

# HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE

## February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 MINUTES

### **Call to Order: 7:30pm**

*We had 5 Executive Board members present, our Advisor, and 20 Senators present for the evening. Those Senators present were: Andrzejewski, Bennett, Bentkowski, Bessner, Colton, Cook, Dietzen, Dualan, Harris, Hart, Hudson, Lisser, Louis, Ma, Oswald, Rivard, Robb, Street, Thornton, and Toich*

*Those Senators absent for the evening were: Daniels and Rodgerick*

*Our guests this evening were: Madison Linville, Caitlin Longacre, Amber Davis, Chad Denman, Victoria Falluco, and Hayley Scherer*

### **Advisor Update**

*Dean Okuma announced the details of the new first-year student program, which will include a unified first-year colloquium-like class called *Enduring Questions*, with a weekly common hour that all first-years must attend. In the second semester, they will now have the *Urgent Questions* first-year seminar. Faculty across multiple disciplines will continue to teach these courses. New students will also create an e-portfolio; into which they'll place a series of "signature assignments" as a part of Hiram Connect. While the current core requirements must be taught-out, new cores are being developed.*

### **Presidential Announcements**

*President Enoch reminded students not to click on links sent through unconventional emails, as phishing attempts continue.*

### **Speakers: School Directors**

*President Enoch introduced the five new school directors: Professor Romeva Prcela of the Scarborough School of Business and Communication; Professor Janet Pope of the School of Arts, Humanities, & Culture; Professor Nicolas Hirsch of the School of Science and Technology; Professor Brad Goodner of the School of Health and Medical Humanities; and Professor Jen McCreight of the School of Education, Civic Leadership, and Social Change. The five school directors introduced themselves and proceeded to answer questions from Professor Hirsch that were submitted by students.*

*What are some challenges your face as School director, and how do you work to solve these challenges?*

*Professor Prcela responded that, while some details remain to be worked out about the duties of the director position, adapting to changing faculty roles is one of the most important ones. She plans on establishing open lines of communication and helping the faculty within her school with what they need from her, as well facilitating dialogue across the different schools.*

*How will you balance new majors with old ones and the different sizes of these departments?*

*Professor Pope explained that the creation of the schools and ending of department chair positions are meant to address this issue, as she can advocate the concerns of both large and small programs alike in this case.*

*Professor Goodner elaborated that each school has their own budget to divide instead of how the departments did previously.*

*How were Schools divided up and categorized?*

*Professor Goodner ran the committee that oversaw school creation. One guiding factor was having a relatively even number of students across the five schools. There were some difficulties. An example is that while the many schools came together easily, Environmental Studies could have easily fit in several schools. An emphasis was also placed on the marketability of the Schools when dividing them.*

*How can students use you as resource?*

*Professor McCreight* wants to be a “resource and advocate” for her students, acting as a guide to get them into their ideal School, not corral them into hers. She also hopes to take student interest into account to develop new courses that suit their desires, such as an interdisciplinary offerings. Additionally, the directors will promote student organizations that match with each School. *Professor Hirsch* clarified that School directors serve for a three-year term, but can opt for a second three-year run.

*In what ways can you improve commuter participation in your Schools?*

Schools are based in majors, not housing preferences, *Professor Hirsch* articulated. One thing he hopes that the Schools can do is increase programming on campus—such as hosting speakers—so that more commuters can be included at times that are convenient to them.

*How will the class load of School directors be affected by their position?*

*Professor McCreight* answered that school directors will have one of their course requirements waived. While the directors love students and would like to teach more, they can help students in new ways in their positions. *Professors Goodner* and *Prcela* added that they can also get more creative in revising course offerings.

*Logistically, without department chairs, do majors come to you [as School directors] for that signature?*

*Professors McCreight* and *Pope* responded that, while students would still obtain a signature from their chosen major advisor first, they would then go to see the School director.

*Will students apply for admission via Schools, like at larger institutions?*

*Professor Hirsch* said that applicants will still apply through Hiram College as a whole, especially since many of our students enter Undecided. *Professor McCreight* intends to be more involved in admissions as a School director.

*Professor McCreight* asked Student Senate what the School directors can do for students. *Senator Bentkowski* suggested that more aid could be given to students applying for competitive internships, and *President Enoch* mentioned that Hiram could emphasize interdisciplinary courses when students leave to get hired, while *Senator Thornton* asked about an increase in study abroad opportunities. The School directors handed VP of Administration *Stevenson* a list of questions to pose to students in the future which she will email out

## **Executive Board Reports**

*VP of Activities Lang* reintroduced the officers of Active Minds, who are seeking to reinstate their club. *Victoria Falluco* and *Hayley Scherer* are to serve as Co-Presidents, *Caitlin Longacre* as Vice President, *Amber Davis* as Secretary, and *Chad Denman* as Treasurer, with *Professor Nario-Redmond* and *Dr. Kevin Feisthamel* serving as advisors. They reiterated the purpose and goals of Active Minds, including its differences from Psychology Club and the role of co-presidents, and explained their constitutional changes made in response to Senate concerns the week before. For example, the positions of CEO and Sergeant-at-Arms no longer exist.

VOTE: 22-0-0 Approved!

*VP Stevenson* announced that Student Senate will send Senators into neighboring school districts to build board games for after-school activities for Sugar Day on March 26. Please reach out to her if you’re able to volunteer.

*Senator Bennett* proposed to extend the meeting by five minutes.

VOTE: 16-4-1 Approved!

*Senator Cook* informed Student Senate that Senators Al Andrzejewski and Jeffrey Robb are running for President and Vice President of Administration, respectively. They can begin hanging posters once they acquire two signatures from Election Committee members. On March 12 at 7:00pm, the Committee will host an open forum so that students can ask questions to the candidates, followed by a full Senate meeting at 8:00.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 by VP Stevenson.**