

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
September 22nd, 2020 MINUTES

Call to Order: 7:30

There were 5 Executive Board members, our Advisor, and 18 Senators present for the evening. Those Senators were: Andrzejewski, Bolton, Conroy, Elliott, George, Gunther, Hart, Henry, Jeffrey, Johns, Keuroghlian-Eaton, Le-Quay, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, & Toich.

*Those Senators absent for the evening were: Diaz de Padilla and Linville
Our guests for the evening were: Zack Fox, Henry Schwendler, Elijah Skaggs, Anthony Lyon, & Nicki Herrera.*

Presidential Announcements

President Robb shared the news of the recent passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. After sharing a bit about RBG's life, Senators were encouraged to look into her legacy and keep themselves up to date with the current political events surrounding not only the vacant Supreme Court Seat, but also the upcoming election.

Committee appointments for the three College Governance Committees opened to all Hiram students. Any interested party had the opportunity to send a one-page letter of interest to senate@hiram.edu by Friday, September 25th at 5pm. Students on these committees are essential to giving the student perspective.

The Senate Sponsored Diversity Lecture Series will begin next Monday at 7:30pm via Senate's usual zoom link. Our first speaker will be Dr. Jason Johnson, covering the topic of "Race and Politics". All members of the Hiram Community are encouraged to attend. Email senate@hiram.edu for the link.

The Geauga Economic Leadership group is hosting their October GEL event "Reflections from Public Servants" on October 2nd at 8am. Interested parties should register for the event to hear from outgoing Senator John Eklund and State Rep John Patterson on their experiences from their time as public servants.

Advisor Announcements

Dean Okuma acknowledged all of the good work students have been doing to keep campus a safe and healthy environment with regards to COVID-19. Testing is currently only for those that are symptomatic, but will soon be moving to random testing of different populations on campus. We also now have rapid testing in the Health Center to get results faster. Professor Goodner and the Hiram Village are also conducting sewer testing of water which will help track traces of COVID-19 as well.

Discussions have also begun in cabinet about how to conduct the three-week and spring semester. Updates coming soon.

Guest Speakers

Nicki Herrera, a volunteer for Mobilize the Vote, gave a presentation on how to register to vote, change addresses, and request absentee ballots. The presentation also discussed how to help others register to vote, and different ways to get college students engaged in voting this year. [Click here](#) to see the presentation.

Anthony Lyon, Hiram's Campus Election Engagement Project Fellow, presented information on how to register to vote in Hiram. Students are encouraged to register to vote on campus. It is easier to do than mail-in voting, because the Hiram polling station is located in Martin Field House in the Coleman Center. The deadline to register to vote is October 5th. Voter registration forms can be picked up in the Residential Education office or on the door of the Student Senate office, both in Bates Hall. These can be returned to Anthony Lyon, Ed Frato-Sweeney, or Student Senate and will be delivered to the Portage County Board of Elections in-person.

President Robb then presented Senators with a challenge to see who can register the most students to vote on campus. The three Senators who register the most students before October 2nd will receive a gift card to the business of their choice.

New Business

Senate's usual Sit-In with Senate campaign has been cancelled for the year due to concerns regarding COVID-19. Instead, Senators received lists of their constituency groups and have been asked to email their constituents regularly throughout the semester to update students on Senate's ongoing events and decisions. Senators are expected to create an email group and reach out to their constituency sometime within this next week.

Sustainable Development Committee presented their Sustainable Development proposal that they hope to have passed as legislation through Senate. Some of the goals outlined in this presentation included:

- The implementation of a Sustainable Event Checklist for clubs
- The initiation of a campus compost program
- Exploring Revolving Green Fund structuring
- The potential use of student activities fees for sustainable initiatives

Sustainable Development Committee will return to next weeks Senate meeting for more discussion of this proposal.

A motion was raised to extend the Senate meeting by 15 minutes.

VOTE: 11-1-3. The motion passes!

A motion was made to approve Sustainable Development Committee as a permanent committee on Student Senate.

VOTE: 15-0-0. The motion passes!

Sustainable Development Committee was approved as Student Senate's first permanent committee!

Senators Mention

Concerns were again raised about the dining hall and the logistics of in person dining. *Dean Okuma* referenced the email sent out by Gina Toppin, Director of AVI, about how we can continue to make in person dining a safe option for everyone. Dean Okuma also stated that even though Portage County has been raised to a Level 3 risk, campus remains at a Level 2. This means we can continue to conduct in person dining with the precautions we have set in place, but we are able to change procedures quickly if needed. *Dean Okuma* then conducted an informal survey of Senate asking if any Senators supported the idea that the dining hall should go back to take out only services. 13 Senators agreed with the notion of returning to take out only. Dean Okuma encouraged anyone to come and talk with her if they had concerns.

President Robb adjourned the meeting at 9:00.
