Hiram College Student Senate
Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2023                Time: 7:30pm                Location: East Hall Forum

Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice President Hussain — 7:30PM

Guest Speaker

Dr. Swenson — 7:31PM

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Attendance Guidelines Proposal

- Dr. Swenson talked about how oftentimes students and faculty do not communicate well on attendance. Because of this, they are creating more extensive attendance and participation guidelines.
- These policies have yet to be approved by the Academic Program Committee and the faculty.
- The guidelines discuss how class attendance policies may vary between instructors and that attendance policies have to include reasonable accommodations for college sponsored events, medical emergencies, and family emergencies.
- Faculty are also required to accommodate for any students’ mental health and disability needs that are documented through the Disability Services Office and the Health Center.
- The online attendance policy has been set in stone for a long time.
- VP Flaherty asked if it was possible to have 2 days allotted for absences with no consequences. Dr. Swenson said that he is bringing this up to the faculty. The difficulty with this request is that due to different formats of classes this ruling is hard to implement. He also mentioned that these rules are not policy rather, they are guidelines.
- VP Streator talked about structure regarding the 3-week. Specifically, is the 3-week supposed to be a condensed version of the 12-week or is it an entirely different structure? Dr. Swenson agreed that the 3-week should not be a 12-week condensed into the 3-week.
- Senator Bolton asked if the 8-week in the second half of the semester can be used for 3-week labs to lessen workload. Dr. Swenson said that many students like the flexibility with the current curriculum. In addition to this, the 8-weeks are designed to be online so doing labs during these terms would be difficult.
- Senator Blackmore mentioned that many students expressed that the 3-week is best for travel/study abroad. He also dittoed the idea that the 3-week is too work heavy.
- Senator Travis said that one way that students could be assisted with the attendance issue is by professors responding to emails and posting the syllabus ahead of time. Dr. Swenson agreed.
- VP Flaherty asked if it was possible to post the syllabus when the schedule is posted. Dr. Swenson said that this is based on if the scheduling system can handle this.
- Senator Bernhardt talked about how some 3-week courses are not particularly advantageous. In addition to this, many seniors do not have classes that they can take in the 3-week.

Presidential Announcements

President Johns — 7:50PM
• President Johns shared scholarship opportunity the Obama Foundation Voyager Scholarship from Asha Goodner. She encouraged senators to pass this information on to other rising juniors.

Advisor Announcements
Advisor Steiner — 7:54PM
• Advisor Steiner talked about the water main break on Hinsdale St. There is currently a boil advisory in effect for each of the previously effected buildings. There will be bottled water dropped off to all residence halls on the hill. Water can be used for showering, just not consumption.
• February is Black History Month. There are many events taking place this month from BSU and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, particularly on Thursdays. The series kicks off with speaker Abdul Rashid, illustrator of the Black Lives Matter mural.
• LAP applications are due February 3rd at 5pm.
• He also gave a shoutout to Senate and SAAC regarding the Cannonball Contest/Dive-In Movie event held last Wednesday.

Executive Board
Vice President Streator — 7:58 PM
• Meditation and Interfaith Space Overview: VP Hussain talked about this initiative from Student Senate. This space will serve as a space for students to practice any spiritual, prayer and meditation practices in a safe place. Meeting Room 1, located on the 1st floor of the Library has been secured for this space.
• Constitutional Amendment for Election Committee: Last week, amendments regarding the election committee portion of the constitution were proposed. This motion was approved on a 17-0-0 vote. The new Senate Executive Board will oversee the spring Senator election.

Committee Reports
Vice President Streator — 8:07PM
• Senator Travis announced that the Mental Health Committee will be meeting this Wednesday at 5:00pm in the Library.

New Senator Action Items
Vice President Streator – 8:08PM
• Senator Bernhardt talked about how it is very cold in the basement of Bates. Advisor Steiner said that this is because there have been some heating issues.
• Senator Bolton mentioned that some students are having issues with campus WiFi, specifically in Hinsdale.
• Senator Marin talked about how there is standing water and mold in some of the showers in Booth and Centennial Halls.
• Senator Galecki talked about students having delays with Moodle announcement notifications. Senator Travis dittoed.
• Senator Selander talked about how freshmen are not guided to take the right classes during their first year because they did not have the right advisors who are most familiar with their field of interest.
• Senator Nunnery talked about how this may be an issue between online advising versus in-person advising.
• Senator Bolton asked if it would be possible if we could host an advisor day.
• Senator Pittman talked about the need for salting the sidewalks near the townhouse entrances.

Adjournment

Vice President Streator — 8:27PM