

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
February 9th, 2021 Minutes

Call to Order

We had our advisor, 5 executive board members, and 19 senators present for this evening's meeting. Those Senators were: Andrzejewski, Barnett, Bentkowski Bernhardt, Bolton, Caricco, Elliott, Galecki, George, Gunther, Hart, Johns, Linville, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton & Toich.

Those Senators absent for the evening were: Conroy (excused), Henry, Keuroghlian-Eaton, Le-Quay (excused), Wright.

Our guests for the evening were: Dean Muyskens and Associate Dean Swenson.

Presidential Announcements

President Robb reminded Senators of the upcoming Black History Month Event Senate is hosting with Black Student Union this Thursday from 7:30-8:45. Senators are encouraged to attend if they are interested.

He also announced Senate's Black History Month Coloring Contest that will be running until February 26th. Prizes will be given out for the best coloring creations the week of March 1st. More info can be found in the Week 4 Senate Update that was sent to campus.

Advisor Announcements

Just wanted to make sure students were aware of their resources. ARCH Tutoring, individual tutoring, and the writing center are available this semester if anyone has been feeling overwhelmed or like they need the extra help.

Guest Speaker – Dean Muyskens and Associate Dean Swenson

Dean Muyskens and Associate Dean Swenson met with Senate to discuss the advising process and gain a better understanding of how to improve this process for students.

Some of the discussion that took place included receiving feedback of what a good advisor would look like for students. Senators spoke about both their major advisors and pre-major advisors. Overall, Senators really wanted advisors to be more knowledgeable about all majors when helping students declare a major. Another key point was that many advisors are over worked or have a large number of advisees, Senators mentioned wanting to be able to have more time to meet with their advisor each semester.

Other suggestions included the possibility of not all professors serving as advisors if they are already busy with many other obligations, giving equal treatment to all students so that each student has a favorable experience that allows them to succeed in their major, and making sure the advising folder was filled out regularly and up to date so students can keep track of their own progress. Having a specific advising day set aside each semester where there were no classes to allow both students and advisors time to really dedicate to advising was also mentioned.

Dean Muyskens also suggested the idea of each student having a professional advisor and a major advisor to allow for a better advising experience. Senators seemed to think this would generally get confusing for students, as going between two people would get tricky. One suggestion was to

possibly bring on extra advisors for majors that are larger and may need more help to allow all students equal opportunities. Advisor evaluations were also suggested.

Finally, *Dean Muyskens* shared that students can look forward to a new program called Degree Works that will be used in the advising process. This system allows advisors and students to track every course they have taken, and how these fill out major and core requirements. The hope is to have this program up and running by next spring semester.

Sustainable Development Committee Renewal

Sustainable Development Committee presented their updated yearly goals to Senate and asked for a vote to be reinstated as a permanent committee. These goals included: a display that will be put up in the library regarding the committee's accomplishments, creating internships on campus in areas such as data keeping or marketing regarding sustainability, and creating a data keeping system that will make record keeping easier for the committee in the future.

Senate then held a vote to renew the Sustainable Development Committee as a permanent committee.

VOTE: 19-0-0. Approved!

Executive Board

VP Cook shared the results from our monthly vote on Senator of the Month. February's Senator of the Month goes to Senator Johns and Senator Elliott! Watch our Senate social media pages this month to learn a little more about both of these Senators.

VP Dietzen shared an updated version of the Sustainability Checklist per suggestions that were made at our February 2nd Senate meeting. The Accessibility Checklist for events that was implemented by Student Senate last year was also added to the proposal to be properly voted on by Senate. Senators were asked to review the changes made to the Checklist and be ready for further discussion at next weeks meeting.

Senators Mention

Terrier Cash can be used in the Clocktower Café and should be working for all students.

Parking in the Quad was mentioned as there are many spots designated for staff that are almost rarely used by College staff. *Dean Okuma* stated that these spots were originally for Graduate Assistants living in the Quad, but due to COVID they were moved to a different area of campus for housing, and thus do not utilize that parking as frequently this year.

One Senator mentioned that both Friday and Saturday night Campus Safety had entered their townhouse unannounced. *Dean Okuma* suggested these students talk with the Campus Safety Director, Dan Fynes. She would also pass along the concern to him as well.

President Robb adjourned the meeting at 8:47.
