

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
September 15th, 2020 Agenda

Call to Order

5 Executive Board members, our advisor, and 20 senators were present. Those senators were: Andrzejewski, Bentkowski, Bolton, Conroy, Diaz de Padilla, Elliott, George, Gunther, Hart, Henry, Jeffrey, Johns, Keuroghlian-Eaton, Linville, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, and Toich.

Presidential Announcements

President Robb began the meeting by discussing the challenges college students are facing in this unprecedented time. He shared how he feels encouraged by all of the Senators and their dedication to stay with Senate. He hopes Senate will continue to fight for our students and help them to overcome the challenges we have faced as a community in recent months.

Advisor Announcements

Advisor Okuma welcomed the new Senate body and explained that this is the time she updates Senators on campus news, important updates, and other information. She then introduced President Haney. President Haney began his role here at Hiram fifteen days ago. He has previously worked at many higher education institutions, but he is eager to be here in his new role at Hiram.

Guest Speaker: College President Haney

President Haney shared his excitement to be speaking with Senate, saying “the students are the most important part of any college.” Thus, he plans to host monthly meetings with our Student Senate President to better understand student concerns and insights. In his first two weeks here, President Haney has been attempting to meet with all of the different departments on campus as well as many of the student clubs and organizations. He hopes to be able to meet with all students organizations at some point to better get to know our student population. He then opened the floor to Senators for questions and discussion—

Concerns were raised last year about the need for faculty and staff diversity training. Will this still be happening this year?

Discussions have been held with the cabinet to get this effort moving again. There is also an effort being made to bring back the speaker on Diversity and Inclusion that was lined up for last spring. *Advisor Okuma* shared that faculty began their training in August with a diversity training session. They will be utilizing diversity and inclusion as their training model for the remainder of the academic year.

Sustainable Development Committee recently sent their sustainability proposal out to faculty and staff for review. Senators asked about President Haney’s position on climate action and his experience with sustainability.

President Haney was previously in charge of the sustainable development department in his time at Appalachian State. In this role he helped to secure an old family farm for the sustainable agriculture program at the university. He is looking forward to sustainable development opportunities that can happen here at Hiram, and hopes to take action. The President also shared his excitement to see students so passionate and educated about a topic.

Student Senate's larger accomplishments were then discussed. These included:

- The creation of permanent committees in Student Senate. These committees are designed to address challenges that may last for several years.
- Having a process to pass proposals and legislation through Student Senate instated. This allows legislature to then be taken to the President and Board of Trustees as a statement from the student body.
- The creation of the Accessibility Checklist by alumni Alexia Kemerling, and its institution into policy for all clubs on campus to follow.

Funding You Board, its accomplishments, and duties were all explained. Emphasis was placed on the fact that students have the ability to play such a vital role in the distribution of funds for clubs across campus.

The college's preparation for students return to campus was also brought up. Senators were thankful for the way we were easily able to transition into our school year, and for the measures that are being taken to ensure students health and safety while on campus.

President Haney ended his discussion with Senate by thanking Senators for their contributions to campus. He hopes to have student focused events at the President's House when it is safe to do so again. He is very eager to get to know Hiram's student body and the different organizations we have across campus.

Executive Board Updates

Senators Bolton, Elliot, Diaz de Padilla, Henry, Jeffrey, and Lequay were officially sworn in as members of Student Senate by President Robb

Senate is still looking for students to fill Senatorial positions for the school of Health and Medical Humanities, Whitcomb Hall, the Quad, and the two Miller Hall positions. Appointments for these positions will take place in the coming weeks.

New Business

Senator training took place from 8-8:30

Items covered where the following:

1. Duties for each Senatorial position.
2. Senate's new legislation procedure was explained.
3. Robert's Rules of Order were discussed and explained. All Senate meetings will follow this process.
4. Senators have the opportunity to serve on both College Governance Committees and Intra-Senate committees.
 - a. College Governance Committees that students may serve on include the Academic Planning Committee, diversity committee, and the library committee. Any interested Hiram College student has until Friday, September 25th at 5pm to submit a one-page letter of interest to be considered to serve on these committees.

Funding You Board is also looking for two Senators to serve on it this year. Meetings usually take place Sundays in the late afternoon. Senators can reach out to the Vice President of Finance for more information on how to apply.

Senators Mention

It was brought up that in past years Senate has begun to take the initiative to uplift and help our community. Senators were encouraged to continue this progress and work on improving our campus and student life in general.

Senators Slutz and Saunders are both participating in "Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes" this Friday and Saturday and would love support! Masks are required and there are 24 available seats per show.

Concerns were raised about in person dining and the logistics of it. Senators are worried about social distancing efforts and how to maintain cleanliness in the dining hall. This topic will be addressed further in a future Senate meeting.

President Robb also introduced Senate's Diversity Lecture Series that will begin Monday, September 28th. Be on the lookout for further information about these lectures.

President Robb adjourned the meeting at 8:45
