Call to Order & Roll Call

Guest Speaker

Scott Pohlman, Director of Athletics

- Mr. Pohlman started this discussion with a conversation regarding the dress code in the weight room. The weight room policy was inspired from other division three schools where it is mandatory that all athletes wear the same t-shirts in the weight room. This was for safety purposes involving transmission of viruses such as monkey pox, COVID, etc. Before this policy was made, other schools in the conference were reached out to make sure that Hiram’s guidelines are in accordance with other schools. Most schools have this same policy with the exception of Wooster. Shoes in the weight room are also a policy for safety purposes. Spandex is allowed in the weight room.

- A guest asked if all athletic teams have to wear a matching t-shirt when working out. Mr. Pohlman said yes and there is access to washing machines for use if needed.

- Senator Bernhardt asked if all teams have the uniform shirts yet. Mr. Pohlman said that all coaches received them but some may be waiting for the season to start to give them to their athletes.

- A guest asked if a loose shirt is a safety issue for some athletes (ie wrestling). Mr. Pohlman said that these teams are exempted from this new guideline.

- Senator Marin asked what non-athletes need to wear in the weight room. Non-athletes must wear a t-shirt and tennis shoes.

- VP Flaherty asked if this ruling is discriminatory towards women. She asked if we can work on the cleanliness aspect rather than enforce a dress code. Mr. Pohlman agreed and said that better cleaning protocols should be enforced but this is difficult in most weight rooms. She then asked if the student workers can help with this cleaning. Mr. Pohlman said that this is possible but some student workers have some reservations regarding approaching athletes in the gym.

- Senator Bernhardt asked if this rule is enforced outside of the weight room. Mr. Pohlman said that it is not (ie. the dance studio and the racquet ball room). She also asked about safety because some of the mirrors and equipment in the weight room is broken. Mr. Pohlman said that these are all being resolved.

- Senator Galecki talked about how the weight room can get warm and if cutoff shirts are allowed. Mr. Pohlman said that they are not.

- VP Streator asked if they plan on outlining this new dress code to the rest of campus. Mr. Pohlman said that this was not communicated well but there are signs all around the weight room.

- VP Flaherty asked why shorts are allowed but covered shirts are not. He said that it is because more skin is covered for safety reasons this way.
- Senator Blackmore asked how these rules will be enforced on non-athletes. Mr. Pohlman said that this is simply by letting them know in the weight room by the student workers.
- A guest asked about overheating. Mr. Pohlman said that if this happens then students may step out of the room for a bit for some air.
- A guest asked if it would make more sense to have a specific dress code for specific machines. Mr. Pohlman agreed but said that Hiram’s dress code is being done to be in accordance with other schools.
- Senator Blackmore asked about the lack of freedom of expression caused by this ruling. Mr. Pohlman said that he strictly deals with athletics and that parents and students like to see uniforms in the weight room.
- A guest asked if statistically the transmission rate of MRSA is high enough that these rules need to be enforced. Mr. Pohlman said yes, MRSA is easily contagious and precautionary mechanisms are needed.
- VP Flaherty asked if there is any other solution to the cleanliness problem that does not alter dress code. Mr. Pohlman said that this can be done if everyone will clean equipment but this is not possible/difficult to happen.
- VP Flaherty asked if we can reinforce handing students a spray bottle and a rag. Mr. Pohlman said that if this ruling is sent to campus more efficiently, this could be a potential solution.
- A guest asked if it was possible to hire people specifically for cleaning equipment. Mr. Pohlman said that this would be difficult as a lot more staff would be required.
- A guest asked why disciplinary actions cannot be used on athletes to clean the equipment after using it. Mr. Pohlman said that this can only be done for athletes but non athletes also use the gym.
- Mr. Pohlman talked about the introduction of track. This was done to try to bring in more students to Hiram. He is also in the process of putting in a proposal for bowling and hopes to add pickle ball in the future.
- A guest asked why tennis is not being added. Mr. Pohlman said that this can be introduced as a club but it is not profitable as a school sport.
- Mr. Pohlman talked about introducing a bar on campus. This idea is currently in discussion. He also said that there will be a test run for this at a basketball game soon as they currently have a temporary permit for this. Dean West said that a survey will be sent to campus about this.

President Announcements
President Johns — 8:09PM
- President Johns asked senators to remind students to register to vote as we are still assisting with voter registration.
- She then asked Senators if they have interest in being a Library Committee representative.
- She also spoke with Director of the Library Janet Vogel about MCAT, LSAT, etc prep. The website https://library.Hiram.edu/home/testprep can be used to access resources for this.
- The theme for the month “Medical Humanites” event is is mental health for Mental Health Awareness Week. This is taking place tomorrow, 10/4 in the Mahan House at 5:00pm.

Advisor Announcements
Advisor Steiner — 8:12PM
- Advisor Steiner commended Senate for last week’s conversation about reproductive rights.
• In the spirit of mental health, he encouraged people to leave campus over fall break to prepare for the second half of the semester.

**Senator Action Item Updates**  
*President Johns — 8:13PM*

• **Space Committee/Academic Programs Update:** At the moment, no academic programs are planned on being cut at the moment with the changes in building space on campus.

• **ABM Update:** Advisor Steiner, President Johns, and VP Streator sat with Ryan Olszewski, Nancy Rubin and Residential Education. Currently, there is no new solution in place for the work order system, but students are encouraged to send very detailed work orders and photos so that these issues can be resolved as quickly as possible.

• **DegreeWorks Update:** For now this can only be accessed from the Hiram Wi-Fi connections.
  - Senators mentioned that some majors are not updated and not even present on the site. Also, only some students have access to it at the moment.

**New Senator Action Items**  
*Vice President Streator — 8:17PM*

• The executive board talked about our first Diverse Discussions event and how it was brought up that Senate should be at a different location.
  - A guest said that East Hall Forum is a great place and it is close to the dining hall so it is convenient.
  - *Senator Galecki* said that Kortansky Hall would too far and *Senator Miller* says it gets cold in there. *Senator Mongold* dittoed.
  - Most senators said that East is good for discussion and it is very inviting.

• *Senator Marin* said that the Sustainable Development Committee is planning on creating a thirst shop and asked senators how they feel about this. This organization would be nonprofit.
  - Many senators were on board with this idea.
  - *Senator Bolton* suggested a blanket drive

• *Senator Travis* said that the internet has improved in Henry.

• *Senator Galecki* asked when the heat will be turned on on campus. *Dean West* said the it will be turned on starting tomorrow.

**Notes from the Gallery**  
*Guests — 8:29PM*

**Adjournment**  
*Vice President Streator — 8:29PM*