

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE  
**January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Minutes**

**Call to Order**

*We had our advisor, 5 executive board members, and 23 senators present for this evening's meeting. Those Senators were: Barnett, Bentkowski Bernhardt, Bolton, Caricco, Conroy, Elliott, Galecki, George, Gunther, Hart, Henry, Johns, Keuroghlian-Eaton, Le-Quay, Linville, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, Toich, & Wright.  
Those Senators absent for the evening were: Andrzejewski (excused)*

**Presidential Announcements**

*President Robb* shared welcome back regards with Senators and wished everyone a good spring semester. He also reminded Senators to begin sending their first emails to constituents. Updated constituency lists will go out to Senators soon.

Packets to be eligible to run for President and Vice President will be available to campus March 1<sup>st</sup>. *President Robb* encouraged Senators to begin thinking about what positions they may want to run for as elections will be here very soon.

Finally, he introduced Abby Bernhardt, Senate's new SAAC representative, and proceeded to swear her in.

**Advisor Announcements**

The college has taken over ownership of the property on the corner of Hinsdale Street and Route 700. Hopefully, come spring the house will be removed. The College has also begun to look at options of what could go in this new area.

The Clocktower Café, located on the first floor of the library, is officially open to campus! *Dean Okuma* encouraged any students who have not yet been in the new space to go see it. Any students who choose to sign up for the 365 app as their payment method in the café will need to link a credit card to the app to be able to do so. Hours for the café are currently the same as regular library hours, however, the goal is to have the café open 24 hours sometime in the future.

*Dean Okuma* also asked that all students continue to follow the Hiram 5 and keep ourselves safe, so that we will be able to stay on campus for the rest of the semester.

**Executive Board**

*President Robb* shared a short review of Senator training, responsibilities, and expectations. Senators also took a few minutes to write down any goals they have for the coming semester.

*VP Dietzen* shared an update on club budgets and spring allocations of funding. FYB has allocated around \$8,000 to clubs already, this is lower than normal but some clubs are currently not functioning due to COVID. The first President's Roundtable of the semester will take place February 7<sup>th</sup>.

*President Robb* reminded Senate that we are still looking for Senators to attend Hiram Village Council meetings. Interested Senators will be excused from Senate meetings and return the following week to give a report of the meeting highlights to Senate.

As is done every year, Senate is beginning to form a Constitutional Review committee to review and update the current Senate constitution. *President Robb* asked for interest from Senators to serve on this committee.

*President Robb* also asked for any Senators interested in serving on the Election Committee that presides over the election of President and Vice President. This committee will be in charge of hosting the Presidential Debate, approving any promotional materials for candidates, and counting votes once the election closes.

Senate is planning several events for the coming semester. The first of these will be a Black History Month event in collaboration with Black Student Union. Senate is also to host a second Black History Month event in February, as well. Other events may include Denim Day, Earth Day, and an educational event on the COVID vaccine later in the semester. More information regarding these events will be sent out via the Senate email and our social media pages.

*VP Dietzen* proposed a Sustainability Checklist, created by the Sustainable Development Committee, to be implemented into policy alongside the Accessibility Checklist for clubs to follow when planning events. This was the first reading of the proposal for Senate. Discussion of this proposal will continue in future Senate meetings. This Checklist is attached.

*VP Cook* reminded Senators of upcoming social media campaigns and asked for feedback from Senators. She also requested that any Senators not yet doing so, follow the Senate Facebook and Instagram pages.

### **Senators Mention**

Senators shared concern about the amount of emails students receive every day. Requests were made that emails begin to become more streamlined so that the burden of overloading students be fixed. *Dean Okuma* mentioned that the Executive Director of the computer center is working with a number of people on campus to see what systems can be put in place. She also requested that any interested Senators inquire with friends from other schools to see how their email system works and then schedule a meeting to discuss the issue further. The idea of a daily digest style newsletter was suggested.

Questions were raised about what happened to the proposed mental health days students were to be offered due to the removal of spring break this semester. There is one day currently confirmed for no classes across campus on March 5<sup>th</sup>, there will also be no classes on Sugar Day in April. Faculty were given the discretion to choose one day to give students off of class in February as well.

**President Robb adjourned the meeting at 8:45.**

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