

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
February 15th, 2022 MINUTES

Roll Call: We had all 5 Executive Board Members, our Advisor and 15 Senators present this evening. Those Senators present: Ashton, Bernhardt, Blackmore, Blue, Bolton, Cambareri, Ferguson, Flaherty, George, Grable, Miller, Nutter, Pittman, Streater, & Ware.

Those Senators absent: Cook (unexcused), Galecki (excused), Maddox (unexcused), Murphey (excused), Travis (unexcused), Williams (unexcused), Yang (excused).

Presidential Announcements:

President Saunders announced that *VP Barnett's* mental health poster initiative is going to be rolling out before the end of this week. There is a space committee being implemented and they want feedback from students on what spaces are being used or not used and how to best utilize the space available on Hiram College Campus

Advisor Announcements:

Advisor Okuma addressed some questions about the transition from pandemic to endemic regarding COVID. This is in effect now and the College will continue to keep students updated as they have in the past with COVID protocols.

Diversity Committee Update

Senator George announced the importance of students and professors taking the HEDS survey to better understand the diversity of Hiram College. The Diversity Committee is doing individual projects including working with businesses in Garrettsville to create healthy and stable relationships with the community, working on classroom syllabi to become more inclusive, brainstorming how to hire more diverse faculty members. There is also the initiative to begin training students and professors to understand learning and intellectual disabilities to better understand and work with these students. Diversity Committee is also working with the art department to showcase the arts on campus and embrace Majors and Minors such as photography, graphic design, theater, etc. The last thing *Senator George* particularly stressed the Committee is working on is diversity training for professors specifically to make sure that the faculty is helping each student no matter the race, gender, sexuality, etc is getting the help that they need and can access the resources needed.

Executive Board Announcements

VP Hussain went through the shortened list of events that Senators came up with last week. The top four ideas mentioned were an End of 12 Week Block Party, Silent Library, Hiram Pride Week/Day, D3 Event: Senate Sponsored Sports Event.

Senators were then asked to separate into groups and begin brainstorming planning ideas for these events throughout the Semester.

For the Silent Library Senators suggested a plan involving four stations set up on each floor of the library with different tasks. Students will be able to compete in groups of up to 5 starting

from the basement up into the 1st floor for prizes. Students will be tasked with doing different activities without being called out for being too loud.

For the Block Party Senators suggested doing games such as water balloons, kickball, water guns, cornhole, etc. around the end of class time -4:30. Tie dying T shirts, Faculty Dunk Tank, Dining Hall would serve cookout foods, a food truck was suggested, A DJ with fun lights etc, a bouncy house or, a bonfire outside of East Hall where students would be able to make marshmallows and then a movie played on the big screen above the field.

For Hiram Pride Day Senators suggested that we take a specific focus on Hiram History. Students would be encouraged to wear Hiram colors. A guided history walk around campus (Maybe President Haney and his wife Lisa Baldwin). Cash Cab with history-based questions. Collaborating with Maggies to make school-colored donuts.

For the D3 week senators want to pair up with the new Athletic Director to pick a Lacrosse game where students can pay a small fee to be able to throw a pie into a volunteering professor/faculty member's face. We would be donating any funds to a charity of the faculty member's choice.

Senators Mention

A senator expressed concerns about pending aid and student refunds from the beginning of the semester. Any one with this problem is encouraged to reach out to Student Accounts Refunds for housing and meal plans from the first two weeks of this semester have been sent out and if there are any further questions students are encouraged to reach out to studentaccounts@hiram.edu

Another Senator expressed concern about the lack of period products on campus aside from the products in the HAPPI place. Crush is working on a grant and will work with to provide these kinds of products by Fall of this year.

A senator asked about the the Black Lives Matter mural Dr. Okuma reported the mural is on campus it will just need some painting done and the weather must be more stable for the wrap to go up on the wall in order for it to stay up. Office of Diversity and Inclusion is working on this project. There will be an event toward the end of the semester when the mural is put up.

VP Hussain adjourned the meeting at 8:40