

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>, 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, Bolton, Caricco, Conroy, Elliott, Galecki, George, Gunther, Hart, Linville, Nardo, Redfern, Saunders, Slutz, Thornton, Toich & Wright.*

*Those Senators absent for the evening were: Bernhardt, Henry, Johns (excused), Keuroghlian-Eaton, Le-Quay*

*Guests for the evening were: Jared Lapointe, Chloe Welch, Isabelle Otero, Aidan Stephens*

**Presidential Announcements**

*President Robb commended everyone for making it through the 12 week successfully.*

This will be the last meeting for Student Senate in the spring 12-week. We will resume meetings again on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Applications for Vice President of Communication and Vice President of Activities are now open. Anyone interested in applying should reference the most recent Senate email and submit an application by Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

*President Robb* also took interest from Senators to participate in upcoming Senate events.

**Advisor Announcements**

The Health Center is still working to get vaccines on campus for students. A survey will also be sent to campus to obtain data on who has been vaccinated so far and to get a better understanding of how students feel regarding the vaccine in general.

If students have any green to-go containers, they need to be returned to the dining hall immediately. We need to continue to return these so that the Dining Hall can continue to offer a to go dining option.

Class registration opened place last week for the Fall 2021 semester. If students are having issues with scheduling, they can reach out to their advisor, the registrar or the Vice President and Dean of Students Office for help.

Housing sign ups have also begun. If students have any questions regarding the housing process, they can reach out to the Residential Education Office.

**Executive Board**

Guests Chloe Welch, Belle Otero, Aidan Stephens and Jared Lapointe discussed a Dining Hall Petition to create more options for students to choose as dining plans. They shared that most students do not eat in the Dining Hall for three meals a day, or at all due to various dietary

restrictions. The group has created a petition to offer various dining plan options to students as well.

One option listed in the petition was to keep the price of the meal plan the same but allocate more money to Terrier Cash and bistro swipes. This would be helpful for athletes especially as the Dining Hall is often closed after practices and the Bistro and Clocktower Café are the only options available. Another option mentioned would be to require freshmen to purchase a full meal plan and offer more flexible options to upperclassman students. Students also shared that they would like to see meal swipes continue in the Bistro and hopefully have more hours that these are available. Another option that was brought up is the Stone Soup Co-Op, which was closed this year due to COVID and lack of interest from students. The hope is to open this back up next year to help students with dietary restrictions have more options on campus.

*Dean Okuma* shared that the hope is to open the Co-Op next fall on a volunteer basis from students. Previous discussions have taken place regarding giving juniors and seniors more dollars to spend in the Bistro. However, this creates other issues as it will create longer lines and more stress on Bistro workers. *Dean Okuma* encouraged anyone interested in this topic to meet with her and discuss different options from schools similar in size to Hiram. This will give us more of a basis to go off of to discuss options that could be made available at Hiram. Meal plans are negotiated by Hiram College and are not determined by AVI.

*VP Smith* shared a report on the recent goings of the Diversity Committee. The committee is still working through recommendations for creating a more diverse campus. These recommendations included: diversifying the board of trustees, redefining the reporting structure for acts of discrimination on campus, offering monetary help to retain students of color on campus, and making Hiram's history more prevalent on the Hiram College webpage. They are also working on ways to improve Hiram's hiring process. Student Senate members also shared updates on the BLM Mural and the diversity and inclusion proposal coming from Student Senate with the diversity committee.

*VP Cook* asked Senators to vote for Senator of the Month for April.

*VP Smith* shared that she has received emails from Townhouse students regarding a foul smell coming from the dumpsters located at the Townhouses. *VP Niggemeyer* shared that this is most likely a scent actually coming from the composting bins located close to this location and not the actual dumpsters.

### **Senators Mention**

A senator shared concerns regarding student mental health on campus and asked that something be done to combat this issue.

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

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