Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice President Hussain — 7:30PM

Dean West, Recent College Statement and Developments on Yik Yak – *Content Warning*

• Dean West started off by discussing an issue that many students on campus have been concerned about. She asked students to let her know if anything in this conversation makes them uncomfortable.

• This situation was brought to Hiram in July of 2022. After this, the Hiram’s attorney told the college that the student could not leave campus since the situations were just allegations at the time. They were also told by the attorney that due to the age level of the incident, this situation did not propose as an immediate threat. The student was asked to change their major from education to communications and was placed in classes that did not have any underage students.

• A guest mentioned that many people are concerned about why this student was not asked to continue their classes on ZOOM. Dean West said that the college did everything within reason such as they could not attend social events as well as many other ways.

• Senator Blackmore mentioned that this student has been at the dining hall where there are children and CCP students present. Dean West responded that the paying population of the dining hall are not children and that the student is aware of their limitations. There has been due diligence around this situation.

• A guest mentioned that there was some disappointment from the statement sent by the college as they felt it was “dismissive” and “insulting.” Dean West said that the email was a direct response to YikYak as many posts were threatening the life of this student and had nothing to do with the student’s legal case. Despite the allegations against the student, the college has an obligation to protect this student.

• A guest mentioned that the email discussed that students have the right to protest. However, when one student tried to protest, they were asked to come into Campus Safety for a deflecting and accusatory conversation. This conversation made the student very nervous and scared. Dean West said that this occurred because they were looking for the student that was responsible for the threatening messages. She encouraged the student to file a complaint report for this situation.

• Senator Mongold talked about how offensive and bigoted language has been discussed on YikYak for a long time. She said that the message about YikYak would have been better received if it was sent out earlier.

• VP Flaherty talked about how a lack of anonymity there is on YikYak and how many feel that in order to feel protected, legal action must be involved. Dean West responded that the college got involved because of death threats.

• Senator Blackmore talked about how many have been discussing that YikYak may be banned from the WiFi on campus. He said that many will take this as the Cabinet not
catering about student’s right to protest. Dean West said that as of now, the school does not formally track YikYak but they discourage students from posting on this forum as it is “passive aggressive politics.” She encouraged students to protest but to do it in a productive way.

- A guest mentioned that many feel that if they protest, their roles of leadership (such as being an RA, student worker, or senator) will be taken away. Dean West said that all students are welcome to protest as long as policies are abided by and academics are not being threatened in the process. Students will not get in trouble unless they break rules.
- Senator Blackmore talked about how many students do not get a response from Campus Safety because they call the main number after hours. Dean West said that this an easy fix.
- Senator Murphey asked what senators can do to improve this situation. Dean West said that senators should take advantage of the resources that they have.
- If there is anything that students want to report from YikYak, they can provide this information to Mick Steiner. If students have questions about this particular situation, they can contact Dean West.
- Senator Blackmore asked if more Title IX resources could be provided to students. Dean West agreed.
- Dean West concluded that this is a real issue and students have the right to be angry in a functional way. She encouraged students to protest and document. The goal is to have a wellness-based community and Dean West and Advisor Steiner are here to help.

Presidential Announcements

President Johns — 8:33PM
- President Johns talked about the event taking place tomorrow (2/21 at 7pm) facilitated by Dr. YG titled “Supporting Survivors Teach-In” and encouraged Senators to attend.
- There are 2 events taking place this Thursday (2/23): Cake Pops and Concerns (11-1pm) at the dining hall as well as the opening for the Interfaith, Prayer, and Meditation space in the library (4-5pm).

Advisor Announcements

Advisor Steiner — 8:35PM
- Advisor Steiner talked about financial awareness month and encouraged senators to attend the 3 remaining events.
- He also talked about Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honorary. He encouraged senators and those who received the email last week to apply and learn more about this organization. An information session will be offered on Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm in the Kennedy Center Brown Fall room. This application is due on March 13th.
- Advisor Steiner talked about how on Thursday at 4:00pm there will be a trip sponsored by OCI to celebrate Black History Month called “History on Tap” as well as the Cavs game on Sunday. Contact Carly Workman (AthurC@Hiram.edu) for more information about how to attend the Cavs game.

Clubs and Student Organization Updates

Vice President Flaherty — 8:37PM
- VP Flaherty encouraged senators to attend an event sponsored by Strategic Marketing at 4:00pm in Teachout Price that will discuss strategies clubs can use to utilize social media and advertising events.

Executive Board

Vice President Streator — 8:38 PM
• VP Streator proposed extending the meeting until 9:00pm. This was approved on a unanimous vote (19-0-0).
• The memorial for Jerry Carillo will be taking place this Wednesday at 12:00 pm at the Hiram Christian Church and senators are encouraged to attend. View the email sent by Marketing and Media Relations.
• Constitutional Revision Committee: VP Streator and VP Flaherty were voted into the Constitutional Revision Committee on a unanimous vote (19-0-0).

Committee Reports

Vice President Streator — 8:39PM

• Hiram Village Council: Senator Palm talked about how at the last meeting, a moment of silence was taken for Jerry Carillo. There were 4 properties sold in the area. The council addressed the recent train derailment in East Palestine and stated that the water system Hiram uses is completely separate from the water system used in East Palestine.
  o A guest asked if there is anything students can do to improve their relationship with village police as she has had some bad experiences with them. VP Streator said that this can be discussed further as a collective effort.
• Mental Health Committee: Senator Travis talked about how the evaluation questions for the classroom covenant has been released to campus and is awaiting results. They are also in the processes of making boxes that will be put around campus pertaining to mental health.

New Senator Action Items

Vice President Streator – 8:45PM

• Senator Marin said that SDC got approved for the thrift store and Arboretum. They will be coming to the next Senate meeting to discuss this further. SDC will also be holding their next meeting this Thursday (2/23) at 5:00pm.
• Senator Galecki asked class senators to join her to plan an event in the future.
• Senator Murphey asked for more information regarding internet on campus. Senate will have these answers to these concerns by Monday.

Adjournment

Vice President Streator — 8:47PM