know who swiped into the building. Another point, if everyone has access, its strange if someone cannot get into the building. So if someone can't get in, it raises the question "should I let them in".

Senator Bentkowski asked Colton if he could elaborate on his solution to giving all students access being a means of creating safer environments. Colton explained he is giving students access, but also regulating. He believes this proposal will create a better, safer, and more-accessible environment.

Senator Andrzejewski made the statement that this could be beneficial. All-access swipes could help RAs in separate buildings work together to throw programs in different buildings to invite more to the communities. And if someone can't get into the building, then he think that reinforces Colton and Senator Bennett's point even more by giving everyone access by regulating it.

Vice President Stevenson asked Colton if he wanted to vote on the proposal tonight. Colton clarified that he would like for the Senators to look at the proposal and discuss with their constituents before voting.

Vice President Stevenson requested the Senate table the discussion. She knows there are more people to speak but if they have questions for Colton to see him after the meeting.

Senator Bentkowski lastly asked if Colton can send Vice President Stevenson the proposal and have her forward it to the Senate. Vice President Stevenson agreed.

Senators Mention

Senator Robb and Senator Andrzejewski presented from the Transformers Committee. Senator Robb stated they had a meeting last Wednesday. They wanted to ask questions to the Senate and give feedback to the committee. Questions were

asked about students and their comfortability with their iPads, if a focus on 'trek' is more beneficial moving forward, how many students use their hiking boots, and if more Tech and Trek programs should be held.

Senator Lyon motioned to extend the meeting five minutes and was approved.

Christopher Vinci, Senate guest, suggested the committee include the Field Station in their work. Senator Robb agreed and noted ideas are being formed to find ways for students to use the Field Station more. Senator Hudson suggested the committee reach out to clubs who are already trying to hold this innovative.

Senator Rivard mentioned the committee might try tying mindfulness into 'trek'. Senator Andrzejewski expanded the idea by saying trekking is supposed to be without your tech, and promote mindfulness through being alone and self reflect.

Senator Lyon agreed with mindfulness, and 'with great power comes great responsibility'. Professors who don't allow technology can be seen as helpful, even if students interpret it as a burden. The act shows students are still capable to learn and function in the classroom without our iPads.

Senator Thornton went back to Senator Rivard's previous comment. Emphasizing, our need to recognize mental health. He stated nature can be therapeutic for mental health, if the committee puts in a mental health initiative, it would boost the environment as well.

Notes from the Gallery

Vice President Stevenson noted if voting passes on Colton's proposal next week, it means he has Senate's support and he is able to take it to the next step and put Senate's name on it.

Adjournment *VP of Administration Abigail Stevenson*

8:36PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by President Enoch and VP of Communication Katherine Geric.