

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
March 9th, 2021 Minutes

Call to Order

We had our advisor, 5 executive board members, and 22 senators present for this evening's meeting. Those Senators were: Andrzejewski, Barnett, Bentkowski, Bernhardt, Bolton, Caricco, Conroy, Elliott, Galecki, George, Hart, Henry, Johns, Keuroghlian-Eaton, Le-Quay, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, Toich & Wright.

Those Senators absent for the evening were: Gunther (excused), Linville.

Our guests for the evening were: Dean Muyskens and Anthony Lyon.

Presidential Announcements

President Robb hoped everyone enjoyed last week off from Senate and took some time for themselves during our day off of classes last Friday.

Senate's Self-Care Kits are being distributed Friday, March 12th, from 9-4. Any Senators available to help pack these kits on Thursday from 10-12 are encouraged to come help and fill their event requirement for the semester.

Advisor Announcements

Dean Okuma encouraged students to read the email sent from President Haney on Monday with information regarding term break, the three week, and commencement.

Guest Speaker

Senators met with Dean Muyskens to discuss student mental health on campus and ways that we can work with the faculty to try and support one another through this semester.

Things that students said were going well and commended professors included: professors being flexible with assignment deadlines, allowing students to zoom into classes on days when necessary, adjusting syllabi either by eliminating assignments or exams, allowing students to have input on due dates and what assignments will look like, checking in on students, and having discussions about mental health.

Senators shared areas where they are feeling burnt out outside of academics. The main areas students are feeling added pressure this year included finding internships, jobs post-graduation, and athletics. Senators also shared a general feeling of fatigue from the past year trying to navigate relationships, work, and school in a pandemic.

Dean Muyskens asked for Senators to share some of the areas in life that energize them. Senators mentioned spending time with other people, attending events, spending time outdoors, autonomy in the classroom and making more decisions for your coursework, and breaks in the semester,

Senators then shared final remarks on the discussion. Overall, Senators asked for more stable options for mental health on campus including more full time therapists to add consistency to our

counseling programs, asking for all faculty could show compassion and care for students, more consistency with days off so that all classes have off the same days, and asking that when professors change assignments they update their syllabi with new due dates and information.

Executive Board

Senate reviewed and voted on Constitutional Revisions presented by the Constitutional Revision Committee.

Senators voted on Article I Revisions.

VOTE: 20-0-0. Approved!

Vote on Article II Revisions.

VOTE: 20-0-0. Approved!

Vote on Article III Revisions.

VOTE: 20-0-0. Approved!

Senators then looked over revisions that were made to Articles IV & V, these will be voted on in a future Senate meeting.

VP Cook asked Senators to vote for their nominee for Senator of the Month.

Senators Mention

Senators mentioned feeling unsafe in the crosswalk area on 700 in front of Hinsdale Hall. Cars often speed through this area and do not stop for pedestrians. *Dean Okuma* mentioned that the Hiram Police often sit in this area to watch for these issues but that she will also see what can be done to handle the issue.

There was also discussion regarding the road between Booth-Centennial and the Coleman Center as cars often speed up the hill and around the curve here. Senators mentioned often feeling unsafe driving through this area. *Dean Okuma* is working with Campus Safety, local police and ABM on these issues. One suggestion made was possibility of adding a speed limit sign in the area of concern.

President Robb adjourned the meeting at 8:48.
