

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
December 15th, 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, Caricco, Conroy, Elliott, Galecki, George, Gunther, Hart, Henry, Johns, Le-Quay, Nardo, Redfern, Slutz, Thornton, Toich, & Wright.

Those Senators absent for the evening were: Keuroghlian-Eaton, Linville, & Saunders.

Presidential Announcements

President Robb thanked Senators for being present at meetings, especially now as we enter the last week of the three-week.

President Robb and VP Niggemeyer completed semesterly reviews with 20 of the 23 current Senators, and the other three have scheduled meetings. They appreciate the feedback they have received in these reviews so far and hope to implement some of the suggestions they received next semester.

Advisor Announcements

Currently, students are set to return to campus on January 15th. If this information does change, students will be informed immediately.

Executive Board

VP Cook asked Senators voted for their nominations of December Senator of the Month.

VP Smith shared an update on the last Diversity Committee meeting. The committee was requested to draft a statement regarding the college's commitment to diversity. They have also begun drafting diversity statements for other departments on campus.

VP Smith shared an update on clubs as well. Clubs were successful in utilizing the zoom rooms provided by Senate this semester. Clubs have also been hosting several socially distanced events, there were some issues with food distribution, but these were all handled and all events have since followed COVID-19 guidelines. Feedback on the President's Roundtable was very good. These Roundtables will be continuing into the spring semester and all club officers are encouraged to attend.

VP Dietzen shared an update on club spending from the fall semester. This three-week the Funding You Board approved an additional \$200 to MEDICUS. Overall, clubs have used about \$4,000 this semester. By adding in the funds that will be used for the BLM Mural project, club spending will be around 50% of the allocated funds for the semester. If you are a part of a level 2 or level 3 club, budgets are due by Sunday, December 20th.

Senators Mention

If we end up in another remote three-week term, students are asking that the College please create a more concrete format for the three-week courses. Being on zoom for upwards of four hours a day is draining for everyone, and it becomes hard to stay motivated through the course.

Faculty is still working on determining how the proposed Mental Health Day's for the spring semester will take place. They may be built into the semester or determined by each individual professor, but faculty overall are committed to providing some type of relief.

Concerns were voiced regarding the fact that this fall semester's three-week was only 10 academic days instead of the usual 12. *Dean Okuma* stated that she does not believe this will continue but will consult on the issue.

VP Niggemeyer asked that Senators who have served on Senate before reach out to our new Senators to try and give them more guidance next semester. He is also looking for ideas to host creative and safe Senate sponsored events in the spring semester.

Senators were encouraged to think about their goals for the next semester and come back to Senate ready to go. Interest in starting an Accessibility Committee in the spring semester was also raised.

President Robb adjourned the meeting at 8:00.
