

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
November 10th, 2020 Minutes

Call to Order

We had our advisor, 4 executive board members, and 16 senators present for this evening's meeting. Those Senators were: Barnett, Bentkowski, Bolton, Caricco, Conroy, Elliott, George, Gunther, Hart, Johns, Le-Quay, Nardo, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, Toich & Wright.

Those Senators absent for the evening were: Andrzejewski (excused), Henry, Keuroglan-Eaton, Redfern.

Our guests for the evening were: Journey Toole, Sheree Nobles, Tyler Zepp, and Zach Fox.

Presidential Announcements

A survey was sent out from the Office of the President recently regarding the Senate Black Lives Matter Mural Proposal. We are asking Senators to please encourage their constituents to fill out the survey and share their feedback on the mural. Also, The Executive Board has reached out the staff and faculty chairs on campus to ask that they consider sharing the survey and proposal with their colleagues to receive feedback from as much of campus as possible. The goal is to come together as a community on this issue and support the creation of a BLM mural.

The last installment of the Diversity Lecture Series has been rescheduled. Dee West will be presenting her lecture during the three-week, and we will then sit down as a Senate to discuss what we have learned and reflect on the diversity training we have received this semester.

If anyone is still interested in the Senate initiative to send representatives to Hiram Village Council meetings, please reach out to Anthony Lyon for more information. Senator Andrzejewski attended his first Village Council meeting tonight as part of this initiative and will offer an update to Senate after.

Hiram has a blood drive scheduled in the Kennedy Center on Tuesday, November 17th from 12:00-6:00pm. We need all of the help we can get to save lives and supply our hospitals with a safe and adequate blood supply. All donors earn a \$5.00 Chipotle Gift Card, are tested for COVID Antibodies, and help raise money for Scholarships for students here at Hiram.

Advisor Announcements

Dean Okuma recently sent an email to campus with information regarding the upcoming three-week. This includes information about work study jobs, the key return process before leaving for break and more. Students are encouraged to review this email before the three-week term. For any students staying on campus during the three-week, the dining hall will be open, this will include a Thanksgiving dinner students will pickup on Wednesday evening. Housing and meal credits will be issued to your student accounts soon.

Thank you to those who participated in the National Guard COVID "Know Before You Go" testing site. The turnout was good and the timing will allow anyone with a positive test result adequate time to quarantine before returning home for the three-week.

Guest Speaker

Peter Mahoney has been the new IT director at Hiram for a month and a half. He has been the head of IT in higher education since 2002, spending the last 9 years at St. Vincent College as Chief Information Officer. He hopes to be able to spend time with students and faculty to help meet our technological needs in and out of the classroom. Multi-factor authentication was instituted for the freshman class and will soon be instituted for all classes in the spring semester. This will not only help protect students personal information, but also prevent hacking and phishing emails as well. This works by sending an alert to the user to verify on their phone any time they try to login to their email account on a new device. There will also be more cyber security education implemented across campus in coming months.

Executive Board

VP Cook announced the November Senator of the month: Brett Bentkowski! Please watch the Senate social media in coming weeks for a video feature of Brett, as well as video's highlighting the Sustainable Development Proposal and BLM Mural proposal.

Tyler Zepp, Sheree Nobles, and Journey Toole joined Senate to renew Video Game Club. Video Game Club has been a club in the past but has been inactive for the last few semesters, thus they joined Senate tonight to be reinstated. Their goal is to bring back Video Game Club as a way for students to meet one another, host gaming tournaments and game nights for students, and eventually turn into an esports program at Hiram. The club will also be able to survive even with COVID-19 restrictions, as games can take place completely online, so the club will be able to continue into the online three-week and extended winter break.

Senate then held discussion to reinstate Video Game Club.

VOTE: 16-0-1. Passed! Video Game Club has been reinstated as a club on campus!

Committee Updates

Senator Andrzejewski shared an update as a part of Senate's new Village Council program that is being piloted in conjunction with Anthony Lyon. There were updates given from most of the Village Council offices. Senator Andrzejewski will also be meeting with the Hiram Police Chief in the coming weeks to look at current crime rates in Hiram in hopes to gain statistics that can potentially be used to increase lighting and safety on campus. The Black Lives Matter Mural was also brought up to gain the Council's views on the topic. In September, the Council published a statement declaring racism as a public health issue. Portage County has also passed legislation declaring racism a public health issue.

Sustainable Development Committee recently met with both President Haney and Lisa Baldwin. They discussed the Sustainable Development Proposal in its entirety. There is also discussion being held to institute a Sustainable Development Committee at the College level. The Committee also met with Dean Okuma, Chief Financial Officer Nancy Rubin, and Gina Toppin, Head of AVI at Hiram. This meeting was to discuss the issue of plastic and food waste proposals. The Committee will also be working with the VP of Communication of Student Senate to further update students on what they has been working on.

Academic Programming Committee discussed instituting a Social Science major to help weekend college or non-traditional college students to have a less centered major to focus on if they are bringing in credits from other institutions already, but the major will also be open to traditional students as well.

Diversity Committee met and discussed BERT, the Bias Education Response Team. The College is hoping to institute BERT soon, as this will help the community with reporting issues of harassment and abuse. This is a direct result from the HEDS survey. The Committee is also looking at different ways to institute Bias Training for students, faculty, and staff on campus. Input for the survey recently sent out regarding the Black Lives Matter Mural survey was also discussed. Much of this discussion was implemented into the survey before it was sent out to campus from the Office of the President. The committee also voted to redefine their membership.

Senators Mention

A vote was held to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

VOTE: 9-3-2. Passed!

Discussion continued regarding the BLM Mural and differing opinions regarding the mural. Senators were encouraged to sit down with their constituents if able to discuss the proposal and fill out the survey sent from the Office of the President. This is important to allow students to share their voice and opinions on the mural. There was also discussion about enacting institutional change to promote diversity in conjunction with the creation of the mural. Students are also encourage to reach out to Senate via email if they have any further questions or concerns regarding the BLM mural proposal.

The meeting was adjourned by President Robb at 8:56.
