

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
February 8th, 2022 MINUTES

Roll call: We had our 5 Executive Board members, our Advisor, and 20 Senators in attendance. Those senators present were: Ashton, Bernhardt, Blue, Bolton, Cambareri, Cook, Ferguson, Flaherty, Galecki, George, Grable, Miller, Murphey, Nutter, Pittman, Streator, Travis, Ware, Williams, Yang.

Those Senators absent were: Blackmore (unexcused), Maddox (unexcused).

Presidential Announcements

President Saunders announced to senate that any club officers should schedule a meeting with VP Toich to fill out necessary forms for this semester.

Advisor Announcements

Advisor Okuma asked about bathroom issues last week. The senator's said things were a lot better. Advisor Okuma reminded to senators that should be taken up as soon as possible with those that can help, like Res Ed or if there are wifi issues Apogee., etc. Just wanting to make sure issue are addressed as soon as possible and do not have to wait until Tuesdays. As a reminder, Apogee can be reached at 833-410-2428 or text "ResNet" to 84700.

She asked for senator feedback on communication and mental health after the snow days. Senators expressed concerns about assignments and coursework being given during the day off. This led to the conversation of Spring Break 2022. Senators are concerned about assignments being given during Spring Break.

Senators also asked if going forward we will have snow days including zoom or cancel classes entirely again. In the end, it depends on things like how many snow days the school has had before, parking bans, power outages, and numerous other things.

Concerns were brought up about the back-walkways along the hill behind the KC and BC which did not seem to be cleared . *Advisor Okuma* took note of the issue and will bring it up to ABM.

Advisor Okuma then explained the difference between a pandemic and an endemic. She told senators that the **COVID pandemic is quickly becoming more of an endemic** much like the common cold and flu. What this means for Hiram College is that weekly surveillance testing would likely not be beneficial for a community the size of ours, and it may no longer be required for any students. Athletes will still need to follow protocols. There will be free tests available in the Health Center for any student who wishes to be tested for any reason. There are also N-95 masks available to students around campus.

A question was raised about study away and abroad trips and *Advisor Okuma* explained that they are planning on keeping these trips up. A senator mentioned that they are trying to make decisions on this by the end of February.

Executive Board Announcements

Senators were asked to brainstorm ideas for senate events for the rest of this semester

Ideas included movie night, game night, silent disco, bingo, end of 12 week block party (including a bounce house, cornhole, contests, food etc), cash cab, portable ice skating rink, Hiram pride week combined with d3 week, dressing up Garfield statue in the Library, foodtrucks, trips to movie theaters bowling alleys and roller rinks, nerf battle, lazer tag, picnic, faculty versus students sporting event, incoming student event, art walk, finals masuse, silent library, family weekend.

Senators Mention

Senator Flaherty and Streater gave an update from APC. There are 4 new courses being offered at Hiram. They also had conversations about possibly abolishing the common reading requirements of first year students. They are also working on new education courses for students in graduate programs.

VP Hussain adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.