

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE  
**February 1st, 2022 MINUTES**

**Call to Order:**

*We had 5 Executive Board members present, our Advisor, and 17 Senators Present for the evening. Those Senators present were Bernhardt, Blackmore, Bolton, Cambareri, Ferguson, Flaherty, Galecki, George, Miller, Murphy, Nutter, Pittman, Streator, Travis, Ware, Williams, Yang.*

*Those Senators absent for the evening were: Ashton (unexcused), Bolton (unexcused), Maddox (unexcused).*

*Guests present for today included Jeff Swenson, Taylor Cook, and Holly Grable,*

**Presidential Announcements**

*President Saunders encouraged Senators to reach out with any questions about the Board of Trustees Meeting.*

**Advisor Announcements**

*Advisor Okuma announced to Senators to check the email from Strategic Marketing about the Winter Storm Landon. Some senators had some questions. Dean Okuma reminded the students the college has many ways to get in touch with students, faculty and staff. One way is the information line at 330-569-5959. This always has up to day information about the college. 330-*

*Senators were assured that there are plans in place for loss of power and winter storms. The dining plan was also discussed.*

**Speaker**

*Jeff Swenson Associate Dean of Academic Affairs who is working closely with Advising gave a presentation to the Senators.*

*The Academic Advising office is located in Hinsdale 205. Open 8:30 to 5pm. He encouraged students to reach out to [advising@hiram.edu](mailto:advising@hiram.edu) with any questions or concerns. Academic Advising team includes Nicole Gatrell, Kelly Bancroft, and Sherman Dean II. Two grad student assistants, Valori Vaught and Emma Chinn. Each advisor offers specific skills to meet students' needs as best as possible.*

*Academic Advising Structure- First year advisor is the professor of your FYEN course until you declare a major, however each student also has access to an academic advisor.*

*Academic Advisors can help with*

- Last minute advising questions.*
- Declaring or switching majors.*
- Hiram Connect process information.*
- General questions they can always point you in the right direction.*

**MAKE YOUR CALENDARS: Next Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 5pm is an advising open house(205 Hinsdale) at the advising office. Students who attend will be entered in a raffle for a gift card of their choice.**

*Questions from Senators:*

- 1. Questions about CCP credit courses were raised and Professor Swenson stressed the importance of communication with your advisors, especially when switching and took note of the issue.*

2. Another concern raised was making sure that advisors are pointing students in the right direction. He stated that they are really working on training faculty and making sure that students have access to the advisor with the expertise that they need.
3. Advertising for advising was a concern for a couple senators due to students' lack of awareness of these resources. Professor Swenson stated that there are posters around campus, he is speaking with faculty and having advisors reach out to coaches to get the word around.
4. A guest brought up updating the electronic advising folder. Professor Swenson informed the audience that they are using a new tool called "degree works" in order to keep track of student enrollment and major/minor completion. This will be piloted next year for first year students. Students can gain access through their faculty advisor.
5. Professor Swenson also spoke about when students must declare their major. Students are required to declare a major by the end of their sophomore year, OR when they have enough credits to be a sophomore. Failing to do this will place a hold on a student's account so they can not register. If students are having trouble getting a signature or are freshmen with a lot of credits coming in, they are able to acquire a declaration waiver from the academic advising office.

### **Executive Board Reports**

#### Swearing in New Senators

*Taylor Cook* was sworn in as Senator of Fourth Years and Beyond by unanimous vote of 17-0-0

*Holly Grable* was sworn in as Senator of First Year Students by unanimous vote of 17-0-0

### **Senators Mention**

Senators expressed concerns about WiFi issues in residence halls and *Advisor Okuma* will pass on the information to the Computer Center. It is important that students call Apogee when they have Wifi issues to they can troubleshoot the issue in real time.

SAAC is looking for ideas on getting students to come out and be active and involved with athletics. Senators suggested having food, prizes, games, and possibly a punch card for home games at Hiram. Also suggested was having a pep club for Hiram Athletic Events.

A Senator mentioned the cleanliness and sanitary issues of residence hall bathrooms. Specifically in Henry Hall. There seems to be some issues with repairs, soap and paper towels, toilet paper in the bathroom is a problem for students across campus. Advisor Okuma sent an email to ABM and Residential Education.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm by VP Hussain**