

HIRAM COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
January 25th, 2022 MINUTES
This meeting was held on zoom

Call to Order:

We had 4 of 5 Executive Board members present, our Advisor, and 19 Senators for the evening. Those Senators present were: Ashton, Bernhardt, Blackmore, Blue, Bolton, Cambareri, Flaherty, Galecki, George, Miller, Murphy, Nutter, Pittman, Streator, Toich, Travis, Ware, Williams, Yang

Those Senators absent for the evening were: Ferguson (excused), Maddox (unexcused)

There were no guests in attendance this evening.

Presidential Announcements

President Saunders announced that VP Hussain was not able to attend tonight's meeting therefore he would be leading the meeting.

Advisor Announcements

Advisor Okuma encourages students to take the survey from Tech and Trek in order to better understand students' opinions about the apple I-pad program

She also encouraged students to fill out the HEDS survey for Diversity. Senator George spoke with senate about the incentives and the background on why the survey is so important.

She also asked for general feedback about online classes for the first two weeks of this semester to which many Senators responded with their concerns including attention span and lack of communication.

Executive Board Reports

VP Toich asked Senators for feedback on which clubs are advertising. Senators responded that they see few and far between club posters or flyers around campus. Also mentioned was Student Involvement Day and concerns were raised about how this kind of single day advertisement may not be enough to get students involved in clubs and activities on campus. A Senator mentioned that it may be beneficial to set up a table to some type of forum where current club members are able to provide information receive direct feedback from students.

President Saunders then spoke about upcoming Diversity and Engagement Series. He encouraged Senators to reach out to their constituents to inquire what students would want to see this semester. Senators suggested several ideas including community members, religious series, education of cultures and perhaps pairing up with BSU. He then brought up a concern about students and professors using insensitive/offensive terms in the classroom and offered the idea of having a series addressing problems such as this.

Lastly, President Saunders spoke about the upcoming mental health posters and suggested the idea that the posters be separated into different categories and come out monthly perhaps with incentive (such as a gift card raffle) to interact with one of the resources on the posters.

Senators Mention

Senators involved in APC reported that their recent meeting about student mental health was very receptive and helpful. These senators brought questions to the APC group regarding the

access to mental health resources on campus, the causes of poor mental health of students and possible solutions to issues surrounding student mental health. APC's biggest concern was the lack of communication between faculty and students and the fact that students are experiencing a large sense of isolation.

A Senator expressed concerns about restarting the conversation about meal plans for East Hall. Multiple Senators spoke about confusion about Terrier Cash versus institutional money. *Advisor Okuma* informed senators that the institutional Terrier Cash is the \$50 given to the student on the meal plan to spend at the Bistro. This is refreshed at the start of each semester onto student's ID card. If students have put their own money on their Terrier Cash account, they will keep that money until it is used, leave the college, or until they graduate. These monies can be used at all dining venues (including the Clocktower Café) and the bookstore.

A Senator asked what students are to do about copious amount of snow making it hard to enter/exit parking lots. *Advisor Okuma* let the Senators know they should contact ABM or Campus Safety to make them aware of the problem. They have shovels placed around campus so students can use if they need too.

President Saunders stated that next week's meeting will take place in person in the East Hall Forum and Dr. Swenson will be here to talk about advising.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 by President Saunders