

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE  
**October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes**

**Call to Order**

*We had our advisor, 5 executive board members, and 20 senators present for this evening's meeting. Those Senators were: Andrzejewski, Barnett, Bentkowski, Bolton, Conroy, Elliott, George, Gunther, Hart, Henry, Johns, Keuroghlian-Eaton, Le-Quay, Linville, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, & Toich.*

*Those Senators absent for the evening were: Conroy.*

*Our guest for the evening was Anthony Lyon.*

**Presidential Announcements**

The Career and Academic Development Office will be hosting a networking event on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for students. Students can also apply for a suit scholarship at this event.

*President Robb* acknowledged that students are all struggling this semester with burnout and over working due to the added stress of the pandemic. He encouraged Senators and students to take advantage of the mental health resources available on campus, especially the counselors in the health center. Remember to take care of yourselves and take time off when needed.

**Advisor Announcements**

*Advisor Okuma* shared that President Robb and VP Niggemeyer did a great job presenting their semesterly report to the Board of Trustees last week.

She also acknowledged the burnout that students are currently feeling. She shared that the idea of "wellness days" is being discussed among the Dean's to allow students breaks during the Spring semester due to the elimination of spring break.

There is a zoom call being held the evening of October 21<sup>st</sup>, hosted by Residential Education, to answer any questions regarding the process of moving off campus for the three-week period. Students with any concerns or questions should attend this zoom session.

The Health Center sent out an email with updates to the College Coronavirus dashboard and alert systems. There were three new cases of COVID-19 on campus recently, those who tested positive are in isolation housing. Contact tracing has begun and those who came in contact with these individuals are currently quarantining but are not in isolation.

Many students have asked about the pro-Trump parade that crossed through campus last Thursday. A message will be sent out by campus safety soon regarding it. However, this was not a college sponsored event. The College was notified that it would be taking place on Route 700, a non-college owned street. The police then took it upon themselves to close off Hiram owned roads and monitored the two major intersections on campus. This was to keep campus safe and allow students to still be able to cross streets during this parade.

## **Guest Speaker**

*Anthony Lyon* visited to speak about Get Out the Vote. Anthony in conjunction with Residential Education helped to register over 150 students to vote this semester. That includes students who were updating their addresses. The best method for voting, if you have not yet requested an absentee ballot, is to vote in person. Those registered to vote in Hiram are able to do so in the Martin Field House. The polls will be open from 6:30-7:30 on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is important for students to make a plan so that they have a time blocked out to go vote. Remember to take the utility bill given to you by Residential Education in the coming days, as well as your state ID when you head to your polling location.

Middle Ground will be hosting a watch party for the final Presidential Debate on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30 in Dix Dining Hall. There will also be election watch parties hosted in every residence hall and the Kennedy Center the night of November 3<sup>rd</sup>. A series of election related events will be starting next week and take place through November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Anthony is serving as a College Election Engagement Project Intern on campus for this semester. As part of this position, he is asked to leave behind an institutional change on campus. The project Anthony hopes to instate is a constitutional change to Student Senate to have a Senator who will attend Hiram Village Council Meetings biweekly. The Hiram College population greatly out numbers the number of individuals living in the village, however, student involvement in the Village Council is very minimal. This proposed Senator would need to be excused from Senate meetings as Village Council Meetings coincide with Senate meetings. This Senator would then bring a report of the meeting back to Senate each week. This would be recorded in the Senate minutes and hopefully lead to the student body being better informed of what is going on in our community. It is important to note that this Senator would not serve as an official representative of the student body or Hiram College as a whole, they would instead simply be there to gather information about the Village and bring said information back to students.

*President Robb* proposed potentially trying out this idea next semester to see if it could work before instating a constitutional change for this position.

This position could be important to show that students are choosing to be civically engaged in our community. It is preferred that this position be filled by a Senator, but this could be open to the entire student body as well, as long as said student brought a report back to Senate after each Village Council meeting. There is the potential to have several Senators or Students on a Village Council Committee within Senate. This committee could then rotate attending meetings so that one Senator would not be missing a multitude of Senate meetings throughout the semester.

## **New Business**

*Senator Andrzejewski* shared an update from APC. Currently, a proposal is being looked at to institute an Urgent Challenge seminar for the incoming first year class. This would address the issue of Urgent Challenges and replace the current requirement for two INTD's. This would take place in students junior year and it would still be an interdisciplinary course.

## **Executive Board**

*President Robb* asked Senators for any feedback they had regarding the previous Lecture in Senate's Diversity Lecture Series given by Dr. Nario-Redmond. Senate is currently working with Dr. Nario-Redmond to send out the HEDS Survey presentation and data to campus.

Senators would like to see more data regarding the distinction between white voters and non-white voters on campus that was shared in the presentation. Students are encouraged to reach out to Dr. Nario-Redmond if they are interested in receiving more information regarding the HEDS Diversity Survey, she is also willing to meet with clubs to discuss diversity and inclusion as well.

### **Senators Mention**

Concerns were raised that some facilities within the Coleman Center seem to be reserved for only student athletes and not open to all students.

*We have since received a response from Todd Hibbs regarding the situation:*

“When we moved equipment, we knew that a much larger group of athletes than non-athletes used the weight room. Thus, we did move most of the Olympic equipment into Martin Fieldhouse and planned for that larger space to be for team workouts.”

While the Fieldhouse is reserved for use by student athletes, the Belichick room has been reorganized to allow social distancing and is open for use by non-student athletes. If students have any further questions regarding this situation or questions about usage of the Belichick Room and Martin Fieldhouse, they are encouraged to email Zach Shaw, supervisor of the Martin Fieldhouse space, at [shawze@hiram.edu](mailto:shawze@hiram.edu).

There have been reports from students of workers both in the Dining Hall and Bistro not properly wearing their masks. If this is noticed, students are encouraged to say something to the individual and then immediately reach out to Gina Toppin or Dean Okuma with concerns. *Senator Wright*, who works in the bistro, stated that workers are required to wear masks correctly and there is a system in place if they choose to not comply. It is best to say something to the individual and ask that they wear their mask correctly at all times.

**President Robb Adjourned the meeting at 8:48.**