

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Minutes**

**Call to Order**

*We had our advisor, 5 executive board members, and 21 senators present for this evening's meeting. Those Senators were: Barnett, Bentkowski, Bernhardt, Bolton, Conroy, Elliott, Galecki, George, Gunther, Hart, Johns, Keuroghlian-Eaton, Le-quay, Linville, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, Toich & Wright.*

*Those Senators absent for the evening were: Andrzejewski (excused), Caricco, and Henry.*

**Presidential Announcements**

Election Packets to run for President and Vice President of Administration were released to campus this week. Anyone interested in running for either of these positions should review the packet in the latest Senate email and review the position requirements in the Senate constitution.

The Senate sponsored Black History Month Coloring Event will be closing on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Any students planning to participate can submit their finished designs to [senate@hiram.edu](mailto:senate@hiram.edu)

There will be no Senate meeting next week on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senate will be using this time as a mental health break to allow Senators time to focus on and take care of themselves.

*President Robb announced Senate's upcoming event. The event titled, "A Guinea Pig's Tale: A conversation with Dr. Don Batisky on the COVID-19 vaccine" will take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:15. Dr. Don Batisky is a Hiram alumnus who was able to participate in the COVID vaccine trials last year. He will be engaging students in a conversation regarding vaccine education and what can be expected from the vaccine in the future.*

***READERS NOTE: After this meeting, due to scheduling the date for Dr. Batisky's talk is moved from March 9<sup>th</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup>.***

To get more students involved in this event, incentives are being offered to the top three Senators who can get the most constituents present at the event.

*President Robb also asked for any Senators who were interested in attending the upcoming Etiquette Event taking place on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. As this event coincides with our weekly Senate meeting, interest was taken to be aware of any Senators who may not be present that evening.*

The Funding You Board will be holding a meeting this Sunday. If any clubs need additional funding for events, they are asked to sign up for a time slot to attend this meeting and potentially receive funding. More information can be found in emails sent from [dietzenmm@hiram.edu](mailto:dietzenmm@hiram.edu) to club officers.

**Advisor Announcements**

*Dean Okuma shared that she had received an email back from Dray Computer Center. We have had four outages on campus in the last academic year with the last being January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are experiencing slow connectivity, take your device to Dray Computer Center so they can help with any connection issues as there are no current outages on campus.*

A spring sports announcement has been posted on the Athletics website. Teams are working on understanding all of the current restrictions in place including testing, bussing restrictions, and spectator limitations.

### **Executive Board**

*VP Niggemeyer* shared an update regarding the Academic Planning Committee. In their last two meetings, the committee has approved three new courses. These being: one Education course, an Interdisciplinary course discussing disability representation in film, and a 300 level Biology course.

*President Robb* asked for any feedback or ideas that Senators may have for an event to boost mental health on campus. Some ideas included small care packages including items like stress balls, coloring books, and other mood boosting items. Another idea was “sleep pods” or “stress free areas” for students to use to destress and relax in areas like the library. There is a meditation room available on the second floor of the library that functions in this way. Prioritizing the counseling center and sharing more resources available on campus was noted as well.

Senators also asked for an outward expression from administration to share the sentiment that they are hearing student concerns and are working to combat student burnout. Notifying the student body about the built in days off this semester was also mentioned.

Election packets for President and Vice President were sent out this morning by the election committee. These packets are due March 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. Due to COVID, no signatures will be required of candidates, instead candidates are being asked to write a statement no longer than 500 words outlining why they wish to run.

*VP Dietzen* shared the first round of Constitutional edits that have been completed by the Constitutional revision committee with Senate. This was a first reading of the edits, these will be shared with campus next week and Senate will vote on edits at our March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Senators Mention**

*VP Dietzen and VP Smith* have begun drafting a Diversity and Inclusion proposal for Student Senate and asked for any other Senators who may be interested in helping to draft this proposal.

A Senator shared information he had received in a conversation with Campus Safety regarding some of the past conversations that have taken place in Student Senate. The Director of Campus Safety assured him that while response times from Campus Safety may seem to take 15-20 minutes, many times Campus Safety officers will arrive and investigate any potential issues before being able to meet with the party that placed the initial call. There are also extra measures being taken to keep students safe currently, including extra rounds being taken by Campus Safety officers.

Many Senators shared issues they are having with feelings of burnout and stress they are facing already in week 6. Navigating through this semester has been difficult for many students and Senators asked that the administration make an effort to help alleviate this issue more. Senators

also mentioned how some professors have opted to amend their syllabi to accommodate students in the current pandemic, and pushed for other professors to follow suit.

Some documents are not uploading properly into Moodle for students resulting in missed assignments for some students. Senators asked for some understanding from professors regarding the issues students are having with their iPads lagging and not uploading documents properly.

The parking lot between Booth-Centennial and the Fitness Center has caused some concern for students regarding others speeding up the hill and making sharp turns in that area. Lighting at night in this area was also a concern.

Raccoons have been seen in the abandoned house on the corner of 700. *Dean Okuma* advised Senators to reach out to Campus Safety to address the issue if they are seen again.

**President Robb adjourned the meeting at 8:35.**

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